VOLUME 102, NUMBER 312

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2006

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INSIDE

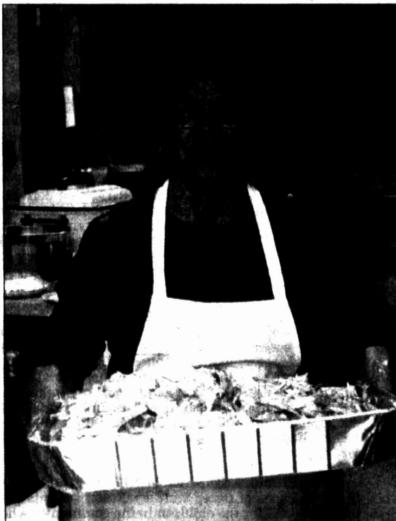
Garden City **Bearkats** head into playoffs Friday night

Page 1B

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

SERVING UP A FEAST







HERALD photos/Steve Reagan Officials were expecting hundreds of dinners to be served Thanksgiving Day at the Salvation Army, located at 811 W.

Fifth St. At top, Sharon White, left, and Concha DeLeon prepare turkey, which Concha DeLeon proudly displays in the photo at bottom left. Meanwhile, Santana DeLeon peels potatoes for the meal.

Merchants gearing up for big sales

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Does the early bird really get the worm? If the early bird is shop-

pers looking afterfor Thanksgivdeals ing Friday morning and the worm happens to be a new television or dishwasher, it very well be true, as the local Sears brings meaning to the

term "early

riser" for its

-Jody Swinney, Sears store

it sounds crazy,

after a holiday, but

day — and a huge

sale — for us."

annual holiday sale. Jody Swinney, owner of the local Sears, is just one local business owner preparing for what has been dubbed the biggest shopping day of the year, but he may have the drop on his competition.

"We'll be opening at 5 a.m. Friday morning," said Swinney. "I know, it See SALES, Page 3A

sounds crazy, especially for the day after a holiday, but this really is a huge day — and a huge sale - for us."

Swinney said the popular items for his business "We'll be opening this season are expected at 5 a.m. Friday to be televimorning. I know, sions and

systems. "Televisiespecially for the day ons are a very hot item this this really is a huge year," said Swinney. "There have really been some

advance-

home theater

ments over the past year, and there's really a three-way tie between LCD, DLP and plasma televisions. The old analog units are quickly becoming outdated, so much that a lot of people are hoping theirs will go out so they can get a new one.

be thanktui but be safe

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Once the turkey and dressing is gone this Thanksgiving holiday, many area residents will turn their

attention to the next big affair Christmas with plenty of decorations, both inside and

out. while And Condray the upcoming

holiday is most definitely a chance for kids — both young and

in weather and the seasonal cheer, it's not a time to forget about safety. according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray.

Condray said some of the most beautiful aspects of the season can also be

the most dangerous. "Examine your holiday lights before you hang them," said Condray. "Replace any missing or broken parts. You should check them by setting them on a non-flammable surface and leaving them plugged in for 10 to 15

old — to enjoy the change See SAFETY, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified Wheels **Obituaries**

Opinion Sports

noon Sunday.

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

SANTA LETTERS

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

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

All letters should be received by Friday, Dec. 8. Each letter should contain the child's name as well as school or classroom affiliation. Submit letters to the Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431 or e-mail composing@bigspringherald.com

For more information, call 263-7331.

COAT DRIVE ONGOING

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.

SANTA COMING TO MALL

Big Spring Mall will welcome Santa

beginning Dec. 2. Santa will be available for children from noon until 4 p.m. Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Also on those dates, the Salvation Army will have a gift wrap area for donations. December 9, the Big Spring High School and Big Spring Junior High choirs will per-

form from noon until 3 p.m. Mall shoppers are also invited to view an art display presented by the Big Spring Evening Lions Club on behalf of junior

high students. Shoppers are also encouraged to participate in a food drive hosted by Sears. Donations will go to local food bank.

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Bob Brock Ford Lincoln Mercury

Support Groups

· AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m.

at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting,

615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers

meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday

night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each

Obituaries

William C. Bennett

京 為開門官門衛衛軍等中華一中部於上 2002年 11日本



William C. "Bill" Bennett, 78, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 24, 2006 at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Daniel Shadix of the Veterans Administration Medical Center officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 22, 1928, at Kansas City, Kan. to Anna Marie and William Thomas Bennett. He married Ingeborg Grade Jan. 24,

1952, in Germany. She preceded him in death Jan. 11, 2004. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring from Webb Air Force Base in 1966. He worked at Montgomery Wards and also owned Bill's Sewing Machine Service.

He is survived by two daughters, Trish Gabbard and her husband, Howard, of Sand Springs, and Joyce Maya and her husband Carl of Stafford, Va.; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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

Judy Allen

Judy Allen, 65, of Arlington, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006, in Baird following an automobile accident. Graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, 2006 at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 19, 1941, in Big Spring. Judy spent most of her life in Big Spring, having moved to Arlington five years ago. Judy was a draftsman, having retired from the State Highway Department. She was a Methodist.

Judy is survived by a son, Steve Gass of Big Spring; two sisters-in-law, Gwen Gass Faulkner of Big Spring, and Jo Beth Gass Gerk of Denver, Colo.; and two grandchildren.

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

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon.

Friday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Saturday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Saturday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Sunday—Partly cloudy. Highs around 70.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

SUNDAY Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon

at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

month at 8 p.m.

· Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-

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.

· The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

 RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at 263-0027, ext. 236 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

 Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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

Bulletin Board

TODAY Community Thanksgiving Service, 11:30 a.m. to 1

p.m., Salvation Army, 811 W. fifth Street. Call 267-8239 to have meals delivered.

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

 Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.

 Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

· Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the **Howard College Cactus Room.**

 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 in the Howard College Cactus Room.

 Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

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.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

Take Note

· THANKSGIVING DAY WORSHIP SERVICES members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native WILL BE HELD at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 810 Scurry Street, Big Spring. Every one is welcome.

 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.

• 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 before distribution.

· A LOCAL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB IS FORMING NOW. All makes and models will be welcome. We are planning fun for the whole family while enjoying the outdoors and visiting trails both near and far. For more information contact Jimmy Hobdy at (432) 935-2351 or Donny Booth at 816-9748.

• DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES will be giving flu shots Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$10 or no charge if you bring your Medicad or Medicare card. Flu shots will be offered to everyone. For more information, call 432-263-9775.

 DAV AUXILIARY WILL HAVE A SILENT AUC-TION Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. Proceeds will be used to provide Christmas for the fifth floor at the VA Medical Center.

 A MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR ESTHER LOPEZ has been established at Howard College by J.O. and Annabel Barker. To make a contribution, contact Jan Foresyth at 264-5051.

 THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new

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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. CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COL-

LECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

· ROAD TO RECOVERY, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

 NEW LIFE MINISTRIES Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free

Call 264-0771 for more information

 THE PET PATROL helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

 HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

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

BIG SPRING .

www.BigSpringHerald.com Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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

 THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

· LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law. divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

 BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

· SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.



Continued from Pag

BIG SPRING HER

Thursday, Nove

"We have more screen television year than we've e The prices hav down quite a l putting out a 50-ir ma screen that have cost aroun last year, and the lot closer to \$2, year."

Sears won't be area business advantage of the shopping Friday, clothier Maurice' stocking up for t

day. "We're really about Friday," sa Spalding, mana Maurice's in t Spring Market "We're going to really good sale a be open from 7 a. 10 p.m., just for th Spalding said

items this holida thus far are hoo sweaters. "Those have b

most popular item and I believe the continue into the season," said S "We're working hard to stay up or est fashions. A lo ents come in to their teens, who really picky abo they wear, so we helping them ma they are getting t and most popula However, we car

Gail r festiv

What: Lighting Santa to greet served.

Where: Comm **Activities** cente

When: Activitie

By STEVE REAGA Staff Writer

GAIL — Most pe a star on to Christmas tree day season, but people of this con decided to take th bit further.

As they have past 13 years, me this Borden Cou munity will kic Christmas seaso by turning on the a star on the sid Mountain.

And it's not jus run-of-the-mill decoration — th star holds more lights and can be 15 miles in alm direction.

A simple di among friends le resident Ross designing the sta

"Some friends us to see if we th could have s like a star buil Mountain," sa

SMMC Relaya slates fundral

Scenic Medical Center Life team is letters from such this year. Santa is letters

pital's team pos ters for \$5 each North Pole.

Proceeds fund-raiser go t Howard-Glassco For Life effor American Society.

To place you name on Santa mailing this season, contac Rich at Scenic Medical Center or any SMMC R member.

SALES

Continued from Page 1A

"We have more plasma screen televisions this year than we've ever had. The prices have come down quite a bit. I'm putting out a 50-inch plasma screen that would have cost around \$4,000 last year, and they are a lot closer to \$2,000 this

Sears won't be the only area business taking advantage of the seasonal shopping Friday, as local clothier Maurice's is also stocking up for the holi-

"We're really excited about Friday," said Lara Spalding, manager of Maurice's in the Big Spring Market Place. "We're going to have a really good sale and we'll be open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., just for the sale."

Spalding said the hot items this holiday season thus far are hoodies and sweaters.

"Those have been the most popular items so far, and I believe that will continue into the holiday season," said Spalding. "We're working really hard to stay up on the latest fashions. A lot of parents come in to shop for their teens, who can be really picky about what they wear, so we've been helping them make sure they are getting the latest and most popular styles. However, we carry cloth- Thanksgiving sale.



Jody Swinney, owner and manager of Sears in the Big Spring Mall, gets a widescreen plasma television ready for display just in time for the holiday shopping season. Swinney said televisions and home theater systems are a hot item this Christmas season.

ing for more than just teens, so we really hope people in the community will come check us out."

Also hoping to capitalize on the latest fashion trends Friday is Beall's Department Store, which will also be open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Friday for its annual after-

Sharp, Ross' wife. "Ross

designed it ... and the rest

The lighting of the star

officially starts the holi-

day season in Gail, and

caps an evening of

Christmas activities in

The county courthouse

will open at 5 p.m., with

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus

greeting youngsters and

posing for photographs.

Winners of the Christmas

decorating contest, spon-

by

432-682-1

Lyntegar

is history."

the community.

sored

cooler holiday season than we had last year," said Manager Agmed Ramirez. "That will have a direct effect on what we'll have in the store during the Christmas shopping season.

er for us during the ald.com

"We're anticipating a Christmas season," he added. "We'll sell a lot of clothing and novelty items, things like coffee mugs and other stocking stuffers."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-"There's rarely a specif- 7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail ic item that's the hot sell- at citydesk@bigspringher-

Contact the Herald news department at editor@bigspringherald.com

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1A

minutes to make sure they don't melt or smoke. "When you're hanging the lights, be sure to keep them away from flammable materials such as curtains, and make sure the cords aren't near any sources of water. Never connect more than three sets of light to an extension cord, and to prevent overheating, pinching and fraying cords, avoid running lights under rugs or behind furniture."

Condray said another holiday favorite - candles - can also pose a considerable risk if not handled with extreme care.

"Candles are one of the largest causes of house fires in the nation, especially toward this time of the year," he said. "Historically, December has twice the number of candle fires than any other month because of all the decorative candles.

"The main thing people need to remember is to keep a good clear space around the candle, put them in a proper holder and never leave a candle burning unattended. If you're going to leave the

<u>CINEMA 4</u>

DECK THE MALLS (PG) 4:30 7:30 10:10

• CASHO ROYALE (PG-13) 4:00 7:00 10:00

enjoy it, put it out. Also, keep them off combustible surfaces such as table cloths." Condray said many candles come in their own

room and not be there to

"holder," which may present their own kinds of danger.

"Some of the candles you can buy these days are inside glass jars and such," he said. "Some of them aren't exactly the best quality and they can get really hot, especially as the candle burns down, and fracture the glass or jar. We've seen quite a few cases like that.

"Some people also like to put table decorations around them, some of which are made from dry fabrics or actual dried leaves, which makes for an excellent wick to help the flame spread."

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 William C. "Bill" Bennett, 78, died Funeral Tuesday. Services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with bur-

Memorial Park. Judy Allen, 65, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 3:30 PM Friday at Trinity Memorial Park.

ial at Mt.

Gail residents to light star Friday, festivities set to begin at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

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

As they have for the past 13 years, members of this Borden County community will kick off the Christmas season Friday by turning on the lights to a star on the side of Gail Mountain.

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

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

"Some friends came to us to see if we thought we could have something like a star built on Gail Mountain," said Sarah

SMMC Relay team slates fundralser

Scenic Mountain
Medical Center Belay For
Life team is sponsoring
letters from Santa Claus
this year.
Santa is letter the hospital's team postmark let-

ters for \$5 each from the North Pole.

Proceeds from this fund-raiser go toward the Howard-Glasscock Relay For Life effort for the American 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 announced The courthouse will also

be the drop-off point for the community's "Toys Residents are encouraged to donate toys and other items suitable for children from toddler size up to teenagers.

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

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

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

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

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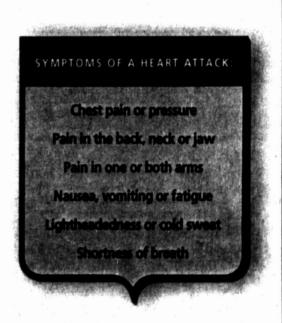




"Simply Beautiful Things"

If you think you're too young for a heart attack, here's some important news. You're not.

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SCENIC MOUNTAIN

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"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 in ficated.

> **Ronnie Cupstid** Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor **Bill McClellan News Editor**

OUR VIEWS

Our warmest Thanksgiving wishes to all this holiday

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

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

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

What is the Thanksgiving tradition? In reality, its tradition lies within each

of us, doesn't it?

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

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

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

Happy Thanksgiving.

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we smile today and say thank You, Lord, for our

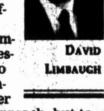
Amen

Addressing the elephant in the room

realize Democrats won the elections, but I believe the last thing the president. should do the next two years is retreat from his agenda or extend the hand of bipartisanship to liberal Democrats who will only bite it off to a nub anyway.

The elections are not a mandate for the Democrats' policy agenda,

because they didn't offer one. I tend to agree with the commentators who contend the elections were not a repudiation of conservative principles, but a referendum on the GOP's perceived competence. If so, the lesson should not be to tack toward the center, or radically alter



their ideological approach, but to govern more effectively.

I believe President Bush should govern proactively, not reactively, in his final two years, choosing a handful of issues and pressing forward boldly to promote them: extending the tax cuts, retaining the necessary tools to prosecute the war on terror, drastically reducing domestic spending, immigration reform (the GOP House version - I know that's wishful thinking), and Social Security reform - this time with a plan, not just an open-ended invitation for proposals. He cannot and must not expect good faith cooperation from Democrats, except the newly elected conservatives among them.

But to achieve meaningful progress on any of these issues, he first has to work toward restoring his credibility on Iraq, the oxygensucking elephant in the room. He cannot possibly lead effectively on Iraq without clearly communicat-

ing the options and the pros and cons of each.

We read that a Pentagon study on Iraq is going to tell us we have three options: more troops ("Go Big,)" fewer troops but stay longer ("Go Long"), or pull out ("Go Home"). We hear the Iraq Study Group has no magic bullets, but will recommend that we negotiate with the terrorist states of Iran and Syria. If true, we should take this commission's recommendations with pillars of salt.

What about the fourth option? It is not just Gen. John Abizaid who is saying that troop levels in Iraq are not the problem. Some commentators agree, but go further, saying that we are not fighting the war to win, but are allowing the Iraqi government to handcuff us in our conduct of the war and pursuit of certain enemy factions.

I think it's time the administration responded to these questions directly with detail and specificity, if for no other reason than to stop the idle speculation among doubters.

Are we really forcing our troops to fight with one hand tied behind their backs? If so, why? Is it because the administration believes that unleashing our forces will militate against Iraqi sovereignty? Even if so, isn't it time we reconsider the opportunity cost of such deference: that this war is dragging on longer than the American public is willing to tolerate?

Also, does the administration believe Iran and Syria are behind much of the terrorism and ethnic violence in Iraq? If so, how can we afford not to attack these "problems" directly? Or are we already?

Further, it might be helpful if the administration gave us a clearer picture of our desired end-game in Iraq. Isn't it true that we don't

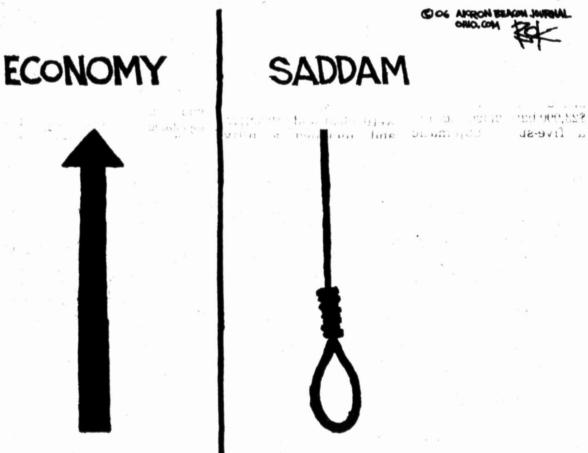
have to achieve anything close to a violence-free zone in Iraq in order to accomplish our mission and leave? Shouldn't our goal merely be to train the Iraqi troops to the point that they can furnish stability for a government preferably democratic — that is friendly to the United States and that will not allow itself to be a safe haven or training ground for international terrorism?

I happen to be among the apparent minority of people who still have confidence in President Bush and what he's trying to accomplish in Iraq. But unless he answers some of these questions, and others, it's doubtful that the American people's understanding of the situation will improve and their support for the mission will be rekindled.

To be sure, no matter what he says on the subject, Democrats will try to distort it and some Republicans will attack it, claiming superior knowledge to the generals in the field and superior wisdom to the politicians off the field. But the president won't have a fighting chance to sustain this battle if he doesn't do a better job of getting his message across.

This is not only necessary to advance the cause in Iraq and the war on terror, but to enable us to focus meaningfully on the other important issues facing our nation, none of which we can afford to place indefinitely on hold during this phase of the war. Not coincidentally, addressing the elephant in the room is also necessary to a much-needed resurgence of the GOP.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. COPYRIGHT 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



LAST GASP G.O.P. CAMPAIGN

Bidding a farewell to 'Rummy'

here's been so much in print about how Daddy 41's people are back in the saddle, I was terrified when I saw a photo of Dan Quayle among the pack. If they've called back Dan Quayle to lend intellectual heft, we're all dead ducks. Fortunately, it was just a file picture of Quayle with the old team.

It does seem that we may be going back to the typical modus operandi of Dubya. Poppy Bush has helped Junior out of the Vietnam War, his failures in the oil business and other efforts all of his "adult" life.



MOLLY IVINS

Unfortunately for us and for the world, the people from the first Bush administration who initially joined this administration were Dick Cheney and Don Rumsfeld. Not exactly the most diplomatic, forward-looking, helpful people to be guiding Dubya.

During the first Gulf War, Bush 41 and his administration knew what it would be like if they tried to take Baghdad — and opted not to go in. Now, the more sober-headed people from that administration are moving in to try to clean up the

mess Junior made in his Iraq excursion.

Meanwhile, let us bid farewell and adieu to Brother Donald Rumsfeld, who is so full of wisdom he does not seem to be able to apply

As a parting gift, here are some of his classic quotes:

1. "If you develop rules, never have more than 10."

2. "Don't think of yourself as indispensable or infallible. As Charles De Gaulle said, the cemeteries of the world are full of indispensable men."

3. "Needless to say, the president is correct. Whatever it was he said."

- 4. "I don't do quagmires." 5. "I don't do diplomacy."
- 6. "I don't do foreign policy." 7. "I don't do predictions."
- 8. "I don't do numbers." 9. "I don't do book reviews."
- 10. "Don't divide the world into 'them' and 'us.' Avoid infatuation with or resentment of the press, the Congress, rivals or opponents. Accept them as facts. They have

their jobs, and you have yours." 11. "Don't say, 'The White House wants.' Buildings can't want."

12. "If I know the answer, I'll tell you the answer. And if I don't, I'll just respond cleverly."

13. "I believe what I said yesterday. I don't know what I said, but I know what I think, and, well, I assume it's what I said.'

In fact, I'm rather going to miss Rumsfeld's Zen-like nuggets of wisdom, the most famous of which is probably about the known unknowns and the unknown unknowns:

"As we know, there are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know.

According to Newsweek, Air Force Secretary Jim Roche went to Rumsfeld early on and said, "Don, you do realize that Iraq could be another Vietnam."

Replied Rummy: "Vietnam? You think you have to tell me about Vietnam? Of course it won't be Vietnam. We are going to go in, overthrow Saddam, get out. That's

I don't know what happened to that excellent plan, but I would like to know who knew it was unknow-

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The F looks

BIG SPRING HERA Thursday, Nover

By MARK PHELAN **Detroit Free Press** DETROIT - The

some beauties s sistible you know get you into troub you fall for them a

Scarlett O'Hara Hemingway heroi Eminem's Kim mind.

Add the 2007 To Cruiser to the list. It's the best-le hippest, gone-dad coolest thing to ro a Toyota showroon the original 198 two-seat sports car

It's a good thir because if the FJ weren't such a livi it would be totally ferable. Riotously retro,

Cruiser compact rock-climbing eye It's hard to kee smiling from the i its two-tone paint and toy-truck shap into sight.

The SUV's styli rows heavily from classic 1960 FJ that helped make 7 global reputation value and depend but unfortunately, much of its ergono including limited ty and a crampe seat that would b ceptable in a c doesn't look so fan

Prices for the Cruiser start at \$2 a rear-wheel-drive with a five-speed a ic transmission. T expensive four drive FJ features speed manual **\$23,090** base price. a five-speed au raises the base

\$23,500. I tested a ver equipped FJ Cruis a sticker price of

A 4.0-liter V6 that produces 239 power and 278 po of torque is stan all models. The FJ Cruise

ladder-type truck because it was b serious offunlike "soft roade the Toyota RAV4 CRV and Hyunda

The FJ Cruises at citified little S that. It competes survivalists of th world - rugged i als like the Hum Jeep Wrangler Rover LR3 and Xterra.

The FJ Cruiser' where styling an structure make it in that pack, and and option prices competitive.

It competed equ after a week of on road driving.

On surface str highways, the FJ was reasonably q its rugged su proved quite bur rough road surfa brakes were a bi but the steering rate and the a transmission smoothly. Pow acceleration wer

I got a disap 16.2- mpg high economy on a mile round-tri Detroit to an offhowever. Tha below the 21 1 fuel economy rat

The FJ Crui formed extreme road, negotiati hills, soft sand a mud without The optional of running boar problematic, Hanging below

The FJ Cruiser's looks, toughness help mask flaws

By MARK PHELAN

Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — There are some beauties so irresistible you know they'll get you into trouble, but you fall for them anyway.

Scarlett O'Hara, any Hemingway heroine and Eminem's Kim come to mind.

Add the 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser to the list.

It's the best-looking, hippest, gone-daddy-gone coolest thing to roll out of a Toyota showroom since. the original 1985 MR2 two-seat sports car.

It's a good thing, too, because if the FJ Cruiser weren't such a living doll, it would be totally insufferable.

Riotously retro, the FJ Cruiser compact SUV is rock-climbing eye candy. It's hard to keep from smiling from the moment its two-tone paint scheme and toy-truck shape come into sight.

The SUV's styling borrows heavily from the classic 1960 FJ Cruiser that helped make Toyota's global reputation for value and dependability, but unfortunately, so does much of its ergonomics including limited visibility and a cramped backseat that would be unacceptable in a car that doesn't look so fantastic.

Prices for the 2007 FJ Cruiser start at \$21,910 for a rear-wheel-drive model with a five-speed automatic transmission. The least expensive four-wheeldrive FJ features a sixspeed manual and a \$23,090 base price. Adding a five-speed automatic raises the base price to \$23,500.

I tested a very wellequipped FJ Cruiser with a sticker price of \$28,954. A 4.0-liter V6 engine

that produces 239 horsepower and 278 pound-feet of torque is standard in all models. The FJ Cruiser has a

ladder-type truck frame, because it was built for off-roading, serious unlike "soft roaders" like the Toyota RAV4, Honda CRV and Hyundai Santa Fe.

The FJ Cruiser sneers at citified little SUVs like that. It competes with the survivalists of the truck world - rugged individuals like the Hummer H3, Jeep Wrangler, Land Rover LR3 and Nissan Xterra.

The FJ Cruiser's go-anywhere styling and rugged structure make it at home in that pack, and its base and option prices are very competitive.

It competed equally well after a week of on- and offroad driving.

On surface streets and highways, the FJ Cruiser was reasonably quiet, but its rugged suspension proved quite bumpy over rough road surfaces. The brakes were a bit touchy, but the steering was accurate and the automatic transmission shifted smoothly. Power and acceleration were fine.

I got a disappointing 16.2- mpg highway fuel economy on a 160-plus mile round-trip from Detroit to an off-road site, however. That's well below the 21 mpg EPA fuel economy rating.

The FJ Cruiser per-formed extremely well off road, negotiating steep hills, soft sand and sticky mud without difficulty. The optional cylindrical running boards were problematic, though. Hanging below the FJ's

frame, they were the SUV's lowest point, and they proved very bendable when one hit the dirt as the FJ crested a steep incline.

The FJ was capable enough that I only needed the optional locking rear differential once in several hours off road. The locking rear diff is part of a \$2,620- option package. A locking Torsen center differential is standard equipment on 4wd mod-

Four-wheel-drive FJs with manual transmissions have permanent 4wd. A switch in automatic models allows the driver to select rear-wheeldrive to reduce fuel consumption.

Standard safety equipment includes ABS and electronic stability con-

Curtain and front-seat side air bags are optional. The FJ I tested had both.

Some other features you might expect for \$28,954 were missing, however. There was no memory feature for the seats and mirrors. The windows in the rear suicide doors did not open. The pressed felt headliner was a cheapfeeling material most automakers have abandoned, and the optional floor mats slid around on the plastic floor.

Neither the headliner nor the rubbery floor covering fit particularly well.

There's plenty of headroom for front and rear seats, but rear legroom is poor.

The gauges, however, were clear and attractive and included a nifty optional compass and inclinometer. The switches and levers all have the precise feel and operation we expect from Toyota.

While the FJ looks wonderful from the outside, visibility from within is very limited. The short windshield makes it difficult to see traffic lights, and the narrow rear window and tailgate- mounted spare tire make parallel parking as much of an

The FJ I tested included the optional rear-object detection system. The ultrasonic safety aid was part of a \$1,840 option package, but it really should be standard in a vehicle with such limited sightlines.

adventure as off-roading.

"I cross my fingers every time I back out of a parking space," said a



The 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser 4x4

woman who stopped in a bookstore parking lot to compare notes with me.

Despite that flaw, she loved her FJ, and I'm with her. When something looks this good, you're willing to take your chances.

Just ask Rhett Butler or with audio and cruise con-Emin em.

2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser Vehicle type: Four-wheeldrive five-passenger compact SUV

Base price: \$23,500 As tested: \$28,954

Standard equipment: Antilock brakes, electronic stability control, electronic brake-force distribution, variable gear power steering, full-size tailgate-mounted spare, skid plate, tow hooks, mud flaps, eight-way adjustable driver seat, waterrepellent seats, fubber-like floor covering, 60/40 split rear seats with removable bottom cushion, power windows and locks, tilt steering wheel, passenger sun visor with mirror, rear defrost, four cup holders and two bottle holders, rear cargo tiedown hooks, passenger seat back pocket.

Options: Running boards, keyless entry, cruise control, power sideview mirrors with running lights, rear object

detection, rear wiper, daytime running lights, locking rear differential, exterior thermometer, compass, inclinometer gauge kit, 17-inch alloy wheels, AM/FM/CD with six-disc in-dash changer, 400-watt electrical inverter, leather steering wheel trols, silver tone shift lever, color-keyed door trim inserts, rear subwoofer, curtain and front-seat mounted side air bags, floor mats and cargo

Specifications as tested Engine: 4.0-liter DOHC 24-valve V6 Power: 239 horsepower at

5,200 rpm., 278 pound-feet of torque at 3,700 rpm. Transmission:

speed automatic Fuel economy: 17 mpg

city/21 mpg highway Wheelbase: 105.9 inches Length: 183.9 inches Width: 74.6 inches Height: 71.6 inches weight: 4,295 Curb

pounds

assembled: Where Hamura, Japan

Comparative base prices (Four-wheel-drive models with automatic transmission; not including destination charges)

Jeep Wrangler Unlimited X: \$24,015 Hummer H3: \$29,405

Land Rover LR3: \$38,285 Nissan Xterra S: \$25,150

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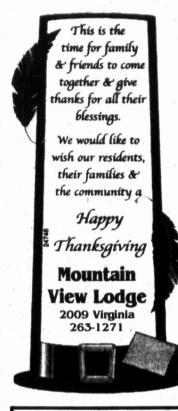
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Randy Cotton Pastor



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264-2600

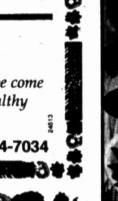


BASIN

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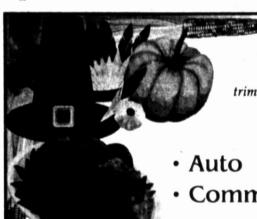
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Dr. Rudy Haddad

& Staff 1501 W. 11th Suite 103 (432) 714-4600



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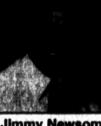
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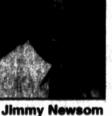
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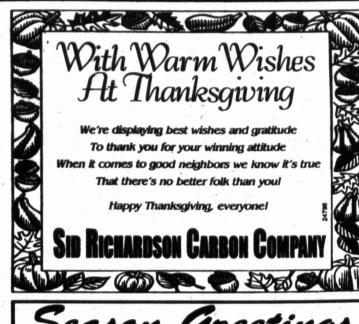
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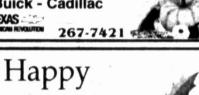
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Thanksgiving

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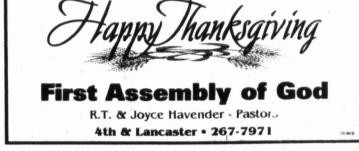
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Bio Spring Herald Thursday, Novemb

The a

turkey, a reason.

Mass e-mailers tradically bump up their act as the year winds down this year, the amount junk messages could unprecedented, compathat make spam-bustools say. And sender unsolicited ads are alrelebrating the close of harvest season and approach of Christmas.

People are in the

Frame of mind to clic unexpected e-mails, spammers are putting new, more effective techniques to work. The industry is in a king a in stagam, but there's not much to show for it, experts say.

"Just as

degitimate vendors be stocking their shelves holiday decor and before Halloween, simers started sending messages tailored to the iday gift-giving season for this year," said Ste Pao, vice president of fact management Barracuda Networks Mountain View, Comaker of security and processing their shell services with the security and security and security and security shell security and security and security and security shell security and security and security and security shell security and security shell security and security shell security and security shell security shell

In October, 63 billion messages were sent of on average, compared 31 billion a year ago, acting to data from Iron Systems. Another antispecialist. Messagel reports that 88.7 perceall e-mail sent in October and Sent and

That could add up huge pile of unwante predicts the number of spam sages will average 78 bit a day in December, up 38 billion last year.

Internet service prov

and antispam compare working hard to this onslaught of spam It's a game of cat mouse, and right now spammers are slip away, experts said. Antispam vendors are signing," said Na Lambert, an analyst Forrester Research. best vendors are able to about 98 percent of span Ithat still leaves 2 per that gets through, while a lot with the curincreasing spam levels added.

There's a holiday spike every year, be beople are more like ppen the messages, en said. Consumers are bing online more, are berate for gift ideas

> ODESS DISH Network

24

Committee States of Property of the Committee of the Comm

Picture by Michigan Tought could be such (432

Toxistonic Stylenia (432) Library (432)

The age of the spam cannon

addition to plenty of expect electurkey, a record amount of spam will be served up this holiday

Mass e-mailers traditionally bump up their activity as the year winds down. But this year, the amount of junk messages could be unprecedented, companies that make spam-busting tools say. And senders of unsolicited ads are already celebrating the close of the harvest season and the approach of Christmas.

People are in the right frame of mind to click on unexpected e-mails, and

Bpammers are putting more effective techniques to work. The industry is making pfforts against spam, but There's not much show for it.

THOMAS **JENKINS**

experts say. "Just as degitimate vendors began stocking their shelves with holiday decor and gifts pefore Halloween, spam-mers started sending spam-messages tailored to the holday gift-giving season earlier this year," said Stephen Pao, vice president of product management at Barracuda Networks, a

Mountain View, Calif., maker of security appliances. In October, 63 billion junk

messages were sent daily, on average, compared with 31 billion a year ago, according to data from IronPort Systems. Another antispam epecialist, MessageLabs, reports that 88.7 percent of all e-mail sent in October was unsolicited. That percentage is expected to rise To nearly 90 percent in November and December.

That could add up to a huge pile of unwanted ethe number of spam messages will average 78 billion a day in December, up from 38 billion last year.

Internet service providers nd antispam companies are working hard to fight this onslaught of spam. But It's a game of cat-andmouse, and right now, the spammers are slipping away, experts said. "The antispam vendors are strugsaid Natalie gling," Lambert, an analyst at Forrester Research. "The best vendors are able to stop about 98 percent of spam." That still leaves 2 percent that gets through, which is a lot with the current, increasing spam levels, she added.

There's a holiday spam spike every year, because people are more likely to ppen the messages, experts said. Consumers are shopping online more, are desperate for gift ideas and

greeting cards. Spammers exploit all of that by sending fake order confirmations and e-cards and, of course, suggesting their products as gifts. "People sell

fake Rolexes via spam email, and fake Rolexes make good holiday gifts," Pao said. 'We expect that the amount of overall holidayrelated spam to increase up to 50 percent during the week

Thanksgiving and continue through New Year's. It looks like this could turn out to be the largest, and longest, holiday spam season ever.'

There are a number of reasons for the rising tide of messages, experts say. For one, spammers are constantly looking for and finding new ways to reach unsuspecting people, said Miles Libbey, a product manager at Yahoo.

We continue to work tirelessly to make sure junk mail goes into the spam folder," he said. Yahoo, which operates one of the most popular free e-mail services, is using technology and collaborating with others to bust spam rings, Libbey said.

Technology advances are another driver. Spammers are using new tools to relay messages via networks of compromised, broadbandconnected PCs called bot-

That means lot of the messages in that glut are being sent via PCs owned by unsuspecting people, who are probably busy eating their turkey and ham while the e-mail is being sent out.

At the same time, the mass-mailers have found new ways to circumvent filters meant to weed out unwanted messages. It's a perfect storm for spammers. experts said.

'During October, we started to see unprecedented spam levels - much higher than we have seen in previous years.

This seems to be on the back of a Trojan that is much more robust," said Mark Sunner, a chief technology officer MessageLabs.

A lot of the messages are being delivered using the new Trojan horse, called 'SpamThru", which surfaced recently, Sunner said. Such malicious software typically gets onto Windows PCs via malicious Web sites or as an e-mail attachment disguised as something the user might want - a screen

for example. It may also creep onto a PC unbeknownst to the owner by exploiting a security hole.

"The technique is referred to as a spam cannon," Sunner said. "In a traditional botnet, the bot herder would connect to the network and send out spam messages one-by-one, kind of like a pea shooter. By contrast, SpamThru works like a mail merge."

SpamThru is unique because it uses peer-to-peer technology to share information with other compromised PCs.

That information includes details on the control server, spam templates and all the peers each compromised computer knows about, a researcher at security company SecureWorks said. The Trojan horse appears

to be the handiwork of Russian programmers, SecureWorks added. Researchers found evidence that about 73,000 computers in 166 countries are part of the SpamThru botnet, adding up to a mighty spam

At the same time, junk emailers have gotten better at tricking filters, experts said. The latest techniques rely on e-mails that are simple text or that carry only an image. In the pure text messages, key words are often misspelled to throw off filters. The image-based junk is tough to sift out, because many spam filters can't see what's in the

"Sophisticated spammers generally design and test their messages against the current spam definitions of popular spam filters." Pao

All that unsolicited e-mail

up a lot of bandwidth and can clog e-mail servers, not to mention inboxes. Last month, all the spam sent worldwide added up to 819 terabytes per day in data. compared with 275 terabytes a year ago, according to

IronPort's research.

"The problem is that spam filters, even very good ones, catch a certain percentage of the spam. Even if they catch 99 percent of the spam, 1 percent of a big number can still be a very big number," said Tom Gillis, senior vice president of worldwide marketing at IronPort in San Bruno, Calif.

The economic impact from time wasted deleting spam was estimated to be \$21.6 billion in 2004, according to the National Technology Readiness Survey, an annual survey conducted by Center for Excellence in Service at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business and Rockbridge "E-mail users are getting

very frustrated, and ISPs and enterprises are paying for a lot of bandwidth,' Forrester analyst Lambert

The continued increase in spam and the challenges of dealing with it suggest that Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates' prediction two years ago, that the spam problem would be solved by now, has not come true. "Spam is definitely a continuing problem," Lambert said.

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

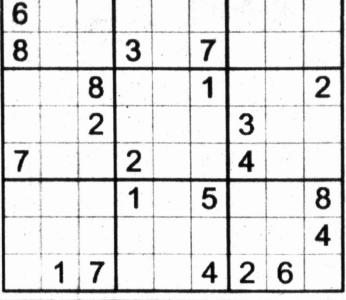
with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com 6 6 8 8

su do ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column

and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9





By Steve Becker

It's Almost Magic

South dealer. North-South vulnerable NORTH ◆Q 10 7 2 ♦ Q 10 8 ***Q**3 WEST EAST

♦ J 8 6 4 **911097** SOUTH ♠ A 5

East Pass

Pass Pass Opening lead — jack of hearts.

When declarer has to choose between two different methods of play, either of which might succeed

or fail depending on how the missing cards are divided, he usually does best by making the so-called percentage play.

Consider this deal where West eads a heart against seven diamonds.

At first glance it might seem best for

declarer to finesse the queen, because if he doesn't, he is apt to lose a spade trick and go down one.

There is theoretically an even

chance that West has the king of hearts (assuming we disregard the fact that West would be unlikely to lead a heart from the king against a grand slam).

But even if we assume there's a 50 the fact remains that there is another method of play that offers a much greater chance of success. It depends essentially on the trumps being divided 3-2, a 68 percent proposition.

the heart lead with the ace, ruff a heart high, lead the four of trumps to the eight and ruff another heart high. The nine of trumps is then led to the ten, and dummy's last heart is ruffed with South's last trump.

A low club to the queen now allows declarer to cash the queen of trumps - drawing the last opposing trump - while at the same time disposing of his spade loser. It is a little difficult to visualize at the beginning of play that South's spade loser will eventually be discarded on dummy's queen of diamonds, but that's the way things usually go in dummy reversal hands.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. C2006 King Features Syndicate Inc

The Living Christmas Tree



First United Methodist Church December 2nd & 3rd, 2006 8:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary **Dress Rehearsal Open To Public** Saturday, December 2nd at 2:00 P.M.

Tickets available in church office (Free) Limited Seating

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IN BRI

lowa accepts Al

Bowl bid invitate

Iowa accepted
Tuesday to play in Dec. 30 Alamo Bosan Antonio.

The Hawkeyes making their making their Alamo Bowl

ance, will face a opponent. In 2001, Iowa against Texas drew the second-crowd in Alamo

history. Youth basketba registration beg

Registration f YMCA Youth Bas League is availa boys and girls i through sixth gra The registration line is Friday, and the fee is

player. Practices will Dec. 11 and gam be held on Sat starting Jan. 13.

For more inforcontact the YM 267-8234.

Big Spring bask officials are nee

The Big Sprin ketball 0 Association is l

Association is for officials at the Anyone interest officiating the ring 2006-07 seas Junior High, Freand Sub-Varsity ball games shout that Adam Podrit tact Adam Rodri 517-0300 or 263-87

Youth basketba tournament upo

The Mid A Youth * Bas Winter Tourn covering seven st now taking a tions.

The local tournar available for a \$1 count package.
Anyone intereste participating contact MAYB a 284-0354 or mayb@mayb.com

Six-Man footbal playoff pairings

Garden City vs. Wellman-Un 2), 7 p.m. F Klondike.

Meadow (11-0) v Davis (9-1), 6 Friday, Crane, Happy (9-1) vs. 0), 7:30 p.m. The Floydada.

Paducah (8-3 Throckmorton, 7 Friday, Aspermo Newcastle Trinidad, 7:30 Friday, Hico. Strawn vs. Blu p.m. Thursday,

Star. May (10-0) Richland Spring

7:30 p.m. Comanche. Santa Anna (Calvert (10-1), 7;

7:30 p.m. otton Cent amnorwood (6-m. Friday, Silver Region III and P Vernon Northsio Apple Springs Iday, Avalon. Woodson (7-Illord, 7:30 p.m.

lowa accepts Alamo Bowl bid invitation

Iowa accepted a bid Tuesday to play in the Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl in

San Antonio.

The Hawkeyes (6-6), making their third Alamo Bowl appearance, will face a Big 12 opponent.

In 2001, Iowa's win against Texas Tech drew the second-largest crowd in Alamo Bowl history.

Youth basketball registration begins

Registration for the YMCA Youth Basketball League is available for boys and girls in first through sixth grade.

The registration dead-line 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 basketball officials are needed

The Big Spring basketball Officials 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 con-

tact Adam Rodriguez at

Youth basketball tournament update

517-0300 or 263-8731.

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

Garden City (10-0) vs. Wellman-Union (9-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Klondike.

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 Trinidad, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Hico.

Strawn vs. Blum, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Rising

(10-0) Richland Springs (10-0). :30 p.m.

Santa Anna (8-2) vs. alvert (10-1), 7:30 p.m. riday, Gatesville. Dell City vs. Borden

unty (7-4), 6:30 p.m. anderson vs. Jaytor 30 p.m. Friday

nnell Field, Lenorah. Vhitharral vs. Lefors (7 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Center mnorwood (6-5), 7:30 i. Friday, Silverton. egion III and Region IV ernon Northside (10-1)

Apple Springs, 1 p.m. lay, Avalon. on (7-4) ord, 7:30 p.m. Frida

Bearkats set to battle Wildcats in playoff action

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor The Garden City Bearkats are a team that likes to mix the run with the pass, and Friday night at Klondike Stadium — when the Bearkats take on No. 14 ranked Wellman Union (9-2) at 7 p.m. you can mortgage the turkey, dressing and house that they will use the same game plan that led them to 10 wins this season.

After running the table and completing the regular season without a loss, the Bearkats (10-0) were ranked No. 1 in the state for six-man football and were granted a bye in the first round of playoff action.

However, they received a rude surprise when the new rankings were made public this week. The 'Kats were dropped to No. 2 behind Meadow High School, but that's just fine with head coach Vance Jones.

"That got the monkey off our back," said a laughing Jones, as he tried to explain the reasoning behind the rankings. "I think it's because of a few percentage points that we lost by not having played that extra playoff game last week. To tell the truth ... those rankings don't mean a thing to me until the end of the year. That's when we want to be No. 1."

Still, that is probably not good news for the Wildcats this week. Wellman Union has climbed

the state rankings by running the football and controlling the clock. Early in the season the



Garden City's Bo Eggemeyer breaks tackles on his way to another big gain. This year the Bearkats finshed the regulars season 10-0. The Bearkats play Friday night in the teams first playoff game of the season when they challenge the Wellman Union Wildcats at 7p.m. in Klondike. Wildcats lost their starting run-To counter the Wildcats' continue this Friday night."

ning back to a shoulder separation, but he has returned and according to Jones, he looked as healthy as he could be in the Wildcats win last week.

"The back they have is quick and strong," Jones stressed. The linebacker/nose guard is a 6-foot-4 and 215-pound kid. He's good and really applies a lot of pressure on opposing offenses. They're not a very high-scoring team, but they are really good at grinding it out and keeping the clock running."

attack, the Bearkats have some pretty strong talent to lean on specifically, Garden City's own running back, Bo Eggemeyer, who has rushed for more than 200 yards in each of the last four games.

"We're definitely going to get the ball to Bo Eggemeyer," Jones added. "Jared Bradford is also expected to play well from the wingback position and he is also our second leading receiver on the team. He does a really good job for us and I expect that to

Once the ground games gets going, expect to see some big some plays through the air. Despite the Wildcats' attempt to slow the football game down and control the clock, the coaching staff at Garden City is expecting a typical night of work for the

"Anything can happen when you get in a ball game, especially at this time of the year," Jones admitted. "But if we play like we have all year then I'm expecting us to win Friday night.

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) has his eye on defenders as he races to the end zone in the third quarter against Arizona. The Cowboys defeated the Cardinals, 27-

T.O. not sending McNabb condolence

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer IRVING - Donovan McNabb shouldn't expect

a "Get well soon" text message from Terrell Owens.

not," "Absolutely

Owens said Tuesday. But, T.O., don't you remember McNabb sending you one following your reported suicide attempt that turned out to be an accidental overdose?

"I'm not even going there, dude," Owens said, laughing and shaking his head. "I wouldn't even make up a story like that. It's not even worth it. Just not even worth it."

Although McNabb has said he reached out to Owens following his brief hospital stint September, Owens has maintained he never received anything from McNabb.

The mix-up or media ploy-depending on whose

side you're on- only added to the bitter feelings between the former Philadelphia teammates whose friendship dissolved oh-so-publicly.

And now that it's McNabb in need of a pickme-up following a torn knee ligament, it won't be coming from Owens- even if the receiver is now a children's author with an upcoming book possibly to be titled "Little T Learns To Say I'm Sorry." His first book for kids, "Little T Learns To Share," was released last week.

On Thursday, he might line up against another children's author, Tampa Bay cornerback Ronde Barber.

The Cowboys (6-4) and Buccaneers (3-7) meet at Texas Stadium in a Thanksgiving matchup lacking some sizzle. Owens, however, is already looking forward

See TO, Page 2B

Mich. Stadium hosts Bo Schembechler's life

By LARRY LAGE

10, on Sunday Nov. 12.

AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. -A football was nowhere to be found, though that didn't stop about 15,000 people from sitting in Michigan Stadium to honor Bo Schembechler on Tuesday.

Michigan football greats from Desmond Howard to Dan Dierdorf passed through the tunnel and onto the field and many former players jumped to slap the "GO BLUE" banner as they did when they played.

Many that never met Schembechler showed up, too, in a fitting venue for the tribute.

"On a cold November day in this great, old stadium, there's no game today," Wolverines coach Lloyd Carr said. "But all of you are here because of what he was."

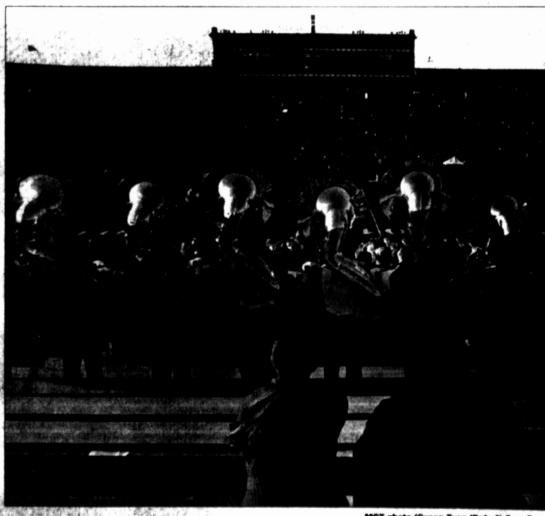
Several speakers recounted stories about the fiery coach, who also had a sense of humor, from a stage that was set up along the sideline that Schembechler roamed from 1969-89.

The crowd that filled many of the rows between the end zones on one side of the storied stadium often laughed at the anecdotes shared by university officials, former players, assistants and coaching colleagues.

But there were also reminders that this was a memorial as much as a celebration about a man who died Friday at 77, ending a long battle with heart disease and diabetes, the day before his beloved Michigan was beaten by rival Ohio State

Former running back

See COACH, Page 2B



hing band performs at a memorial for Bo Sch

Outland Trophy finalists announced

Virginia center Dan Mozes, Wisconsin offensive tackle Joe Thomas and Texas offensive lineman Justin Blalock are the finalists for the Outland Trophy, given to the best interior lineman in college football.

Blalock, a 6-foot-4, 329pound senior, hasn't allowed a sack in 26 games. He had started 44 straight games at right tackle, but moved to right guard for the last five games because an injury to a teammate. He is the Longhorns best lineman on the what is considered

West to be one of the best offen- leader of this unit, but is sive units in college football.

> Thomas, a 6-8, 306pound senior, has 33 starts in 42 games for the Badgers. This season, he helped clear the way for freshman standout P.J. Hill, who has 1,533 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns. He is regarded as the best offensive lineman to ever come out of Wisconsin.

6-4, 290-pound The Mozes is a four-year the starter for Mountaineers, who rank second in the country in rushing offense. He is the

considered the long-shot for the award.

The University of West Virginia and University of Wisconsin have never had an Outland winner, while Texas is looking for its fourth winner and first since 1977.

All three players are unanimus all conference performers and all three anchor the line on teams ranked in the top 25 this season.

The finalists were announced Tuesday and the winner will be announced in Houston on Dec. 7.

Continued from 1B

to putting on a show in his first time playing on the holiday.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it," he said. "Any time that spotlight is available, I'm going to try to stick my head in it, try to get some of it."

Considering already added to his resume of touchdown celebrations by using the football as a pillow, don't be surprised if he gets to the end zone and pretends to carve a turkey or does some sort of re-enactment of the pilgrims Plymouth Rock.

"I got some things up my sleeve," Owens said. something got planned."

Owens is in a good mood these days because Dallas has won two games in a row and three of four since Tony Romo replaced Drew Bledsoe as the starting quarterback. Better yet for Owens, Romo looks for No. 81 far more than Bledsoe did.

"He's been a great key for us," Owens said. "The things that he does, as far as escaping the rush and moving around in the pocket a little bit, it's helped us sustain some drives. Obviously his presence has been felt back there."

their With Romo-

on Nov. 4 — the last time

Schembechler watched a

Michigan game in person.

It carried the message:

"RIP Bo Thanks Terry

and Mike" written on it

A private funeral was

held Monday and hun-

dreds of mourners filed

past Schembechler's cas-

ket Sunday at an Ann

Arbor church, paving the

way for the masses to say

goodbye at Michigan

Stadium.

with a black marker.

infused push, Cowboys have even moved into a tie for first place in the NFC East with the New York Giants losing Monday night. Dallas is among a pack of teams with six wins, second-best in the confer-

"We're not riding a wave yet," Owens said. "They're crashing on the shore, so we'll get on it sooner or later.'

How about Romo? Is he riding a wave- such as the talk of the quarterback pursuing singer Jessica Simpson, gossip that Owens stoked by saying on his radio show last week, "Maybe we can double date and I can go out with Ashlee."

"I just wanted to come out and give my respects to the greatest coach who ever lived," said Tom Catterall, 51, of Ypsilanti. "He was revered as a coach separate from the University of Michigan and as a man. I thought a man like this — the only way to honor him was to come out on a cold day like this and pay my

COACH

Continued from 1B

Jamie Morris paused to regain his composure from the podium and Schembechler's Shemy, broke down a few times while making his comments toward the end of the 2 1/2-hour event. When "A Celebration of Bo's Life" closed with highlights from Schembechler's career on the video boards, his wife, Cathy, covered her face

with her hands and wept. It was like a football Saturday in Ann Arbor, except it was a different day of the week and those sitting in the Big House were mourning Schembechler instead of cheering for him.

The band pounded out the famous fight song "The Victors" and the national anthem preceded the afternoon event.

"He told me many times, 'Football should be played in the afternoons," recalled Jim Brandstatter, a former player and the master of ceremonies. "He would not stand for a 3:30 start or an 8 o'clock start. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, toe meets leather at 1:14 exactly."

Most of the speakers made some reference to Schembechler being a "Michigan man" and Carr recalled a story that perhaps best illustrated that moniker.

Schembechler had a staff meeting at his house in the early 1980s, when Texas A&M made him an offer to be the highestpaid coach in college football, and he wanted to know what his assistants thought about the opportunity.

"The staff was divided about whether to go and whether to stay," Carr recalled. "At the end of the meeting, with a tear

in his eye and a crack in his voice, he said, 'Yes, but you don't have to tell those players you're leav-

ing." The day before he died, Schembechler addressed the current Wolverines.

"He told our team, You're going to go out and do a lot of great things in your life, but you are never going to have the great experiences you've had at Michigan," Carr recalled.

Schembechler coached at Michigan for two decades, ending his career with 194 wins at what is college football's winningest program. His career record was 234-65-8, including six seasons at Miami of Ohio, and had all of that success without even rumors of NCAA infractions.

"His integrity was larger than this stadium, and it shaped all that he was," university President Mary Sue Coleman said. Schembechler's son. Shemy, was the last

speaker of the day.

After he arrived at the podium, he reached inside his overcoat and put on a blue Michigan baseball cap with a yellow block 'M' — his dad's signature hat — to loud applause from the audi-

"I got coached on an individual basis by my father." he said to laughs.

The venue's main gates at Stadium and Main were adorned with maize and blue balloons and pieces of paper with messages such as: "We will miss you.'

where the football team from the Ball State game

practices Schembechler kept an office down the hall from Carr and the current coaches — a shrine stood as a testament to what he meant to so many in this college town and beyond.

A No. 7 blue jersey was stuck to the frosted ground next to a No. 12 white jersey and in between the Michigan hat Schembechler made famous.

Football-shaped balloons were taped on the Schembechler Hall sign and in front of it, a white candle flickered. Someone At Schembechler Hall - also had left a ticket stub

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BIG SPRING HER Thursday, Nove

By DAVID PO McClatchy Nev The chec

champion ha Racin's rank NASCAR N teams' perfo **Jimmie** 48 team championsh

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3 Kevin H doubled Nextel Cup **Busch Serie** Harvick as o Preseason ra a surprise in prised every

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most important offs decades. Between the end and the start of 200 sport was adjusting as its new title spor the Chase for the N format. There's me

Less than two n Nextel Cup cars w for testing at Dayto Toyotas will be am will be preparing for **NASCAR** broadca will be hard at wor "car of tomorrow" the spring race at I

on now than then.

The reason all t NASCAR has to g As the 2006 sea most people want

"Yeah, it's been a long time and a lot of water under the bridge. We've done a lot together and nothing will ever change

Mark Martin, on racing his final race for car owner

Jack Roush. After 19 years with Roush, Martin will race a partial Nextel Cup schedule with MB2 Motorsports in 2007.

leams supreme

Go online and check out www.thatsracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily

Ranking the top racing teams, drivers of 2006

By David Poole McClatchy Newspapers

The checkered flag has waved and a new champion has been crowned. Here is That's Racin's ranking of the top teams for the NASCAR Nextel Cup season, based on the teams' performances in 2006.

Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): The No. 48 team has been building toward a championship since the day the doors opened five years ago. Clearly the best team all season, so once again the system worked. Preseason ranking: 3.

Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Held on to second in the final standings despite sputtering down the stretch. Kenseth and crew chief Robbie Reiser still bring out the best in one another. Preseason ranking: 7.

Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Harvick doubled his career victory total in Nextel Cup and won nine more races in the Busch Series in a season that re-established Harvick as one of NASCAR's top stars. Preseason ranking: 17.

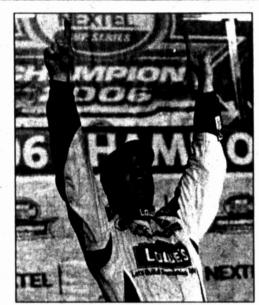
Denny Hamlin (car No. 11): We said in the preseason rankings he could pull off a surprise in the rookie race. He did, and surprised everyone by finishing third in the final overall standings as well. Preseason ranking:

Tony Stewart (car No. 20): No question the defending championship team's failure to make the Chase is one of the season's most surprising (not to mention most perplexing) stories. Preseason ranking: 1.

6 Rasey Kanne (car 110. s). leads the Cup circuit for the season. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Six victories Team still has plenty of upside, too. Preseason ranking: 16.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): A solid rebound after a lost 2005 season. Now the task is to keep moving forward. Preseason ranking: 12.

Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): This team is still not all the way back to where it was Preseason ranking: 6.



Jimmie Johnson celebrates his 2006 Nextel Cup championship, the first of his career.

Jeff Burton (car No. 31): The reason 9 Jeff Burton (car No. 31). The reason this team could keep getting better is that Burton and his team aren't satisfied. Preseason ranking: 21.

Mark Martin (car No. 6): It will be 10 Mark Martin (car its. 5, 200 extremely interesting to see how Martin adjusts to his parttime ride in 2007. Preseason ranking: 5.

Kyle Busch (car No. 5): This team had absolutely no luck during the Chase, but deserves some kudos for getting there in the first place. Preseason ranking: 9.

Greg Biffle (car No. 16): Three straight wins at Homestead. Biffle gets new crew chief Pat Tryson for 2007. Preseason ranking: 2.

Carl Edwards (car No. 99): We'll say right now that 2007 season will be more like 2005 for this team than 2006. Preseason ranking: 4.

Brian Vickers (car No. 25): Vickers moves on to Toyota's Red Bull team, while this team turns to Case Preseason ranking: 18.

15 Kurt Busch (car No. 2): Things will change at Penske South this offseason. Busch hopes they'll be good ones. Preseason ranking: 11.

16 Clint Bowyer (car No. 07): This team showed promise at times this season and figures to improve in second year. Preseason ranking: 25.

17 Casey Mears (car No. 42): It will be interesting to see if his move into a Hendrick ride gives him a launching pad. Preseason ranking: 14.

18 Ryan Newman (car No. 12): This team had probably the biggest gap between expectations and results on the circuit this season. Preseason ranking: 8.

19 Martin Truex Jr. (car No. 1): Close to picking off his first victory at Homestead. May be a team to watch in 2007. Preseason ranking: 20.

20 Bobby Labonte (car No. 43): This team moved a long way back toward being competitive but still has a way to go. Preseason ranking: 23.

Scott Riggs (car No. 10): Outstanding job to come back to top-20 points finish after missing the 2006 Daytona 500 field. Preseason ranking: 26.

22 Elliott Sadler (car No. 19): The team started year with started year with Jeremy Mayfield as driver and much higher hopes than it finished with. Preseason ranking: 10.

Reed Sorenson (car No. 41): You must keep reminding yourself just how young Sorenson is. There is great potential here. Preseason ranking: 24.

24 Jeff Green (car No. 66): This is a single-car team that's expanding facilities and aims to grow. That's imperative for survival. Preseason ranking: 32.

25 Joe Nemechek (car No. 01):
Nemechek will start 2007 without a points safety net as part of the new MB2 Motorsports structure. Preseason ranking: 22,

For the rest of the season rankings, go online and visit ww.thatsracin.com.

POLL POSITION

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Team owner Rick Hendrick is shooting for win No. 150 and a Nextel Cup championship on Sunday. How do you think that will go?

Number of votes: 6,082

Response	No. of votes	Percent
He'll get the title, but not the win.	3,151	52%
He'll get neither. He'll get them both.	1,714 1,091	28% 18%
He'll get the win, but not	126	2%

Editor's note: There will be no Poll Position estion for the next two weeks.

STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS

■ Denny Hamlin should go find Carl Edwards this week and have a long conversation with him about handling what's going to come Hamlin's way after a tremendous rookie season. Edwards technically wasn't a rookie last year, but it was his first full year in the series

Hamlin

and he finished third in the standings. Hamlin matched that this year. That's not to say Hamlin will struggle next year the way Edwards did this year, but certainly there are things he could learn from the pitfalls Edwards has encountered.

■ Jimmle Johnson is the 28th different driver to win the Cup championship. He's the seventh different champion in the past eight years. Only Tony Stewart, the 2002 and 2005 champion, has one more than one title since 1999.

— David Poole

BY THE NUMBERS

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ott Wimmer 1812		8 Ryan Newman.
remy Mayfield . 168		
vin Lepage134	Scott Riggs3619	0 Scott Riggs
•	9 Martin Truex Jr 3673	9 Martin Truex.Jr. 10 Scott Fliggs

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver Points
1 Kevin Harvick	5848	11 Kenny Wallace3626
1 Kevin Harvick 2 Carl Edwards	4824	12 John Andretti 3562
3 Clint Bowyer.	4683	13 Jason Leffler3554
4 Denny Hamlin	4667	14 Jon Wood 3381
5 J.J. Yeley	4487	15 Ashton Lewis 3376
6 Paul Menard.	4075	16 Stacy Compton 3339
7 Kyle Busch	CO. 2005 SOURCE SECTION (CV.) 1	17 Todd Kluever 3304
8 Johnny Sauter	120 KINDS TO SEE SHIP	18 Matt Kenseth 3221
9 Greg Biffle		19 Danny O'Quinn Jr.3163
10 Reed Screnes	in 3670	20 Regan Smith 3136
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The top-1	0 drivers	of the 2006 season:
Renk/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver Points
1. Todd Bodine.	3666	6 Ted Musgrave 3314
2 Johnny Bened	on 3539	7 Ron Homaday 3313
3 David Reutim	ann. 3530	8 Terry Cook 3265
4 David Starr	3355	9 Flick Crawford 3252
5 Jack Spregue		10 Mike Skinner 3219

Offseason will prove to be critical for NASCAR's future cal because NASCAR has put so much how Johnson surged in

W ith Jimmie Johnson crowned the 2006 Nextel Cup champion, NASCAR heads into its most important offseason in decades.

Between the end of 2003 and the start of 2004, the sport was adjusting to Nextel as its new title sponsor and the Chase for the Nextel Cup format. There's more going on now than then.

Less than two months from now, Nextel Cup cars will take to the track for testing at Daytona. When they do, Toyotas will be among them. ESPN will be preparing for its return to NASCAR broadcasting, and Cup teams will be hard at work trying to get their "car of tomorrow" fleet ready to roll at the spring race at Bristol.

The reason all that is so important is NASCAR has to get it all right. As the 2006 season closes, the story

most people want to talk about is not



is experiencing. Television ratings have flattened out or dipped, and empty grandstand seats at tracks like Dover, Texas and Lowe's Motor Speedway

the final half of the Chase

to take command and win

car owner Rick Hendrick.

No, the buzz around

the sport, for the first time

in a long time, is negative,

business "lull" NASCAR

as everybody wants to

discuss the perceived

a sixth championship for

have not gone unnoticed. NASCAR officials have tried to wave off concern, seeing this as a shortrange quirk amid continuing long-term growth, akin to a one-day blip in a bull market on Wall Street.

To some degree, they're right. NASCAR isn't falling apart, as some might have you believe. The sky is not falling and there's nothing wrong

with the Nextel Cup circuit that a few side-by-side finishes and good old-fashioned rivalries couldn't fix. At the same time, though, NASCAR

and its "partners" should be concerned about an abiding attitude that the sport has lost sight of some things that used to be its strengths. Foremost, NASCAR needs to

remember that fans who get up from their TV remotes and actually spend the time, money and effort to come to the track do it to see drivers compete and

The championship needs to be part of the sport's picture, but I have been saying for years it has become too much of that picture. That goes back to changes in the points structure that apparently will be announced in January, and if those changes don't adjust more of the focus onto who wins each race, then they will be made in

The "car of tomorrow," scheduled to be used in 16 races next season, is criti-

time into developing the vehicle and because it is asking its teams to invest so much money in converting to them.

It will take time for teams to work through the changes the taller, wider car will bring, but during the course of the next two seasons, it's vital that the new car begins to yield competitive benefits. It's also vital that NASCAR and the teams find a way to make the inspection and approval process fair and efficient so everyone gets the same opportunity to compete where the car is used.

ESPN will help NASCAR on the television front, but if the racing isn't any good, there's only so much television bells and whistles can do. Toyota's arrival provides opportuni-

ties and challenges. Some people in the garage will tell

you Toyota plans to come in, take over the sport competitively and then go down the road somewhere else like a swarm of destructive locusts. What they don't say is what Toyota would gain

from that, or what NASCAR's motivation could possibly be in allowing it to happen. What's interesting is that some of

the same people also will tell you they don't see how Toyota's teams will be able to make races with the new cars and engines and with the driver roster they have assembled.

We'll also have to see how things work out with 47 or 48 fully funded teams scheduled to run full schedules next year. A few years ago, people were worried about how the sport was going to have enough cars to fill out 43car fields.

By the time Johnson and his team celebrate their championship in New York City on Dec. 1, every one of the sport's good teams will be well on its way toward being ready for 2007. Those who don't will be left behind once a new season starts. This offseason, more than ever, that holds true for NASCAR, too.

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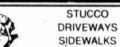
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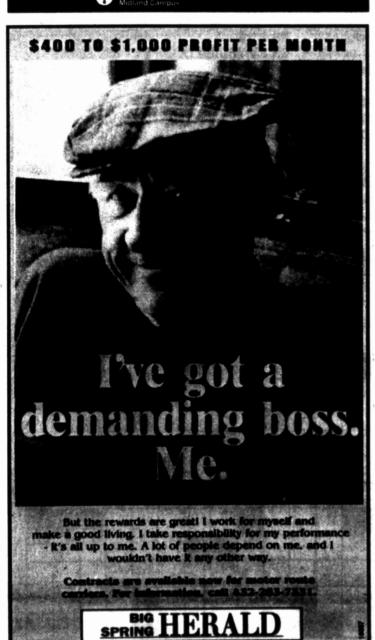
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Miscellaneous

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

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarious. 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.

FRESH CROP of pecans. \$2.50 lb. (432)263-8785.

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. 432-349-4043.

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

SOFT MICROFIBER sofa and loveseat with coffee tables. BRAND NEW condition. \$499. Call 806-549-3110.

On the Farm

2006 HIGH quality hay grazer. 4x6 round bales in St. Lowrence area. Will load. Volume discounts. Jimmy Strube, 432-270-0381 or 397-2381

WANTED: LAND to lease for cattle, grazing. Any size acreconsidered. (432)213-1182.

Pets

FOUR MIXED breed puppies to give away to good homes. Parents on property. Call (432)264-6415.

Real Estate for Rent

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 loca-References. (432)213-2319, 267-8787.

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. OFFICE SPACE for rent in pro-

fessional building. Great location. Very affordable rates. Water paid. 1510 Scurry. Call (432) 816-6316.

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. Coa-School District. \$147,000.00. Will pay \$3,000 towards closing (432)264-8944, 263-8254.

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

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

BARCELONA APARTMENTS IOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.

263-1252

1-866-265-4104

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS On this day of gratefulness and thanksgiving, the planet of bounty

scoots into the expansive realm of Sagittarius, which is, by the way, his homeland. Talk about loosening your belt after dinner. A jolly old

MATHIS time is indicated. in : which too much seems to be not enough while it's happening and way more than

HOLIDAY

enough after the fact. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not everything falls into place the way you want it to. Still, you find much to be grateful for. When enough of your circumstances are to your

Real Estate for Sale

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

711 N. Tubb Rd. Three bedroom, two bath, one acre, water well, remodeled. \$32,000. Call (432)213-4460.

NEW HOUSE: 517 Foster Ave. (Coahoma), 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, study, custom cabinets, jacuzzi tub master bath, large closets, large utility, stained concrete floors through out, approx. 2400 sq. ft. Call

(432)517-0515, 517-0604.

OWNER ANXIOUS - 10 acres with office building & warehouse. Prime location N. Hwy. 87. Could be used for Oil Field Office or Construction yard. Home Realtors (432)263-1284. SMALL PARTIAL land for

sale. 5 miles south of Big. Spring & 1 1/2 miles west of Coahoma. Owner will Finance Veterans. Texas (432)263-8785.

Vehicles

(2) New 2005 7 Passenger Vans ₹*9,500 Off! **Bob** Brock Ford

1992 FORD van. 113,000 excellent condition. miles. \$4,500.00. See at 2607 Rebecca, (432) 263-3367.

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, Anniversary Edition \$12,500. Call 432-268-1840 or 213-0381.

BEAUTIFUL 1998 Lincoln Navigator. Ready for a new home. 1209 E. 4th St. Call (432)213-0426 for a test drive.

su do ku Puzzies by Pappocom **ANSWERS**

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9	1	7	8	3	4	2	6	5

Legals Advertisement for Sealed Proposals

The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting proposals for the following: RFB# 07-002 **Howard College Dorm**

Wireless Internet Installation

Documents may be obtained from Chris Olson, Purchaser, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2006, in the Administrative Annex, room A-2, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning the proposals submit-ted. The final determination of proposal award will be made at a fu-

ture board meeting All questions should be directed to Chris Olson, Purchaser, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail colson@howardcollege.edu. (432)264-5167. Howard College lunior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #5165 November 23 & 30, 2006

liking, your contentment grows into something

truly exciting. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There is no one proper way to celebrate something that makes you happy. There are any number of ways, and you experiment with at least three now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No matter what your task is, you deliver it with sprinkles and a cherry on top. Giving more than is expected of you is turning into a hobby — a lucky hobby at that.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your family life isn't perfect. But you decide you're going to call it "perfect" today, and things work out pretty darn well. Continue to practice relentless acceptance and tireless striving for understanding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The elements seem to be for you, then against you, then for you again. Whatever happens, you'll make the most of it. In light, you see the way. In dark, you see the stars.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Those who just haven't been on your wavelength in the past now start to click in. It's nice to be understood. Tonight, there is no happiness in getting, but you give gleefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Assumption can get you into trouble. Ask loved ones what they expect of you. Don't worry if it's more than you wanted to deliver. With a small push, you can create miracles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't need a special day to talk about what you're grateful for lately you've been doing this all the time. And you can be sure that others are grateful for

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're getting along fabulously with your family. Now, if they would only get along with each other. Any peaceful action you take touches a chord that will vibrate

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may require a last-minute rescue. This endears you to your "hero." Don't worry so much about the score. You'll likely wind up "paying it forward" instead of reciprocating with the person who

helped you. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People around you who thrive on conflict may try to drag you into it. Though you could "take 'em," there's simply no time to waste - and very little that's important enough to argue about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be in a tricky social situation, which can be made comfortable with more interaction on your part. So speak up! Exert yourself. You're self-assured and powerful. **CELEBRITY** PRO-

FILES: Pouty "Grey's princess Anatomy" Katherine Heigl is an adventurous Sagittarian. Even though she and her fellow "Anatomy" costars are currently No. 1 in the ratings, Heigl's ambitions won't let her be content until she achieves movie stardom. She'll see this in 2007 when the Judd Apatow comedy "Knocked Up" hits the big screens and heats up the box office.

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.

• 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

VOI	LIME	102	

Unit

By STEVE REAG

Staff Writer With the 2007 campaign deep stages, officials that its goal

reached. The local UW and Howard Co still about \$50,0 stated goal of many large con yet to be heard fi **Director Cynthia** And the reall





Friends Gwen Wa at Beall's in Big season.

U.S. reas

By HANNAH ALL

McClatchy News **AL-TAJI CAM**

For American serving in the gerous place Thanksgiving gratitude for li sures: an autu mailed from hor note in an e-ma

the taste of pum The dining ha outpost in cen were Thursday into shelter from the raged outside. were bedecke

streamers in fal hues, chow lin flowed with tu

INDEX

Classified **Features**

Obituaries

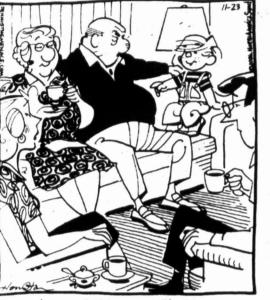
Opinion

Sports To reach us

Please call 263a.m. to 5 p.m. If you miss you 263-7335 befor noon Sunday.

	THURSDAY																					
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r	- 3	M Ne	ews (CC)	News	Heridas de	King of the Hill	News	Movie: Su	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	Shouldn't Be			The Closer		Ruff (CC)			Eureka (CC)	
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-	4			Grey's	Mundo de		CSI: Crime	Movie: El		Friends (CC)	Light of the	Great	I Shouldn't Be		TNA iMPACT!	Law & Order		Homecoming	Classic	Boston College	Eureka (CC)	
-	8			Anatomy	Fieras		Scene Invstgtn.	Senor Doctor		Friends (CC)	Southwest	Performances	Alive (CC)		(CC)	(CC) (DVS)		Warrior	College	at Miami		
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-				News	Primer Impacto	'70s Show	News	Noticias	News	(CC)	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	I Shouldn't Be	(CC)	SportsFan	Law & Order		Movie (CC)	Classic	SportsCenter	Eureka (CC)	
	10				Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Late Show-	Titulares y Mas	Tonight Show		Healing	(CC)	Alive (CC)			(CC) (DVS)			Quarterfinal	(CC)		
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\vdash				Extra (CC)	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids	Show		Conan O'Brien	1/3: The Final	Update/Israel		I Shouldn't Be	12:15 Movie:	to Kill	The X-Files	BET After Dark	Proud Family	Great Alaska	(CC)	Eureka (CC)	
	12		, ,	Apex Media		Malcolm-Mid.	The Insider	Pagado	Apex	Insult (CC)	John Hagee		Alive (CC)	Halloween		(CC)	(CC)	Sister, Sister	Shootout	SportsCenter		

DENNIS THE MENACE



.. AND I'LL BET MR. WILSON IS THANKFUL HE HAS A BIG TUMMY TO HOLD ALLTHAT FOOD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



'Mmm! What I like best is this bread the turkey ate!"

COME ON, KID, I'LL BUY

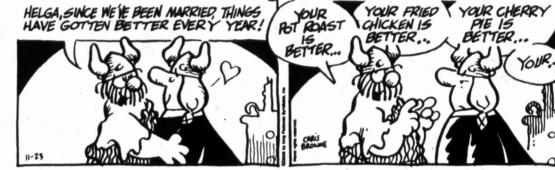
YOU A BACON, LETTUCE

AND FROG SANDWICH.

GOBBLE

GOBBLE

HAGAR



BLONDIE





earthquakes that devastated

In 1985, retired CIA ana-

lyst Larry Wu-tai Chin was arrested and accused of spy-

ing for China. (He committed suicide a year after his

Ten years ago: A hijacked

Ethiopian Airlines Boeing

767 crashed into the waves

off Comoros Islands, killing

125 of the 175 people on

board. Forty-four people

Five years ago: An Israeli

helicopter fired two missiles

at a van in the West Bank,

killing Mahmoud Abu

Hanoud, a leading member

of the Islamic militant

One year ago: In Iraq, gun-

southern Italy.

conviction.)

were



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2006. There are 38 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day.

Today's Highlight in History: Nov. 23, 1945, was the last

day of most U.S. wartime rationing of foods, including meat and butter.

On this date: In 1765, Frederick County, Md., repudiated the British Stamp Act.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces seized control of Tarawa and Makin atolls from the Japanese. In 1963, President Johnson

proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination President Kennedy. In 1971, the People's

Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of

men broke into the home of a senior Sunni Arab leader and killed him, his three sons and his son-in-law.

Hamas group.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Gough is 89. Broadway composer Jerry Bock is 78. Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 76. Actor Franco Nero is Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 62. Actress Susan Anspach is 61. Actor

Steve Landesberg is 61.

Singer Bruce Hornsby is 52. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is 51. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 47. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 46. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 40. Actor Oded Fehr is 36. Rapper Kurupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 34. Actress Kelly Brook is 27. Actress Miley Cyrus (TV: "Hannah Montana") is 14. Actor

Austin Majors is 11. Thought for Today: "The ultimate aim of the human mind, in all its efforts, is to become acquainted with Truth." — Eliza Farnham, American reformer (1815-

2006 The Associated Press.



WIZARD OF ID

HEY CLUMS, LET'S GO!

TURKEY *

THE GUYS ARE WAITING

TO START THE BIG

 \mathbf{BC}



4LSQ WE THANKETH THOU FOR THINE

BOUNTEOUS BLESSINGS BESTOMED ON

BETTER THAN A REGULAR MAMMAL

SERVANTS ... IT LOOKS TASTY ..

US, THY HUMBLE, BUMBLING, SLIGHTLY

A SPELL SO THEY'LL INVITE

CAN YOU CAST





HI AND LOIS

AGNES



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY **SMITH**



BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

64 Rum mixer

65 Composer

Rorem

67 Don't sell

DOWN

66 Incline

7 Torah

8 Nautilus

captain

9 Nighttime

chirpers

receptacle

ACROSS 1 Biblical

- shepherd
- 5 Swiss coin 10 Andrews, for one: Abbr.
- 13 Garb for Galba
- 14 More atypical
- 15 Dog bane
- 16 Nightclub policy, perhaps
- 19 Exuberant assent
- 20 Anthem in
- Alberta 21 Cured food
- 24 Korean carmaker
- 25 Transmission
- type 31 Boat that's
- towed 32 The one
- yonder
- 33 World's fair
- 34 Magnate Onassis
- 35 Pair 37 Letters on
- stamps
- 39 Started burning 40 1040 IDs
- 42 Lose freshness
- 44 Bonn's river 46 Yard-sale item
- 49 Live
- 50 Persian potentates
- 51 Deletion mark
- 55 Anna Karenina setting
- 59 Some new drivers 62 "No contest,"
- for one 63 Friars' tribute

DOUBLE DIGITS by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 10 __ mater 11 Long-running dispute
- 12 Crimson Tide, to fans
- 15 Last act 17 Brought up
- 18 Babe in the 1 Bar assn. woods
- member 22 Barnstorming 2 Boxer Riddick 3 They may be 23 Utmost
- fragile or 25 Language of 50 Across inflated
- 4 Aphid eater 26 Rubber
- 5 California city, gasket informally
- 27 Part of the hip 6 Was printed
 - 28 Yellow
 - primrose
 - 29 Express one's views
 - - 36 They verbalize
 - 30 Learning style 31 Acid neutralizer 61 Uncommon

- 38 Excalibur owner
- 41 Cascade Range peak
- **43** __ Tafari
- (Haile Selassie)
- 45 Padded
- footstool
- 47 Steadfast 48 Dojo activity
- 51 NFL Live channel
- 52 Tick off 53 Chopped down
- 54 Organic compound
- 56 Plumlike fruit
- 57 Gathering dust 58 Pronto
- 60 NBA star Ming
- sense

