

Above, Sandra Cox gets into the holiday spirit Wednesday by helping de-bone turkeys for the annual Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner. Scott McLaughlin, top right, was one of two dozen or more volunteers giving their time to help prepare the meal, which was expected to serve 450 people. Also helping out were 11-year-old Cassie Kirk and her mother, Tereisa Kirk. The meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth, and everyone is welcome. Volunteers are still needed to help deliver meals and clean up afterward.

HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Gail residents to light star Friday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

GAIL — Most people put a star on top of a Christmas tree this holiday season, but the good people of this community decided to take that idea a bit further.

As they have for the past 12 years, members of this Borden County community will kick off the Christmas

season Friday by turning on the lights to a star on the side of Gail Mountain.

And it's not just any old run-of-the-mill holiday decoration — the 20-foot star holds more than 700 lights and can be seen for 15 miles in almost every direction.

A simple discussion among friends led to local resident Ross Sharp designing the star.

"Some friends came to us to see if we thought we could have something like a star built on Gail Mountain," said Sarah Sharp, Ross' wife. "Ross designed it ... and the rest is history."

This year, volunteers trudged up the side of the mountain Sunday, carrying sections and carefully

What: Lighting of star on Gail Mountain. Santa to greet children, refreshments served.

Where: Community of Gail, in Borden County. Activities centered around courthouse.

When: Activities begin at 5 p.m. Friday.

Autopsy indicates woman, 73, died of morphine overdose

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

An autopsy on a 73-year-old Big Spring woman first believed to have died of natural causes may point to foul play, according to law enforcement officials.

The body of Norma Faye Morrow was exhumed from its resting place in Trinity Memorial Cemetery in early June, after detectives with the Big Spring Police Department learned her death may have been caused by unnatural means.

In an opinion released by Sridhar Natarajan M.D., M.S., Lubbock County Chief Medical Examiner, Morrow died as a result of morphine toxicity.

"It is our opinion that Norma Faye Morrow... died as a result of morphine toxicity," reads the report. "Although blood samples were not available from her embalmed body, samples of liver tissue were submitted for toxicology analysis."

"Those results showed a lethal dose of morphine at 3.6 mg per liter. A lethal dose may range from 0.4 to 18 mg per liter with

See OVERDOSE, Page 5A

Entries abound for Christmas parade

It's still not too late to join the Herald Community Christmas lighted parade

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

An almost-record number of entries have been confirmed for the 20th annual Herald Community Christmas Parade scheduled for Dec. 3.

Sixty entries had been received as of Tuesday evening, according to Elizabeth Flores, coordinator of this year's parade.

That number represents an increase



Flores

over last year and is just short of an all-time record, Flores said.

Although entry deadline has passed, interested persons or organizations can still enter the parade, Flores said, however, that those late entries will be placed at the back of the parade and will not be eligible for prizes.

The parade, which will feature lighted floats, marching bands, equestrian units and more, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Gregg Street.

The theme for this year's parade is "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and prizes will be awarded in four divisions: Individual or Family; Civic Groups, Churches or Schools; Commercial; and Industrial.

See PARADE, Page 5A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
Features 8-12A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B



TONIGHT 54°-56°
TOMORROW 74°-76°
Find us online at:
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To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

SANTA LETTERS

The Big Spring Herald traditionally publishes Letters to Santa Claus near Christmas Day as a service to the community.

Letters from children in kindergarten, first and second grade, public, private and home schooled, as well as those in preschool, day care and Head Start may be submitted for publication.

All letters should be received by Friday, Dec. 9. Each letter should contain the child's name as well as school or classroom affiliation. Submit letters to the Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431 or e-mail composing@bigspringherald.com. For more information, call 263-7331.

GINGERBREAD PARTY

A gingerbread house decorating party — presented by Gale Pittman of Gale's Sweet Shoppe — is set from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center Dec. 4. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale now. Call 264-9283 for more information.



LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Free tickets to a Big Spring Christmas tradition are now available.

The First United Methodist Church will hold public performances of the Living Christmas Tree Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4.

Dress rehearsal for the event will be at 2 p.m. Dec. 3, with the first performance following at 8 p.m.

A second performance will be held at 8 p.m. Dec. 4.

Free tickets for the performances are available at the church office on 400 Scurry St.

For more information, contact the church at 267-6394.

Obituaries

Rosalie Mayo



Rosalie Mayo, 87, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 25, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 19, 1918, in Houma, La., and married A.R. Mayo April 19, 1941, in Houma, La.

Rosalie and her husband came to Big Spring in 1963 from Snyder. She had worked as a bookkeeper before marrying and then was a homemaker. She enjoyed gardening, embroidery and playing the steel guitar. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, A.R. Mayo of Big Spring, three sons and daughters-in-law, Patrick and Beverly Mayo of Midland, Michael and Brenda Mayo of Garland and Bobby Joe and Diane Mayo of Miles; two daughters and sons-in-law, Dorothy and Borden Gray of Gail and Susan and Sammy Reed of Midland; one brother, Merlin Avet of Houma, La.; one sister, Mercedes Turner of Houma, La.; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oneizeppe and Heloise Avet and two brothers, Royce Avet and O.J. Avet.

Pallbearers will be Glen Gray, Scott Reed, Robert Reed, Luke Mayo, Clinton Mayo, Barry Mayo, Jay Mayo and Larry Platte.

The family suggests memorials be to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring St., Suite C-32, Midland, 79705.

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

Paid obituary

Meliton 'Meli' Arriola Sr.



Meliton "Meli" Arriola Sr., 83, of Big Spring died at 12:35 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005, at his residence. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service is 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Raymundo Garza officiating. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born March 10, 1922, in Reeves County to Rebecca and Jose Arriola and married Eloisa Carrasco Jan. 15, 1947, in Big Spring. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in the Pacific during World War II and received two Bronze Stars. He retired from the Texas and Pacific Railroad and later Texas Electric Service Company. He was a member of the Primera Iglesia Bautista, having served as a longtime deacon and also served as a missionary to Mexico for 22 years.

He is survived by his wife, Eloisa Arriola of Big Spring; four sons, Jose Arriola Sr. of Wiley, Meliton Arriola Jr. of Harrisburg, Penn., Albert Arriola of The Colony and Joshua Arriola of Big Spring; two daughters, Rebecca Arriola and Noemi Arriola Prieto, both of Big Spring; eight grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Lynn L. Henson



Lynn L. Henson, 81, of Stanton died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005, at his residence. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005, at the First Baptist Church in Stanton with the Rev. Ben Neel, interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Tarzan and the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stanton, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

He was born Nov. 22, 1924, in Bell County and married Codie Polk Jan. 16, 1964, in Seminole. He moved to the Martin County area in 1930 and farmed in the Tarzan community for 65 years, retiring in 1988. Then he and his wife moved into Stanton. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Tarzan.

Survivors include his wife, Codie Henson of Stanton; two sons, Stephen Wood and wife, Nickie of Canyon and Leslie Wood of Midland; two daughters, Cindy Wood of Albuquerque, N.M., and Jana Wood of Hollywood, Fla.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one sister-in-law, Edna Henson of New Hampshire.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and three sisters.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Take note

• **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH PUBLIC THANKSGIVING SERVICE** at 10 a.m. Thursday. The church is located at 810 Scurry.

• **STAR TEK CANNED FOOD DRIVE** to benefit the Salvation Army from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. Dec. 17. Bring two cans of food and get a free photo with Santa Claus. For more information, contact Anna Osborne at 264-2727.

• **LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE** dress rehearsal at 2 p.m. and performance at 8 p.m. Dec. 3 and at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 in the First United Methodist Church. Free tickets available at the church office, 400 Scurry.

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY** presented by Gale Pittman of Gale's Sweet Shoppe from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center Dec. 4. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale now. Call 264-9283 for more information.

• **FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE** needs a cow, sheep, goats and donkeys on loan for the Drive-Thru Nativity. Volunteers are needed. Call Vicki at 263-0203 or 816-9039.

• **HOWARD COLLEGE LUMINARIA** at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Administration Courtyard.

• **HOWARD COLLEGE JURIED STUDENT ART SHOW COMPETITION** Dec. 1 in the Howard College library.

• **BENEFIT FOR GARY DANIELS** is set for Dec. 10 beginning at noon at the Ice House, 1612 E. Third St. Daniels has been diagnosed with cancer and proceeds are to help with medical expenses. The benefit features barbecue plates for \$6, live music, a chance to win a 12-gauge pump shotgun, an auction and a 50/50 drawing. For more information, call Danya James at 816-6141 or Tom Cox at 393-5888.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM IS HAVING A WREATH DECORATING EVENT.** Any theme is acceptable and wreaths will be displayed at the museum during the Christmas season. Wreaths should be turned into the museum by Nov. 29. For more information, call 267-8255.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **POTTED FALL MUMS TO BENEFIT THE BSHS CARNEGIE HALL BAND TRIP** are on sale now at Johansen's Nursery for \$15 while supplies last.

• **THE HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD** seeks Christmas help for the 69 children in foster care. To 'adopt' a child or family for the holidays, contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or 268-4550.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY
• Thanksgiving Day. The Big Spring Herald is closed.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild will not meet, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY
• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Around Town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

Weather

Thanksgiving day—Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the upper 60s. North winds around 10 mph shifting to the east in the afternoon.

Thursday night—Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday—Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs around 60. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night—Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 40s.

Saturday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Saturday night—Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 40s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Sunday—Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs in the mid 50s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Sunday night—Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows around 40.

Monday—Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s.

Monday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Tuesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Lottery

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-7

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Thanksgiving Ad Correction Notice
On page 11 of the November 24th ad, the statement "Any of our in-store offers in this ad are also available online" appears in some markets. This is incorrect.
The correct statement is:
"Many of our in-store offers in this ad are also available online."
We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.
© 2005 Best Buy

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Dianne Marquez Business Office Manager... Ext. 255
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Space travelers of future will have to grow their own

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A few decades from now, space travelers living on Mars may think the Pilgrims had it easy.

The pioneers who make the 80-million-mile, three-year journey to Mars and back will probably not have the just-add-water-and-heat packaged foods that are aboard the international space station, where the crew orbiting Earth will prepare a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday of turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans and cherry-blueberry cobbler.

During the six- to eight-month trip to Mars, space travelers

will grow lettuce, spinach, carrots, tomatoes, green onions, radishes, bell peppers, strawberries, herbs and cabbage aboard their spacecraft.

And when they arrive at the Red Planet for a stay of about a year and a half, they will cultivate potatoes, soybeans, wheat, rice, peanuts and beans in soil-less hydroponic chambers, according to NASA's food scientists.

"We will have to grow the vegetables up there because there is no way you can bring fresh, aroma-filled, crunchy vegetables and have it last," said Michele Perchonok, a food

technologist at NASA's Johnson Space Center, which is working on a project to send humans back to the moon, and from there to Mars.

The wheat will most likely be processed and made into bread or pasta. Syrup could be extracted from sweet potatoes and used to sweeten cookies. And the rice could be cooked or used in drinks.

"I sort of explain it as an 1800s kitchen with some automation," Perchonok said. "You are going to have to make your peanut butter. If you want a salad dressing, you are going to have to make your salad dress-

ing." The packaged meals astronauts eat in space now do not have a long enough shelf life to be safe for consumption during the entire length of a Mars mission. They also add weight and create waste — something NASA is going to great lengths to prevent.

In fact, NASA wants to recycle just about everything — even turning the astronauts' sweat and urine back into drinking water.

Some studies are looking into the use of fish — specifically tilapia — as a way to recycle shower water, toilet waste and

the water clothes are washed in. Tilapia eat human waste and are safe for human consumption afterward, said Vickie Kloeris, who manages the Space Food Systems Laboratory at Johnson Space Center.

Some crew members are leery of turning urine into drinking water. But Kloeris noted that water-treatment systems on Earth do that already.

"So in real life you are drinking somebody else's urine instead of your own," she said. "So I'm not sure psychologically which is worse. I think I'd rather drink my own."

War protesters arrested near President Bush's Texas ranch

CRAWFORD (AP) — A dozen war protesters were arrested Wednesday after setting up camp off the main road leading to President Bush's ranch, defying two new local bans on roadside camping and parking that they say violate their free-speech rights.

About four hours after the group pitched six tents and huddled in sleeping bags and blankets before dawn, McLennan County sheriff's deputies arrested them for criminal tres-

passing and took them to jail for booking.

Another dozen or so demonstrators left the public right of way after authorities warned them they would be arrested, and the group cheered when the others were taken into custody. Many in the group held up signs, including one that said "Give me liberty or give me a ditch."

More than two dozen deputies arrested the protesters, calmly approaching them in their tents and asking if they wanted

to walk out on their own or be carried. Two chose to be carried by deputies. After the 12 were handcuffed, they were taken to a table near a police van and asked to provide personal information.

In August, hundreds of demonstrators camped at that site off the winding, two-lane road during a 26-day protest led by a fallen soldier's mother, Cindy Sheehan. But a month later county commissioners banned camping in any county ditch and parking within a 7-mile

radius of the ranch, citing safety and traffic congestion issues.

Sheehan, of Berkeley, Calif., was not in Crawford on Wednesday because of a family emergency, but plans to arrive later this week for weekend war protest activities to coincide with Bush's Thanksgiving ranch visit.

"We are proud to be here," Dede Miller, Sheehan's sister, said Wednesday hours before her arrest. "This is just so important. What we did in August really moved

us forward, and this is just a continuation of it."

Others arrested Wednesday morning included Ann Wright, who resigned her post as a senior diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia in 2003 in protest of the war with Iraq; and Daniel Ellsberg, a former high-level Pentagon analyst who in 1969 copied and leaked the Pentagon Papers — the 7,000-page study of U.S. decision-making in Vietnam — to Congress and the media.

Ellsberg didn't attend the August vigil in Crawford because he thought the focus should be on relatives of those killed in Iraq, not peace activists who protested Vietnam.

Los Alamos contract will be announced after Dec. 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department said Wednesday that it won't meet its Dec. 1 deadline to announce a winner of the contract to manage Los Alamos National Laboratory.

According to a posting on the National Nuclear Security Administration's Web site, the leader of the contract selection board asked for more time to complete its report.

The official "does not anticipate a significant delay in the selection decision," according to the NNSA, a semiautonomous agency of the Energy Department. No new deadline was announced.

Vying for the Los Alamos contract are two teams, one headed by Lockheed Martin and the University of Texas and

the other led by the University of California and Bechtel Corp. UC has managed the lab since it was created during World War II to develop the atomic bomb.

Al Stotts, an NNSA spokesman in Albuquerque, said the Source Evaluation Board members analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the bids "just need more time."

The delay came as a surprise to officials from the teams bidding on the contract.

Michael Anastasio, who leads the University of California group, said he thought the government should do what it feels is necessary.

"We look forward to that decision whenever they will make it," he said. "So we wait."

Rod Geer, a spokesman for the Lockheed/Texas group, said the team is anxious for the decision. "But we also know that

DOE and NNSA want to do this right," he said.

Agency officials notified Washington lawmakers before the delay was made

public.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said he doesn't expect the delay to affect operations at the lab.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Meliton "Mel" Arriola, Sr., 83, died Tuesday. Prayer Service will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Let's Go Dancin' At The Eagles!
803 W. 3rd 263-6862

* Friday Nite * November 25, 2005 8:30 pm - 12:00 am WILD TEXANS	* Saturday Nite * November 26, 2005 8:30 pm - 12:30 am RC Entertainment
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Eagles Bingo: Sunday, Wednesday & Friday 806 E. 3rd


A Message Of Thanks To Our Patients

As part of the Thanksgiving tradition, we're counting our blessings and are truly thankful. Here's hoping you have a wonderful holiday complete with all the trimmings that make it so special.

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 Oak Finish Magazine Rack \$17	 Cherry Finish Tea Table \$27 ⁰⁰	 Natural White Kitchen Cart \$147 ⁰⁰	 Four Natural & White Solid Wood Tray Tables W Stands \$47 ⁰⁰	 Cherry Finish Magazine Table \$47 ⁰⁰	 Cherry Vanity \$97 ⁰⁰

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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

Opinion 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

Join us in giving thanks for all things

As we look to the sky today in its beautiful West Texas splendor ... as we watch the leaves turn color and gently float to the ground in advance of winter ... as we gather 'round the dinner table to share food with friends and family, let us give pause.

Thanksgiving is truly a time to give thanks ... for our good fortune, our friends, our family and so many other things in life we enjoy.

But this day is more than turkey and dressing and cranberry sauce, and it is more than the football games television networks pitch at us as "part of the Thanksgiving tradition." And it is certainly more than a day off.

What is the Thanksgiving tradition?

In reality, its tradition lies within each of us, doesn't it?

Let's not forget as we give thanks for the various blessings we have received in life, that there are those in our community less fortunate.

To that end, let us give thanks for the opportunity to help others in the same manner we would want to be helped, were the shoe on the other foot.

From our extended family at the *Herald*, we wish that today we could all understand the true meaning of Thanksgiving and experience the warmth and joy of sharing our wealth with others.

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@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we do more giving, Lord, and watch what happens.
Amen

Help change food policy to end hunger

This Thanksgiving, while millions of Americans are sitting at tables overflowing with food, children will be starving in Niger, southern Sudan and the earthquake-damaged regions of Pakistan.

Each year, 6.5 million children die of hunger-related causes — that's one child every five seconds.

They are dying not because the world produces too little food. There is plenty to go around. But the food is not reaching all of those in need.

Food aid is one response to combat this hunger. The United States ships millions of tons of food each year to developing countries, and yet hunger prevails. One reason is because of the way the United States distributes this aid.

Instead of giving priority to feeding starving stomachs, the focus of U.S. food aid is on fattening pockets of agribusiness and shipping companies.

For example, Horizon Milling, a joint venture of Cargill and CHS Inc., has sold \$1.09 billion of grain for food aid operations to the U.S. government since 1995.

The second player, the shipping industry, is supported by the 1985 Farm Bill, which requires that at least 75 percent of U.S. food aid be shipped by U.S. vessels.

This preferential treatment to food produced in the United States and transported by U.S. shipping companies makes U.S. food aid the most expensive in the world. The premiums paid to suppliers and shippers raise the cost of food aid by more than 100 percent compared to local purchases. What's more, this requirement delays delivery of emergency food aid by nearly five months.

Recognizing this, the European Union procures a major share of its food aid — 90 percent in 2004 — in developing countries themselves. Canada increased local and regional purchases from 10 percent to 50 percent this September. But the United States still avoids local and regional purchases.

Starting next year, the White House and the U.S. Agency for International Development have proposed to spend one-quarter of the food-aid budget to buy food grown by local or regional producers.

But House and Senate leaders have rejected this recommendation. Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, warns bluntly that buying food aid overseas would erode congressional support for famine-fighting programs. "It must come from American farmers so it will circulate through the American economy," he said.

Polls show that most Americans believe the largest federal expenditure is foreign aid. But the truth

is that foreign aid accounts for less than half of 1 percent of the U.S. federal budget.

Americans are more generous than that, as the outpouring of donations after the tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the South Asian earthquake demonstrated.

But the public must also do more by challenging the lawmakers who make U.S. food policy. Food aid must be kept separate from corporate interests. And it ought to come from local and regional sources.

What's more, rather than dumping food aid from the sky, the United States should work with local farmers in developing countries so they can provide for their own populations. More, not less, aid for rural development is necessary.

Policies that help affected countries develop their own agricultural sectors actually feed more people and decrease developing countries' dependence on aid programs in the long run.

This Thanksgiving, we cannot eliminate global hunger, but we can vow to reform our nation's policies so that fewer children die every day from starvation.

Anuradha Mittal is the director of the Oakland Institute (www.oaklandinstitute.org). Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org.



ANURADHA MITTAL



Don't discard youthful offenders

Children can and sometimes do commit terrible crimes, and when they do they should be held accountable. But life in prison without any possibility or even consideration of parole does not hold children accountable, it holds them disposable. Child offenders should be sentenced in a manner that reflects both the severity of their crime and their special capacity to change and redeem themselves.

A recent report by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch reveals that 2,225 child offenders in the United States been locked up for life without any possibility of parole. Fifty-nine percent of child offenders serving life without parole are in prison for their first criminal offense, and an estimated 27 percent were sentenced for felony murder — that is to say, they were involved in a crime during which a murder took place, but they did not take part in the murder itself. Sixteen percent of child offenders serving life sentences without parole were between the ages of 13 and 15 when they committed their crimes.

Also striking are the racial disparities, which we find in every area of the criminal justice system but which are perhaps even more pronounced in the sentencing of children to life without parole. Black children are 10 times more likely to receive life without parole than white children are.

Sixty percent of the current population of child offenders serving life without parole is black.

Are you the same person you were when you were 14, or 16? Neither are the child offenders who have been discarded into our prison system without any hope of release, but our criminal sentencing laws ignore this obvious fact. As the Supreme Court said in a landmark decision on the juvenile death penalty last spring: "any parent knows" and "scientific and sociological studies ... tend to confirm" that children possess a "lack of maturity ... an undeveloped sense of responsibility ... (and take) impetuous and ill-considered actions and decisions." While a neuroscientist could explain to you the specifics of brain development, it doesn't take a doctoral degree to know that kids act out, often don't consider the consequences and are extremely susceptible to peer pressure.

Often touted as a leader in human rights, the United States lags behind the rest of the world on this important human rights issue. Amnesty and Human Rights Watch were able to identify only 12 child offenders in the entire rest of the world serving the sentence often termed "death by incarceration." That's right — 12

in the rest of the world and 2,225 in the United States.

Judges cannot look into a crystal ball at the time of sentencing. Children are uniquely suited for change: They grow up and mature, often becoming unrecognizable to those who knew them in childhood. Yet in many states, sentencing of children who have committed very serious crimes has become an exercise in fortune telling.

Ironically, in 28 states, even a judge with a crystal ball could not save a child from being discarded into our prisons for life. Instead, in these states, judges' hands are tied by mandatory sentencing laws. Sentencing decisions should be made case by case. A "one-size fits all" approach to criminal justice ignores children's inherent ability to change.

Sentencing a child offender to life without the possibility of parole sends a message to that child — who is more likely than not low-income, African American or Hispanic — that his life is less valuable, his potential contributions are less significant and he is not worth the minimal time or effort it would take to revisit his case and evaluate his state of redemption later in life. We can do better for our troubled youth than discarding them forever.

David Berger, a Washington attorney with O'Melveny & Myers LLP, serves as pro bono counsel to Amnesty International USA.



DAVID BERGER

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FHS math team fares well in Lubbock OVERDOSE

Herald Staff Report

The Forsan High School Math Team came home from a recent UIL practice meet at Lubbock High with a second place plaque for their Number Sense Team and a third place for their Calculator Team.

Team members also earned four medals and 8 ribbons.

Winning medals in number sense were: Audrey Montgomery, first place, 12th grade division and Courtney Holdampf, third place, 11th grade division.

Receiving ribbons in number sense were: Jonathan Purcell, eighth place, Vince Penick, sixth place and Haylea Bureson, ninth place.

Bringing home medals in calculator were: Seth Johnson, second place, 11th grade division, and Jeremy Robbins, first



Members of the Forsan High School Math Team who competed in a recent practice meet at Lubbock High School are, front row, left to right: Courtney Holdampf, Haylea Bureson and Seth Johnson; second row, left to right: Sandi Galeher, Bobby Roy, Amber Ritz and Timothy Ballard; third row, left to right: Jeremy Robbins, Audrey Montgomery, Vince Penick and Jonathan Purcell.

place, 9th grade division. Receiving ribbons in the 11th grade division were Tim Ballard, fifth place

and Bobby Roy, sixth place.

In the 10th grade division, Amber Ritz received

a fourth place ribbon.

In the 9th grade division, Vince Penick finished sixth.

Continued from Page 1A

an average lethal dose being 3 mg per liter in the liver."

The autopsy was ordered by Howard County Justice of the Peace Bennie Green, who said an official ruling has not yet been made.

"The autopsy showed a lethal amount of morphine in the woman's body," said Green. "I've turned the autopsy report over to the Big Spring Police Department, which will continue its investigation into the matter. I have not yet made an official ruling at this time."

"There's a possibility there was foul play," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD. "No arrests have been made at this time."

According to Everett, Morrow died May 20 and was laid to rest May 24.

"We learned that she (Morrow) died from a lengthy illness but her death may not have been due to natural causes," said Everett. "A court order to exhume the body was obtained based on evidence obtained by the detectives working the case."

Morrow, who was born in Breckenridge in 1931, was manager of the Big Spring State Hospital Federal Credit Union for 23 years, retiring in 1991.

No arrests have been made as a result of the investigation, which is being conducted by Det. Jim Rider of the BSPD, at this time.

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

STAR

Continued from Page 1A

assembling the massive decoration.

"We did this to help bring people in the community together," Sarah Sharp said. "It's something that almost everyone contributes to in every

way or another."

The lighting of the star officially starts the holiday season in Gail, and caps an evening of Christmas activities in the community.

Sarah Sharp said the county courthouse will open at 5 p.m., with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus greeting youngsters and

posing for photographs in the district courtroom. While getting their photo taken with Santa, youngsters can also register to win a four-foot stocking stuffed with prizes.

The courthouse will also be the drop-off point for the community's "Toys for Tots" program. Residents are encouraged

to donate toys and other items suitable for children from toddler size up to teenagers.

The donated items will go to the Buckner's Children's Home in Lubbock, Ms. Sharp said.

Refreshments will be served at both the courthouse and museum, and hayrides will be held

throughout the evening.

Once the star is lit (approximately 7 p.m.), it will remain on 24 hours a day until Jan. 1, Ms. Sharp said.

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

PARADE

Continued from Page 1A

The entry judged Best of Show will receive \$100. This award will go to the entry that shows the best interpretation of the

parade theme, Flores said.

In addition, there will be a \$75 Mayor's Trophy prize for best use of lighting, \$50 Grand Marshal's

Award for best costumes, plaques to each division winner and a special award to the best Sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

Judges for this year's parade will be members of the Herald's Reader Advisory Board.

For more information, contact Flores at 263-7331.

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

Thwarted building climber free on trespass charges

HOUSTON (AP) — A daredevil known as the French "Spiderman" whose plan to scale a Houston skyscraper was thwarted by police was free on bond Wednesday after his arrest on criminal trespass and drug possession charges.

Robert Alain Philippe, 43, was arrested Tuesday as he was to begin climbing the 678-foot-tall One Houston Center building. Philippe, who goes by the stage name Alain Robert, is known worldwide for climbing some of the world's tallest buildings with his bare hands without a safety net.

Houston police spokesman John Cannon said two tablets, believed to be the sedative Xanax, were found on Philippe when he was searched at the scene. Philippe was charged with criminal trespass and possession of a controlled substance, Cannon said.

Philippe was released on \$1,500 bail Tuesday and scheduled for a court appearance next Tuesday, said Rachel Ferrel, coordinator for Harris County Criminal Court No. 11.

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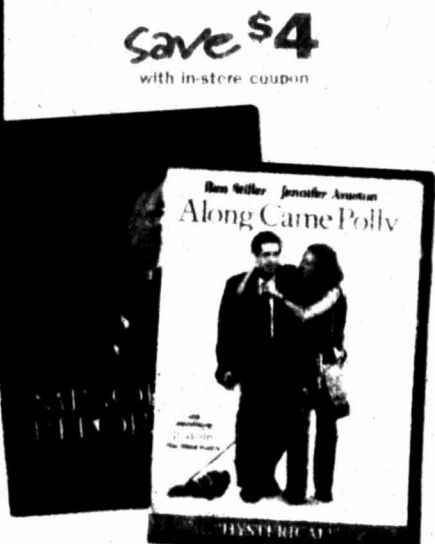
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happy holidays. Happy you.

The trouble with multi-tasking

By Barbara Mahany

(KRT) CHICAGO — Pick a house, any house. Peek in the kitchen window.

Particularly at the bewitching hour, that jam-packed interlude after work and before dinner.

This is what you might see:

There appears to be a grown-up walking in small circles between counter and stove.

Occasionally she darts into next room where little person is tossing cushions off couch, making mountain to jump in. Grown-up piles things from fridge onto counter. Puts pans on stove. Chops onions. Throws chicken in microwave. Older child walks in and asks question about math homework.

Without putting down cleaver, grown-up glances at book, ponders, comes up with some thought.

Grown-up, measuring rice into pot, grabs phone and cradles on neck, trying to reschedule orthodontist appointment. Leaves message. Dials another number, this time checks in on friend with sick mother. Little person darts into kitchen, wants cookies before dinner. Grown-up explains that dinner is coming, offers carrots in meantime. Grown-up hears cell phone ringing. Cradling both phones, grown-up gets report spouse is running late.

Older child returns to kitchen, this time thrusting paper into grown-up's hand. Paper must be signed, as child is collecting sponsors for school charity walk. Doorbell rings. Grown-up masks craziness and calmly answers door.

This is not fiction. This is my house. You might call it insanity (and mostly I do).

But it is otherwise called multitasking, that modern-day malady that has us scrambling to cram as much into the moment as is humanly possible.

While as a concept, making the most of our time has been around as

long as humans have had two hands and tasks to occupy both, the term multitasking didn't enter the lexicon until 1966, born out of the capacity of computers to do two or more functions at once.

Like all good ideas, it seemed a splendid solution to a world that demands ever more.

But now there's a problem, said Stephanie Wilson, organizational guru and bestselling author of five books on the subject of whipping your life into some semblance of order. This pursuit of doing many things at once "has become inflamed, just like an appendix," Wilson said.

"It sits there minding its business until one day it gets inflamed and then it's sick, and suddenly you can't ignore it. Something like that has happened with the fundamental concept of efficiency. It has become inflamed to the point of creating chaos."

You can't get too far into the subject of multitasking before someone starts yammering about its gender-specificity, proclaiming that women are naturals and men simply cannot keep more than one plate spinning.

"Remember, we gals are born with all our eggs, which means we multitask from the start," argued Colby Beutel, an artist and mother of two in Chicago. "Guys do their stuff one at a time. Interruptions are not digested, only ignored."

"Think of chess: The king moves one space at a time, thinking he's all powerful. While the queen can move in any direction she wants, and without her, the king is dead."

Checkmate.

And yet, despite howls of protest otherwise ("Male multitasker, isn't that an oxymoron," shouted one correspondent to a plea for nominations of men who multitask), the time has come to pop a long, sharp stickpin in the rumblings that somehow men are less than equal in the juggling department.

"I don't believe the func-

Kate Nolan, right, measures out medicine for daughter Rosie, 7, center, who is home from school sick for the day, while 4-year-old son Beck competes for attention as Mom is packed and almost ready to head out the door for culinary school in Riverside, Illinois. Nolan is a pastry chef, culinary institute student and mother.

tional data supports that," reported neuro-psychologist Marcel Just, director of the Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He swatted away a 1998 study, done by scientists elsewhere, that he believes wrongly suggested that women might have the upper hand when it comes to multitasking.

Just, who has spent years peering into the human mind through functional CAT scans that map brain activity during various cognitive tasks, reports that only when asked to listen to two things simultaneously do women demonstrate higher capacity to do so.

In every other pairing of cognitive tasks, listening to a series of true-false statements while mentally twisting three-dimensional figures, for instance, men and women show equal capacities.

And, he is quick to add, there is clearly a cap on our capacity to multitask, men or women.

"How much can you do at one time?" asks Just, who examined that question in a 2001 study. "It's a biological system, there have to be limits. You can't just go piling on thoughts."

In addition to the brain's biological constraints, Just's study, published in the journal *NeuroImage*, found that there's a limit to how much attention is available to distribute over more than one task and that there is a limit on how well concurrent tasks can be performed.

In other words, if it feels as though the more you try to do, the more you're messing up, you might be on to something.

Another pair of scientists, in this case social scientists, looked at multitasking through another lens and came up with a similar conclusion:

Women don't beat men doing more than one thing at once.

So report sociologists Barbara Schneider and Linda Waite, co-directors of the Alfred P. Sloan Center on Working Families at the University of Chicago, who have spent plenty of time probing the multitasking question.

The just-released findings of their research, titled *The 500 Family Study*, looked at those hundreds of families in 2000 and 2001. Most of them were dual-career couples with children.

The results show women with only a slight edge over men in terms of how often they find themselves doing multiple things at once.

Overall, women multitask 57 percent of the time; men, 50 percent of the time, which the researchers claim is not a statistically significant difference.

At home, women multitask 43 percent of the time; men, 37 percent of the time. In the workplace, both men and women multitask much less, with no difference between sexes.

And especially at work, Schneider and Waite found, multitasking creates feelings of stress and frustration.

"The bottom line, and it's very important," Schneider said, "basically when you're in the moment in your work, you get tremendous satisfaction."

"But our lives are so complicated, we multitask a lot of the time. When we're multitasking we don't feel so great about it. No one should feel like, 'Oh, that person is multitasking, that person is so efficient; isn't that great?'"

"The truth is, it's not so great."

Hmm, wonder if they peeked in my kitchen window.



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Kirn named special olympics athlete of 2005

Special to the Herald

Seth Kirn from Howard County Special Olympics was named athlete of the year for 2005 during the Area 18 Special Olympic Bowling Tournament in Midland at the Midland Park Lanes Nov. 19. Teams from Howard

County, Big Spring Independent School District, Odessa, Midland and Monahans participated.

Winners were: first place, Mary Dickinson, Jackson Welch, Pam Boley, David Lopez and Richard Winn; second

place, Mary Helen Gonzales, Rita Rea, Mary Nell Justice, Douglas Blauvelt, Seth Kirn, Joshua Hughes, Darrell Bassett and Ramon Holguin; third place, Kathy Pardue, Choyia Baker, Bobby Dancer, Sammy Yates, Charles

Wallace, Monroe Faubion and Stacy Wells; fourth place, Aireba Taylor, Charles Thomas, Fred Earhart, Steven Mills, Bobby Emerson and Stephen Lawson; and fifth place, D'lene Wylie. A spring tournament is planned.

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Surviving HOLIDAY HURDLES



Sausage-Apple
Holiday Bread Stuffing

Sausage-Apple Holiday Bread Stuffing

- 1/2 pound pork sausage
- 1/2 cup Enova oil
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 pound dried cubed bread

- 1 1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons freshly chopped parsley
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 eggs
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled and finely diced

Crumble and cook sausage; drain on paper towels. Heat oil in skillet, then sauté onion and celery until tender. Add garlic and remove from heat. In large bowl, combine bread cubes, cooked sausage, seasonings, broth, eggs, apple and cooked vegetables. Mix gently. Turn into greased casserole

and bake at 350 F. 20 to 30 minutes. Serves 4

Holiday Green Beans

- 2 tablespoons Enova oil
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 4 cups frozen beans
- 2 tablespoons water

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon freshly chopped parsley

Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup slivered almonds

Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté until crisp. Add garlic, green beans, water and salt. Cover and cook 3 to 5 minutes or until almost tender. Remove cover and cook another minute to evaporate liquid.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Place in serving dish and top with slivered almonds.



Holiday
Green Beans

Simple Steps to a Healthier Season

Rich dinners, office cocktail parties and sweets galore. Yes, the holidays are about family, friends and generosity, but we all know what the season truly centers around — food. Each year, it is inevitable that people will consume food in greater quantities, promising to do better next year when clothes seem to fit a bit more snugly than usual. In fact, research suggests that Americans will most likely gain one pound during the holiday season, which accumulates through the years and could lead to obesity problems in the future.* However, the bottom line is that people do not want to give up their favorite holiday dishes in the name of health. Rather, making simple lifestyle and cooking changes will promote good health without sacrificing traditional food and festivities.

Chef Kathleen Daelemans, best-selling author and host of the Food Network's *Cooking Thin*,

is an expert at making simple changes in the kitchen to create healthy but satisfying recipes during the holidays and year-round. Daelemans has offered several tips to aid people in a healthier holiday season without forgoing their favorite dishes.

"The holidays are a time for fun, sharing and giving, and shouldn't be spent feeling guilty every time you put a piece of food in your mouth," said Daelemans. "Some easy lifestyle changes during this busy time will allow you to enjoy healthier holiday favorites without sacrificing taste. Choosing fats and oils wisely, consuming leaner and healthier ingredients and not relying on fast food in between your holiday meals can lead to a healthier, more balanced season."

*Study from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), March 2000

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Healthy Holiday Tips

Select the right fats and oils. The new food pyramid has ended the common misconception

that all fats and oils are bad for you. Choosing the right fats and oils helps to provide essential nutrients and can lead to a balanced diet. Rather than cooking with solid fats, try incorporating liquid-based oils like diglyceride-rich (DAG) oil, canola and olive oil, which are better options. DAG oil, in particular, is clinically shown to store less as fat in the body compared to traditional oils, while not changing the taste or texture of recipes. After becoming the

No. 1 selling oil in Japan, DAG oil is now available in the U.S. market under the name Enova brand oil (www.enovaoil.com).

Be choosy when selecting ingredients. Build holiday menus around naturally healthful ingredients. When using meat or protein, make the cuts lean; try sweet potatoes instead of regular potatoes; and when incorporating dairy, make it low fat. Also, fill people's plates with lots of fruit, vegetables and whole grains to encourage a well-balanced, but delicious, holiday meal.

The three-to-one rule. When attending a holiday party, take three healthy bites for every single high-calorie bite. Instead of piling a plate with high-calorie foods, make a commitment to balance out what you eat by helping yourself to good-for-you foods first.

Go cardio. Build in more cardio workouts to counterbalance holiday indulgences. Cardio exercise releases "feel good" hormones and burns calories to offset big meals and high stress. Try exercising at least three times a week — if you add 10 minutes to a workout every day, you'll get in an extra 30 minutes at the end of the week.

No excuses for fast food. As you

will be eating richer food than normal, keep in-between meals lean, clean and portion controlled. This is not the time of year to resort to fast food because you're too busy to cook. Plan for the extra demands on time by stocking the fridge and freezer with pre-made and pre-portioned soups, stews and make-ahead meals. Every time you cook, make extra and freeze. Do this three times a week and you'll have 12 meals in the freezer.

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Forget the Aztec; Pontiac wheels out its new Torrent

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel Remember the Aztek? You do? Pontiac was afraid of that. So here's a little something to take your mind off that notable mistake: the all-new 2006 Pontiac Torrent.

All-new for Pontiac, anyway. The Torrent is essentially a rebadged version of the Chevrolet Equinox, which debuted as an early 2005 model. The Equinox and Torrent also are related to the Saturn Vue, but they feel quite different from the Vue.

I don't want the Torrent-Equinox connection to sound like a criticism, since the Equinox is one of the most pleasant surprises to come from the General Motors stable in several years. It's handsome, useful, reasonably economical. And even with the less-than-cutting-edge 3.4-liter V-6 engine, pretty peppy.

Aside from the styling,

one of my favorite aspects of the Torrent is its size. It's about the same length as a Ford Explorer, and just slightly narrower. There's plenty of room up front, and two adults — three in a pinch — fit nicely in the rear. As with the Equinox, the "Multi-flex" rear seat is adjustable, to offer more passenger legroom, or more rear cargo space.

The Torrent feels less truckish than the Explorer, mostly because it is: A four-wheel-drive Explorer does pretty well off-road, but even when you get the all-wheel-drive option on the Torrent, you'll want to stick to the pavement. That said, it's very maneuverable around town and comfortable on the highway. As with the Equinox, the Torrent continued to surprise me with just how willing and able it is to serve as an exceptionally pleasant transportation.



The 2006 Pontiac Torrent

The test model was front-wheel drive, fine for climates with minimal snow and ice. The five-speed automatic transmission maximized the engine's abilities, and fuel mileage — EPA-rated

at 19 mpg in the city, 24 mpg on the highway on regular gas — isn't bad. Aside from a little wind noise at highway speeds, the Torrent was quiet in all conditions.

The Torrent comes pret-

ty well-equipped in even the base-model configuration. Starting price is \$22,400 (\$24,300 for all-wheel drive), and the test vehicle, with shipping (\$590), and several option packages that include XM satellite radio, a sunroof, antilock brakes, side air bags, traction control and pretty much everything offered except leather upholstery, listed for a moderately pricey \$27,540. Get everything, and an all-wheel-drive Torrent can top \$30,000, and that's pretty optimistic on GM's part.

Suffice it to say, though, that Pontiac dealers — perhaps as much or more than any other GM brand — are eager for your business, and I'd expect a discount. Priced right, a 2006 Pontiac Torrent is an excellent alternative to bigger, thirstier SUVs.

And a downright superb alternative to an Aztek.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

2006 Pontiac Torrent

Base price: \$22,400.

Price as tested: \$27,540.

EPA rating: 19 mpg city, 24 mpg highway.

Details: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive SUV with a 3.4-liter, 185-horsepower V-6 engine and a five-speed automatic transmission.



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Bursting with toys and opinions



Furreal Friends Scamps by Hasbro

Knight-Ridder News

When the time comes to decide what toys should make it onto holiday wish lists, KidsPost goes to the experts — kids. This year we asked more than 300 kids to play with more than 70 toys, then we instructed them to rank them on a scale of 1 to 10.

THE TOP 15

Furreal Friends Scamps: My Playful Pup

Hasbro, \$49.99
Rating: 10
Ages 6 and older.
A furry, funny, huggable stuffed animal that responds to your voice and can learn as many as 20 tricks, including: shake, beg, wave and count. (Bet your real dog can't do that.) Our third-grade testers loved this cute toy, but one tester said that "sometimes Scamps wouldn't listen to me."

Kidz Cam Digital Camera Kit

Sakar International, \$29.99
Rating: 10
Ages 8 and older
A digital camera designed for kids, with the software built into the camera. Our third-grade testers had fun taking pictures. Be warned: To see the pictures, you need a computer.

Spy Pen-X2

Wild Planet, \$9.99
Rating: 10
Ages 7 and older
Just what every secret agent needs. With this spy gear you can write or record secret messages (up to six seconds). Third-graders liked the telescope feature and that they could read notes in the dark.

Teen Titans Sonic Boom LCD Video Game

Techno Source, \$7.99
Rating: 10
Ages 6 and older
This hand-held video game features your favorite Titans, including Raven and Cyborg, battling evil as quickly as your thumbs can make them move. The second-grade testers loved the action, but they didn't like that only one person can play at a time.

Cool Clicks

Dymo, \$12.99
Rating: 9.6
Ages 6 and older
Just what every organized kid wants; or what every parent who wants an organized kid wants! This label maker comes in cool colors and is easy

Happy Thanksgiving
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to use. Except that it's noisy, our second-grade testers loved the idea of using this to label their things.

Spy Night

Patrol Listener

Wild Planet, \$14.99
Rating: 9.5
Ages 8 and older
These goggles are equipped with blue lights that let you see in the dark and a microphone that will let you hear if enemies are approaching. Fourth-grade testers really liked the way the microphone picked up faraway noises.

Battle Crawlers Arena

Wild Planet, \$14.99
(Arena comes with two bugs)
Rating: 9.5
Ages 7 and older
Create your own half-bug, half-machine creature, then battle in the arena against a similar bug-machine your opponent has created. Second-grade testers liked creating bugs but got frustrated when the bugs fell off the arena platform.

Hand Art

Klutz, \$9.95
Rating: 9.5
Ages 6 and older
Everyone knows how to trace your hand and make a turkey, but how about a dragon? Or a frog? Or an alien? This book comes with googly eyes, glue and pompoms to help you make some amazing creatures.

Second-grade testers loved how cute the creatures were.

Disney Princesses TV Games

Jakks Pacific, \$19.99
Rating: 9.5
Ages 7 and older
Plug the pink castle controller into the television and play in mini-adventures as Ariel, Belle, Cinderella or Snow White. What princess wouldn't love this toy? Second-grade testers liked the variety of games to play.

Vcam Now

Hasbro, \$79.99
Rating: 9.2
Ages 10 and older
This pocket-sized digital video camera lets kids take their own movies or still pictures. Sixth-grade testers said it took a while to learn how to download the video.

GoGo TV

Manley, \$59.99
Rating: 9.1
Ages 8 and older
This game plugs into your TV and, because it has a video camera built in, puts you into the action. There are four games to play, including balloon juggling and penguin chase.

Girlfitti Smart Charms

Binney & Smith, \$19.99
Rating: 9.0
Ages 8 and older
Make your own light-up bracelet. The pattern for the lights depends on the charms you choose. One clever third-grader thought it would be cool to use the bracelet for hide and seek.

Lazer Tripwire

Wild Planet, \$19.99

Rating: 9.0

Ages 8 and older
Younger siblings will never be able to sneak into your room again. This toy consists of pods that send out invisible beams of light. When an unsuspecting intruder crosses in front of one of the beams, an alarm sounds. One fifth-grader said, "I would use my own money to buy this because it's so cool."

iZ

Zizzle, \$39.99
Rating: 8.8
Ages 10 and older
Incredibly weird and incredibly cool. Plug iZ into an MP3 or CD player, and the critter's eyes bounce and a horn pulses to the beat. Sixth-grade testers said it would be even better if it moved, they said.

Furby

Hasbro, \$39.99
Rating: 8.8
Ages 8 and older
He's back! The furry, weird interactive toy that first hit toy stores in 1998 is bigger than before, with a more expressive face — and an off switch! Third-grade testers loved that it listened to commands.

Here are some other toys that our testers liked a lot:

— Star Wars Ultimate Lightsaber (Hasbro, \$34.99). Ages 7 and older. Be a Jedi Knight or a Sith as you build your own lightsaber. Kids warn that it's tricky to put together. Rating: 8.7

— Chat Now (Hasbro/Tiger Electronics, \$74.99). Ages 10 and older. Not just walkie-talkies. Stay in touch with family and friends up to two miles away. Also takes photographs. Rating: 8.7

— Robopet (Wow Wee, \$99.99). Ages 9 and older. From the makers of Robosapien and Roboraptor, this trainable robotic dog was a hit with kids. The packaging and directions frustrated some testers. Rating: 8.6



Furby by Hasbro

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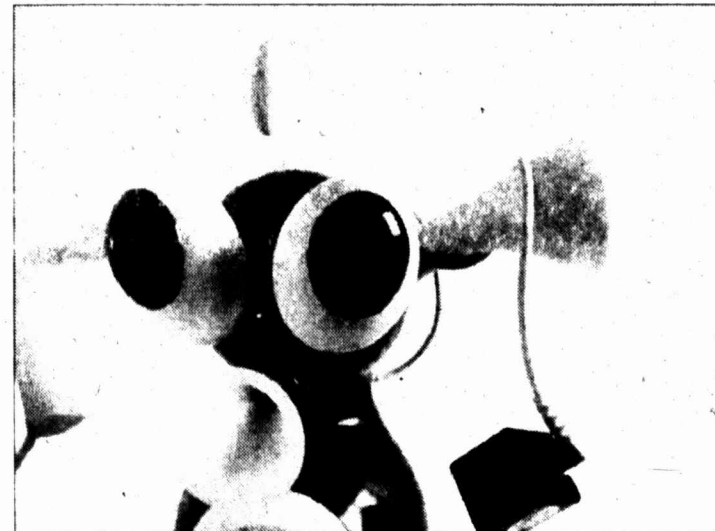
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Sugar-cube igloos celebrate the sweeter side of snow

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
Knight Ridder News

For the first time this season, we heard the dreaded "s" word in our forecast. It was only a matter of time before meteorologists started talking about snow. Here, in Ohio, the calendar tells us winter is closing in — even though we basked in 60-degree temperatures this month. In our hearts, we know we're long overdue for big, fat, fluffy snowflakes to fall.

Now, I know winter has its fans. Maybe those of you in the north can't wait to sled ride, ski or glide around a pond on your skates. Oh, and don't you just love those unexpected snow days?

As for me, I'd rather take a pass, thank you. Except on Christmas Eve of course — after that, I'd prefer snow leave town with Frosty.

In honor of the first snowfall of the season, I made a sugar cube igloo with directions I found at Disney online at <http://familyfun.go.com>. The craft was inspired by Fun Foods by Wim Kros. I changed the directions slightly to make this craft easier for kids to complete.

A word to the wise: Construct your polar ice scene on a strong board and leave it to dry overnight before moving it.

- Supplies you will need:
- 1 12-inch by 12-inch piece of plywood or other strong board.
 - 2 boxes of sugar cubes (about 175).
 - 2 egg whites.
 - 3 cups confectioners' sugar.

- White acrylic paint.
- Assorted items to decorate.
- Small paint brush.
- Compass.
- Wax paper.

Paint the board white and allow it to dry. Mix egg whites and confectioners' sugar together to make mortar.

With a compass, make a 5-inch circle on your board. Leave a space for your door.

Use the paintbrush to spread mortar on the circle. Line it with sugar cubes, leaving open your doorway. Start building your igloo by placing mortar on the bottom of each new cube and covering the lines between the cubes on the base. Work from both sides of the entrance toward the

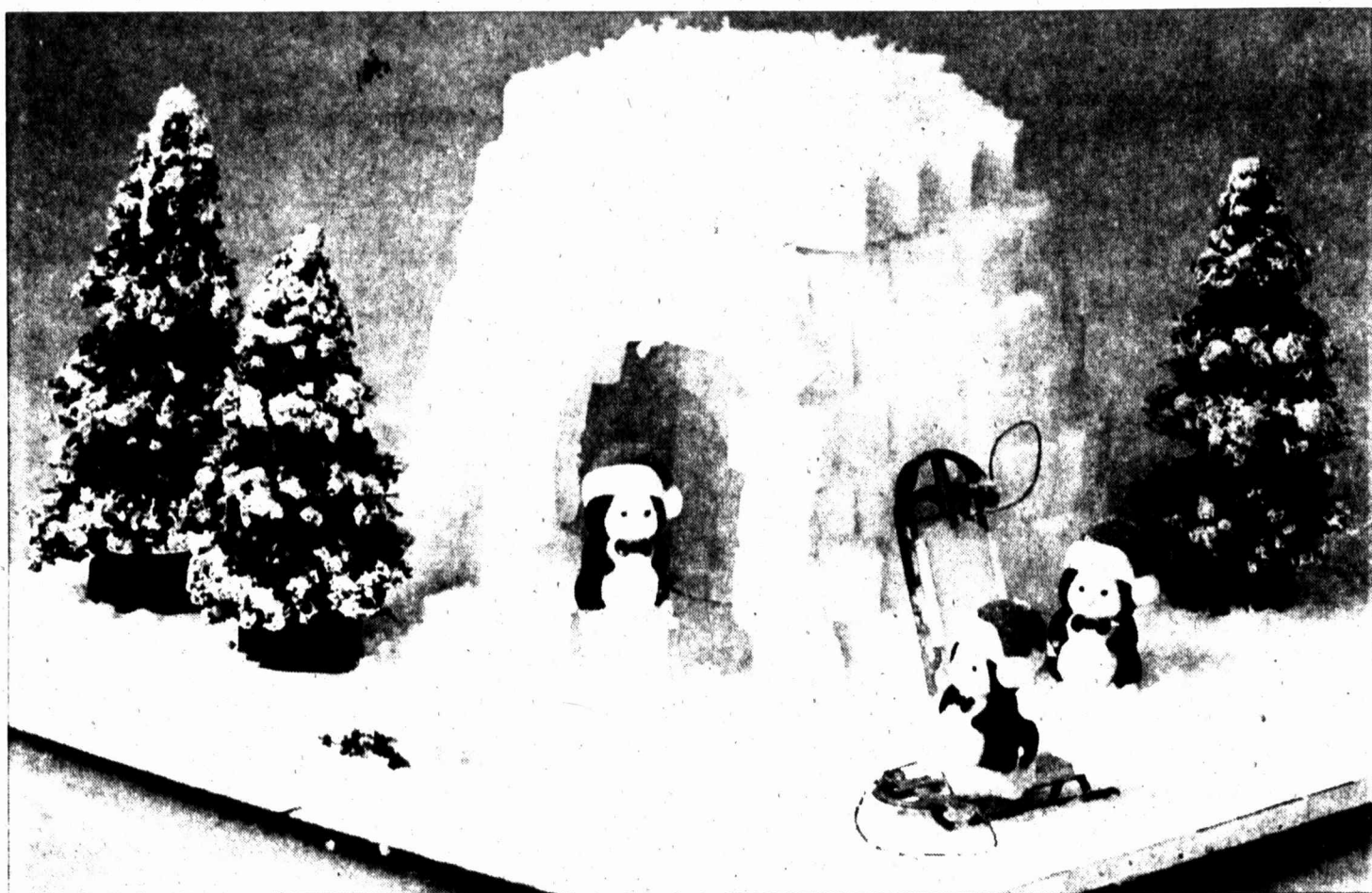
back of the igloo. Move each row back slightly to make the circumference of your circles smaller with each row. Make about six rows. Let dry.

Make the roof and the entrance arch on a flat surface covered with waxed paper. For the roof, measure the diameter of the top opening and connect as many cubes as you need to cover the hole.

Make the arch by laying the cubes on the flat surface. Connect the edges with mortar.

When everything is dry, carefully peel the sections from the waxed paper. Use mortar to connect both sections to the igloo. Decorate your scene any way you would like and use confectioners' sugar as snow.

In honor of the first snowfall of the season, I made a sugar cube igloo with directions I found at Disney online at <http://familyfun.go.com>.



Sugar cubes are used to make a winter-scene igloo.

KRT photo/Robin Tinay Sallie

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2004 Saturn VUE - SIK# E223. 4-Cyl. 5-Speed Manual. Power Windows/Door Locks. AM/FM. CD. Sliding Sun Roof. Alloy Wheels.	Was \$17,985. NOW \$14,495
2004 Isuzu Rodeo - SIK# E100. Automatic. 3.5L. Power Windows/Door Locks. CD.	Was \$17,675. NOW \$15,495
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2003 Chevrolet Tahoe - SIK# E190. Automatic. 2WD. LS. A/C. Rear Air. Power Steering/Windows/Door Locks. Tilt Cruise. AM/FM. CD. Running Boards. Alloy Wheels.	Was \$24,115. NOW \$19,495
2004 Nissan Titan SE King Cab - SIK# E227. V8. 5.6 Liter. Automatic. Tilt Cruise. AM/FM. CD. Premium Sound. Sliding Rear Window.	Was \$23,100. NOW \$20,495
2003 GMC Yukon - SIK# E103. V8. 5.3 Liter. Bi-Fuel. Automatic. 4 Wheel Drive. SLT. CD. Leather. Power Seat. Roof Rack. Running Boards.	Was \$32,615. NOW \$25,995
2004 Chevrolet Avalanche - SIK# E112. V8. 5.3L. Automatic. 4WD. 271 Off-Road Pkg. CD. Premium Sound. OnStar. Leather. Roof Rack. Towing Pkg. Teen Miles!	Was \$32,250. NOW \$26,995

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KRT photo/Robin Tinay Sallie

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, November 24, 2005

IN BRIEF

Basketball officials needed for new year

Basketball officials are needed for the 2005-2006 basketball season involving junior high, freshman and junior varsity games in Coahoma, Forsan, Garden City and Sterling City.

If interested in officiating, contact Adam or Mandi Rodriguez at 263-8731 (after 6 p.m.), 517-0300 or 816-1963.

Sign-ups for YMCA basketball underway

Registration for the Big Spring YMCA youth basketball league is taking place now until Dec. 3. The league is for boys and girls ages 5-12. Some 13-year-olds may play depending on their date of birth.

Practices are scheduled to begin Dec. 19. Kids who played last season may play on the same team from last year.

All games are scheduled to be played Saturday beginning Jan. 7.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring sets volleyball clinic

A volleyball clinic for girls aged third through eighth grade has been set up for Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The clinic will take place at the B.S. Junior High and it will be instructed by J.E. Thomas, who is the Midland College assistant coach. The cost is \$25 per player.

For more information or to register, contact Della Partee at 267-4038.

Marlins make move, send Delgado to New York Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — One season later, Carlos Delgado is headed to the New York Mets.

The Mets reached a preliminary agreement Wednesday to acquire Delgado and \$7 million from the Florida Marlins for first baseman Mike Jacobs and pitcher Yusmeiro Petit, a baseball official familiar with the talks said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal was not final.

It is the second tentative deal struck this week by the payroll-slashing Marlins, who also have a pending agreement to send 2003 World Series MVP Josh Beckett to the Boston Red Sox for three prospects.

New York would receive \$7 million from the Marlins as part of the trade to offset the \$48 million Delgado is owed over the next three seasons. The first baseman turned down the Mets' offer last January to accept a \$52 million, four-year contract from the Marlins. But while New York offered a no-trade clause, Florida did not.

The sides have not yet agreed on how to spread the money, the official said.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard freshman Valerie Burnam goes around two defenders before scoring two points Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawk women travel to Arizona this weekend for games against Mesa College and Scottsdale C.C.

Howard stays busy over holiday break

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Both Howard College basketball programs will stay busy over the Thanksgiving holiday as the Hawk women travel to Arizona for two games Friday and Saturday, while the newly ranked No. 9 Howard men travel to Odessa College for the Thanksgiving Shootout.

The women will take on Scottsdale Community College Friday and then try to take down Mesa College (1-1) Saturday. Mesa College is ranked No. 4 in Division II and its only loss was to the eighth-ranked team in Division I.

The Hawk women are coming off a win against the Hardin-Simmons JV team and played Garden City Community College Wednesday night, but scores were unavailable at press time.



MARTIN

Latoya Fairley led the Hawk women against Hardin-Simmons with 24 points, while sophomore

Jennifer Pena and freshmen Chanel Jones-Delas, Sara Rondeau and Tomisha Martin will all be counted on in Arizona.

After starting the season 7-0, the Howard men moved from No. 30 to No. 9 in the year's first regular season poll.

"Whether it is deserved or not, the kids have been working pretty hard to get to this point," said Howard assistant coach Jason Sautter. "We're still the underdog and being No. 9

See HAWKS, Page 2B

NJCAA Men's top 20

1. Chipola College, 6-0
2. Indian Hills C.C., 5-0
3. Cochise College, 5-0
4. Coffeyville C.C., 5-1
5. San Jacinto College, 5-1
6. Mineral Area College, 6-0
7. Schoolcraft College, 4-0
8. Georgia Perimeter, 6-0
9. Howard College, 7-1
10. Midland College, 7-1
11. Redland C.C., 6-1
12. Shelton State C.C., 5-0
13. NW Mississippi C.C., 6-0
14. Highland C.C., 4-0
15. Seward County C.C., 7-0
16. St. Catherine College, 7-0
17. Daytona Beach C.C., 6-0
18. Northeastern JC, 7-1
19. North Idaho College, 5-0
20. Moberly Area C.C., 6-0

Others Receiving Votes

- Cape Fear C.C.
- College of Southern Idaho
- Dixie State College of Utah
- East Central C.C.
- Falkner State C.C.
- Garden City C.C.
- Independence C.C.
- Iowa Western C.C.
- John A. Logan College
- Kankakee C.C.
- Kilgore College
- Lon Morris College

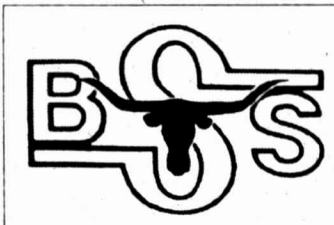
Sage, Hughey lead BSHS swimmers

Special to the Herald

MONAHANS
Sophomore Lauren Sage and junior Ryan Hughey led their respective Big Spring swimming teams at the Monahans Invitational last weekend as the boys finished sixth and the girls took eighth in the team standings.

Sage powered her way to a gold medal in the 100-yard butterfly, and the team's only first place finish, while Hughey took second in the 200-yard Individual Medley and third in the 100-yard breaststroke. Sage also placed sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Adding key contributions to the boy's team was freshman Cameron Hughey's sixth place finish in the 50-yard freestyle and 12th place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Senior Daniel Pike finished fifth



in the 500-yard freestyle and sixth in the 200-yard freestyle.

Senior Steven Lucas took 10th in the 50-yard freestyle and 14th in the 100-yard butterfly.

Sophomore Ashley Oliver also scored points for the girl's team as she garnered eighth place finishes in the 200-yard IM and 500-yard freestyle, respectively.

The boy's relay teams both finished in the top four.

The 200- and 400-yard freestyle teams of Pike, Lucas, Cameron Hughey and Ryan Hughey took second and fourth, respectively.

Sage, Oliver, Anita Guiette and freshman Kris King finished 11th in the 200-yard freestyle girl's relay, while Sage, Oliver, Guiette and freshman Ashley Saenz finished ninth in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

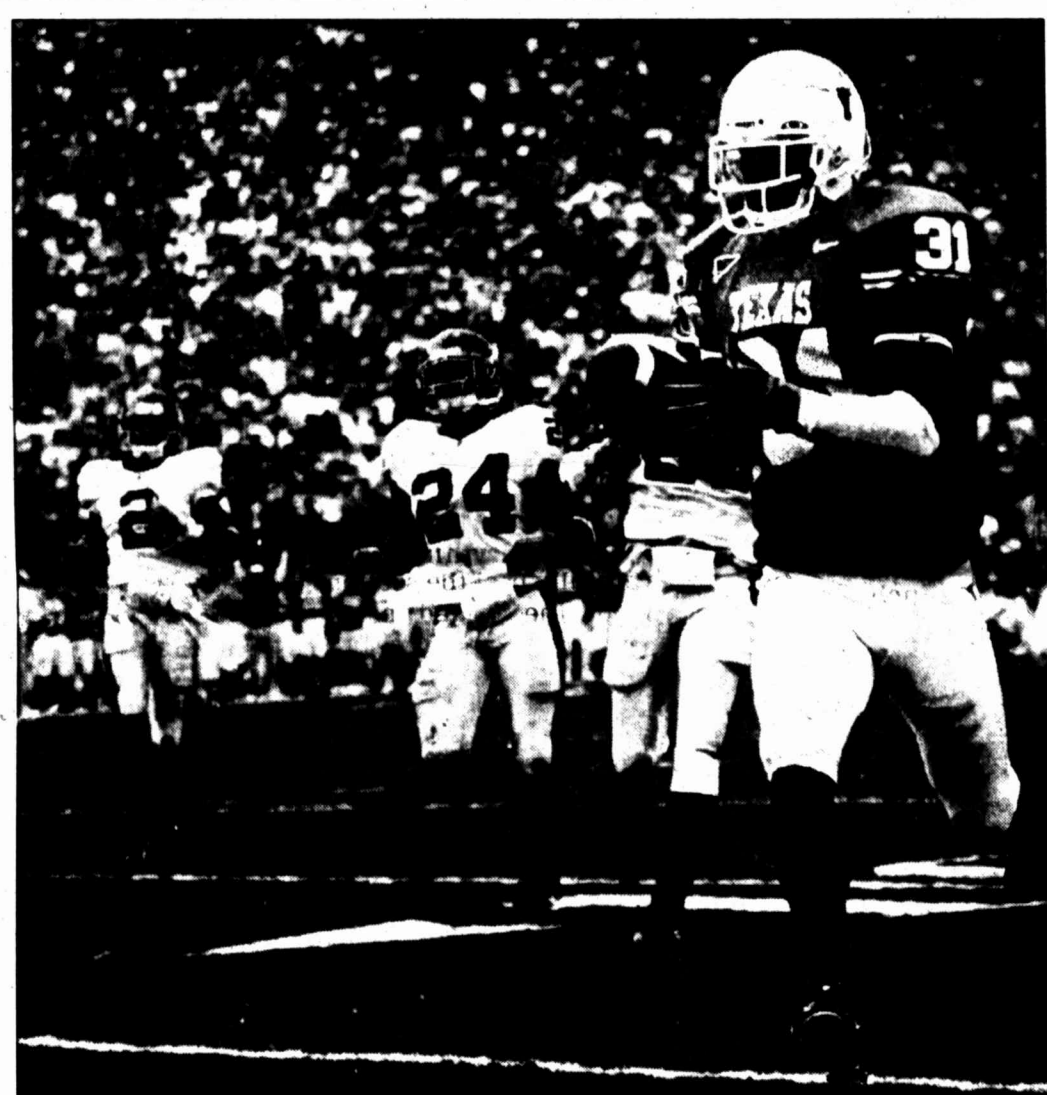
The next meet for Big Spring will take place Dec. 10 at Seminole



SAGE



R. HUGHEY



KRT photo/Michael Mulvey, Dallas Morning News
Longhorns' Aaron Ross runs for the endzone as he returns a Kansas punt for a touchdown in the first half of play against Kansas Saturday, November 12, in Austin. The Longhorns will battle in-state rival Texas A&M Friday in College Station.

McNeal 'can't miss' big game

Injury won't stop Aggie quarterback from playing Horns

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Bad ankle or not, Texas A&M senior quarterback Reggie McNeal says Friday's regular-season finale against archrival Texas is too big for him to miss.

"It's my last game. It's going to be my last time stepping on Kyle (Field)," said McNeal, who became A&M's all-time passer against Oklahoma on Nov. 12. "It means a whole lot."

Not long after setting the record, McNeal sprained his left ankle after a hit by Oklahoma's Calvin Thibodeaux. Trainers helped McNeal to the sideline and he rode to the locker room on a motorized cart, but on Monday he wasn't limping.

"I'm feeling pretty good," he said. "I'm going to be ready." Redshirt freshman Stephen McGee replaced

McNeal against OU, rushing for 67 yards on 10 carries and leading the Aggies (5-5, 3-4 Big 12) to a touchdown and two field goals in 1 1/2 quarters.

A&M coach Dennis Franchione said he wouldn't think twice about using McGee if McNeal struggles against the No. 2 Longhorns (10-0, 7-0) and the nation's sixth-ranked defense.

"If he were sitting right here, I think he'd tell you without any hesitation there's no doubt in his mind he's ready, and that I think is a strength of a young quarterback," Franchione said of McGee.

McGee, a former standout at Burnet High School, has appeared in six games this season, rushing for 200 yards and completing 15 of 30 passes without an interception. He's eager to be part of the rivalry he's followed since he was a

child. "I want to go out there and have fun, compete, and be that little kid, you know, diving around in the front yard," McGee said. "I'm just 20 years old. I still have the same amount of fun and that's what it's about to me."

For Texas, it doesn't matter who the Aggies start.

"They run the same offense," said Coach Mack Brown. "When they're in the same offense, it doesn't change your plans."

The Longhorns have beaten the Aggies five straight years, the last two with McNeal starting. Friday's game is McNeal's last shot to add another signature victory to his topsy-turvy career.

McNeal is still best known for coming off the bench as a freshman in 2002 and leading the Aggies to a 30-26 upset of

See RIVALRY, Page 2B

Forsan JV boys cruise, Lady Buffs fall to G.C.

By JEFF LANE
Special to the Herald

FORSAN — The Forsan Lady Buffalos JV team played host to the Lady Kats of Garden City Tuesday night, losing 35-13.

Head coach Kim McFarden said the girls were improving, but still had a lot to work on.

The Lady Buffs were led by Alyx Pappajohn's seven points and She. McDonald added four

points. Also in action was the Forsan JV boys team, which blew out visiting Robert Lee, 39-10.

The Buffs were scheduled to play Garden City, but the Bearkats withdrew from the contest as their football team just lost in the playoffs last weekend.

Nathan Ackerson and Jeremy Frietag led the Buffalos with eight points each.

BSJH wins three out of four

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Three of the four Big Spring girl's junior high basketball teams were victorious over Midland Christian Monday.

The eighth-grade black team won, 36-19, and was led by Linzee Yarbar's 10 points, while Macy

Graves and Paula Mills pulled down six rebounds apiece.

The eighth-grade gold team defeated Midland Christian, 37-12, as Paige Smith had a game-high 16 points and Halee Thomas pulled down a team-high

See BSJH, Page 2B

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

is not our goal. Our goal is to win the regional tournament and advance to the national tournament."

The Hawks will take on Hill College in the first round of the Thanksgiving Shootout and a win could set up a semifinal matchup with No. 10 Midland College, which starts the tournament with a game against Dixie College.

The two rivals met three times last year with Howard winning both games during WJCAC play, but the Chaps

knocked off the Hawks at the regional championship game and advanced to the national tournament.

"Playing against Midland this early is just good for college basketball," said Sautter. "The entire tournament field is great and it might be the best tourney in the country this weekend."

Hill College is led by 6-8 Josh Love and Brandon Callahan, who have each scored more than 30 points in at least one game this year.

Love is a preseason all-American and Sautter said he reminds him a lot of Carmelo Anthony, who plays for the Denver

Nuggets of the NBA.

"We're going to throw a couple of people at him," said Sautter. "Louis Rodgers, Herve Bangola and Benson Akpan will all be guarding him at some point."

Howard recently returned from South Padre Island after taking home first place in that tournament. Freshman Benny Valentine was named tournament MVP, while sophomores Charles Burgess and Rodgers each made the all-tournament team.

The Hawks are also led by sophomore Dezmon Harris and freshmen Richard Forbes, Akpan, Phil Murphy and Bougari Konate.

Odessa College could face the Hawks in the championship game if both teams can get that far in the tournament. Howard's opening game against Hill College takes place today at 2 p.m.

If the Hawks win they would play the winner of Midland and Dixie at 6 p.m. Friday, but a loss would mean the Hawks would take on the loser of Midland and Dixie at 3 p.m. Friday.

"No matter how things turn out (Thursday) for us, Friday's game is going to be tough," said Sautter.

Odessa Thanksgiving Shootout

Thursday

Howard College vs. Hill College, 2 p.m.
Midland College vs. Dixie College, 4 p.m.
Lee College vs. Eastern Oklahoma, 6 p.m.
Odessa College vs. Cecil College, 8 p.m.

Friday

Howard/Hill winner vs. Midland/Dixie winner, 6 p.m.
Howard/Hill loser vs. Midland/Dixie loser, 2 p.m.
Lee Eastern OK winner vs. Odessa/Cecil winner, 8 p.m.
Lee Eastern OK loser vs. Odessa/Cecil loser, 4 p.m.

Saturday

Championship game, 8 p.m.
Consolation game, 6 p.m.

Arbitrator ends year for Owens

By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer
PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens' season is effectively over after an arbitrator ruled Wednesday that the Philadelphia Eagles were justified in suspending him for four games.

Arbitrator Richard Bloch wrote that the Eagles clearly proved that the suspension was justified, and were within their right to pay their All-Pro receiver but not allow him to return "due to the nature of his conduct and its destructive and continuing threat to the team."

The Eagles released a one-paragraph statement thanking Bloch and saying Philadelphia is looking forward to "moving on with our preparations for Sunday's game vs. Green Bay and the rest of the 2005 season and will have no further comment on this issue."

Bloch heard more than 13 hours of testimony last week. Owens' side argued the penalty is excessive and the Eagles' decision to deactivate him is too severe. Owens wanted to be reinstated to the Eagles or released so he can sign with another team.

"We are pleased that the arbitrator has upheld the right of a club to suspend a player for conduct detrimental to the club," said Harold Henderson, the NFL's head of labor relations.

The players union said in a statement that it was disappointed with the decision, which it believes ignores the contract's limits on team discipline. "We are confident that we put in a winning case at the hearing last Friday," the statement said, "and we still believe Terrell Owens had a right to a legitimate reinstatement."

RIVALRY

Continued from Page 1B

then-No. 1 Oklahoma.

Despite ranking in the school's top six in seven offensive categories, McNeal has taken much of the blame for this year's struggles, even though A&M has been ravaged by injuries and has one of the nation's worst defenses.

McNeal has been reluctant to reflect on his A&M career in recent weeks and prefers to look to the future, when he's confident the Aggies will return to national prominence.

"Did I expect to win a

Big 12 title? Yeah. That's why I came here," he said. "I know this is my last game, but I'm always going to be an Aggie football player, regardless. If next year, they win a Big 12 title, I'll feel like I contributed to that."

If nothing else, Friday's game could serve as a changing of the guard.

"Sooner or later the keys to the car are going to be turned over to the new driver," Franchione said. "We'll be sitting here in three years asking and talking about these same kind of things with Stephen McGee that we're talking about now with Reggie. He's going to be an outstanding quarterback."

BSJH

Continued from Page 1B

eight rebounds.

The other winning team was the seventh-grade gold squad, which defeated Midland Christian, 14-

10. Taryn Kennedy led the Lady Steers with five points, while Stormi Smith scored four.

The seventh-grade black team lost to Midland Christian, 40-14. Valerie Ross led the Lady Steers with six points, while Jillian Valle had four.

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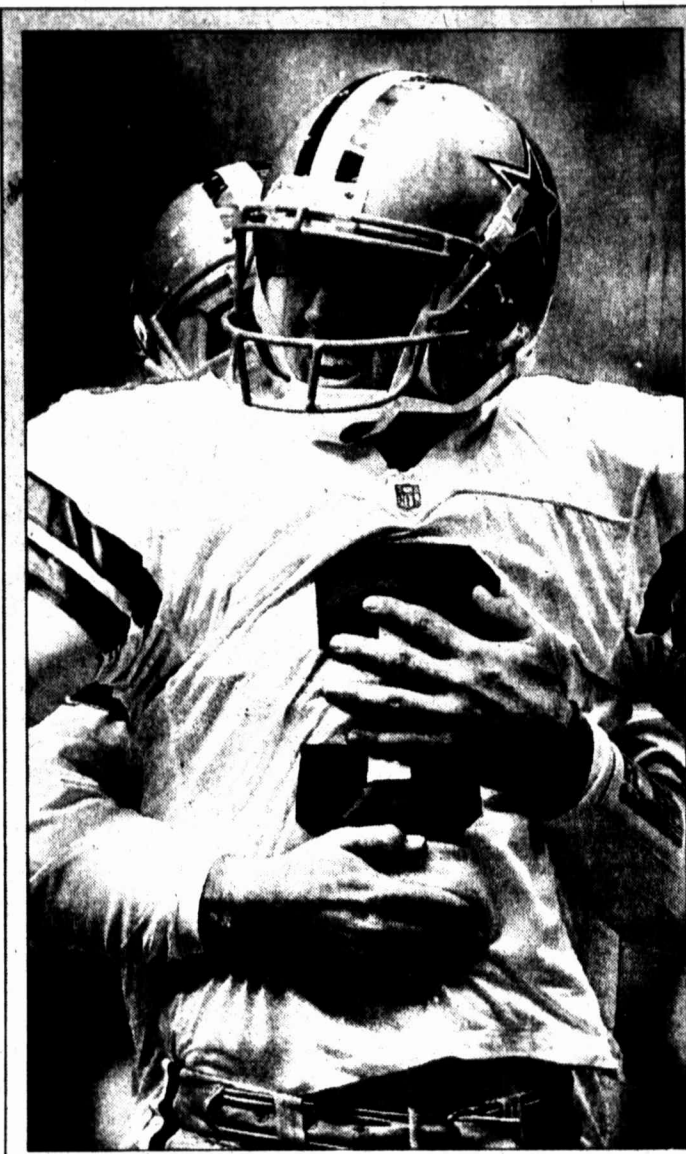
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KRT photo/Khampha Bouaphanh, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas Cowboys kicker Billy Cundiff is congratulated by a teammate after kicking a 56-yard field goal late in the second quarter against the Detroit Lions. The Cowboys defeated the Lions, 20-7, at Texas Stadium in Irving last Sunday and will host Denver today at 3 p.m.

Aikman leads list of 25 Hall semifinalists

• Former Cowboy Irvin, White also possible selections

CANTON, Ohio — Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman and perennial All-Pro defensive end Reggie White head a list of 25 semifinalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The board of selectors chose them from a list of 112 preliminary nominees, the hall said Tuesday. A list of 15 finalists will be announced in mid-January.

The class of 2006 will be determined at the selection committee's annual meeting Feb. 4 in Detroit, the day before the Super Bowl.

The list of 25 will be reduced by mail ballot to 13 modern-era candidates. The list will increase to 15 finalist nominees with the inclusion of the two recommended candidates of the hall's seniors committee.

This year, they are former Oakland Raiders coach John Madden, and former Cowboys tackle Rayfield Wright.

Aikman led the Cowboys to three Super Bowl victories.

White, who died last December, finished second in career sacks with

66 and was a two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year. White, who spent 15 seasons with Philadelphia, Green Bay and Carolina, was elected to the Pro Bowl a record 13 straight times from 1986-98.

Other modern-era semifinalists are linebackers Harry Carson, Randy Gradishar and Derrick Thomas; center Dermontti Dawson; running back Thurman Thomas; wide receivers Michael Irvin, Andre Reed and Art Monk; defensive ends Fred Dean, Richard Dent, L.C. Greenwood and Claude Humphrey; quarterbacks Warren Moon and Ken Stabler; guards Russ Grimm and Bob Kuechenberg; offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman; cornerbacks Lester Hayes and Roger Wehrli; punter Ray Guy; club owners Art Modell and Ralph Wilson, Jr., and administrator George Young.

Fischer "doing very well" in Detroit

By DAVID RUNK

Associated Press Writer
DETROIT — Detroit Red Wings defenseman Jiri Fischer was "doing very, very well" Tuesday, a day after he collapsed on the bench during a game and a defibrillator was used to help revive him.

"It's been a tough 12 hours for our organization," Ken Holland said at a news conference at Joe Louis Arena. "The great news is that Jiri Fischer is doing very, very well."

Holland and team physician Tony Colucci — who performed CPR on Fischer on the bench Monday night — said the player was "in good spirits."

Fischer, 25, was in good condition after he began having convulsions on the bench late in the first period of a game against the Nashville Predators. Colucci wasn't able to detect a pulse after Fischer collapsed, and an auto defibrillator was used on Fischer.

After performing CPR, Colucci said he detected a good pulse and Fischer was taken out of the arena by ambulance to Detroit Receiving Hospital. Colucci said Fischer's heart might have stopped, but he didn't know for how long.

Fischer's blood pressure and heart rate were stable by the time he got to the hospital.

The team had announced to the crowd Monday night that Fischer had a seizure, but Red Wings coach Mike Babcock later said Fischer's heart had to be restarted. "His heart was stopped," Babcock said.

On Tuesday, when asked how long Fischer's heart had stopped, Colucci said: "Sometimes when you're feeling for a pulse you can't really say did it stop, or does he have a very weak, thready pulse."

Colucci said he didn't know when Fischer could play again or how long he will remain in the hospital.

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Help Wanted

DUE TO New Ownership and Management, Parkview Nursing & Rehab. Center, 3200 Parkway (previously Comanche Trail) is expanding it's Nursing Staff. We are currently accepting applications for Certified Nurse Aids. Please apply in person, 3200 Parkway.

EVENING CASHIER full time/part time at WES-T-GO. Vacation and benefits available. Starting pay \$5.15 per hour. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.

EXPANDING ENVIRONMENTAL/ Housekeeping Services at Parkview Nursing Rehabilitation. Now hiring for Janitorial position. Apply in Person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

Help Wanted

FARM HAND needed. \$600.00 per week. Experienced Only. Call (432)684-5418.

CITY OF Big Spring is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic through January 4, 2006. Testing will be on Saturday January 7, 2006. Applications may be obtained at City Hall (432-264-2346) 310 Nolan St. Big Spring, TX 79720 or from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us The City of Big Spring is EOE.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person. Credit World. 1611 Gregg

Help Wanted

BAKER HUGHES
There is an opening for a Contract Treating Driver in Howard County. Candidate will operate a treater truck for downhole and pipeline treatments. Must be physically capable as well as maintaining associated paperwork. Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent; good driving record; Class A OR B CDL; HAZMAT and Tanker endorsements. Please call 800/658-2769 x7224 between 8-5 CT for appointment. **"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"**

Help Wanted

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60 hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Expanding Nursing Dept. Now Hiring Certified Nurse Aides for 6-2 shift, taking applications for all shifts. Apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

RELIEF OPERATOR GAS PROCESSING PLANT

Relief operator position with gas processing plant near Eastland, TX. Some electrical experience preferred. Company benefits include health insurance and 401k program. Pay commensurate with qualification and experience. Send resumes or work history to Houston Fluids & Leasing Co., P.O. Box 276, Olden, TX 76466 (Plant Office fax 254-647-1783) or call plant office at 254-647-0312 for an application

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<p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-267-3349</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>CHAINLINK METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 1-800-525-1389 1006 Lamesa Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p>FIREWOOD</p> <p>Firewood Oak & Mesquite Full - \$270 1/2 Cord - \$140 Quarter - \$70 Call Eric (432) 559-6919</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE</p> <p>HAVING A GARAGE SALE CALL CLASSIFIEDS 263-7331 BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENER'S Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>
<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>RS HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances installed 816-3030</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p>WEB PRINTING</p> <p>For Information On Web Printing Call Tony Hernandez 263-7331 BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>Mark's Lawn Care Mowing, Trimming, Edging. SPECIALTY - HEDGES, SHRUBS Trimmed and Shaped Stump Removal FREE ESTIMATES (432) 264-6162</p>	<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>FALL CLEANUP ALLEYS • HAULING TREE TRIMMING STUMP REMOVAL CALL 432-267-5460 CELL 816-6150</p>
<p>PEST CONTROL</p> <p>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Bird Moore Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings 1003, 07, 11 E. 11th Pl. For rent/sale 709 E. 12th 802 E. 12th 204 11th Place</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-5430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p>	<p>STORAGE</p> <p>AAA Mini-Storage Back-To-School Special 1/2 Off First Month Rent For All Your Storage Needs Large Or Small, We Store It All!!! Now Accepting Visa & Mastercard 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe 432-267-8317 432-268-6406</p>	<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>



Help Wanted

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC. HAS THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION AVAILABLE:
Position: Education Staff Development/Literacy Manager
Hours: 8:00-5:00 Per Day 12 months
Salary: COE/E \$40,000+
Summary: Will supervise and monitor educational progress of teachers and teacher aides, working with area educational institutions. Will serve as TEEM monitor and direct all classrooms with continued literacy training.
Education/Experience: MA in Early Childhood Education and at least 2 years experience in a Head Start/Childcare setting as a consultant, or mentor.
BA in Early Childhood Development or related field with Early Childhood endorsement or CDA and 5 years consultant or management experience in a Head Start/Childcare setting. All applicants must: Be 18 or older. Bring transcripts and documentation of management experience. Pass a pre-employment drug screen. Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency. Agency offers OJT, full benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applications available on line www.gopb.org. Applications, resumes and transcripts may be faxed to (432)337-3773. Job will remain open until filled. Submission of a resume, applications and resume does not guarantee an interview. Applications will be accepted until December 2, 2005. No phone calls please EOE

IMMEDIATE OPENING for Full-time and Part-time Cook. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700, Neighbors Convenience Store.

LOCAL CONTRACTOR has immediate opening for very experienced Backhoe Operator. Starting pay \$15 per hour & benefits. Call (432)263-9278 to schedule interview.

MAINTENANCE FACILITY WORKER. Experienced only. Call (432)263-1271, 2009 Virginia, Big Spring.

Help Wanted

MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring assistant manager/collector. Benefit package. Pay DOE. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

MODULE TRUCK DRIVERS needed. All shifts available. Class B drivers licenses required. Experienced drivers only. For inquiries, call (432)353-4570.

PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work, 18 to 20 Hours. Call (432)267-6027.

TUBING TESTER operator/derrick person. Must pass drug test. Good wages Call Jesse, (432)213-0739 after 7:00 p.m. only!

Instructional

DRIVING SCHOOL
New Class December 5th. Register Nov. 25th & 26th Big Spring Mall between 5:00p.m.-7p.m. (432)268-1023 or 263-2505.

Items for Sale

FRESH SHELLLED Pecans this year. Can pick up at Buffalo Country Fina. Call (432)267-1180 after 5:00p.m.

ONE of a kind 16x24 workshop, ready for delivery, financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

SLIGHTLY BLEMISHED, 12x16 storage, free delivery and financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

Jobs Wanted

CHRISTIAN LADY seeks job as Live-in caregiver for elderly. Excellent local references. Country Okay! Call (432)563-5307, (432)425-6387.

SPA REPAIRMAN - Will work on any brand of spa. Call: (432)563-1807.

Lost and Found

LOST: Screw tail Boston Terrier 7 months old. Last seen on Culp street in Coahoma. Child's pet please call (432)466-4370.

Miscellaneous

BIG! "RED" Barn ready for delivery, financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quilts/anniversaries, Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

Miscellaneous

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

OVERSTOCKED 10X16 storage, ready for delivery financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

Pets

AKC WEIMARANER male puppies for \$200.00. Call (432)213-1556.

CKC CHIHUAHUA puppies - 2 males & females. AQHA Bay Gelding, 4 years old. Very Gentle. Call (432)263-1701 or 466-3999.

Real Estate for Rent

1 Bedroom Apartments Move-in 50% off 1st months rent

Coronado Hills Apartments 801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx. 79720 (432)267-6500

HAVE YOU HEARD...
Efficiency Apts. \$175*
One Bedroom \$225*
Two Bedrooms \$300*
... Available at
SOUTH PLAINS APTS
432-714-4840

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX
Swimming Pool, Carports, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizen Discounts, 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths, Unfurnished
KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street 267-5444 263-5000

Real Estate for Rent

1314 MT. Vernon, 3 Bedroom, Office, Screened porch, Central heat. No pets! References Required. \$425. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3535 after 6:00 pm.

FOR RENT large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry A. All bills paid. \$400. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, fenced yard. No pets. Deposit. Call (432)263-7259.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

4219 HAMILTON, 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

BUILDING for LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$750. month + deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771

HOMES TO Rent!
Three Bedrooms 1517 Kentucky Way - \$400.
Two Bedrooms 807 Anna - \$300.
3006 Cherokee - \$300.
One Bedroom 502 1/2 Goliad - \$240.
Call (432)267-7380.

SUNSET RIDGE APTS.
Cable TV Free! Playground! No Water Bill! Paragon Security 24 Hour Laundry On-Site Mgr. & Maint Family Friendly 2 BR \$295 1 BR \$195 (432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

108 MERRICK Road. Cute 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath on one acre. Call (432)213-4460.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

3 BEDROOM, 1 bath, hardwood floors, new paint & ceiling fans. \$35,000.00. Call (432)756-2259.

4 BEDROOM, 2 bath, approx. 2100 square feet on approx. 1 acre, fenced, 3 car covered carport. Coahoma Schools. Many New Features. By Owner (432)393-5430.

SALE or LEASE: Nice 3 bedroom house, near Washington School. Call (432)466-3999.

Real Estate for Sale

803 ATLANTIC in Coahoma 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, large master bath, huge closets, breakfast bar and carport. Call (432)213-4460.

BY OWNER 1508 Sunset Ave., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, carport and storage shed. \$25,000.00. Call (432)816-9018.

FARM FOR SALE-Dawson County 3.5 miles W. of Ackersley-160 acres \$63,000. Call Glynn R. Chandler Real Estate. Office (432)758-3815 Cell (432)788-7152

OWNER FINANCE. 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-650-5900.

OWNER FINANCE. No-Credit check, Low down, low monthly. 1208 Wood, 2/1, 1602 Settles, 2/1, 1804 Owens, 3/1, 1806 Owens, 2/1. 3215 Auburn, 4/1. (432)889-0677.

VERY NICE 2 bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A, fenced backyard, with 2 storage buildings, double carport. 1205 Wood. \$26,000.. Call (432)263-2694.

Vehicles

3 New 2004 Ford Freestar Vans 12,000 Off MSRP
Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7124

1999 MERCURY Grand Marquis LS 56,700 miles, new tires, 4.6L engine. Nice Car. Asking \$9000.00. Call (432)263-1853.

2002 LINCOLN LS - Leather, moon roof, heated seats. Extra Nice! \$12,500.00.

2002 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab. LS - V8, automatic, power windows/locks, Extra Clean! \$13,900.00.

1999 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4x4. Leather, CD, power windows/locks. Like New! \$9,500.00.

700 Auto Sales 2900 East FM 700 (East of Big Spring Mall) Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)267-3955 or 268-3251

2003 TAHOE, captain chairs, front & second seat, 3-row seat, all leather, black, running boards, 6-CD players, OnStar, 2-wheel drive, 63,000 miles. \$20,000. (432)267-1345.

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Call 263-7331 for more information.

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Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

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THURSDAY

	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)	SCIFI (64)
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Premios TV y Novelas	My Wife Kids	News	La Vista de los Reyes	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lesher	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live TBA	Suburbs	Bound for Glory	2005 World Series of Poker	Return of the Living Dead
7:00 PM	Charlie Brown Movie: Finding Nemo (CC)	Charlie Brown Movie: Finding Nemo (CC)	Chespirito: 35 Anos en Nuestro Corazon	Movie: Daddy Day Care	Survivor: Guatemala - Maya	Movie: El Boleo de Raquel	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Tim Cohen	West Tex Jm TX Mnthly Talk	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Movie: Close Encounters of the Third Kind	Movie: Tomorrow	NBA Basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at Indiana Pacers	25 Strong: The BET Silver	That's So Raven (CC)	World Series of College Football	College Football	Movie: Dagon (CC)
8:00 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News	10 Movie: The Hour of Healing	The Hour of Healing	Dave Matthews Band	Deadliest Catch Special	Movie: Tremors	Movie: Seattle Sonics at Los Angeles Lakers (CC)	In Living Color	That's Raven	College Basketball	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Day of the Dead	
10:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News	10 Movie: The Hour of Healing	The Hour of Healing	Dave Matthews Band	Deadliest Catch Special	Movie: Tremors	Movie: Seattle Sonics at Los Angeles Lakers (CC)	In Living Color	That's Raven	College Basketball	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Day of the Dead	
11:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News	10 Movie: The Hour of Healing	The Hour of Healing	Dave Matthews Band	Deadliest Catch Special	Movie: Tremors	Movie: Seattle Sonics at Los Angeles Lakers (CC)	In Living Color	That's Raven	College Basketball	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Day of the Dead	
12:30 AM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News	10 Movie: The Hour of Healing	The Hour of Healing	Dave Matthews Band	Deadliest Catch Special	Movie: Tremors	Movie: Seattle Sonics at Los Angeles Lakers (CC)	In Living Color	That's Raven	College Basketball	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Day of the Dead	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If they didn't have TV and football, what did the pilgrims do after their Thanksgiving meal?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"That tasted good! Now let's all start on our Christmas lists."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



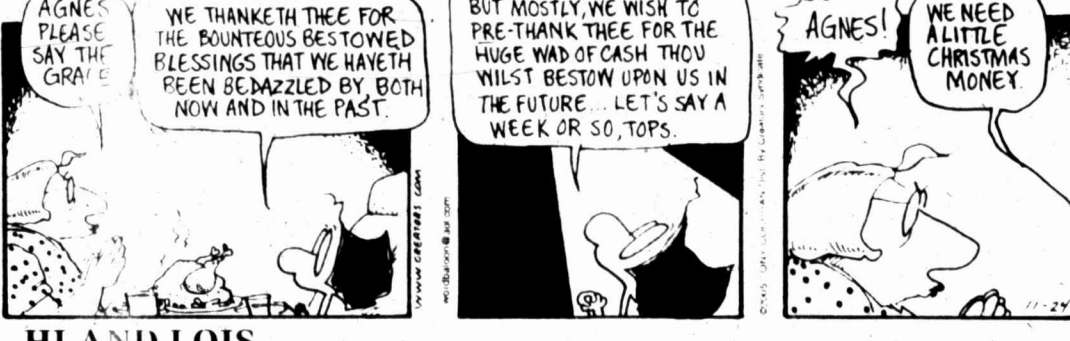
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2005. There are 37 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

On this date:

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution.

In 1871, the National Rifle Association was incorporated.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers based on Saipan attacked Tokyo in the first raid against the Japanese capital by land-based planes.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1971, hijacker "D.B. Cooper" parachuted from a Northwest Airlines 727 over Washington state with \$200,000 in ransom — his fate remains unknown.

In 1985, the hijacking of an Egyptian jetliner parked on the ground in Malta ended violently as Egyptian commandos stormed the plane. Fifty-eight people died in the raid, in addition to two others killed by the hijackers.

In 1987, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to scrap shorter- and medium-range missiles.

In 1989, Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu was unanimously re-elected Communist Party chief. (Within a month, he was overthrown in a popular uprising and executed along with his wife, Elena, on Christmas Day.)

Today's Birthdays:

Columnist William F. Buckley is 80. Country singer Johnny Carver is 65. Rock-'n-roll drummer Pete Best is 64. Rock musician Donald "Duck" Dunn (Booker T. & the MG's) is 64. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 63. Former White House news secretary Marlin Fitzwater is 63. Motion Picture Association of America President Dan Glickman is 61. Singer Lee Michaels is 60. Actor Dwight Livingston is 58. Actor Stanley Livingston is 55. Rock musician Clem Burke (Blondie: The Romantics) is 50. Record producer Terry Lewis is 49. Actress Denise Crosby is 48. Actress Shae D'Lyn is 43. Rock musician John Squire (The Stone Roses) is 43. Rock musician Gary Stonadge (Big Audio) is 43. Rock musician Chad Taylor (Live) is 35. Actress Lola Glaudini is 34. Actor Colin Hanks is 28. Actress Katherine Heigl is 27.

Thought for Today: "Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold." Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, American writer (1900-1948).

Answer to previous puzzle

PETES PAWS BABA
IRISH UTEP ACID
PIETA LEER NETS
SCRAMBLEDEGGS
TISOYER
LOSE CPA SOBBER
ASH ACELA WIRER
SHOOTINGALLERY
TEACH SERBS VIE
SALTED PROO SEER
INSTRUMGT
SCATTERBRAINS
UHOMTONIINTEL
PORE EROS SCALA
STEW DESK TELLY

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Cornfield noises
 - 5 Zhivago's beloved
 - 9 Minty drink
 - 14 Minimally
 - 15 Norwegian royal name
 - 16 Computer of the '40s
 - 17 Green gem
 - 18 Verdi masterpiece
 - 19 Roger the reviewer
 - 20 Complete washout
 - 23 '60s jacket style
 - 24 Linger in the tub
 - 25 18 Across solo
 - 29 Compass reading
 - 31 Straightens up
 - 33 Churl
 - 36 Imperturbable one
 - 39 Brief fracas
 - 40 Annual televised address
 - 43 Comic-strip frame
 - 44 Has a hunch
 - 45 Flock member
 - 46 Acid neutralizers
 - 48 Java holder
 - 50 Bard's adverb
 - 51 Pet lovers' grp.
 - 54 Caribbean island
 - 58 "12 items or less" places
 - 61 Windmill part
 - 64 "What time ___?"
 - 65 Contends
- DOWN
- 1 Louisiana cuisine
 - 2 Taper off
 - 3 Loafer specification
 - 4 Takes the tiller
 - 5 Bakery purchase
 - 6 Assumed name
 - 7 Satellite medium
 - 8 Himalayan hazard
 - 9 Catcall
 - 10 Without a loss
 - 11 Golf position
 - 12 Sense of pitch
 - 13 Bating avg., e.g.
 - 21 British philosopher/mathematician
 - 22 Guitar relative
 - 26 Fix a loose lace
 - 27 Following behind
 - 28 Without dissent
 - 30 WWII arena
 - 32 Unsurprisingly
 - 33 House broadcaster
 - 34 Dickens title starter
 - 35 Thanks, in Thuringia
 - 37 Kids
 - 38 Follower's suffix
 - 41 Got misty
 - 42 Source of shade
 - 47 DSL offerer
 - 49 Rough road surface
 - 52 Labor activist Chavez
 - 53 Out of the way
 - 55 Bring together
 - 56 Red veggies
 - 57 Plus
 - 59 Gen- (baby boomer's 37 Down)
 - 60 Antlered animal
 - 61 Diner order
 - 62 Heavenly lion
 - 63 Band booster

SAY WHAT? by Doug Peterson

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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That's Racin'

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All about teamwork

FINAL RANKINGS

- Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** Had 17 top-five finishes, two more than Greg Biffle did. When the margin of victory is 35 points, little differences like that mean a whole lot. Preseason ranking: 4.
- Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Led the circuit with six victories and also scored more bonus points for leading races than anyone else this season, earning 155 of those. Preseason ranking: 12.
- Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** He had 18 top-10 finishes, seven fewer than Stewart. Also had 85 fewer bonus points. Those are two areas this year's breakout team can work on in 2006. Preseason ranking: 18.
- Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Did not finish five times, most of any team in the Chase. This team will win its first title the first year it goes without a significant lull. Preseason ranking: 1.
- Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Remarkable stat No. 1: Six teams had 12 or more top-five finishes this year, and Roush Racing owned four of them. Preseason ranking: 10.
- Kurt Busch/Kenny Wallace (car No. 97):** Remarkable stat No. 2: In 180 total starts by Jack Roush-owned Fords, more than half of those cars — 93 — finished in the top 10. Preseason ranking: 2.
- Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Remarkable stat No. 3: Kenseth had 17 top-10 finishes this year and that was the LEAST among Roush teams. Preseason ranking: 6.
- Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** He did have four victories, including the Daytona 500, and eight top-five finishes. But he also had nine DNFs. Preseason ranking: 2.
- Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Racked up eight poles this season, double the total of the nearest rival (Elliott Sadler) in that category. If only the team could keep the car racing up front enough. Preseason ranking: 5.
- Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** Only driver among the 44 making at least 10 starts this season who was



Tony Stewart, center, and team celebrate winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Chase for the Championship.

Rating the top racing teams of the season

In the immediate aftermath of clinching the 2005 Nextel Cup title at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday, Tony Stewart went right back to praising his Joe Gibbs Racing team for getting him there.

"I think that we're just a better team," Stewart said. "I'm just a piece of the puzzle."

"When we were behind early in the season, we didn't know which area was going to get us caught up. So, the motor department dug in, the fab shop dug in, Zippy (crew chief Greg Zipadelli) and the guys on the pit stops dug in. I dug in. We all tried to get that extra half percent or percent that we all thought we needed."

"I'm not the guy that won us this championship — this race team won us this championship."

Teamwork is what the rankings of the top 40 drivers in Nextel Cup that appear weekly on thatstracin.com are all about. The rankings are based each week on a team's performance and its potential for success.

At the beginning of each season, we rank the teams based on how we think they'll do in the year ahead. At the end of the year, a team's ranking is based on performance and on how well it measured up to its potential and dealt with the inevitable adversity during the course of a 36-race schedule.

—David Poole, Knight Ridder Newspapers



REMAINING TOP-10 TEAM RANKINGS

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 21. Joe Nemechek (car No. 01): Preseason ranking: 19. | 26. Michael Waltrip (car No. 15): Preseason ranking: 16. | 31. Travis Kvapil (car No. 77): Preseason ranking: 29. | 36. Robby Gordon (car No. 7): Preseason ranking: 31. |
| 22. Ricky Rudd (car No. 21): Preseason ranking: 22. | 27. Dave Blaney (car No. 07): Preseason ranking: 28. | 32. Jeff Green (car No. 43): Preseason ranking: 30. | 37. Bobby Hamilton Jr. (car No. 32): Preseason ranking: 33. |
| 23. Jeff Burton (car No. 31): Preseason ranking: 21. | 28. Sterling Marlin (car No. 40): Preseason ranking: 24. | 33. Ken Schrader (car No. 43): Preseason ranking: 36. | 38. Mike Wallace (car No. 4): Preseason ranking: 39. |
| 24. Bobby Labonte (car No. 18): Preseason ranking: 14. | 29. Kyle Petty (car No. 45): Preseason ranking: 38. | 34. Scott Wimmer (car No. 22): Preseason ranking: 35. | 39. Mike Skinner (car No. 37): Preseason ranking: N/A. |
| 25. Denny Hamlin (car No. 11): Preseason ranking: 34. | 30. Mike Bliss (car No. 0): Preseason ranking: 32. | 35. Scott Riggs (car No. 10): Preseason ranking: 27. | 40. Kevin Lepage (car No. 66): Preseason ranking: N/A. |

Respect, not trophies, is the mark of a champion

As much as winning a championship means to a Nextel Cup driver, winning respect means infinitely more.

The money, even the \$5.8 million or so that Tony Stewart will collect for winning the 2005 championship, will be spent. And even as much as racers love trophies, the biggest ones are only symbols to celebrate what a driver and his team have accomplished. And they're hard to carry around, too.

Regard from your peers, however, is hot coffee on a cold morning. You drink it in and it warms you from the inside out.

After Stewart had wrapped up his second career championship Sunday night at Homestead-Miami Speedway, becoming just the 14th driver in history to win more than one title in NASCAR's top series, he could have opened a Starbucks.

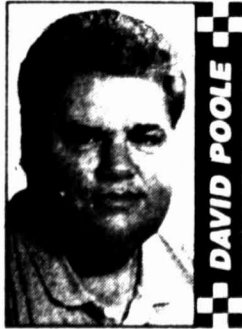
"Tony Stewart, in my eyes, is the greatest race-car driver I've watched

drive in this era," Mark Martin said. "A.J. Foyt might have been that when I was a little boy, but Tony Stewart is my driving hero."

Words like that from Martin are not faint praise. Martin has always been one of the most widely respected drivers among the other drivers. He's never won a Cup championship, but his fourth-place finish this year gives him 12 career top-five finishes in the standings with one more shot at a crown next year.

Martin was not alone in praising Stewart, either.

"I just think Tony Stewart is a great race car driver," said Jeff Gordon, who as a four-time champion is the only active driver with more titles than Stewart. "He's capa-



ble of making a race team better than it is. He brings a lot to the table, and he's good at a bunch of different racetracks."

"I do think that when you win more than one, it puts you in an elite group and you're going to be looked upon differently. And he's capable of winning more."

Stewart seemed genuinely touched.

"Any time great drivers like that speak highly of you like that, that's probably the greatest honor in auto racing that you can have," he said. "For your peers to have that confidence in you and that respect for you... that's better than any trophy I've ever received in my life."

Gordon and Martin both praised Stewart for the strides that he has made in containing a temper that had, in past seasons, sometimes got-

- not charged with an official DNF. Preseason ranking: 16.
- Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** Two-for-two in making the Chase but hasn't been able to do much after getting there. Preseason ranking: 13.
 - Kyle Busch (car No. 5):** Two wins, nine top fives and 13 top 10s as a rookie. Eight DNFs was the obvious flaw. Preseason ranking: 26.
 - Jamie McMurray (car No. 42):** Just 10 bonus points all season. Will his new ride in the No. 97 take him to the front more often? Preseason ranking: 9.
 - Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** This team, and all of Richard Childress Racing, needs to take a step forward in 2006. Preseason ranking: 18.
 - Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Did have 13 top-10 finishes, but he finished outside top 30 in five of his final nine races. Preseason ranking: 7.
 - Dale Jarrett (car No. 88):** Win at Talladega helped immensely in a year where he had only seven top-10 finishes. Preseason ranking: 15.
 - Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Slid from third to 13th in the points over season's final 20 races. Earned only one top five all year. Preseason ranking: 11.
 - Brian Vickers (car No. 25):** Had the fewest DNFs among full-time Hendrick drivers, but four is still too many. Preseason ranking: 25.
 - Kasey Kahne (car No. 9):** Despite getting his first win, he had more DNFs (nine) than top-10 finishes (eight). Preseason ranking: 8.
 - Casey Mears (car No. 41):** Felt late caution jolted him out of a Homestead win. Will racing in the No. 42 car next season be the difference-maker? Preseason ranking: 23.



POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
NASCAR's 2005 Chase had plenty of high and low points. What was the lowest?
Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
It's a heck of a thing to be racing for, but who do you like for 11th place in the final NASCAR Nextel Cup standings?
Number of votes: 6,290

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jeff Gordon	3,281	52%
Jamie McMurray	1,419	23%
Elliott Sadler	931	15%
Someone else	395	6%
Kurt Busch	264	4%

RACIN' NOTES

Wallace 'emotional' as racing career ends

Rusty Wallace, who finished 13th in Sunday's Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway, ended his career with a 49-race streak of running at the finish that began at Bristol, Tenn., in August 2004.

"When I got in the car today there was a lot of emotion going into it, but once I hit the switch, it was all about performance, get a good run, make the right calls, stay out of trouble, finish good," he said.

"I'm emotional out. I cried a thousand tears. I tried not to. I'm a pretty tough old boy. I think, but when this is your main deal — I hope that world I'm about to embark on is not a cruel one."

Wallace ended his Cup career with 706 starts, 55 wins, 36 poles, 202 top-five and 309 top-10 finishes.

NASCAR hopes to test next gen car at Vegas

NASCAR officials are hoping to coincide their next multiple-team test of the "car of tomorrow" with the open test early next season at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

If enough teams have new cars prepared, NASCAR plans to stay an extra day and run just the new cars together on the track, said Gary Nelson, NASCAR's vice president for research and development.

NASCAR has limited testing to six pre-selected tracks beginning next season — Daytona, Las Vegas, Richmond, Charlotte, Homestead-Miami.



NASCAR's "car of tomorrow" prototype.

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP
Final points standings:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	6533	21. Ricky Rudd	3667
2. Greg Biffle	6498	22. Casey Mears	3637
3. Carl Edwards	6498	23. Kasey Kahne	3611
4. Mark Martin	6428	24. Bobby Labonte	3488
5. Jimmie Johnson	6406	25. Michael Waltrip	3452
6. Ryan Newman	6359	26. Dave Blaney	3289
7. Matt Kenseth	6352	27. Kyle Petty	3288
8. Rusty Wallace	6140	28. Mike Bliss	3262
9. Jeremy Mayfield	6073	29. Jeff Green	3241
10. Kurt Busch	5974	30. Sterling Marlin	3183
11. Jeff Gordon	4174	31. Ken Schrader	3159
12. Jamie McMurray	4130	32. Scott Wimmer	3122
13. Elliott Sadler	4084	33. Travis Kvapil	3077
14. Kevin Harvick	4072	34. Scott Riggs	2665
15. Dale Jarrett	3960	35. Mike Wallace	2269
16. Joe Nemechek	3953	36. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	2183
17. Brian Vickers	3847	37. Robby Gordon	2117
18. Jeff Burton	3803	38. Jason Leffler	1538
19. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3780	39. Kevin Lepage	1460
20. Kyle Busch	3753	40. Terry Labonte	1071

BUSCH SERIES
Final points standings:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	4937	11. J.J. Yeley	3711
2. Clint Bowyer	4869	12. Johnny Sauter	3695
3. Carl Edwards	4601	13. David Stremme	3694
4. Reed Sorenson	4453	14. Ashton Lewis	3587
5. Denny Hamlin	4143	15. Jon Wood	3346
6. Paul Menard	4101	16. Stacy Compton	3345
7. Kenny Wallace	4068	17. Justin Labonte	3285
8. David Green	3908	18. Kevin Harvick	3259
9. Jason Keller	3866	19. Randy LaJoie	2880
10. Greg Biffle	3865	20. Tony Raines	2736

TRUCK SERIES
Final points standings:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Ted Musgrave	3535	6. Bobby Hamilton	3164
2. Dennis Setzer	3480	7. David Starr	3148
3. Todd Bodine	3462	8. Jack Sprague	3137
4. Ron Hornaday	3369	9. Matt Crafton	3095
5. Mike Skinner	3273	10. Johnny Benson	3076

For a complete list of the final standings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.