



State beefs up requirements in math, science

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A new course requirement is going to put the squeeze on existing Big Spring ISD facilities, officials said.

Beginning with the next school year, all incoming fresh-

men must have four years of both math and science before they will be allowed to graduate.

The new requirement, which was approved by state officials last week, is not exactly surprising news to local educators, but that doesn't mean it is wel-

come, either.

"I've never had a problem with higher expectations for students," BSISD Superintendent Michael

Downes said. "However, this new requirement is a 'one size fits all' solution that will penalize some of our students."

Where Downes — along with Randy Johnson of Forsan and Jerry Johnson of Coahoma — takes issue with the requirement is the concern that it will adversely affect students' course choice.

"This will have a direct negative impact on students taking

career technology programs," Downes said. "With the current seven-period schedule, students will have fewer opportunities to take career technology or fine arts courses."

"We think this will limit

See MATH, Page 8A

Angel trees opportunity for giving

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the holiday shopping season prepares to officially get under way Friday with after-Thanksgiving sales of every type and size, the Big Spring Salvation Army will be asking shoppers to keep an angel in mind when they hit streets.

With more than 135 applications for assistance through the local charity's Angel Tree program — some applications include multiple children — Capt. Linda Keeney said her office is in the process of getting the angel cards on the trees, which are located around town at local businesses.

"We have Angel Trees up at the Big Spring Mall, Maurice's, Gayle's Sweet Shoppe, Travelcenters of America truck stop and

"When we take the toys to a family and there's nothing in the house for Christmas and he gets a bike, it's just chaotic with excitement. That's what it's all about, helping a child see somebody out there cares"



R. Keeney

Wal-Mart," said Keeney. "We have the tree for our senior angels at the Big Spring Herald, and after Thanksgiving we'll have an Angel Tree at Scenic

See ANGELS, Page 3A



Angel cards like these will be adorning the branches of several Salvation Army Angel Trees, located at the Big Spring Herald, Maurice's, Travelcenters of America, Gayle's Sweet Shoppe. An Angel Tree will also be available at Scenic Mountain Medical Center after Thanksgiving.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Turkey's on! Salvation Army set for Thanksgiving

Everyone welcome at community dinner; volunteers needed Wednesday and Thursday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Salvation Army is getting ready to ring the dinner bell Thursday, as the local charity prepares to serve more than 500 Thanksgiving meals this week.

The Salvation Army will serve up a traditional Thanks giving meal — from turkey and dressing to cranberry sauce

and potatoes — Thursday from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the charity's dining hall, and according to Capt. Russ Keeney, the guest list is quite broad.

"It's open to everyone in the community," said Keeney. "Anyone — and I do mean anyone — who would like to come in and have a great Thanksgiving meal can just walk in our doors at 811 W. Fifth Street and grab a plate. Bring

your family and have a great meal.

"If you're homebound and can't get to the Salvation Army office, all you have to do is call us at 267-8239 and we'll deliver the meal to you. It really is that simple."

Keeney said preparations for the dinner — including everything from peeling potatoes to dicing onions and celery — will begin Wednesday, and while the

Salvation Army has the materials covered, one crucial ingredient is still missing.

"We still need volunteers for Wednesday and Thursday," said Keeney. "The bulk of the work is done on Wednesday, when we handle all the prep work. It takes a lot of work to

See DINNER, Page 3A

Take care of business now, holiday to bring closings

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Many area businesses and agencies will be closing their doors in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday this week.

Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts — as well as Howard College — will be closed Wednesday, Thursday

and Friday, with classes scheduled to resume Monday.

Coahoma ISD students were getting a head start on the holiday today, with classes set to end at 12:30 p.m.

The Social Security Administration office will be closed Thursday, but will reopen Friday morning.

The Spring City Senior Center will be closed Thursday

and Friday, also resuming services Monday.

All city offices will be closed Thursday and Friday. The city landfill will be closed Thursday and Friday but will be open Saturday, according to officials.

However, for emergency service providers such as the Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office and Big Spring Fire

Department and Emergency Medical Services, it will be business as usual all week.

Trash will not be picked up Thursday or Friday — normal routes will resume Monday.

Howard County offices will close at noon Wednesday and will remain closed Thursday and Friday, to reopen Monday.

The county library will close for the holiday Wednesday at 1

p.m. and is set to reopen Monday morning, as normal.

The Big Spring Post Office will be closed Thursday in observance of the holiday, with mail delivery to resume Friday.

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

INDEX

Classified 3-5B

Features 8A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B



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COAT DRIVE UNDER WAY

1955 Hyperion Club is sponsoring a coat drive.

The dropoff points are Al's and Son Barbecue, Harris Lumber and Hardware and Specs and Co. The drive will last approximately one month.

The club will distribute these coats to as many different organizations as possible, depending on how many coats are received.

Some of the organizations will be West Side Community Center, North Side Community Center, Big Spring State Hospital and public schools. Comet Cleaners and Classic Cleaners have volunteered to clean the coats.

LUBBOCK LANDS MILL

LUBBOCK (AP) — Lubbock economic officials and a Mexico-based manufacturer have announced plans for a new \$4 million flour mill to serve American tortilla plants.

The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance agreed Monday to provide more than \$400,000 in incentives to Macsa Molinos Anahuac, based in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua. Officials said the plant should start production next year. It's expected to create 58 jobs with an annual payroll of \$1.45 million.

"They liked our location, low cost of living and the fact Texas Tech was here," said Marc Farmer, the alliance's director.

LETTERS FROM SANTA

Scenic Mountain Medical Center Relay For Life team is sponsoring letters from Santa Claus this year.

Santa is letting the hospital's team postmark letters for \$5 each from the North Pole.

Proceeds from this fund-raiser go toward the Howard-Glasscock Relay For Life effort for the American Cancer Society.

To place your child's name on Santa's list for mailing this Christmas season, contact Amber Rich at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 268-4960, or any SMMC Relay team member.

NOV

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2006

Obituaries

Dolores M. Jones



Dolores M. Jones, age 85, of Sulphur Springs, passed away Nov. 19, 2006. She was born in Fort Worth on July 7, 1921, to proud parents Mr. and Mrs. Guy Perry. She married and was preceded in death by her husband, James C. Jones. Early in their marriage, they were both recreational pilots who loved to fly and enjoyed traveling.

As a member of the First United Methodist Church, Dolores belonged to a multitude of organizations to include: DIAL Study Group, Crusaders Sunday School Class, Young at Heart, a member of Waverly, as well as AARP.

She is survived by her two sons and their spouses Jimmy Jones (Candy), Sammy Jones (Keri); grandchildren, Jennifer Strauss, Lesley Ann Williams, Morgan Jones; and great-grandchildren, Tanner Strauss, Cameron Strauss, Gracyn Strauss, Merrin Williams and Anna Williams.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2006, at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church. A private interment will be held Friday, Nov. 24, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

Honorary pallbearers will be the Crusaders Sunday School Class.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the First United Methodist Church, 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs 75482.

West Oaks Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Paid obituary

James G. Crenshaw



James G. Crenshaw, 82, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 19, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born May 28, 1924, in Rusk to Pearl and Eric Gordon Crenshaw. He married Betty Faubion, Jan. 3, 1946, in Houston. She preceded him in death on Dec. 25, 1999. They moved to Howard County in 1947 from Ft. Worth. He was a veteran of the Air Force, having served in World War II. He worked at Webb Air Force Base until its closing in 1978. His hobbies were fishing, watching calf roping and just being part of any activity with his grandchildren. He is survived by three sons, James Gaylord Crenshaw and his wife, Robbie and Robert Crenshaw and his wife, Nancy, all of Big Spring; and Dale Crenshaw and his wife, Dee of Anchorage, Alaska; five grandchildren, Shanna Turner, Shannon Crenshaw and his wife, Belle, and their children, Kara, Brady, and their children, James and T.J. Crenshaw; eight great-grandchildren; one sister, Dorothy Spurgers and her husband, Carl of Rusk; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by one grandson, Mike Crenshaw. Pallbearers will be Buddy Cochran, Eddy Corse, Jim Bob Phillips, Terry Jenkins, Jerry Jones, and Gary Gillihan.

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

Paid obituary

James Terrell



James Terrell, 75, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 19, 2006, at Select Specialty Hospital in Midland. Memorial services will be held at a later date in Greenwood, S.C.

He was born Jan. 31, 1931, in Carnesville, Ga. to Fred and Georgia Terrell. He was raised in Greenwood, S.C. He was a veteran of the Navy and was a Baptist. He was All Crafts Superintendent for Daniel Construction of Greenville, S.C., building petro-chemical plants primarily for Exxon. He had been a resident of Big Spring since April 2006, coming from Greenwood, S.C.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Terrell of Big Spring; two daughters, Janice Thompson and her husband, Danny and Debbie Terrell, all of Greenville; one son, Jimmy Terrell of Greenville; one step-son, James Hayes of Crystal Beach; one sister, Del Ree Adams; and several grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Brenda Terrell; and one brother, Fred Terrell.

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

Support Groups

TUESDAY

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- JOSE SANTOS RAMIREZ, 20, of Dallas, was arrested Monday and held for another agency.
- BENANCIO ORTIZ RAMIREZ, 26, of Dallas, was arrested Monday and held for another agency.
- JERRY DOPORTO, 20, of 805 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license not valid.
- JEFFERY OLLER, 49, of Paducah, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAVIER ORTIZ RAMIREZ, 22, of Dallas, was arrested Monday and held for another agency.
- PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ, 26, of 604 Abrams, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- JAY BILLINGSLEY, 41, of 1205 Lloyd, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- EPIFANIA DELACERDA, 40, of 1601 Owens, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- DAVID YBARRA, 20, of Coahoma, was arrested Tuesday on charges of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage and minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 4100 block of Muir.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

- ANGELA ABB NCGEEM 24, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a bondsman off bond warrant for failure to identify a fugitive from justice.
- RAFAEL LOPEZ III, 47, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on a parole violation warrant and a bondsman off bond warrant for theft.
- PATRICK ROBERT MORAN, 44, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALISHA MANETTE SMITH, 33, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- TRAVIS ALLEN MELTON III, 26, was arrested by DPS troopers on charges of driving while license invalid and possession of dangerous drugs.
- KASEY CHARLES HUCKABEE, 22, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.
- LANCE DEAN WATERS, 22, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at Gregg and 15th streets. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of N. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

BIG SPRING SCIENCE FAIR IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING and students are being requested to submit their entry forms to their science teachers. Since there is always a bit of confusion concerning the required paperwork to be submitted, the school district will conduct a special "Parent's Night" to go over details and answer questions. Big Spring Science Fair Parent's Night will be at 6 p.m. tonight in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria.

THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

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Director of Marketing & Admissions

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.
Spring City Senior Citizens 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.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.
Thursday night...Mostly clear. Highs in the mid 70s.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-12-17-23-32.
Number matching five of five: 5.
Prize per winner: \$6,177.
Winning tickets sold in: Arlington, Houston (2), San Antonio and Waxahachie.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 9-17-30-33. Bonus Ball: 27.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$550,000.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 4-12-17-23-32

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REMEMBER! Find It In Big Spring First!

LION



ANGELS

Continued from Page 2

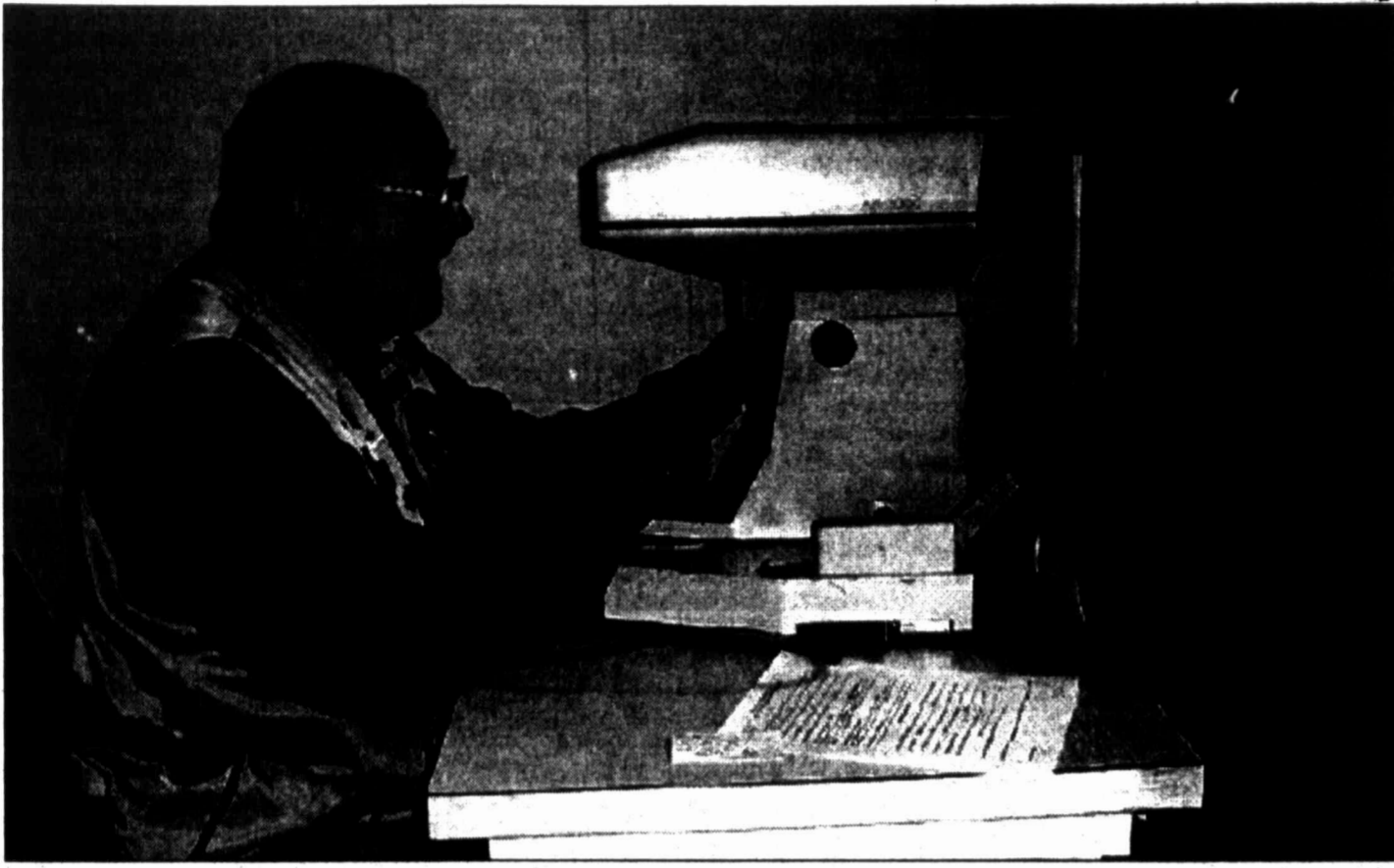
Mountain Center: We're still in the process of getting angels on the tree. Adopting an angel is simple, and to Keeney,

"They just take an Angel card from and purchase Christmas gifts for that senior," said Keeney. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the card. Once they pick the items, they give the card to the person who brings them to our office or drop them off. They got the card. It's very important they tape or tie the gift, however, can make sure it's the correct child." Keeney said she donated to area children through an annual program to make an amazing difference in their lives and the lives of their children.

"It's everything I said firmly. 'A child has everything provided for the concept of children there who do worse off, that things that we granted everyday show that to our I think it makes kinder, more gerson as they grow. Linda and Ru know a thing about the need of holiday season seen first impact something as a gift to the life of a child Christmas.

"One of our Christmases here after distributing Angel Tree gifts my neighbors shared a story

LIONS CLUB HELPING OTHERS



The Big Spring Evening Lions Club conducted photoscreenings to various area elementary and pre-K schools from September to November. Two sets of Polaroid pictures were taken of children's eyes. Dr. Ted Seymour, a local optometrist, evaluated these photos. According to reports, an average of 35 percent of the children required eyeglasses. Each school nurse is informed of the photoscreening results and encourages parents to have their children get their eyeglasses. Below, Lion Ronel Sulistan shows a Polaroid picture to a student in Ackerly, explaining to him how his photoscreening picture appears and what the optometrist will be looking for to evaluate his eyesight. Other Big Spring Evening Lions Club projects include the monthly eyeglass clinic (using recycled eyeglasses) on the first Saturday of each month at the Event Center on Third Street. At left, Lion Paul Smith using an autorefractor on a patient.

Courtesy photos

ANGELS

Continued from Page 1A

Mountain Medical Center. We're still in the process of getting all the angels on the trees."

Adopting a holiday angel is simple, according to Keeney.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for that child or senior," said Keeney. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It's very important that they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the correct child."

Keeney said the gifts donated to area needy children through the annual program can make an amazing difference in their lives, and the lives of those that give.

"It's everything," she said firmly. "A child who has everything they need provided for them has no concept of children out there who do without. If we, as parents, don't show our children to share and to give back, then they won't learn those things. That's why it's important, as a parent, to show these children there are others out there that are much worse off, that do without things that we take for granted everyday. If we show that to our children, I think it makes them a kinder, more giving person as they grow."

Linda and Russ Keeney know a thing or two about the need during the holiday season, having seen first hand the impact something as simple as a gift can have in the life of a child during Christmas.

"One of our first Christmases here, right after distribution (of the Angel Tree gifts), one of my neighbors came and shared a story with Linda

and I about Jane, a single mother raising three children on her own," said Russ Keeney during a recent presentation to the community. "She had nothing to give the children for Christmas, and I mean absolutely nothing. So Linda and I took it upon ourselves to go to this lady's house with some food and toys."

"When we pulled up to her house, it was in ruins. It looked like an abandoned house," said Keeney. "It was run down and dilapidated. There were no signs of life. No toys in the front yard, there was nothing."

"We knocked on the door and talked to her for a few minutes and she let us in. It was cold, and the house was so big they were living in just one room to try to stay warm. That room was heated by a hibachi grill. We visited with her and we looked in her kitchen and she had no food at all in her cupboards."

Keeney said the home

was a dismal sight, not just from a materialistic standpoint, but also from an emotional point-of-view.

"There were no toys for the children. There were no sounds of happiness at all in this home," said Keeney. "We told her the reason for our visit and tears began to stream down her face. We unloaded the toys for the kids, and they were running around screaming and hugging our legs. It was like we almost couldn't get away from them, they were so happy and thrilled."

"When we left, they were all sitting on the seats of their brand new bicycles just waving with joy on their faces — a look of joy they may not have ever felt in their lives."

"This program is extremely special to me. Of all the programs that we do, this one is my heart because of the young people it helps," he added. "When we take the

toys to a family and there's nothing in the house for Christmas and he gets a bike, it's just chaotic with excitement. That's what it's all about, helping a child see somebody out there cares."

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth Street.

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

Juried art competition slated at Howard College

Howard College students are invited to participate in a collegiate juried art competition for placement prizes.

Deadline to enter is Monday, Nov. 27, in the Hall Center for the Arts Art Gallery Hallway on campus with name, title of work, media, year completed and contact information.

The show will run

from Nov. 30 to Dec. 5. Juror will be Sue Bagwell.

The closing reception will be 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in the Hall Center for the Arts.

Adjoining music festivities will be held in the Hall Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4-5, officials said.

DINNER

Continued from Page 1A

make this meal because everything we do is homemade and from scratch. You won't find any plastic potatoes around here."

Keeney said anyone interested in volunteering Wednesday can call for more information, or simply show up.

"We have a lot of fun, and I plan to feed the volunteers lunch that day," said Keeney. "They can come in around 8:30 a.m. or 9 a.m. We expect things to begin getting into the full swing by about 10 a.m., and we're usually done around 2 p.m."

"We also need volunteers to help Thursday. For those who want to help us prepare the meals that will be delivered to homebound people, we'll get started at 9:45 a.m. with deliveries to begin at 10:30 a.m. We also need drivers. Anyone wanting to help serve in the dining room Thursday needs to be here by 11 a.m."

Keeney said his office

will take requests for meal deliveries through Thursday morning.

"We'll take calls all the way up until we're doing the deliveries," said Keeney. "We don't want anyone to do without this holiday. However, things can get pretty crazy in the kitchen and phone calls can sometimes get missed, so I would encourage those needing delivered meals to call as early as possible."

For more information on how you can help, or to set up a meal delivery, contact the Big Spring Salvation Army at 267-8239.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

James Terrell, 75, died Sunday. Memorial Services will be held at a later date in Greenwood, South Carolina.

James G. Crenshaw, 82, of Big Spring died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 9:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ronnie Cupstid
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Managing Editor

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News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Perry must cut off state funding to lobbying firms

For the past year Texas Gov. Rick Perry has tried to defend the indefensible: spending more than \$1 million in public funds to hire private firms to lobby Congress on the state's behalf. Now that both houses are under the control of Democrats, Perry has lost his last flimsy justification for keeping the Federalist Group and Cassidy & Associates feeding at the public trough.

The Federalist Group's lead Texas lobbyist, Drew Maloney, was a top aide to then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. In that job Maloney raised money for the successful GOP effort to win control of the Texas House. Cassidy & Associates' lead lobbyist for the state is Todd Boulanger, a former partner of convicted and imprisoned felon Jack Abramoff.

The 12 Democratic members of the Texas delegation to the next Congress have written a letter to Perry rightly calling for an end to the outside lobbyists' contracts. They claim the Constitution assigns that function to the representatives elected by the people, and the lobbyists in question never made any contacts with Democratic lawmakers concerning state priorities.

"Texas House Democrats do not need or want any assistance from private lobbyists to represent the state of Texas," the letter states. "Taxpayers already pay Texas' elected officials to represent them, and the state of Texas has too many pressing needs such as education, health care and public safety to give any more taxpayer money away to Washington lobbyists."

Democrats are not the only critics of the lobbyist contracts. Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn temporarily froze payments to one of the lobbying groups last summer, citing shoddy documentation for services rendered. In her opinion, Texas law prohibits the use of tax dollars to lobby elected officials, influence elections or support candidates at the state or federal level.

Perry's spokeswoman, Kathy Walt, said her boss would request that officials in the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations review the contracts. That is the same agency that rubber stamped the deals at the governor's urging.

Texas House Democratic leader Jim Dornan contends that no further review of the matter is necessary. "With over a million tax dollars being wasted, the time for 'evaluations' and 'reviews' is over," he wrote Perry. "It is time to take these lobbyists off the state payroll."

The Chronicle wholeheartedly agrees. Voters elect U.S. senators and representatives to represent Texas interests in Washington. Those officials have ample budgets to hire qualified staff to carry out that function. The governor's precedent-setting decision to hire politically tainted lobbyists paid with taxpayer dollars was wrong when he made it in 2003. The lobbyists' contributions to Republican officials only make the deal more suspicious.

If the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations won't cancel the contracts, the Legislature should clearly prohibit state agencies from hiring private lobbyists. That way, no Lone Star politician will be able to line cronies' pockets under the rubric that they are doing the people's business.

THE CHRONICLE
HOUSTON

LETTER POLICIES

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, when it seems like no-one appreciates us, You love us and care about our future. Thank You.

Amen

Already a return to the swamp

Nancy Pelosi isn't even speaker of the House yet, and already she is acting like the GOP leaders whom she so handily toppled in last week's election.

When Pelosi, D-Calif., was working for a Democratic takeover of the House, she promised to "drain the swamp" — swamp being an apt term for the too-cozy relationship between GOP biggies and big donors, which too often led to the shoveling of taxpayer dollars into the maws of corporate contributors.

So who does Pelosi back to be her top lieutenant when her party wins? Rep. Jack Murtha, D-Pa., the prince of "earmarks."

Remember GOP biggies who were too tight with lobbyists? Voters got sick of reading about convicted grease-meister Jack Abramoff and his ties with big-spending deficit-happy Republicans. There were too many sordid stories — such as the non-profit group linked to Abramoff that paid the wives of Rep. John Doolittle, R-Calif., and former GOP Rep. Tom DeLay, and bankrolled first-class travel for House mem-

bers. Or Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., who lost his seat after the FBI investigated whether he steered lucrative contracts to benefit his lobbyist daughter.

Turns out Murtha has a brother who is a lobbyist, who joined a consulting firm in 2002. Two years later, The Washington Post reported, Murtha's appropriations subcommittee "earmarked" \$4.2 million for a wireless networking company that was a client of Kit Murtha's firm.

Murtha also had a special relationship with a lobbying firm, the PMA Group, that along with its clients steered \$274,649 Murtha's way in 2006. Defense Appropriations passed more than \$95 million in earmarks for PMA clients, the Post reported.

Taxpayers for Common Sense credits Murtha with requesting more than \$103 million in special provisions for his district in 2006, and winning nearly \$80 million.

And don't get me started on Murtha's cameo role in Abscam. Murtha said on MSNBC's "Hardball" this week that in 1980 he met with a phony sheikh (who turned out to be an FBI agent) because "I wanted them to invest in my district. They put \$50,000 on the table, and I said, 'I'm not interested.'"

Actually, Murtha said: "I'm not interested ... at this point. You

know, we do business a while, maybe I'll be interested, maybe I won't."

Is that what Pelosi means when she boasts that her party speaks "truth to power"? The justification for Pelosi's pick of Murtha? Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., who beat Murtha Thursday when Democrats voted to make him majority leader, explained that Pelosi is "loyal." Murtha backed Pelosi. Pelosi backed Murtha.

Ah, loyalty — just two weeks ago that was a reason to vote against Republicans, because President Bush over-rewards loyalty.

Then there are stories that suggest Pelosi will pass over the competent Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., to head the House Intelligence Committee in favor of Rep. Alcee Hastings of Florida — whom the House stripped of his position as a judge and impeached in 1988 for his role in a bribery scandal. This is draining the swamp?

Pelosi is acting as if she wants a short honeymoon. After this week, this much seems clear. When Pelosi railed about the GOP "culture of corruption," it was just a sound bite.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at
dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com.

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Bipartisan senatorial grandstanding

I thought President Bush has been lying to us about our troop requirements in Iraq and that the generals were too afraid of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to contradict his claim that we had enough troops. Isn't that what the critics have been telling us? Well, Rumsfeld is on his way out and the generals are telling Congress that he and Bush have been telling the truth all along.

Our lofty politicians say we should never politicize the war, yet the 2008 presidential frontrunners of both parties, Senators Hillary Clinton and John McCain, did precisely that as they each tried to use Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. forces in the Mideast, as an unwitting prop to launch their respective campaigns. I guess this is an example of the "bipartisanship" we can expect from the new Congress.

Unfortunately for these Oval Office aspirants, Abizaid didn't succumb to their shameless grandstanding or defer to their simulated senatorial sagacity, but took them both to the woodshed when they tried to manipulate him during his Senate testimony into supporting their differing positions on the war.

McCain was visibly frustrated with Abizaid's refusal to bow to his imperious wisdom that we should have more troops on the ground in Iraq. Other senators questioned whether we had too few troops.

Abizaid's response, which left some stupefied, was reminiscent of a scene from the movie "Amadeus." When the Austrian emperor criticized Mozart's piece as having "too many notes," Mozart replied, "No, your

Excellency. It has just the right amount of notes: not too many, not too few." So it was with Abizaid to McCain and Clinton: "There are neither too many troops, nor too few troops, but, all things considered, approximately the correct number of troop

Clinton, though having shrewdly positioned herself as a centrist hawk, has routinely taken shots at Bush and Rumsfeld. If you are running for office these days and presenting yourself as pro-military, you have to find a way to distinguish your position from the president's Iraq policy so to avoid its taint.

Abizaid and others testifying made it very clear that the Democratic allegation that Bush has been lying about troop requirements in Iraq is maliciously false. How sweet it would be if these blowhards could be held accountable just once in this life for repeatedly bearing false witness against the administration about the things that matter most!

Clinton, looking through her pedantically professorial reading spectacles, said, "We don't have a military force that is creating a secure environment. Hope is not a strategy."

Unfazed by her empty platitude, Abizaid denied the military (or, by extension, the administration) had ever "misled" about Iraq. "With regard to hope not being a method, Senator, I agree with you, and I would also say that despair is not a method." Touche.

Even more delicious was Abizaid's statement, "When I come to Washington, I feel despair. When I'm in Iraq with my commanders, when I talk to our soldiers, when I talk to the Iraqi leadership, they are not despairing." I hope Americans were listening. It's the mainstream media and naysaying politicians who are responsible for a great deal of the public's "despair" on Iraq.

In response to a question from Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Abizaid also confirmed Bush's position that a premature withdrawal of our troops would increase violence and instability in Iraq. Other witnesses supported the president's longtime contention that it would embolden Al Qaeda and make us less secure. Abizaid also shot down as "not viable" the proposal of some Democrats that Iraq be partitioned into three regions.

While the Iraqi Study Group has yet to complete its report, and we are admittedly experiencing tremendous obstacles in Iraq, these Senate hearings revealed that many of the president's war critics have been shooting from the hip without sufficient hard facts to substantiate their harsh attacks.

Bush and Rumsfeld, just as they've told us, have been letting the generals, not self-anointed armchair experts, run the war. Thus, as discerning minds have contended all along, criticism of the administration's policy has been tantamount to criticism of the military, which has been in charge.

It's been easy for accountability-avoiding politicians to treat the administration as a leper colony on Iraq. How ironic that Bush has been accused of politicizing the war when he has been the one politician who has remained steadfast in attempting to do the right thing regardless of how it would affect his approval ratings in the moment. For this I believe he deserves enormous credit and gratitude, as counterintuitive as that may strike those who demand perfection and immediate results.

To find out more about David
Limbaugh, please visit his Web site
at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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DAVID
LIMBAUGH

Texas

Prisoner overpowered and escapes from

DALLAS (AP) — A overpowered a female pital Monday with an Authorities were se 32, who had been ja impersonating a publ Security video at showed Davis forcir irons. Authorities said Da

Tiny town pays its bill

MUSTANG (AP) — tiny town founded in hol sales in Navarro The town had faced its water service Mon to pay a \$3,400 bill. Jay Mertz, preside Corp. said the bill wa name who made the p reported.

Without a property 40-person town of Mu lected at the only tw and a bar — to pay it But a legal dispute town last year has res nesses and left reside City leaders organ fundraiser in October dollars.

Thomas Sinclair, op bar, purchased the Willie McKie, last y alleged breaches of c ly moving toward a c Sinclair said he ho so he can reopen the temporarily closed by

Chick born to pen that survived truck

GALVESTON (AP) vived a truck crash chick at the aquarim The baby penguin spokeswoman said. expected to hatch in

General awarded

SAN ANTONIO (A) A retired general was awarded a Pu Heart medal for inj he suffered in Viet bestowed the same h on 12 wounded troo Brooke Army Me Center.

Monday's cere marked the largest g of troops awarded P Hearts together at military hospital. medal is awarded troops wounded or k in action. Lt. Gen. Rober

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Texas briefs

Prisoner overpowers guard and escapes from Dallas hospital

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas County sheriff's prisoner overpowered a female guard and escaped from a hospital Monday with an intravenous line still in his arm. Authorities were searching for Jason Shane Davis, 32, who had been jailed on charges of robbery and impersonating a public servant. Security video at Parkland Memorial Hospital showed Davis forcing the guard to unlock his leg irons. Authorities said Davis had a sharp object.

Tiny town pays its bill

MUSTANG (AP) — The water is still running in this tiny town founded in 1972 to provide a home for alcohol sales in Navarro County.

The town had faced the possibility that it could lose its water service Monday if residents didn't find a way to pay a \$3,400 bill.

Jay Mertz, president of the Angus Water Supply Corp. said the bill was paid Monday. Mertz declined to name who made the payment, the *Corsicana Daily Sun* reported.

Without a property tax or residential water fees, the 40-person town of Mustang had relied on sales tax collected at the only two local businesses — a strip club and a bar — to pay its water bill.

But a legal dispute stemming from the sale of the town last year has resulted in the closing of both businesses and left residents with the \$3,400 water tab.

City leaders organized a Halloween haunted trail fundraiser in October, but it raised only a few hundred dollars.

Thomas Sinclair, operator of the local strip club and bar, purchased the town from its late co-founder, Willie McKie, last year. Within months, both sides alleged breaches of contract in lawsuits that are slowly moving toward a courtroom.

Sinclair said he hopes the lawsuits will be resolved so he can reopen the bar and strip club, which were temporarily closed by a court order in January.

Chick born to penguins that survived truck crash

GALVESTON (AP) — A pair of penguins that survived a truck crash in East Texas have hatched a chick at the aquarium at Moody Gardens.

The baby penguin was born Nov. 12, an aquarium spokeswoman said. It is the first of eight chicks expected to hatch in the coming weeks from the pen-

General awards 12 Purple Hearts

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A retiring general who was awarded a Purple Heart medal for injuries he suffered in Vietnam bestowed the same honor on 12 wounded troops at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Monday's ceremony marked the largest group of troops awarded Purple Hearts together at the military hospital. The medal is awarded to troops wounded or killed in action.

Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, commander of U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston, told the troops they deserved to wear the medal proudly because they'd taken an oath to defend the nation, "knowing full well that this could happen to you, or worse."

"The fact that you did that, and then were in fact wounded in action, those factors come together to make you true American heroes," said Clark, who will retire Dec. 4.

guins relocated this summer from the Indianapolis Zoo to Moody Gardens.

"We watched them very closely after their arrival," Greg Whittaker of Moody Gardens said in a news release. "Their mating and parenting behavior is a positive sign that they are adjusting to their new environment."

During the relocation in August, the truck transporting two dozen penguins, tropical fish and an octopus rolled into a ditch. The penguins were traveling in heavy tubs that broke open when the truck crashed.

One penguin died in the crash and three more landed in the highway and were killed by oncoming traffic. Another penguin suffered a broken wing.

The octopus survived, but some of the fish died when the bags they were traveling in burst.

Lawyer to serve 45 years for draining dying veteran's estate

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A disbarred attorney who diverted about \$400,000 from a dying veteran's estate was sentenced by a jury to 45 years in prison Monday.

Colin Kaufman, 59, was found guilty last week of first-degree felony misapplication of fiduciary property.

Kaufman was also fined \$10,000 for his role in draining money from the estate of Arthur Wilson Carothers, a retired lieutenant colonel who was hit by a truck and fell into a coma in 2002. Carothers died several months later.

Andrew Huffmeyer, a former certified public accountant, pleaded guilty last week to first-degree felony misapplication of fiduciary property. Huffmeyer, who testified against Kaufman, received a five-year sentence.

An attorney testified that the fees for Kaufman and Huffmeyer should not have exceeded \$17,000. The two men charged Carothers \$49,000 for an out-of-state trip

and \$260,000 for conferences held mostly at Corpus Christi-area restaurants, according to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott.

Indiana University and an Indiana church were to be the primary beneficiaries of Carothers' \$960,000 estate case.

Texas man pleads guilty to pot charges

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A Texas man pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to distribute marijuana after he was caught driving a semi-trailer truck loaded with about 1,700 pounds of pot hidden among broccoli, authorities said.

Erasmio Castillo, 27, of Starr County, Texas, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute marijuana and one count of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, said U.S. Attorney David L. Huber said in a statement.

Because of the quantity of marijuana involved, Huber said, Castillo faces a penalty of from five to 40 years in prison, a fine of not more than \$4 million and a term of supervised release of at least four years.

Huber said that on June 26, 2005, a commercial vehicle inspection in Hope, Ark., revealed a semi was carrying a large quantity of marijuana. The Drug Enforcement Agency was notified and began surveillance of the semi and another vehicle. The vehicles ended up at warehouse in Louisville, where they were joined by two other vehicles. Castillo was arrested by DEA agents on June 27, 2005.

The street value of the marijuana is estimated to be approximately \$7 million. None of the men arrested, including Castillo, were armed or resisted arrest.

The plea was entered before U.S. District Judge Jennifer B. Coffman for the Western District of Kentucky. Coffman has ordered a presentence investigation.

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Execution date set for woman

AUSTIN (AP) — A woman condemned for the slaying of a 3-month-old child she was baby-sitting in her home outside Austin in 1994 was given an execution date Monday.

Cathy Lynn Henderson, 49, was set for lethal injection April 18 for the death of Brandon Baugh, whose body was found stuffed in a wine cooler carton and buried in a field outside Temple in Bell County, about 50 miles north of Henderson's Pflugerville-area home.

The discovery came nearly three weeks after the child was first reported missing.

Henderson's attorneys had asked State District Judge Jon Wisser at a brief hearing Monday to wait until the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on their appeals. Travis County prosecutors had sought an execution date in February.

"The date for her execution is inconvenient for her," Eryn Baugh, whose infant son was killed more than 12 years ago, told the *Austin American-Statesman* Monday outside court. "The date for her murdering our son was inconvenient for us."

Henderson, who has contended she is innocent, was convicted in 1995 when a Travis County jury agreed with prosecutors who argued the woman smashed the child's head with a blunt object while she was baby-sitting him and her sister.

Henderson fled to her native Missouri. According to testimony at her trial, she told a childhood friend she had killed someone she described as a male and wanted to change her identity.

News Corp. cancels Simpson book, special

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — No, O.J., no.

It was a sequel few had asked for or dared conceive, a television and book project with Simpson describing how he would have killed his ex-wife. Any fascination with Simpson's shocking return to public life was overcome by revulsion and disbelief.

Even Rupert Murdoch, a media king with a famous taste for scandal, couldn't stand it anymore. On Monday, he canceled the whole thing, less than a week after it was announced.

"I and senior management agree with the American public that this was an ill-considered project," said Murdoch, whose News Corp. owns both Fox Broadcasting and publisher HarperCollins. "We are sorry for any pain that this has caused the families of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson."

"If I Did It" had been scheduled

to air as a two-part interview Nov. 27 and Nov. 29 on Fox, with the book to follow on Nov. 30. HarperCollins spokeswoman Erin Crum said some copies had already been shipped to stores but would be recalled, and all copies would be destroyed. Should any turn up, they will become instant collectors' items.

During an appearance on CNN's "Larry King Live," Fred Goldman, Ron's father, expressed appreciation to anyone who opposed the book and interview.

"We want to say thank you, thank you for everyone in this country who raised their voice and stood up for the right thing," Goldman said.

Simpson's attorney, Yale Galanter, told *The Associated Press*: "We had known for three or four days that this was a possibility."

"There are only three possible reactions: anger, happiness or indifference. He's totally indifferent about the fact that it's been

canceled," said Galanter, who added that he didn't know if Simpson was paid upfront.

Simpson was acquitted of murder in 1995 but was later found liable for the deaths in a wrongful-death suit filed by the Goldman family. Simpson has failed to pay the \$33.5 million judgment against him in the civil case. His NFL pension and his Florida home cannot legally be seized. He and the families of the victims have wrangled over the money in court for years.

Ron Goldman's sister, Kim Goldman, said on CBS' "The Early Show" Tuesday that the family would take legal action to collect any money Simpson received from the deal.

"He may be in trouble a little bit for what he's done," she said. Simpson told *The Associated Press* in a phone interview late Monday he could not comment on the situation "until I know legally where I stand."

He added, "I would like nothing better than to straighten out

some things that have been mischaracterized. But I think I'm legally muzzled at this point."

Murdoch has never been known for his exquisite taste — sensation has long been the News Corp. game. But any hopes of commercial reward were quickly overwhelmed by near universal anger — from those who knew Goldman and Brown, from booksellers and advertisers, even from Fox News Channel personality Bill O'Reilly.

A dozen Fox network affiliates had already said they would not air the two-part sweeps month special, and numerous stores had either declined to sell the book or had promised to donate any profits to charity.

"I really don't think there would have been very many advertisers who would have been willing to participate in this show," said Brad Adgate of the ad buying firm Horizon Media.

With little advertising, Fox would miss the chance to profit from the show.

Bond revoked for suspect who sent his wife a book

HOUSTON (AP) — A man awaiting trial on a charge that he tried to have his wife killed has been ordered back to jail for sending the alleged victim a birthday gift.

John Sheroke, 40, had been free on \$100,000 bail after being arrested last month for allegedly offering an undercover police officer \$10,000 to kill his wife.

But a judge on Monday revoked Sheroke's bond when prosecutors reported that the defendant sent a book to his wife, Dr. Shelley Ferrill Sheroke, for her birthday.

"I can't imagine any reason you'd rather sit in jail for the duration of this thing," state District Judge Jim Wallace told Sheroke. "You leave me no other choice than to revoke your bond."

Assistant District Attorney Brad Hart said authorities arranged for

an undercover officer to meet with Sheroke on Oct. 16 after he approached a former co-worker at a Houston hospital to discuss arranging the killing of his wife.

His trial date for the charge of solicitation of capital murder has not been set.

When Wallace set the bail amount in late October, he ordered Sheroke not to try to contact his wife or their two children. He also ordered Sheroke to remain under house arrest at night and to wear a monitor on his ankle.

The revocation means Sheroke loses the \$10,000 he paid a bail bondsman to post his bail.

Sheroke had been living with his mother in Dallas and checking in with Harris County authorities on a weekly basis.

Hart said Sheroke also sent a note asking his

wife not to tell the authorities that he had contacted her.

Wallace stopped Sheroke from commenting in court. His attorney, Jim Barr, declined to comment afterward.

Sheroke had already been warned about contacting his wife after he made phone calls to her from jail.

"You're playing games with this court," Wallace said.

Sheroke is accused of sending his wife the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom. The story centers on a man whose family and career are falling apart, and who gets an opportunity to spend a day with the ghost of his mother.

Sheroke also sent several books for his children.

Information from: *Houston Chronicle*, <http://www.chron.com>

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♥10 8 7 6 2

♦A Q

♦K 3

WEST

♦Q J 10 9 3

♥A

♦10 8 6 3

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EAST

♦A

♥5 4

♦1974 2

♦Q 10 8 5 2

SOUTH

♦7 6 2

♥K Q 19 3

♦K 5

♦A 9 7

The bidding:

South West North East

1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass

4♥

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads the spade queen. It's dollars to doughnuts East has the ace of spades, so you follow low from dummy, hoping he was dealt the singleton or doubleton ace. Sure enough, East wins the queen with the ace — proving the ace was singleton — and shifts to a club at trick two.

You're still not out of the woods after you win the club with dummy's king. If you lead a trump now, there's

the danger that West will win with the ace and return the jack of spades, and East will ruff the king. If that occurs — and you'd have to be somewhat unlucky for all this to happen — you'd eventually go down one, since you'd be left with a spade loser.

So you don your thinking cap at trick three and look for a means of saving the contract if West was actually dealt the singleton ace of trumps and East the other two trumps. That's the only combination of cards that can stop you from making four hearts.

And, as you think about it, the solution suddenly dawns on you. Even if the situation is as you fear, there's a sure way out of the dilemma.

Accordingly, after winning the club return, you cash the A-K of diamonds, the ace of clubs, and then ruff a club in dummy. Now, having thinned out all your minor-suit cards from both hands, you lead a trump.

West wins with the ace and returns the jack of spades to dummy's king, and, sure enough, East ruffs. But as a direct result of your early spade work, poor East must now return a diamond or a club. This allows you to discard your spade loser as you trump in dummy, and the contract is saved.

Tomorrow: The road to winning defense.

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OLD TIMEY TERRELL TURKEY

It's getting close to Thanksgiving once again and my thoughts wander to all the good things we have to eat on that wonderful day. Things such as pumpkin pie, cranberries, dressing and turkey. Turkey! That reminds me also of a story I heard once long ago. I never did forget the story, because it was so unusual. After you hear this story, maybe you won't ever forget it either.

It was Thanksgiving then, too. And even then, people loved to eat turkey and dressing and pumpkin pies, and cranberries — just as you and I do today. And the hunters had to go out into the woods to find their turkeys. They always wanted the big fat ones because they were so tender and juicy. This story is about one big, fat turkey named Terrell and how he always escaped the hunters and lived to be very old.

When Terrell was a very young, skinny turkey, he quickly learned that he

could not ever let the hunters see him, especially on Thanksgiving day. He did not want to be lunch for the hunters. This story is about the way he tricked the hunters and lived a very long time. I think he is still around, somewhere!

That cold, sunny Thanksgiving day, Terrell was with a big flock of turkeys. They were all slowly walking through the woods, eating seeds and berries, and everything else that turkeys loved. It was a very peaceful day until a shot rang out. The loud boom from the hunter's gun scared Terrell. He ran and ran, away from the hunter and his loud gun. He did not understand right away what was happening, but he knew it couldn't be very good! He got away that day and never saw the hunter again, until the very next Thanksgiving!

Terrell had almost forgotten about the hunter and his loud gun. Then again,

the loud boom broke the silence of the forest. Then Terrell remembered! He hid under some brush, out of sight of the hunter, hoping he would be safe. But he wasn't! For this time, the hunter had dogs with him. The dogs could tell the hunter where the turkeys were hiding. What would Terrell do? Then he remembered that he could fly. Turkeys don't fly much. They had rather walk. If you could fly and walk, which would you do? I would love to fly.

Terrell got away again, but he knew that he had to do something for he might not be so lucky next Thanksgiving. He found the answer. He had a plan! By the time the next Thanksgiving came around, Terrell was ready

for the hunter and his dogs. This is one clever turkey! He had spent months and months making a costume. Now, you are probably wondering why a turkey would spend so much time making a costume when Halloween was already over. Well, this costume will save Terrell's life many times.

Thanksgiving after Thanksgiving. It was a dog costume! Yep, when Terrell put on his costume, he looked exactly like a dog.

Here comes the hunter. Here comes the dogs. There stands Terrell. Not even moving as the hunter and his dogs slowly come closer and closer to him. Terrell can see them clearly now. They can see Terrell clearly now. They get closer. Terrell stands perfectly still, almost afraid

to move. The hunter does not take aim at Terrell, but instead pats him on his head, and wondering whose dog this was. The other dogs came closer to Terrell and licked his face as if they wanted to be friends. He did it! He tricked them all!

As they walked away, Terrell knew that he had to tell all his turkey friends what he had done and how they too, could stay safe. He ran almost all the way to his friends, then flew the rest of the way. He quickly told them about the dog costume and the hunter and the dogs but they did not believe him. They thought he was just making this story up. They did not ever make any costumes. They did not live as long as Terrell, either!

The other turkeys did notice that Terrell was always still around after each Thanksgiving. Other turkeys would come and go but Terrell was always there. The other turkeys started calling him, "Old

Medicine Center Pharmacy

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Timey Terrell Turkey." His name became known to all the other turkeys in turkeyland. He was a very famous turkey. They had always wondered how he got to be so old. They had heard the costume stories before, but did not believe them.

Old Timey Terrell Turkey never did get caught by the hunter or his dogs. He never did get any other turkeys to try his trick, either. They never did really believe him. I think Terrell may still be around. I saw a funny looking dog just the other day. He looked very old. I think I even heard him gobble, twice! If it really was him, I am sure he would be saying, "Gobble, gobble." I do know that is turkey talk for, "Good Night" and "Happy Thanksgiving."

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By DAVID TARRANT
The Dallas Morning News

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LEARNING

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Wacky Facts

■ The National Yo-Yo Museum in Chico, Calif., claims to have the world's biggest working wooden yo-yo — Big Yo weighs 256 pounds and has a diameter of 50 inches.
— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"I had a rich childhood. A lot of kids growing up have their creativity kind of squashed and not accepted. But I was very lucky — my parents let me do my own thing."
— Scarlett Johansson, in *InStyle* magazine.



In The News

A sandwich showdown

Did you know that Americans gobble up more than a billion sandwiches each year? That's a lot of sandwiches! The fourth Earl of Sandwich, John Montagu, invented the very first sandwich in England in 1762.

To celebrate the long-lasting sandwich and to promote good nutrition, the Grain Foods Foundation has teamed up with Food Network host Dave Lieberman — who is also a personal chef and cookbook author — to find the healthiest, best-tasting sandwich in America. Time For Kids chatted with Lieberman, below, about the country's love for sandwiches.



TFK: Why is it important to encourage kids to eat healthy?

D.L.: Your early years are your most formative. One thing I don't understand about school lunch programs is, how do they expect kids to learn and focus on material when they're putting such bad stuff in their bodies? That's why I'm all for promoting healthy eating for kids. Sandwiches are something kids can really relate to. But kids don't even realize sandwiches can be healthy.



COURTESY OF THE GRAIN FOODS FOUNDATION

TFK: Why do you think sandwiches are still so popular after more than 200 years?

D.L.: Because they taste good and they're (easy to make). And also, I think people like to touch their foods, kids especially. We like to handle our food. It's just a natural instinct. You don't have to use a knife and fork to eat a sandwich.

TFK: What was your favorite sandwich growing up?

D.L.: My dad was a little bit on the wacky side and would give me weird stuff like sprouts and cucumbers and hummus on whole-grain bread. He was really into this health kick. I was always jealous of the other kids for having white bread, and I would try to swap with them. (Laughs.)

TFK: What advice do you have for kids who want to learn how to cook?

D.L.: I would encourage them to coordinate with their parents. I think it's important for parents to guide their kids to create a connection with their food. I learned how to cook from my dad. My dad was the guy in the kitchen, and that's how my passion for cooking started. Parents can get their kids more involved in the sandwich-making process, like have them cut out shapes.

Try the kid-friendly sandwich recipe below. And for more about America's Healthy Sandwich Showdown, go to grainpower.org.

— Vickie An

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GRILLED CHEESE WITH TOMATO

- 1 slice soft white bread
 - 1 slice soft whole wheat bread
 - 1 slice Fontina cheese
 - 1 slice white cheddar
 - 2 very thin tomato slices
 - All-natural olive oil spray
- Add cheese and tomato slices in between bread slices. Cut sandwich into fun shapes. Spray all natural olive oil on outside of bread, and grill.
- RECIPE DEVELOPED BY LIEBERMAN ON BEHALF OF THE GRAIN FOODS FOUNDATION



the yo-yo guy

By DAVID TARRANT
The Dallas Morning News

With a yo-yo in each hand, Dave Bazan is looping them over his head and behind his back, performing moves with the artful precision of a cowboy doing rope tricks:

Two-hand looping. Milk the cow. Punching bag. Ride the horse. Cow jumped over the moon. Lay-on back loops.

And at 35, Bazan is about three times the age of the typical kid who picks up a yo-yo. Standing on a 6-foot-square platform, Bazan, of Bedford, Texas, is all smiles. And why not? He's making a living at what he loves. And he's spreading the joy of yo-yos to kids everywhere.

But there could be another reason for that ear-to-ear grin. Rarely does a day go by when Bazan's not chuckling about the unlikelyhood of his situation. After all, he never owned a yo-yo as a child. Didn't pick one up until he was 27.

LEARNING THE TRICKS

He was on vacation in Montana about 10 years ago, visiting some friends, when he walked into a store and on an impulse bought a Duncan Imperial, the classic yo-yo introduced by the company in 1929. Success wasn't immediate. "I spent a week learning how to make it come back," he says.

Once he started, however, he couldn't stop. When he returned home to California, he learned a few yo-yo tricks from his roommate. He found a store nearby that sold yo-yos, and he bought a different-colored one every day.

"I'm a real competitive person," Bazan says. "And that's the thing about yo-yos — as long as you practice, you will get better and better." Bazan practiced. He'd yo-yo at work, yo-yo at home, yo-yo while watching TV and while dinner warmed in the microwave.

Two months after Bazan bought his first yo-yo, he started entering contests.

For this Texas man, yo-yos aren't just toys



PHOTOS BY TOM FOX/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS
Two-time World Spin Top Champion Dave Bazan spins a top for several minutes on his finger.

WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

Bazan didn't see many kids at the yo-yo contests he entered. So Bazan started a yo-yo club with the local police department's outreach program geared toward elementary students. In 1998, he started his first yo-yo contest, the Bay Area Classic — now one of the largest in the world, he says. One day, about a year after he bought his first yo-yo, he got a call that changed his life.

A yo-yo buddy asked him how he'd like a job in Hawaii "throwing yo-yos." Yeah right, he said, thinking his friend was joking. But the friend was serious. Team High Performance, an exhibition team of all-stars that helped create the boom for yo-yos in the late 1990s, hired him for their touring squad.

Before this trip, he'd only been on an airplane one other time — a short hop within California. Now his job required him to fly

all over Europe to Asia, North America and demonstrate yo-yos: at malls, school assemblies and wherever he could find groups of kids.

Then in 2003, he started his own line of yo-yos — Buzz-On. He moved to Texas and worked out of a one-car garage, and then a two-car garage, selling his yo-yos wholesale. A year ago, he opened up a retail store in a small strip plaza.

The shop, called Buzz-On Toy & Hobby, looks as though it could pass for the set of the "Monster Garage TV show," with a dash of Santa's workshop and a splash of Japanese anime subculture.

His own collection of yo-yos numbers 1,500, which is smaller than it used to be, he says.

THE PERFECT HANGOUT

Inside, the store looks like the perfect hangout. The glass counter displays hundreds of yo-yos, including his own brand and others, which sell for as low as \$2 and up to \$22. Photos and news clippings and anime action figures cover the walls.

You can also order custom-made yo-yos, and watch Bazan make them on the lathe in the back of the shop.

Someday, he hopes yo-yos might make him rich, too, and not just famous in a niche-sport sort of way.

For that to happen, yo-yos will have to experience the kind of boom that periodically happens. In that case, he'll be ready to sell a lot of his own brand of yo-yos, he says.

On a recent Saturday, he was working on the fundamentals with an 8-year-old girl, who couldn't quite get the yo-yo to go down and up without getting all tangled.

He tells her to throw her hand down palm up "like you're saying, 'Give me five!'" "You'll get the hang of it," he says. "Just keep practicing."

Words to live by — and not just for yo-yos.

Help!

Loss can be felt greater during holidays

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: Ever since my grandpa died, the holidays haven't been the same. How can I enjoy the holidays without him?
— Holiday Blues

■ The holidays won't be the same without your grandpa — they can't be. But you should keep in mind that he would have wanted you to enjoy them anyway. If traditions make you sad, talk to your family. Maybe they're feeling sad, too. It might help everyone to share happy memories and reminisce about your grandpa. It might also help you feel less alone and enjoy your holidays more.



DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: My good friend is a brag box. Whenever I tell her something, she has to tell me something even better. It's like I have plain vanilla ice cream and she has a banana split. I've told her how I feel, but she keeps on bragging.
— Bragged Out

■ If you've talked with your friend and she hasn't tried to change, you have a choice to make. You can accept that she has an irritating habit, and learn to tune her bragging out. Or, next time she brags, simply say, "It sounds like you're really proud of that," then quickly change the subject. If she still continues to brag, you can spend time with other friends who are willing to share the spotlight with you.

Visit americangirl.com to get or give advice.
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Tech Toys

Bank on it

It's a piggy bank that talks back. Insert a dollar and the interactive Teller Man might bark, "Don't make me check your pockets." Withdraw everything, and the plastic personal banker, nicknamed Les Cash, may warn, "The cupboard is bare, baby!"

Aimed at kids 4 and up, the snarky savings bank is new this month from Summit Products, which has an entire line of money-oriented toys for little ones. (Summit's talking ATM, complete with its own ATM card, was a hit when introduced in 2003.) Teller Man is sold exclusively at Target stores, for \$29.99.

— Patricia Rodriguez



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2006

Bird Poop: Helping a barn owl out of a tough situation

A cold and dusty northeast wind stung the farmer's face as he stepped down from his pickup. Walking to the concrete pad that supported an empty tank, he knelt to examine the perimeter of the vessel. As the man inched along the metal sides, he noticed a long, narrow opening that rust and neglect had created. Glancing inside, he was surprised to see a large bird lying on the floor. "Five by 15," was the reply the farmer gave when he told me of his water tank with a bird trapped inside. Envisioning a typical galvanized steel stock tank, I assumed he meant five feet tall



BEBE MCCASLAND

and 15 feet in diameter. "No, ma'am. It's 15 feet tall and five feet wide." Since the man only had a six-foot ladder, we would need to carry ours with us. Only three feet shy of the top of the tank, we figured we could use an old blanket to fashion a saddle on the rim of the vessel. Standing on top of the ladder, Art could then swing a leg over the rim and sit astride the blanket. I would follow. Then Art would lift the ladder over the top and lower it inside the tank. While he remained at the top, he could help me get down to the top of the ladder. Once at the bottom of the tank, I could capture the bird. Traveling north, then east of Coahoma, we met the farmer. As we followed him to the abandoned tank we were in the midst of plowed barren fields. Earlier, the farmer had mentioned he thought the bird was

an owl, but he wasn't sure what type. When we reached the top of the tank, we could see that it was a barn owl. There was no movement of the bird in spite of our noise in handling and climbing the ladder. Only when I put my hands on his wings and placed him in a thick bag did the owl arouse enough to extend his talons in defiance. With no way to see anything through the material of his enclosure, the barn owl grew quiet and still. Relieved that the bird was out of the tank, we talked with the farmer about how the owl managed to get to the bottom of the vessel. Having rescued owls from chimneys and attics, I told him the birds can half fly and hop across short distances. We felt the barn owl had zig-zagged its way down the sides of the tank by jumping from

side to side. The rough, rusty texture of the decaying structure had offered foot holds sufficient for the owl's descent. Once on the bottom, the owl may have captured mice that could enter through small holes near the floor. Without food coming in, the bird had begun to suffer the effects of starvation. It did not have the strength to get back out of the tank. After a tube feeding, the barn owl was taken to a wildlife center for extended care. After being able to tolerate a solid diet, it started short flights in an outdoor exercise cage. From a lonely brush with death, the raptor now had a chance for recovery and release. Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



Courtesy photo
Smaller in stature, the male barn owl sports a creamy chest, while the larger female has a cinnamon colored upper breast.

Wonderful things are ones we often take for granted

A few days ago I was reading an article about the seven wonders of the ancient world. Many lists of these wonders have been created since those times; they tend to vary, and none is definitive. The seven wonders that are most widely agreed upon as being in the original list are the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World as compiled by ancient Greek historians and thusly confined to the most magnificent structures known to the ancient Greek world. They are: The Pyramids of Egypt which are the three pyramids at Giza, outside modern Cairo. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon which were supposedly built by Nebuchadnezzar around 600 B.C. to please his queen, Amuhia. The Statue of Zeus (Jupiter) at Olympia, which was made of gold and ivory by the Greek sculptor Phidias (5th century B.C.). The Temple of Artemis

(Diana) at Ephesus, which was begun about 350 B.C. in honor of a non-Hellenic goddess who later became identified with the Greek goddess of the same name. The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, which was erected by Queen Artemisia in memory of her husband, King Mausolus of Caria in Asia Minor, who died in 353 B.C. The Colossus at Rhodes, a bronze statue of Helios (Apollo), about 105 feet high. The Pharos (Lighthouse) of Alexandria, which was built by Sostratus of Cnidus during the 3rd century B.C. on the island of Pharos off the coast of Egypt. They all must have been truly awesome. However, of all these ancient wonders only the pyramids survive but the imagination of humankind has urged poets, writers, historians and others to think of replacements for them. There have been several lists prepared throughout time. Like the

ancient list, the new lists include fascinating monuments and structures that changed the landscape and natural phenomenon that is truly remarkable. Strangely enough, no single list has won unanimous approval among today's population. If you were asked to create a list of your idea of the wonders of the world, how would you respond? I was inspired by the following story of a teacher who, after con-

ducting a study of the wonders of the ancient world, was trying to get her students to develop a list of the most remarkable wonders of the current world, so she instructed her students to develop a list of what they thought were the seven wonders world. The list was prepared and though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes: 1. Egypt's great Pyramids, 2. Taj Mahal, 3. Grand Canyon, 4. Panama Canal, 5. St. Peter's Basilica, 6. Empire State Building, 7. China's Great Wall. As the teacher was gathering these votes, she noted that one student had not yet finished her paper. So she asked the



DARRELL RYAN

Parent's Corner

girl if she was having some problems. "Yes," the girl replied, "just a little. I can't quite make up my mind because there are so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell me what you have and maybe I can help." The girl hesitated at first then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: To see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to feel, to laugh and to love." The expression on the teacher's face showed her amazement of the girl's insight.

So often the truly wonderful things in life are the simple and ordinary things that we take for granted. It has been stated, "The contemplation of marvelous things brings insight to the intellect and causes the soul to flourish." Maybe the little girl of the story had the right idea after all!

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.

MATH

Continued from Page 1A

opportunities for students to take alternative courses like career technology, which is definitely a down side," Randy Johnson said. "But we'll just have to see whatever they come up with and adapt."

One solution is to shorten class time slightly so that students can take eight courses a day instead of the traditional seven, but Downes is wary of that idea. "If you do that, you'll have to reduce the time spent in class, and that adds up," he said. "You reduce classes by even five minutes a day, that adds up to three weeks of lost instruction time per school year."

Flexibility is the key, Jerry Johnson said. "(The state) has to allow local districts some flexibility with regards to this," he said. "Hopefully, they'll do that, and give us some parameters to work with so that we can work with the students."

As far as having adequate facilities to meet the new requirements, the superintendents had a mixed bag of responses.

Part of recent renovation work at Forsan ISD was the construction of

"When Big Spring High School was built, students only needed two years of science to graduate. The requirement to go to four years of lab science will necessitate the need for more space."

additional science labs, so Randy Johnson said his district is prepared to meet the new requirement.

Coahoma High School will be, in at least a couple of years. Earlier this month, voters approved almost \$14 million in renovations, part of which will be the construction of additional science labs. At Big Spring, however, facility needs will be tight, Downes said.

"When Big Spring High School was built, students only needed two years of science to graduate," he said. "The requirement to go to four years of lab science will necessitate the need for more space."

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

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Sp

IN BRIEF

Youth basketball tournament up
The Mid A Youth Basketball Winter Tournament covering seven schools now taking applications. The local tournament available at a \$150 count package. Anyone interested participating contact MAYB at 284-0354.

Youth basketball registration beg
Registration for YMCA Youth Basketball League is available for boys and girls through sixth grade. The registration line is Friday, and the fee is \$10 per player. Practices will Dec. 11 and game be held on Saturday starting Jan. 13. For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring varsity basketball tonig
The Big Spring girls' basketball will host Greenwood at 6:30 p.m. at the Gym and the boys' basketball team will play Snyder at 7:30 p.m. at the Steer Gym. Tickets for both district games available 30 minutes before tip off. All BSHS students are encouraged to attend.

Big Spring basketball officials are nee
The Big Spring Basketball Officials Association is looking for officials at the 2006-07 season. Anyone interested officiating the 2006-07 season should contact Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300 or 263-8777.

Youth basketball tournament up
The Mid A Youth Basketball Winter Tournament covering seven schools now taking applications. The local tournament available at a \$150 count package. Anyone interested participating contact MAYB at 284-0354 or mayb@mayb.com.

Six-Man football playoff pairings
By The Ass Press
Garden City vs. Wellman-Union
2, 7 p.m. Klondike.
Meadow (11-0) vs. Davis (9-1), Friday, Crane.
Happy (9-1) vs. Floydada.
Paducah (8-0) vs. Throckmorton, Friday, Asperm.

Newcastle vs. Trinidad, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Hico.
Strawn vs. Bluffton, Thursday, Star.
May (10-0) vs. Rickland Springs, 7:30 p.m. Comanche.
Santa Anna vs. Calvert (10-1), Friday, Gatesville.

IN BRIEF

Youth basketball tournament update
The Mid America Youth Basketball Winter Tournament, covering seven states, is now taking applications. The local tournament is available at a \$125 discount package. Anyone interested in participating should contact MAYB at (316) 284-0354.

Youth basketball registration begins
Registration for the YMCA Youth Basketball League is available for boys and girls in first through sixth grade. The registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 1 and the fee is \$40 per player. Practices will begin Dec. 11 and games will be held on Saturdays starting Jan. 13. For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring varsity basketball tonight
The Big Spring Steers girl's basketball team will host Greenwood at 6:30 p.m. at the Steer Gym and the boy's basketball team will host Snyder at 7:30 p.m. in the Steer Gym. Tickets for both non district games will be available 30 minutes before tip off. All BSHS students and fans are encouraged to attend.

Big Spring basketball officials are needed
The Big Spring Basketball Association is looking for officials at this time. Anyone interested in officiating the upcoming 2006-07 season for Junior High, Freshman and Sub-Varsity basketball games should contact Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300 or 263-8731.

Youth basketball tournament update
The Mid America Youth Basketball Winter Tournament, covering seven states, is now taking applications. The local tournament is available for a \$125 discount package. Anyone interested in participating should contact MAYB at (316) 284-0354 or e-mail mayb@mayb.com

Six-Man football playoff pairings
By The Associated Press

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Meadow (11-0) vs. Fort Davis (9-1), 6 p.m. Friday, Crane.
Happy (9-1) vs. Rule (9-0), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Floydada.
Paducah (8-3) vs. Throckmorton, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aspermont.

Newcastle vs. Trinidad, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Hico.
Strawn vs. Blum, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Rising Star.
May (10-0) vs. Richland Springs (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Comanche.
Santa Anna (8-2) vs. Calvert (10-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Gatesville.

Howard thumps visiting Cowgirls, 72-33



Howard Hawk's shooting guard, Kandace Griffin, looks to penetrate against Hardin-Simmons in Monday night action at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Griffin led all scorers with 27 points and the Hawks cruised to a 72-33 lopsided victory.

Ladies basketball team improves to 5-1

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

Led by Kandace Griffin and Laryssa Hise, the Howard Hawks (5-1) basketball team sent the visiting Cowgirls of Hardin-Simmons (0-1) JV team home with a 72-32, blow-out loss at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday night.

Griffin was the leading scorer with 27 points and Hise was the leading rebounder with 10, but it was the stifling defense of the Hawks that turned this game into a highlight film for HC. At one point during the second half, Howard's defense held the Cowgirls scoreless for more than seven minutes. The Hawks coasted to their fifth win of the young season and look to be in good shape as non-conference tournaments approach.

"We changed defenses tonight and got out of our man-to-man," Hawks coach Earl Diddle said after the game. "We went into our match-up zone and I thought the girls played it real well. That's

what I told them after the game — that is probably as well as we have played it."

As the first half came to an end, according to Hardin-Simmons coach Diana Salinas, there was no question who had the best team on the court. The Cowgirls knew they were outmatched and used this game to try and work on things for upcoming competition.

"Howard College did a really good job of setting up their offense and being patient," Salinas explained. "They didn't force shots and obviously Howard is completely better and a different caliber team than our JV squad, but this did allow us to come in here and work on some things that we needed to address. It was a good way for us to evaluate our team and get some tough competition."

With 9:20 left in the game, Howard had already opened up a 28-point advantage. From that point on the

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Stars shoot Rockets by NY

Ming and McGrady fuel Houston Rockets to victory

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Just when the Knicks finally started to solve Yao Ming, Tracy McGrady stepped up.

Two stars was one too many for struggling New York on Monday night.

Yao had 26 points and nine rebounds in another strong game against the Knicks, and McGrady added 24 points in the Houston Rockets' 97-90 victory over New York.

McGrady scored 15 points in the second half, including six during a decisive 10-1 surge in the fourth quarter. He also made three of Houston's 10 3-pointers.

"I think somewhat in the past two games that teams are trying to drill Yao a little bit too much," McGrady said, "and I've kind of been deferring too much to him in the second half, or the fourth quarter, rather. I just wanted to insert myself on the offensive end."

Rafer Alston finished with 17 points for the Rockets, who beat the Knicks for the fifth straight time, their longest winning streak ever during the series. Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy improved to 7-1 against his former team and remained unbeaten as a visiting coach on his old home floor.

"It's always special," Van Gundy said. "It's an honor to walk out on the floor on Madison Square Garden. That never gets old. Not when I was here and certainly when you only get to do it once a year."

The Knicks did a better job on Yao than last time, when he collected 35 points, 17 rebounds and seven blocked shots in the Rockets' 104-93 victory in Houston on Nov. 10. The 7-foot-6 Yao was only 6-of-14 from the floor with one miss coming when 5-foot-9 Nate Robinson blocked him in the closing seconds of the third quarter.

"I was blocked by a 5-3 guy before, so that's not a record," Yao said.

The Rockets have won four straight at Madison Square Garden - all since Van Gundy became Houston coach.

Then again, just about everybody wins at the Garden these days - except the Knicks. New York fell to 1-5 at home despite 25 points from Jamal Crawford and 22 from Channing Frye. David Lee added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

The Knicks needed plenty from their role players to stay in the game, because they got little from their starting backcourt of Stephon Marbury and Steve Francis. The duo totaled 10 points, six assists and six turnovers - and combined to play a little more than 6 minutes in the second half.

"We win as a team and lose as a team," Knicks coach Isiah Thomas said. "It's not about one player or two players. I just try to use everything I have on the bench or within the reach for us to try to win the basketball game."

"We were just trying to hang in, trying to hang around and try to steal it. They were good, Yao and Tracy were a little too much for us tonight."

With the game tied at 70 with



The New York Knicks' Eddy Curry dunks the ball as Houston Rockets center Yao Ming watches in the first half. The Rockets defeated the Knicks, 97-90, at Madison Square Garden in New York City Monday night.

under 8 minutes to play, McGrady made a 3-pointer, and after Eddy Curry made one free throw, McGrady went 3-of-3 at the line for a 76-71 lead with 6:13 left. Yao's follow and dunk made it 80-71 with 4 1/2 to go, and the Rockets were never threatened

See **HOUSTON**, page 2B

New champ lags popularity

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — There's an Internet video of a family in its kitchen watching October's last-lap wreck at Talladega. When Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jimmie Johnson crash on the final lap, the family flies into an explosive-laden rage against Johnson.

Widely viewed throughout NASCAR, it took Earnhardt and Denny Hamlin to make Johnson aware of the clip.

"That was one of the funniest videos I've ever seen," Hamlin told him, choking back laughter.

"Even the toddler was ripping you."

Johnson is NASCAR's nicest guy and its newest champion, but he's far from a fan favorite.

With 23 career victories and his first Nextel Cup championship, Johnson's still working on winning over fans: He ranked a distant 10th last season in final voting for NASCAR's most popular driver.

Routinely booed during pre-race introductions, he's had more than one Victory Lane celebration spoiled by debris raining down from the grandstands. Although that did-

n't happen Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway, he hardly was embraced. His haters didn't even bother sticking around, making the final trophy presentation somewhat muted.

"He is a genuine person, the kind that fans should embrace," said Atlanta Braves pitcher Mike Hampton, who attended eight races this season, including Sunday's finale, as Johnson's guest.

"Instead, he's kind of the poster guy - when things look too good, you

See **NASCAR**, Page 2B



Jimmy Johnson celebrates in victory lane after winning The Winston at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, North Carolina. Johnson captured the 2006 Nextel Cup Champion on Sunday.

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Jaguars aid Cowboys, rout Giants 26-10

HAWKS

Continued from 1B

By MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jaguars wore all black, Jack Del Rio sported a blue tie, and Jacksonville's defense followed suit Monday night with a thorough bruising of the New York Giants.

The Jaguars forced three turnovers, pressured Eli Manning into several poor throws and held Tiki Barber to a season-low 27 yards rushing in a 26-10 victory over the injury-riddled Giants. Jacksonville (6-4) rebounded from an embarrassing loss to Houston and spoiled former coach Tom Coughlin's homecoming.

"We just didn't play well, and there's no excuse for it," Coughlin said. "This was a big, disappointing game for us."

David Garrard, who had four interceptions against the Texans, threw for 249 yards and ran for 31 more. Josh Scobee kicked four field goals. Fred Taylor and Maurice Drew combined for 124 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

As well as the Jaguars offense played, the defense was even better.

The Jaguars harassed Manning into numerous mistakes and bottled up Barber like few teams have in recent years. Barber's 27 yards were his lowest since Nov. 30, 2003 against Buffalo, when he finished with 20 yards on 12 carries.

"It was a pretty pitiful perfor-

mance all the way around," Barber said. "I'm shocked our running game could be this unproductive."

The Giants (6-4) dropped their second straight after a five-game winning streak. They played without defensive ends Michael Strahan (foot) and Osi Umenyiora (hip), cornerback Sam Madison (quadriceps), linebacker Brandon Short (quad) and offensive tackle Luke Pettigout (leg).

The injuries certainly contributed to the poor showing.

Jacksonville, meanwhile, lost another defensive starter - but didn't miss a beat.

Already playing without their best tackler in Mike Peterson and best pass rusher in Reggie Hayward, the Jaguars lost safety Donovan Darius for the season in the first quarter with a broken leg. It's the second consecutive season that ended early for Darius, who missed most of last year after tearing a ligament in his left knee.

He'll be missed in the Jaguars' secondary, but on Monday night, Jacksonville got along fine without him.

Manning finished 19-of-41 for 230 yards, most of which came after the game was decided.

"Mainly," Manning said, "I've got to start playing better football."

Manning said he wouldn't lose confidence in himself, but lamented that the Giants are "not on the same page" and conceded that they have work to do.

Barber agreed.

"We have to regroup and try to get this thing turned around," Barber said.

Although the Jaguars dominated much of the game, the Giants looked like they might cut into a 16-10 lead when Manning connected with Plaxico Burress for a 53-yard gain early in the fourth quarter. But the catch was overturned, and the Jaguars finally pulled away in a game that could have been much worse.

Garrard found Matt Jones over the middle for a 49-yard gain, then Drew scored from 3 yards out to make it 23-10.

Manning completed a screen pass to Burress that went for a 25-yard score, making it a three-point game. Burress made two nice moves to avoid defenders Brian Williams and Gerald Sensabaugh to get to the end zone, finishing a 70-yard drive that was kept alive by a penalty. The hands-to-the-face penalty against Rashean Mathis wiped out a sack and fumble that Jacksonville's Paul Spicer scooped up and returned for an apparent touchdown.

The score would have been 20-3. Instead, Manning's TD pass made it considerably closer.

On the ensuing drive, though, Garrard came up big.

Facing a third-and-5 at the New York 38, Reggie Torbor zeroed in on Garrard in the backfield. Garrard somehow spun out of the tackle near midfield and scrambled for 17 yards.

Taylor's 10-yard run put the

Jags ahead 10-3 in the second quarter. Jacksonville would have led by two touchdowns at the half if Taylor, close to scoring again, hadn't fumbled into the end zone. Antonio Pierce recovered to keep the game close.

Jacksonville wore all black for the fourth time in franchise history. Coughlin's successor, Jack Del Rio, was dressed for the occasion, too, sporting a spiffy black dress suit the NFL granted him permission to wear.

The Jacksonville coach wore a white shirt and completed the ensemble with a teal-blue tie with black and white stripes and a gold Jaguars lapel pin.

On the opposite sideline, Coughlin mostly just wore a grim look.

"We weren't successful," Coughlin said. "It was a very disappointing game for us. There are an awful lot of plays that we're leaving out on the field. We're just not making any plays."

He was the Jaguars' first coach and led the expansion franchise to the AFC championship game twice in its first five seasons. He was fired after the 2002 season, leaving with a 68-60 record that included two AFC Central titles and four playoff appearances.

Jacksonville has 13 players remaining from Coughlin's tenure.

"It felt good to beat him," Garrard said. "But it also feels good that he brought me into this league, that he saw something in me to believe I could play."

Cowgirls would not hit another shot from the field, managing only two free throws down the stretch.

During that time Candace Lambert and Zantell Watson shut down the middle of the court and cut off all of the passing angles. With Hise hitting the boards and Griffin shooting the lights out, the only question was by how many points the Hawks would win by.

"Lately everything has been falling for me," Griffin said before she exited the Coliseum.

"The past four or five games everything has just felt very comfortable. I'm just catching it and letting it go - not really even thinking about my shots. Our guards, Zantell and Ronnie (Veronica Wilson) have been doing a great job of finding me and getting me the ball. They really do a great job of getting it to me in the right spots, especially when I'm hot like tonight."

The Hawks will travel to Levelland for a pre-season tournament Dec. 1-2, before returning to Big Spring to face Wayland Baptist on Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

NASCAR

Continued from 1B

say 'Man, I've got to break this down and figure out what's wrong with him.' But the honest answer is there's nothing. He treats the valet the exact same way he would treat the President of the United States. You don't get that a lot in professional athletes, but with Jimmie, what you see is what you get."

It's hard to figure out exactly where Johnson went wrong. Since breaking onto the Cup scene in late 2001, he has been a model of consistency on and off the track. He works hard, wins races and competes for championships.

He's never punched a photographer or cursed on national TV. He's never been in trouble with the law and hasn't disrespected a NASCAR official.

He shows up where he's supposed to, honors his commitments and is almost always on time.

Maybe that's the problem.

"Maybe he's too nice, and he wins too much," teammate Jeff Gordon

said. "It seems the more Jimmie wins, the more he gets booed."

It also might be guilt by association. Gordon draws his share of boos, and he and Johnson have been closely aligned since Gordon helped him get his big break with Hendrick Motorsports in 2001.

The story is well-known: Johnson was a no-name Busch Series driver when he approached Gordon at the track one day and asked for advice. Gordon gave him his phone number and told him to call him the following week, striking up a friendship that led Gordon to personally pitch Johnson to the CEO of Lowe's Home Improvement for the car the company planned to sponsor.

Success came as soon as Johnson got behind the wheel of his new No. 48 Chevrolet. He drove to three victories as a rookie and a fifth-place finish in the standings.

But many fans instantly hated him, assuming Johnson's friendship with Gordon got him breaks he had not earned.

"I think a lot of people think Hendrick Motorsports ... and everything is just handed to

you on a golden platter," Gordon said. "They think that his success is because he's got the best car, the best this, the best that. Not a lot of people appreciate Jimmie's talent."

The misconception is Johnson is a spoiled rich kid with a Daddy who leveraged everything to help him make it big.

The reality is Gary Johnson was a heavy equipment operator, and his wife, Cathy, drove a school bus to help make ends meet. On weekends, the Johnsons loaded their three boys into an old van and took them camping in the desert, where Jimmie, Jarit and Jessie rode dirt bikes long into the night as their parents partied with friends around the fire.

The boys loved it, and Jimmie was a natural. So much so that he dreamed of career as a racer, motocross or supercross, but something on two wheels.

"I look back and I remember as a kid, I was

racing dirt bikes. And I wanted to be like Rick Johnson and Bob Hannah was big at the time, and Jeff Ward and those guys, and that was my goal - to race motorcycles," Johnson said Sunday.

"I did that for a while, through all the broken bones, got off the bikes and found my way into the off-road buggies."

Johnson decided to leave off-road racing and pursue a career racing on pavement in cars after a severe injury.

He thought he'd go the open-wheel way and become the next Rick Mears, but he attracted attention at Chevrolet and was steered to stock cars, which was rapidly gaining in popularity. He was all for the change but had no idea how long it would take him to succeed.

"I still didn't realize I had eight years ahead of me still, maybe nine years, before I found my way to where we are today," he said. "It's just been a long road. I'm a realist and I have high

hopes, but I just didn't really think that I could get this far.

"It's just such a long,

long road, and it's been a lot of people that believed in me."

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The Knicks fought back, with Robinson's swat leading to a dunk by Lee that made it 65-62 heading to the final period.

HOUSTON

Continued from 1B

again.

Neither team led by more than five points during a first half that included 10 ties and six lead changes. Yao knocked down a short turnaround jumper with 0.8 seconds left, giving him 15 points and the Rockets a 48-45 halftime advantage.

The Knicks got off to a sloppy start after the break - Marbury and Francis were benched after 65 seconds following New York's two turnovers on the first two possessions - and Houston capitalized by building a 10-point lead with 7:53 remaining.

"I didn't understand that," Marbury said. "I mean, we were in the game for 2 minutes. He felt like Steve got a turnover, I got a turnover. I guess he felt like Nate and Jamal could pretty much get them back in."

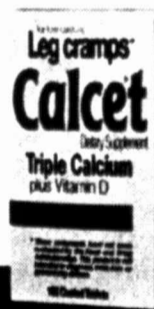
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NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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Help Wanted

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

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Now hiring Customer Care Representative. StarTek offers great benefits and competitive pay. Come by 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 30 or call 432-264-2700

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Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work, 30 to 35 Hours. Call (432)267-6027.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

POLLARD CHEVROLET is taking applications for the parts department. Computer knowledge & experience in automotive preferred. Some heavy lifting. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). Apply at 1501 East 4th St.

PORTER NEEDED at Bob Brock. Contact the service department.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PT/FT. USWA Ref#6901.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time cashiers. Apply in person at Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

TexasStone Quarries is hiring full time laborers to work in the plant and also in the quarry. Benefits available. Apply in person 1400 Sherrod Road, Garden City or call 432-354-2569.

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT. www.WorkNowNotLater.com

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

WHITTEN INN at 700 West I-20. We are needing front desk clerks & housekeepers. Please apply in person between 10:00am-3:00pm.

Instructional

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HARPER ACETYLENE cutting rig, cost \$800, take \$350; inside battery operated forklift for warehouses, cost \$2,200, it's new, take \$600; large air compressor with extra large 4' high tank, cost \$495, take \$250; 7x8' yard trailer, fold down gate, \$225. Mr. Bill Chrane, (432)213-0426, 1301 E. 4th St.

OAK FIREWOOD. Premium oak firewood for sale. Satisfaction guaranteed. Full cord \$275.00/half cord \$150.00. Delivered and stacked. (325)648-2818/(512)913-8297.

Jobs Wanted

NQ TIME for housework? Let us do it for you! Up to 6 bedrooms per house or 1 to 3 bedrooms. For information, Call (432)213-0147.

Miscellaneous

\$139 QUEEN BED. Pillowtop/orthopedic mattress set. Plastic wrapped. Warranty. Call 806-549-3110.

6-PIECE BEDROOM set: All wood, complete bedroom. List \$2250. Sacrifice \$750. Call 806-549-3110.

ALL NEW Mattress Set, Full Size still in packaging. Sell for \$119. Call 432-349-4043.

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$149.00. 432-349-4043.

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

DINING ROOM table and chairs. Cherry mirror finish. \$229. Must sell now. Call 806-549-3110.

DISTRIBUTOR OVERSTOCK NASA memory foam mattress sets - conforms to body. \$399. Call 806-549-3110.

DOUBLE/FULL MATTRESS and box. Brand new, warranty. \$129. Call 806-549-3110.

2005 NITRO Bass Boat. 150 Mercury, dual console, C.D. player, radio, 20 hours on boat. Just had break-in service done. Will sell for Pay-Off. Call (432)935-2011 If no answer leave message.

KING PILLOWTOP Mattress Set. Brand New still in Plastic. Full Factory Warranty. Must Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.

NASA MEMORY FOAM Mattress Set. Conforms to body. New in plastic. List \$1399.00 Sacrifice \$399.00. Call 432-349-4043.

Miscellaneous

NEW KING mattress set. In plastic, full factory warranty. \$249. Call 806-549-3110.

QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/Warranty. \$129.00. 432-349-4043.

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On the Farm

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Real Estate for Rent

2 BEDROOM, 1 bath, garage. Parkhill. No pets. Extra nice. **RENTED**

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

405 GALVESTON. Very clean. 2 bedroom, central air, ceramic tile floors. References required. (432)213-2319, 267-8787.

6305-1/2 EAST MIDWAY RD., 3 bedroom 1 bath Duplex. Sand Springs area. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

712 JOHNSON. 1 bedroom, very clean, hardwood floors, refrigerated air, central location. References. (432)213-2319, 267-8787.

448 ARMSTRONG. 4 Bedroom, 1 bath, \$400 month, \$200 deposit. CH/A. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE at 421 Main for rent. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. includes executive offices, reception area, file storage and break room. Call (432)263-7676.

FOR LEASE 40x120 Building with 2 offices, 4' over head doors on 2 acres, fenced land. 1514 Hwy. 30. \$750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

LEASE: 3 BDRM., 2 1/2 baths, 2 living areas, private fence w/patio; storage. Married couples, no pets. College Park. Call (432)354-2246 or 213-0637.

OFFICE SPACE for rent in professional building. Great location. Very affordable rates. Water paid. 1510 Scurry. Call (432) 816-6316.

REMODELED HOME, 711 Johnson-- large living room with fireplace (electric logs) dining area, refrigerator, stove, refrigerator/ fenced yard with patio. \$500. Call 432-263-1281.

Real Estate for Rent

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT Sunset Ridge Apartments 2911 W. Old Hwy 80 1 & 2 Bedrooms 800-323-8481

Real Estate for Sale

14 VAL Verde. Completely remodeled, 3/2, barn, carport, 4.33 acres, 2144 sq. ft. Coahoma School District. \$147,000.00. Will pay \$3,000 towards closing cost. (432)264-8944, 263-8254.

1804 & 1806 Owens. Move in Ready. Owner Finance Available, \$2,000.00 Down. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

2 BEDROOM, 1 bath house for sale by owner. 400 Westover. Call (432)264-6675 or 517-0800.

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

4030 VICKY. Beautiful 3/2/2 in great neighborhood. Lots of updates & Ready to move in! \$89,000. Call (432)268-1840 or 213-0381.

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500 W. 4th 267-7121

Vehicles

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2002 HONDA Accord, 2 door SE Special Edition. 64k, moonroof, CD. Extended warranty available. \$12,995.00. Call (806)239-5108, (432)270-4279.

2004 FORD Mustang Coupe, Black, 21K, standard, MP3/CD, 40th Anniversary Edition \$12,500. Call 432-268-1840 or 213-0381.

2005 MUSTANG GT. Upgraded interior and sound system. Serious inquiries only. Call (432)264-3352 between 8am-5pm.

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ANSWERS

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2002 Chevy Avalanche Z71 All Power, Leather Interior, 50,000 Miles. \$16,995	2006 Yukon Denali 22,000 One Owner Miles, Steel Gray, Gray Leather. \$39,995

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BIG SPRING HERALD

BY HOLIDAY MA
This is the last
the Scorpio solar t
Scorpio
energy is
personal,
mysterious
and internal.
Gather up
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(chi: what
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ARIES (March 2
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Annie
Dear Annie: I m
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
This is the last day of the Scorpio solar transit. Scorpio energy is personal, mysterious and internal. Gather up your chi (chi: what the Chinese philosophers name the vital force inherent in all beings and things) into a big, fat ball — you'll soon be tossing it about. Tomorrow, the sun moves into Sagittarius, an outgoing, effervescent tone.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). The nature of experimentation is to do things wrong until you figure it



HOLIDAY MATHIS

out. Play. Be free of self-criticism. This is the time to commit yourself to a few wonderful mistakes.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes your subconscious is just too crafty to hold down. Random choices add up to something that looks deliberate. You'll be amazed at what you know (but didn't know you knew).
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're humble and honest enough to admit your frailties. This is how you come to work things out with another human and journey together pleasantly.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Envy could alter the dynamic of important friendships. Anticipate this problem, and stay

away from potentially incendiary statements. Interpret signals from loved ones — you're so good at that.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your entire psyche is honed to make good luck happen. Take a chance on new moneymaking prospects. The old financial method is either getting too boring or not working so great.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The Greeks believed that charisma was a gift of the gods, but like all divine gifts it has its cost. The cost you could pay today has to do with attracting someone irksome.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People are constantly planting seeds of thought in your mind. Whether or

not those seeds grow has to do with how much attention you're willing to give them.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'd like to be gentle and kind, but you sense that what's most called for is the drill sergeant in you. You're right. A direct order from you starts business rolling.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You crave the unobtainable. Just be careful not to choose a target solely based on the fact that it looks impossible to hit. On a financial note, the check really is in the mail.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Experienced people have much to offer you, especially now, when objectivity is nearly impossible. Tell your

thoughts to someone trustworthy, and listen to the reply.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Be mindful of how you feel around friends and colleagues. Your body is giving you signals that will help you make a distinction between action taken out of love and action meant to manipulate you.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's much that you need from your support group now, but try not to expect a superhuman effort from others. Concentrate on the factors you have complete control over.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Giggly Hollywood royal Goldie Hawn has a secretive Scorpio sun, while her communication plan-

et, Mercury, is nestled into gregarious Sagittarius. She possesses the uncanny ability to delve deep into any given film character, simultaneously allowing her gleaming personality to shine through. I see grandchild No. 2 soon, as newlywed son Oliver Hudson welcomes his first baby.
If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creator's Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I moved to a new city four years ago. When my son was younger, I tried making play dates with other women and their children, but I did not develop any friendships. I also got involved in some church activities, but still did not develop any real lasting or long-term relationships with other women or couples.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

I recently started attending a new church. I understand that it takes time to get to know people and don't expect to click with anyone right away. I recently realized that I had negative views of other women due to a bad relationship with my mom, but I am trying desperately to change my outlook.
I don't understand why I can't seem to meet new people and eventually find friends. I stay at home, and my husband is having similar issues at work. I don't want my son, who appears to be very social, to suffer the same fate. Any tips? —

Down and Out in a New Town
Dear Down and Out: You've spent so much time creating a hostile front that now, when you are more open, you are afraid — and it shows. Put on an air of confidence. When you greet someone, say something complimentary ("What a great comment you made at the board meeting," "Your daughter plays an enthusiastic game of soccer"). Be upbeat. Be a good listener. Ask questions. The next time you

see the person, remember something about them — "How's your mom doing?" "Did you finish your redecorating project?" — and they will think kindly about you. Invite some of them to your home for coffee. Be the friend you'd like them to be.
Dear Annie: I am the oldest of 14 children. My sister's daughter is getting married soon, and invitations have been sent out. Our mother, who lives about 200 miles from the wedding site, received an invitation, but my sister is now doing everything she can to prevent Mom from attending.
Mom lives in an assisted living center, is diabetic, occasionally incontinent and sometimes forgetful. My sister is asking other family members to persuade Mom not to come, suggesting that she would be an embarrassment at the wedding.
One sibling has offered to drive Mom to the event. I am a registered nurse and have agreed to care for her, as well as share a

hotel room. Mom wants to attend, and her doctor has given his OK. The bride is neutral.
I don't want to cause a problem, but I believe the mother of 14 children and grandmother of 22 has earned the right to witness her granddaughter's wedding. How do we handle this? — JoAnne in St. Augustine, Fla.
Dear JoAnne: Yes, your mother deserves to be there. Assure your sister that you will be responsible for Mom the entire time and you will watch her 24/7 (enlist your siblings to relieve you). Also mention that it would be a far greater embarrassment if guests noticed Mom was not in attendance. We hope this helps.
Dear Annie: I was appalled to read your response to "Daughter Out-Law," whose in-laws wouldn't accept her adopted child. Why are you defending the in-laws' cruel behavior? She didn't give them enough time to adjust? She needs to work

and the final decision should be between her and her husband, even if you disagree.
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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to "win them over"? Her in-laws do not deserve to be won over. This couple is better off without them. Adopted children deserve grandparents who love and cherish them from the minute they are brought into a family. — Extremely Angry
Dear Angry: Please don't misunderstand us so quickly. We did not defend the in-laws. We said they were difficult and would require extra effort to win over, but it was possible if "Daughter Out-Law" wished to try. Her problem was that she felt bad about causing an estrangement and wanted to "fix it." That's where our advice was directed,

Has anyone ever told you about a special event that is **supposed** to be happening, only to find out that the person who told you **didn't** have all the facts?
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today, and get the scoop
on local news and events.

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NOV 2006
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TUESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (32)
6:30	News (CC)	News	Heridas de Amor	King of the Hill	News	Entertainment	News	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Letter	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
7:30	2006 American Music Awards	2006 American Music Awards	La Faa Mas Bella	The Simpsons	NCIS (CC)	Marina	Bonnet: American Classic	Raymond	Update/Israel	Nova (CC)	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
8:30	News (CC)	News	Mundo de Fieras	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Amor Mio	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC) (DVS)	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
9:30	News (CC)	News	Ver Para Creer	Backer (CC)	Friends (CC)	Decisions	Law & Order: SVU	Friends (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Everest: Beyond the Limit	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
10:30	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	Raymond	Noticias	News Tonight Show	Sarfield (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Man vs. Wild	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
11:30	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la Risa	Letterman	Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night	The Wood	Update/Israel	Sign Off	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
12:30	AM Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids	Malcolm-Mid.	Show	The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien	Apex	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	PGA Golf	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.

DENNIS THE MENACE

11-21

"IT'S A GOOD THING WE DON'T PAY ROAMING CHARGES ON DENNIS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

11-21

"The Pilgrims wore black and white because that was their football team's colors."

HAGAR

11-21

WHAT'LL YOU HAVE HAGAR?

I'M IN A RUT! WHY DON'T YOU SURPRISE ME WITH SOMETHING I'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE...

HAGAR

11-21

ONE GLASS OF WATER... AND ADD A CHERRY!

BLONDIE

11-21

ARE YOU READING ANOTHER COOKBOOK, DEAR?

ACTUALLY, I'M READING A NEW BIOGRAPHY

BLONDIE

11-21

WELL, THAT'S A NICE CHANGE OF PACE... WHOSE BIOGRAPHY IS IT?

THE GUY WHO INVENTED BARBECUING ON A GAS GRILL

BC

11-21

OK, CHILDREN... WHAT IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF SCHOOL BUSING?

YES, JOHNNY?

BC

11-21

IT'S THE MOBILE CLASSROOM FROM WHICH WE LEARN THE FACTS OF LIFE.

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 21, the 325th day of 2006. There are 40 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 21, 1922, Rebecca L. Felton of Georgia was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate. (Felton, a Democrat appointed by Gov. Thomas Hardwick to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Thomas E. Watson, served only a day before Watson's elected successor, Walter F. George, took office.)

On this date:

In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1942, the Alaska highway across Canada was formally opened.

In 1964, the upper level of New York's Verrazano Narrows Bridge, which connected Brooklyn and Staten Island, was opened.

In 1969, the Senate voted

down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, the first such rejection since 1930.

In 1973, President Nixon's attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt, revealed the existence of an 18 1/2-minute gap in one of the White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1979, a mob attacked the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing two Americans.

In 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas.

In 1985, former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard was arrested, accused of spying for Israel. (He later pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 1995, The Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 5,000 mark for the first time.

Today's Birthdays:

Baseball Hall-of-Famer Stan Musial is 86. Country singer Jean Shepard is 73. Actor Laurence Luckinbill is 72. Actress Marlo Thomas is 69. Actor Rick Lenz is 67. Singer Dr. John is 66.

Actress Juliet Mills is 65. Comedian-director Harold Ramis is 62. Television producer Marcy Carsey is 62. Actress Goldie Hawn is 61. Movie director Andrew Davis is 60. Rock musician Lonnie Jordan (War) is 58. Singer Livingston Taylor is 56. Actress-singer Lorna Luft is 54. Journalist Tina Brown is 53. Actress Cherry Jones is 50. Rock musician Brian Ritchie (The Violent Femmes) is 46. Gospel singer Steven Curtis Chapman is 44. Actress Nicolette Sheridan is 43. Singer-actress Bjork is 41. Football player Troy Aikman is 40.

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WIZARD OF ID

11-21

I DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD SEND THESE CEOs TO PRISON

WHY NOT?

WIZARD OF ID

11-21

THEY COULD CORRUPT THE PETTY THIEVES

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Laced, as shoes

5 D followers

9 Gandhi's land

14 Norway's capital

15 Singer Guthrie

16 Overstudious students

17 "Don't ___" ("Mum's the word!")

19 Aquatic mammals

20 Sedan strap

21 Spending plan

22 ___ Baba

23 Shock

24 Quick to learn

28 "Don't ___" ("That's what you think!")

33 Straightened (up)

35 Poems of praise

36 Dollar bill

37 Highway entrance

38 Shaving need

40 Shock

41 Actress Thurman

42 Renown

43 Most cunning

45 "Don't ___" ("Thank you!")

48 Mountains in Chile

49 Insects in colonies

50 Stay ___ (don't move)

52 Traffic tie-ups

55 Octopus arm

60 Lively folk dance

DOWN

1 Two-year-olds

2 Conversation filler

3 Singer Fitzgerald

4 Featherbrain

5 Art-gallery stand

6 Play friskily

7 Oversupply

8 Jan. 1, e.g.

9 Rude remarks

10 Must

11 Pull from behind

12 Doing nothing

13 Helper. Abbr.

18 Ease off

21 Big mistakes

23 Martial art

24 Play, as the ukulele

25 City south of Fort Lauderdale

26 Slogan writer

27 Tear up

29 Seeped

30 Jotted down

31 Occupied

32 Campout shelters

34 Early manuscript versions

39 Parisian pals

40 Sermon topic

42 Where Helsinki is

44 Coffeehouse order

46 Not as sunny

47 First game of a series

51 Family member

52 Risky business, for short

53 Ark builder

54 Female voice

55 Promgoer, usually

56 Sound boosters

57 Corp. bigwigs

58 Clothes-dryer fuzz

59 Extremities

61 TGIF day

DON'T START by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle

BATH	CLIP	SHRUB
ERIE	RACE	TEASE
ACME	OVER	ANTED
SHELL	CASING	
TERSE	ONESTAR	
SRS	IMPEDE	TOTO
AGAIN	EGGS	
SPAGHETTI	STRAPS	
LUTE	ELLEN	
IRON	MARLON	DEW
PRETZEL	OPRAH	
ELBOW	GREASE	
ROOTS	URIAL	EPEL
AWAIT	MERE	NELL
PEKES	SOME	BUNS

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AGNES

11-21

AGNES, YOU HAVE BEEN SITTING THERE LIKE A LUMP THE WHOLE DAY.

I AM TAKING MY CUE FROM GODS FLOWERS.

AGNES

11-21

THE RAINS COME TO THEM, THE AIR COMES TO THEM, AND THEY ABSORB ADEQUATE SUSTENANCE FROM BELOW.

IF YOU'RE SUCKING SUSTENANCE FROM THAT COUCH, I JUST SPRAYED IT YESTERDAY WITH ANTI-BACTERIAL FABRIC DEODORIZER.

THAT EXPLAINS MY ROOT SYSTEM PUCKER.

HI AND LOIS

11-21

WA! HOLD THAT THOUGHT

NOW WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HI AND LOIS

11-21

WE NEVER FINISH A ...

RING!

THE OTHER COAST

11-21

It half-slithered, half-crawled up the aisle. Hair grew in clumps in strange places, and the stench was overpowering.

TAP TAP

THE OTHER COAST

11-21

TRYING YOUR HAND AT WRITING SCIENCE FICTION?

IT'S AN ACCOUNT OF MY BUS RIDE THIS MORNING.

SNUFFY SMITH

11-21

COUSIN JAKE CAN'T COME TO VISIT AFTER ALL, PAW !!

WHY NOT?

SNUFFY SMITH

11-21

HE'S AFRAID OF HEIGHTS !!

BEETLE BAILEY

11-21

SARGE, HOW DO YOU SPELL "EXPERIMENT"?

EXPERIMENT?

BEETLE BAILEY

11-21

I'VE ALREADY DONE THE "X"

JUST TELL ME THE REST OF IT

GREG + MORT WALKER

BIG SPRING

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 1

State says close

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Less than a week after the smoke evacuation system at the 100 County jail failed, officials, county commissioners received the report that the facility is closed.

County commissioners received the report for the shutdown of the facility this morning, bringing to a close a project that has set down by the commission and the verbal confirmation of the order de-

See CLOSED, Page 6

Architect

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard College is the first steps to a million dollar expansion project, San Angelo architect their monthly meeting.

College President Sparks said trust San Angelo architect of Craig Kinney and design a new building, as well

BSHS super

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Two Big Spring School drama groups proved themselves best in Texas recent Inter-Thespian Society convention in Christi.

Competing drama groups across the state seniors Nick R. Cody Carnes and honors in the Du category at the convention, said Tracie high school teacher.

Performing scene from the script "The Pillow Man" and Carnes received "superior" rating the preliminary competition, along with nine other team teams competed on round, and Ross and Carvalled, Lindsey and "Those nine

INDEX

- Classified 3-5B
- Features 7A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2B

To reach us:
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a.m. to 5 p.m. M
If you miss your
263-7335 before
noon Sunday.