Page 1B

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 5

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006

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Living Christmas Tree celebrates season in song

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A Howard County holiday tradition spanning more than a quarter-century returns this weekend when First United Methodist Church hosts the 28th annual Living Christmas

The event, which combines music with a holiday message, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the church, located at 400 Scurry St.

Both performances are free to the public, as is a dress rehearsal scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday. However, persons wishing to attend the evening performances are asked to secure tickets by calling the church office at 267-6394.

The Living Christmas Tree has been a holiday mainstay for many people, but none more so

tor at FUMC.

This will mark the seventh year that Wright has helped produce the Living Christmas Tree, and it's a task he thoroughly enjoys.

First Methodist hosts the event, but members of several area churches participate.

"Actually, the thing I enjoy about it the most is the people," Wright said. "This is one of the

than Jim Wright, music direc- few opportunities for fellowship with these people. Our paths don't cross, except here ... A lot of churches take part in this, not just First Methodist."

Music will be provided by an 80-member choir and 35-member orchestra, as well as a children's choir which will sing "Silent Night" in English, German and Spanish.

Also, a dramatic presentation, "Christmas Wishes," written by Sue Partee, will be performed, Wright said.

Preparations for this year's event began with twice-a-week rehearsals in October and have kicked into overdrive this week, with nightly practice ses-

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

Pageantry helps get holidays under way

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

Everything is set ... almost. The Christmas season in Howard County will officially start at 5:30 p.m. Saturday when the 21st annual Big

Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade begins the long procession north on Gregg Street.

And while many local residents are well on their way to their completing Christmas shopping.

there are a great many who say they really can't really get into the spirit of the season until the first Saturday in December, when Santa and Mrs. Claus make a special early appearance and join in the traditional parade.

Cupstid

Now the only question seems to be what the weather will be like Saturday evening.

Herald Publisher Ronnie Cupstid, admittedly anxious to experience his first Christmas parade since moving to Big



Colorful floats and cute children will be much in evidence Saturday when the 21st annual Big Spring Herald

Spring and taking over the newspaper's reins, said he's already certain about one thing — the newspaper's employees certainly tend to think in terms of the parade being the season's kick-

"It's really amazing how excited the Herald's employees are about this parade," he noted. "As an event, but never the sole See PARADE, Page 3A

a result, I've really been looking forward to this year's parade."

Cupstid was surprised to learn that the Herald's staff coordinates the parade by itself when he arrived in Big Spring. In other communities where he's worked, the newspaper often was one of the sponsors for such sponsor.

He also noted that in his first meeting with members of the Herald's Readers' Advisory Board, they told him they believe it's probably the best holiday parade in West Texas. As such, the parade annually draws

Big Spring VAMC to host events

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring VA Medical Center will be the scene for two annual events Friday and the public is invited.

At 11 a.m., the health care facility will hold a World AIDS Day ceremony in the chapel. The ceremony is open to all members of the community and surrounding area.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, participants will place ribbons and memorials on the AIDS memorial tree located on the grounds of the VA Hospital.

Friday evening at 6 p.m., the hospital will stage its "VA Lighting of the Lights," in which the annual Christmas lights display is turned on outside and the indoor Christmas tree is lit.

Lighting of the tree will be by Michael Bell, medical center director, and several children.

"Refreshments will be served and last, but certainly not least, Santa will visit with all the children," said Iva Jo Hanslik, VA community relations coordinator.

Big Spring officer fired

☐ Chief says police officer violated department and city policy but has the right to appeal his termination.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

An officer with the Big Spring Police Department had his employment terminated Tuesday after an early morning domestic dispute at a home in Highland lead to his Highland. Upon arrival, arrest.

the BSPD since August sequently arrested for ed," explained Smith.

2005, was arrested at a public intoxication. home in the 600 block of police dispatchers received a call for assistance at approximately 4:14 a.m., according to Chief Lonnie Police

"The call was in reference to a domestic argument or person being at the residence and not being wanted there," said Smith.

at the residence of his girlfriend's mother in he was not in the car officers located Mr. and an officer did not wit-Clint Porter, who had Porter, who was intoxiness him operating the served as an officer with cated. Mr. Porter was sub-vehicle while intoxicat-

investigation "An Highland on a charge of revealed Mr. Porter had public intoxication after violated department policy and city policy. Mr. Porter does have the right to appeal the termination, according to city policy."

Smith said Porter was not in uniform or driving his patrol car at the time of his arrest, although the vehicle was found at the same residence following his arrest.

"We could not charge "The incident occurred him (Porter) with driving while intoxicated because when officers arrived,

Woman dies from injuries suffered in wreck here early Friday morning

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman died Tuesday in a Lubbock Hospital from wounds sustained in a traffic accident that occurred during the early morning hours Friday.

Jo Annette Munoz, 41, succumbed to her wounds while being Lubbock treated at Methodist Hospital, according to local law enforcement officials.

Big According to **Police** Spring Department reports, Munoz was involved in a

two-vehicle accident near Munoz and there were the intersection of North Gregg Street and N.W. Second Street at approximately 12:20 a.m. Friday.

"She (Munoz) was traveling west bound on Second Street in a 2003 Grand Am," said BSPD Chief Lonnie Smith. "The second vehicle — a 2006 Honda Accord was traveling north on **Gregg Street.**

"According to the report, Munoz ran the stop sign and was struck in the driver side of her vehicle by the Accord. One passenger was trav-

five people in the Honda at the time of the accident."

Munoz was taken to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where she was transported to Lubbock Methodist Hospital shortly after.

Smith said no citations were issued as a result of the accident.

"The officer that prepared the report listed failure to yield the rightof-way at a stop sign and driver inattention as contributing factors in the eling in the vehicle with accident," said Smith.

INDEX

Classified

Features

Obituaries Opinion

Sports

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To reach us:

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

TOUR OF HOMES SLATED

The Big Spring Symphony Guild will hold its annual Holiday Tour of Homes

Sunday, Dec. 10. Featured will be four local homes, 2829 Hunter's Glen, the home of Amy and Michael Beech: 1213 E. FM 700, home of Donna and Skip Burcham; 610 Edwards Boulevard, home of Leslie Elrod; and 2511 Fisher St., the home of Brenda and Duane Thomas.

Tickets are available at First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum, the Big Spring Herald and at any of the participating homes on the day of the tours,

For more information on the tours, contact the Symphony office at 263-4033.

MUSEUM PLANS NATIVITY

Heritage Museum will celebrate the Christmas season with "Silent Night, Holy Night — A Walk-Through Nativity," beginning at 5 p.m. Dec.. 2.

Inspired by a children's book, the nativity will feature different scenes depicting events surrounding the birth of the Christ child, said Tammy Schrecengost, curator of the museum.

The scenes will feature artwork by local resident Lenita Fryar and costumes donated by First United Methodist Church.

Visitors can watch the annual Herald Christmas Parade from the museum where refreshments will be served before or after touring the nativity.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Canterbury/Canterbury North will be holding its annual Christmas Bazaar at 1700 Lancaster from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

The bazaar will feature baked goods, Christmas decor, many types of homemade items and crafts.

There will be gifts of every sort and type for every taste.

The Canterbury Auxiliary will have baked goods and burritos for sale. There will also be a rummage sale and a surplus sale of maintenance supplies.

For more information, contact Shannon M. Nabors, executive director, at 263-

Billie Gross Walker



Billie Gross Walker, 77, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2006, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, 2006 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Monroe Teeters, pastor of Salem Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at the Salem

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral

She was born April 18, 1929, in Big Spring and married Grady Walker Nov. 26, 1947 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Aug. 23, 2001.

She worked for Big Spring Independent School District in the High School cafeteria for a number of years and for Walls Factory Outlet. She and her husband owned and operated Grady Walker LP Gas Co. until retiring. She was a member of Salem Baptist Church.

Survivors include her children, Arlis Walker and wife, Sherry of Buda, Ramona Williams and husband, Larry of Snyder, Twila Denson and husband, Kerry of Coleman and Tim Walker and wife, Amanda of Georgetown; two brothers, A. J. Gross of Waco and Don Gross of Riverside, Calif.; three sisters, Doris Maneval of Lendon, Wash., and Bettie Pettus and LaVerne Patrick, both of Big Spring; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, a sister and a brother.

The family suggests memorials be made to your favorite charity.

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

Jo Munoz

Jo Annette Munoz, 41, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2006, in Lubbock. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

- ANGELFOOD ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN at North Birdwell United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. December delivery date is Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information, call Madeline Boadle at 267-2203. If no answer, leave a message.
- 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 members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.
- 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).

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m.

- ERIKA CATE, 26, of 3225 Cornell, was arrested Monday on a charge of Class C assault - family vio-
- ROBERT GARCIA, 35, of 3225 Cornell, was arrested Monday on a charge of Class C assault - family vio-
- CLINTON PORTER, 28, of 4206 Theo, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- · MICHELLE STOKES, 21, of 1301 S. Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- OSCAR PADILLA, 26, of 1505 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ, 26, of 604 S. Abrams, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- LISA CHAVARRIA, 40, of 910 E. 15th Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of theft, possession of drug paraphernalia and a Howard County warrant.
- THEFT BY CHECK was reported in the 1200 block
- of Gregg Street. THEFT was reported:
- in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. - in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 300 block of Owens.
- POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARA-PHERNALIA was reported in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 1200 block of Gregg
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1200 block of 17th Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 600 block of Highland.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 47 inmates at the time of this report. JAMES WELDON WATSON, 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for debit/credit card abuse and violation of probation.

JOSE LOUIS ONTIVEROS JR., 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

· MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Boykin Road. One person was transported to the

Support Groups

- 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 nonalcoholic 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.

 AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

· 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 month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

· Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

 Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the

Midland Medical Group Gustavo Fierro, M.D.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY · 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

 Pachyderm Club meets at noon at the Big Spring Country Club. All Republicans are invited to hear gues speaker ISG Ronald Wegner

· 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.

· Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 10th and Goliad, St. Mary's Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more informa-

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

 Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

 Adult Eyeglass Clinic, held by the Big Spring Evening Lions Club at the Event Center, 1607 E. Third St. from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Recycled eyeglasses for adults who cannot afford to pay for an eye examination or buy eyeglasses. For information, call Bob or Janis Noyes, 267-6095.
• Santa Claus will be at the Big Spring Mall from

noon until 4 p.m.

· Canterbury Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1700 Lancaster. All types of arts and crafts, baked goods and more. First United Methodist Church Living Christmas Tree. Dress rehearsal at 2 p.m., no tickets required.

Evening production at 8 p.m. Tickets are required and may be obtained free at the church office. · Heritage Museum presents "Silent Night, Holy Night — A Walk-Through Nativity," beginning at 5 p.m. The museum patio will also be open that

evening for people to view the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade. • The Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade starts at 5:30 p.m. from the East 24th Street and Gregg Street and will proceed north to Sixth Street, then west to Main and north to the court-

Weather

house. Parade lineup begins at 4 p.m.

Tonight-Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain and snow in the evening then areas of light freezing drizzle and freezing fog after midnight. Much colder. Lows in the mid 20s. North winds 20 To 25 mph.

Thursday-Mostly cloudy. Much colder. Areas of freezing fog and freezing drizzle in the morning. Highs in the mid 30s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night-Partly cloudy. Lows around 19. Light and variable winds.

Friday-Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 40s. Southwest winds around 10 mph. Friday night-Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Saturday-Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Lottery

ATLANTA (AP) - The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$40 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$31 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 14-24-31-32-33.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Saturday night—Partly cloudy.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-1

BIG SPRING www.BigSpringHerald.com

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Ronnie Cupstid John A. Moseley **Rick Nunez**

Duane McCollum John Armstrong

Dianne Marquez

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PARADE

Continued from Page 1

visitors from ou

BIG SPRING HERAL

Wednesday, Nove

Howard County. "It looks like th going to be a parade," Cupstid co ued. "We know se businesses have teams hard at work ning their entries

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that have been doin same. "In fact, the close get to Saturday.' added, "the more

excitement builds." This year's parade be headed by Salv Army Capts. Russ Linda Keeney, who serve as grand mai for the event.

A \$100 cash prize v awarded to the selected as the winn the Best of Show A for the best interpre of the theme Poinsettia Christma The winner of Mayor's Trophy fo

receive a \$75 prize, the winner of the Marshal's Award fo costuming will re Cupstid stressed the Herald takes pride in sponsoring

best use of lighting

year's Comm Christmas Parade employees strive to every procession j little better than which came before. "It's pretty obvious

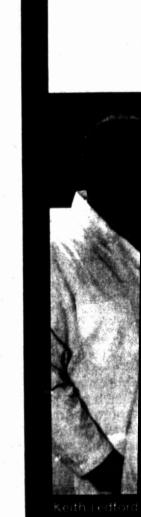
community takes much interest in parade each year as in sponsoring it noted. "The empl who've been here s years say the entrie tinue to get bette better, especially the parade was ch to an evening star lighted entries encouraged."

This procession have more than 50 tered entries, but more are expected

in the event. In fact, Rick Nun Herald's parade coo tor, stressed that s late entries have a been received and added to the proce He added that a comers are welcor get their entries de ed and show up included in the but that only reg entries will be judg awards and plaque

tv's parade." explained. "So ever weren't able to regi entry, but want part in the para encourage you to

"This is the con



PARADE

Continued from Page 1A

visitors from outside Howard County.

"It looks like this is going to be a great parade," Cupstid continued. "We know several businesses have had teams hard at work planning their entries for some time. And there's not much question there are other community groups and individuals that have been doing the

"In fact, the closer we get to Saturday," he added, "the more the excitement builds."

This year's parade will be headed by Salvation Army Capts. Russ and Linda Keeney, who will serve as grand marshals for the event.

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the entry selected as the winner of the Best of Show Award for the best interpretation of the theme "A Poinsettia Christmas."

The winner of the Mayor's Trophy for the best use of lighting will receive a \$75 prize, while the winner of the Grand Marshal's Award for best costuming will receive \$50.

Cupstid stressed that the *Herald* takes great pride in sponsoring each year's Community Christmas Parade and employees strive to make every procession just a little better than that which came before.

"It's pretty obvious the community takes as much interest in the parade each year as we do in sponsoring it," he noted. "The employees who've been here several years say the entries continue to get better and better, especially since the parade was changed to an evening start and lighted entries were encouraged."

This procession will to view the parade," have more than 50 registered entries, but even more are expected to join in the event.

to view the parade," Cupstid said. "And while they say you can never be sure what the weather is going to do here in West

In fact, Rick Nunez, the Herald's parade coordinator, stressed that several late entries have already been received and will be added to the procession. He added that all late comers are welcomed to get their entries decorated and show up to be included in the parade, but that only registered entries will be judged for awards and plaques.

"This is the community's parade," Nunez explained. "So even if you weren't able to register an entry, but want to take part in the parade, we encourage you to come Forecast for the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade is high to mid 40s. Bundle up!

join us in getting the Christmas season started with a bang."

Nunez noted that letters have been mailed to registered entries, letting participants know where they will be placed in the parade's lineup. In addition, Friday's edition of the Herald will include a copy of the lineup.

He stressed that all parade participants are asked to make sure they do not block the driveways of homes in the process of lining up for the event and to make sure they clean up any litter created during lastminute preparations.

Participants will begin lining up for the procession at 4 p.m. the day of the parade The Big Spring High School and Forsan High School bands will need to arrive at 5 p.m.

The parade will start at the corner of East 24th and Gregg streets, moving northward on Gregg Street, take a right on Sixth Street, go all the way up to Main, take a left on Main Street and disperse around the courthouse area.

"The parade route is

pretty long and that's good because it gives lots of people an opportunity to view the parade," Cupstid said. "And while sure what the weather is going to do here in West Texas, the forecasts indicate it's going to be pretty cold. That's going to be especially true once the sun sets. So, begin making your plans now. Remember to dress warmly, bring a thermos of coffee or hot chocolate and head downtown in plenty of time to get a good spot to watch the parade. We really do want everyone to enjoy this with us."

Managing Editor John A. Moseley can be contacted by calling 263-7331, ext. 230, or he can be e-mailed at editor@bigspringherald.com

LIVING TREE REHEARSAL



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

First United Methodist Church Music Director Jim Wright conducts a practice session for participants in the Living Christmas Tree program, which will be held at the church Saturday and Sunday.

Economy grows by 2.2 percent in third quarter, better than first thought

By JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON

Business growth slowed to a 2.2 percent pace in the late summer, a much better performance than anticipated and an encouraging sign that the housing slump hasn't been too much of a drag on the economy.

The upgraded reading on gross domestic product, released by the Commerce Department Wednesday, was considerably stronger than the 1.6 percent growth rate for the July-to-September quarter that had been estimated a month ago. That pace had been the worst in more than three years.

Gross domestic product measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is considered the best barometer of the country's economic fitness.

The new estimate, which was stronger than the 1.8 percent pace that

economists had forecast, nevertheless marked the slowest pace of growth since the end of last year when the economy was reeling from the blows of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. The biggest drag on third-quarter growth: the cooldown in the oncesizzling housing sector.

Investment in home building was cut by the largest amount in 15 years in the third quarter. In a separate report, new-home sales fell by 3.2 percent in October, another sign of the housing

however, rose.

The upgraded reading on third-quarter GDP largely reflected stronger inventory building by businesses and a trade deficit that was less of a weight on economic

slowdown. Home prices,

growth than initially thought.

The improvement, how-

ever, doesn't change the overall picture of the economy's performance: It has been losing momentum all year long. In the first quarter the economy grew at a blistering pace of 5.6 percent, its strongest growth spurt in 2 1/2 years. In the second quarter, though, growth slowed to 2.6 percent pace, mostly reflecting caution by consumers and businesses in response to surging ener-

response to surging energy prices.

The Bush administration insists the economy is in fundamentally good

shape and most Americans are better off. Democrats argue that the poor and the middle class have reaped few benefits from the five-year old economical expansion.

nomic expansion.
Democrats who will take over the House and Senate for the 110th Congress starting in January want to raise the federal minimum wage,

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Affordable pre-need
arrangements

among other priorities.

Consumers and businesses did their part keeping the economy moving in the third quarter.

Consumers boosted

spending at a 2.9 percent pace. That was slightly less than first estimated but stronger than the 2.6 percent growth rate registered in the second quarter.

Businesses ramped up investment in equipment and software at 7.2 percent pace, a turnaround from the 1.4 percent rate of decline in the prior quarter. Investment in new plants, office buildings and other commercial construction grew at a brisk rate of 16.7 percent,





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during his deployment. Your kindnesses

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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 indicated

Managing Editor

News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Museum's new nativity exhibit will be special

ig Spring's Heritage Museum always has something in store to help the community celebrate the Christmas season with a special exhibit and 2006 is no exception.

The museum will kick off its observance of the Christmas season with "Silent Night, Holy Night — A Walk-Through Nativity" beginning Saturday afternoon and continuing through Jan. 8.

The nativity will feature several scenes from the story of the birth of the Christ child.

"Every Christmas, we try to do something different," Curator Museum Tammie Schrecengost said. "Earlier this year, I was reading a children's book, and that served as the inspiration for the nativity."

The exhibit will feature artwork by local resident Lenita Fryar and costumes donated by First United Methodist Church.

At each stop of the exhibit, an inspirational story of true-life stories will be highlighted.

"We have inspirational stories ... in our archive collection," Schrecengost noted. "The stories in the nativity will be about nice things that have happened to people during the Christmas season."

The exhibit will take up most of the museum's bottom floor and end near the front door, where museum personnel were putting the finishing touches on a manger scene Tuesday morning.

The nativity is part of the museum's annual Parade Watch event, Director Nancy Raney said.

This year, the museum patio is being set aside for people to observe the Big Spring Herald's Christmas Parade, which will wheel past the museum's location Saturday evening. As always, refreshments will be served during the

For more information on any of the Heritage Museum's holiday programs, call 267-8255.

Whether you take advantage of Saturday's free opening, we hope you'll include a trip by the Heritage Museum in your holiday plans.

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

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- · 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

Today, Lord, may we say Yes to You.

The looming Democratic betrayal

th state and local governments threatening to continue passing immigration laws and usurping the responsibilities of the federal government, can Congress afford to keep delaying immigration reform?

Better yet, with Democrats benefiting from the Hispanic backlash against Republican immigrant-bashers in the midterm elections, can the new Democratic majority afford to take the Latino vote for grant-



PEREZ

Will Democrats act on immigration reform or will they become the victims of another Hispanic backlash in 2008?

Amazingly, after nurturing the aspirations of Latinos and other immigrants who voted overwhelmingly for Democrats in the midterm elections, some Democrats are already putting the breaks on immigration reform.

In the midterm elections, voters banished many of the most antiimmigrant Republicans in Congress. But now that that major road-

block has been removed, and Democrats are about to take over control of both houses of Congress, expectations have been raised in immigrant communities, yet Democrats say immigration is no longer an urgent issue that must be resolved.

There is a long list of issues the new majority leaders say they want to work on ASAP — and immigration isn't among them.

They want to raise the minimum wage, lower drug prices, create affordable housing, cut energy costs, reform ethics standards, enact the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, cut interest rates on college loans, lower taxes on the middle class and eliminate

"tax giveaways for Big Oil."

But some of them are already using all kinds of excuses to delay dealing with one of the most pressing issues of our time. They say that immigration is not an easy problem to resolve, that it's too divisive and controversial.

One Democrat has even proposed reinstating the military draft. Yet, immigration is too controversial.

With a president who tends to agree with Democrats more than with his fellow Republicans on this issue, the new Democratic majority has a unique opportunity to finally fix our broken immigration system.

If they squander that opportunity when they assume control of Congress next year, Latinos and other immigrants will not forget. They will punish the Democrats in the 2008 elections.

Now is the time to reach a consensus on comprehensive reform that will reinforce not only our borders with Mexico and Canada, but our system of pursuing illegal immigrants who come to this country legally and overstay after their visas expire. It's time to penalize employers for hiring illegal immigrants and to create a system for verifying the immigration status of job applicants. It's time for a guest-worker program so that immigrants don't see a need to come here illegally.

But it's also time for an earnedlegalization program for the 12 million illegal immigrants who are already here and can prove that they are productive and law-abiding members of our society.

Without such a legalization program, illegal immigration will continue to be a huge problem, because "enforcement-only" measures simply will not work.

The problem for the Democratic leadership is that, on the immigration issue, some of their new members of Congress campaigned as if they were Republicans using code words like "amnesty" to appeal to xenophobic voters.

"Let me tell you what I believe in," said Missouri Democratic Senator-elect Claire McCaskill in a September TV spot, "No amnesty for illegal immigrants."

Over the last year, Democrats had presented a united front in support of the comprehensive legislation package that was passed by the U.S. Senate last spring; and in opposition of the draconian measures that came out of the House of Representatives last December.

But now the Democratic leadership has to build a consensus among party members to support a new bill. They have to deal with Democrats who got elected by using conservative rhetoric on immigration.

Can those Republican-sounding Democrats be convinced that earned legalization is not amnesty? That is the question that will determine whether Democrats can broker a balanced solution to the immigration problem.

We are no longer dealing with a Republican Congress divided over how to reform immigration. Now it's the Democratic-controlled Congress that could be facing an incapacitating split.

That's why some Democratic stalwarts on immigration — after blasting Republicans for bashing immigrants and refusing to accept comprehensive reform - are suddenly claiming that they must proceed slowly on this issue.

They are leaving immigration off the list of urgent issues they want to tackle — which is tantamount to betrayal for the millions of immigrants who voted Democratic in the midterm elections because of this particular issue.

In those elections, Republicans got punished — not for what they did, but for what they didn't do to reform immigration.

Democrats should learn that lesson — quickly.

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One of Texas' most unusual events

ever asked you about your unique festival?" I asked one of the organizers. "No, you're the first," came the reply. "We've thought about it, but have never done anything about it. Every once in awhile we

send out fliers to people who come every year. We think if we get too much publicity we'll be overrun with people."

We're talkin' here about The Texas Testicle Festival. It takes place between Jacksonville and Rusk the second Sunday in March every year and is a



TUMBLEWEED

benefit for Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

"It started about 20 years ago, just a few families would get together and do a little cooking," says Charles Yarborough, one of the cooks for the event. "It just got bigger and bigger and bigger.

People come from Louisiana, Oklahoma ... just everywhere."

About 400 people showed up this year to feast on calf fries and other things.

"We cook brisket, fish, wild pig and people bring side dishes like potato salad and beans. We end up with just about anything you'd want to make a meal out of."

Charles's wife, Thyra, says the calf fries are the most popular "We have a banner that we put

on the side of a cattle trailer that says 'WELCOME TO OUR ANNU-AL TESTICLE FESTIVAL. HOPE YOU HAVE A BALL.' We have people stop on the side of the road and take pictures of it. For the last couple of years if we see them, we'll go down and invite

Charles has a special recipe he uses to prepare the delicacies. "Spice cornmeal up and put the

fries in the cornmeal and then deep fry them." The festival takes place on land

owned by Chris and Patti Holman.

Patti says the event, which start-

ed small, has become a big attrac-

"I've got two bathrooms in my house and after church I came in and I looked at my house and I had these two long lines with about 40 people in each line," she said, recalling one nightmarish festival. "Both toilets overflowed and it was a big mess. Now we have porta-potties.'

The cooking is done in horse stalls in the Holman's combination barn and shop. People eat some 200 pounds of calf fries on tables under canopies furnished by funeral homes.

The meal is served after a cowboy church service.

Charles says this year visitors voluntarily donated \$3,000 for Boys Ranch.

"We put everything on out of our pocket. Boys Ranch gets all the money. The last few years Boys Ranch personnel have come down to sell T-shirts and caps. They sell out every year. The Tshirts have the words 'Texas Testicle Festival. Have a ball with Jesus' on them."



BIG SPRING HERA

Wednesday, Nov

Sectarian violend on eve of Bush s

BAGHDAD, Iraq ing between coaliti gents shut down a c on Wednesday an across the capital. Nouri al-Maliki ari summit with U.S. Bush aimed at ha escalating sectar paving the way American troops.

By 10 a.m., 13 in men, and five civil including two Iraq caught up in a coa the capital, police a That raised to seven females, including died during Ameri the last two days.

In New York Security Council v extend for one yea 160,000-strong mu Iraq.

The Security Con request from al-Ma government priori responsibility for s throughout Iraq bu time.

In Baghdad, som Shiite backers hav pend their coopera if he goes ahead Amman later Wedr minister showed ev on his way.

Bush focusing o training in talks

RIGA, LATVIA (A will ask the embat ister in Jordan on to train Iraqi force shoulder more res ing the nation, ye adviser has doubts will be able to halt violence.

sides of the Atlant print for the war, arranged two-day s to hear how he nation's bitter Su how they can work stable, peaceful fu government. Bush stood in sile

The president, ur

mit in this Baltic morning, listening in honor of those fa alliance, most rece

A few hours later to be at Raghadan in the Jordanian ca the problems in Ira ment now exce America's particip

"We will discuss ground in his co efforts to transfer the Iraqi security f sibility of other na support the secur Iraq," Bush said ' summit.

Judge strikes re to designate ter

LOS ANGELES struck down Pres to designate group his post-Sept. 11 unconstitutionally ruling.

The Humanitar challenged Bush's all the assets of gr named as "specia terrorists" after attacks.

"This law gave tered authority said David Cole Washington, D. Constitutional Ri the group. "It was reminis

era.' The case center Liberation Tiger



5. briefs

Texas briefs

Sectarian violence kills 24 Iragis on eve of Bush summit

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Fierce fighting between coalition forces and insurgents shut down a city north of Baghdad on Wednesday and gunfire crackled across the capital, as Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki arrived in Jordan for a summit with U.S. President George W. Bush aimed at halting the country's escalating sectarian violence and paving the way for a reduction of American troops.

By 10 a.m., 13 insurgents, six policemen, and five civilians had been killed, including two Iraqi females who were caught up in a coalition raid north of the capital, police and U.S. officials said. That raised to seven the number of Iraqi females, including an infant, who had died during American raids in Iraq in the last two days.

In New York on Tuesday, U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to extend for one year the mandate of the 160,000-strong multinational force in Iraq.

The Security Council responded to a request from al-Maliki, who said a top government priority is to assume full responsibility for security and stability throughout Iraq but that it needs more

In Baghdad, some of al-Maliki's key Shiite backers have threatened to suspend their cooperation with Parliament if he goes ahead with the summit in Amman later Wednesday, but the prime minister showed every sign that he was on his way.

Bush focusing on Iraqi troop training in talks with al-Maliki

RIGA, LATVIA (AP) — President Bush will ask the embattled Iraqi prime minister in Jordan on Wednesday how best to train Iraqi forces faster so they can shoulder more responsibility for securing the nation, yet a top White House adviser has doubts that Nouri al-Maliki will be able to halt escalating sectarian

The president, under pressure on both sides of the Atlantic to find a new blueprint for the war, is holding a hastily arranged two-day summit with al-Maliki to hear how he plans to mend his nation's bitter Sunni-Shia divide, and how they can work together to chart a stable, peaceful future for the fragile government.

Bush stood in silence at a NATO summit in this Baltic capital Wednesday morning, listening to a hugler play taps in honor of those fallen in service to the alliance, most recently in Afghanistan.

A few hours later, Bush was scheduled to be at Raghadan Palace, high on a hill in the Jordanian capital, grappling with the problems in Iraq where U.S. involvement now exceeds the length of America's participation in World War

"We will discuss the situation on the ground in his country, our ongoing efforts to transfer more responsibility to the Iraqi security forces, and the responsibility of other nations in the region to support the security and stability of Iraq," Bush said Tuesday at the NATO summit.

Judge strikes resident's authority to designate terrorist groups

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge struck down President Bush's authority to designate groups as terrorists, saying his post-Sept. 11 executive order was unconstitutionally vague, according to a ruling.

The Humanitarian Law Project had challenged Bush's order, which blocked all the assets of groups or individuals he named as "specially designated global terrorists" after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"This law gave the president unfettered authority to create blacklists." said David Cole, a lawyer for the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Constitutional Rights that represented the group.

"It was reminiscent of the McCarthy era."

The case centered on two groups, the Liberation Tigers, which seeks a sepa-

rate homeland for the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, and Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan, a political organization representing the interests of Kurds in Turkey.

U.S. District Judge Audrey Collins enjoined the government from blocking the assets of the two groups. The same judge two years ago invalidated portions of the Patriot Act.

Fidel Castro fails to appear at launch of birthday celebrations

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro was too sick to meet thousands of admirers who traveled to Cuba for the kickoff of his delayed 80th birthday celebrations, according to a note purportedly from the ailing leader that raised new questions about his health.

The message, which was read to a crowd of 5,000 Tuesday at the Karl Marx Theater and on state TV, indicates that Castro is far from recovered from a mysterious ailment that forced him on July 31 to turn over power to his brother, Defense Minister Raul Castro.

The Cuban leader turned 80 on Aug. 13 but delayed his birthday celebrations as he recovered from surgery two weeks earlier for intestinal bleeding.

Castro, who has not been seen in public for four months, wanted the delayed birthday celebration held on Dec. 2, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the date that he and fellow rebels landed by boat in Cuba to launch their revolution.

The announcement Tuesday raised doubts about whether he will appear at

The message read at the celebration's inaugural party said doctors had told Castro that he was not in condition to meet with a large crowd.

Administration bans sale of iPods, plasma TVs to N. Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration wants North Korea's attention, so like a scolding parent it's trying to make it tougher for that country's eccentric leader to buy iPods, plasma televisions and Segway electric

The U.S. government's first-ever effort to use trade sanctions to personally aggravate a foreign president expressly targets items believed to be favored by Kim Jong Il or presented by him as gifts to the roughly 600 loyalist families who run the communist government.

Kim, who engineered a secret nuclear weapons program, has other options for obtaining the high-end consumer electronics and other items he wants.

But the list of proposed luxury sanctions, obtained by The Associated Press, aims to make Kim's swanky life harder: No more cognac, Rolex watches, cigarettes, artwork, expensive cars, Harley Davidson motorcycles or even personal watercraft, such as Jet Skis.

The new ban would extend even to music and sports equipment. The 5-foot-3 Kim is an enthusiastic basketball fan; then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright presented him with a ball signed by Michael Jordan during a rare diplomatic trip in 2000.

Supreme Court to take up global warming for first time

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration is defending its refusal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from new motor vehicles in the first case about global warming to reach the Supreme Court.

The Environmental Protection Agency lacks the power to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, the administration said in court papers. Even if it had such authority, the EPA still would not use it at this point because of uncertainty surrounding the issue of global warming, the administration said.

Global climate change is "a controversial phenomenon that is far from fully understood or defined," trade associations for car and truck makers and automobile dealers said in a court filing signed by former Solicitors General Theodore Olson and Kenneth Starr that backs the administration position.

5 kidnapped near border

NEGRAS, **PIEDRAS** Mexico (AP) - Three men from Texas and two Mexican citizens were kidnapped from a hunting ranch near the U.S. border over the weekend, local prosecutors reported on Tuesday.

Witnesses told police that 30 to 40 armed men entered the La Barranca ranch late Sunday and took the five men away.

Erik Vasys, an FBI in San spokesman Antonio, late Tuesday confirmed witness reports identifying the American victims as Librado Pina Jr., 49, and his son Librado Pina III, 25, both of Laredo; and David Mueller, 45, of the Sweetwater area.

The ranch is located near the Coahuila town of Hidalgo, about 40 miles northwest of Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo and is used for deer hunting.

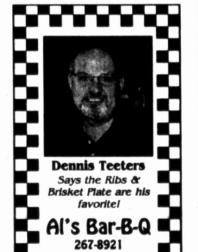
Santos Vasquez Estrada, the local head of the Coahuila state attorney general's office, said the ranch's owner, identified as the elder Pina, may have been the main target of the attack. U.S. authorities identified him as a businessman Laredo.

Democrat candidate cancels debate SAN ANTONIO (AP) -

A debate planned for Friday between Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla and Rodriguez has been canceled because Rodriguez has scheduling conflicts, according Democratic challenger's campaign.

The South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce had already e-mailed invitations to the lunchtime debate between the District 23 runoff candidates, said Cindy Taylor, the chamber's president. She said she had to announce last week that the event was canceled.

"Ciro's campaign has backed out," said Taylor. "It's kind of disheartening for the constituents of



District 23. ... It's very 4 Fort Hood soldiers unfortunate that it happened."

Taylor said she had been told by Rodriguez' campaign that any date would work. But at a meeting last week to discuss specifics, she said spokeswoman Vanessa Gonzalez said she'd have to check on the date.

"The dates did not work out for us in terms of scheduling," "Campaign Gonzalez. schedules fill up quickly."

Deliberations to resume in retrial

HOUSTON (AP) Jurors were to begin a second full day of deliberations Wednesday in the retrial of a truck driver at the center of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt.

Tyrone Williams is being retried for attempting to smuggle more than 70 illegal immigrants who were stuffed in his airtractor-trailer. Nineteen people died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation as a result of the May 2003 smuggling attempt from South Texas to Houston.

Jurors deliberated for about seven hours Tuesday. They deliberated about two hours Monday after closing arguments.

So far, the jury has only sent one note to the judge in the case, asking to review a copy of video surveillance from a truck stop where Williams had bought water for the immigrants during the trip.

killed in Iraq blast

WASHINGTON (AP) -Three Fort Hood soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb explosion in Iraq, the U.S. Department of Defense said Tuesday.

First Lt. David M. Fraser, 25, died from injuries he suffered when a bomb went off near his military vehicle Baghdad on Sunday. The military didn't provide a hometown for Fraser, who was identified as a Texan.

Pvt. Joshua C. Burrows, 20, of Bossier City, La., and Capt. Jason R. Hamill, 31, of New Haven, Conn., also were killed in the blast.

Hamill and Fraser were assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade. 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood. Burrows was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood.

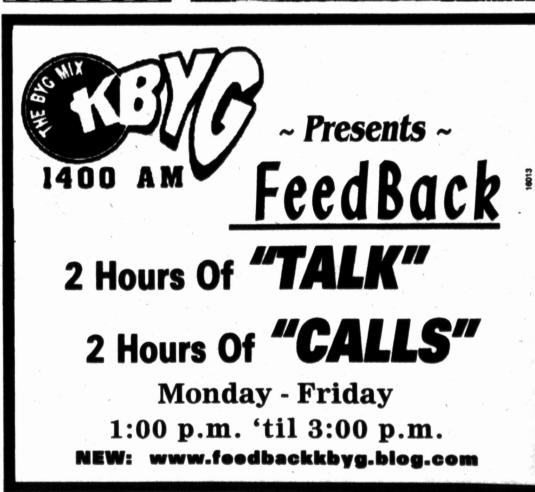
Another Fort Hood soldier, Staff Sgt. Daniel Marshall Morris, 28, of Clinton, Tenn., was killed by a roadside bomb in a separate incident Saturday.

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he library will close for the Christmas holidays Saturday, Dec. 23, and will re-open Wednesday, Dec. 27. I know that is rather early notice, but with the whirl and bustle of the holidays, any reminder is helpful.

Please come and admire our display this year. Deanna Foresyth is a wonderful artist who has artfully crafted a tremendous collection of Christmas

HOLLIS **McCright**

ornaments. She works in quilling (you must come see what that is), needlepoint, counted-cross-stitch embroidery and the decoration of eggs. The library has books on most needle crafts and if you browse amongst the 746 area, you should find something to tempt your fingers.

A volume that I have donated is a quilting book: "Creative Quilting" (746.97 CHA B) from Chartwell Books. It has several projects for persons who are beginners or experienced in quilting. It also has some simple quilting patterns to finish up the project.

Just in from McNaughton books (look in New Books) is Robert James Waller's 10th novel. He will take read-

ers to the unforgiving terrain of South Texas. Seventy-seven-year-old Winchell Dear has made a good life for himself as an honest poker player. including acquiring his 45,000acre ranch (named "Two Pair" in honor of the hand he bluffed to win the land). So when his gambler's sixth sense tells him trouble is in the air, Winchell tucks a gun into his boot and waits out whatever's on the way. Meanwhile, a Mexican drug mule hurries to meet his connection, Sonia Dominguez, who also works as Winchell's housekeeper. A diamondback snake that proves pivotal to the plot slithers through the scrub grass. Peter Long Grass, a Native American squatting on the ranch, watches everyone from the shadows: And a pair of hit men in a cream-col-

ored Lincoln Continental

Connections between the

characters — some more

believable than others —

are revealed as the story

climax. Though the prose

lights reflecting off walls

of dark wood and partial-

builds toward a violent

tends toward the awk-

ward ("Under kitchen

ly absorbed and mel-

approach Two Pair.

review is from lowed almost to amber Publisher's Weekly. by that effect More McNaughton ..."), books are: Janet Evanovich's "Thanksgiving:" 'Valley of Silence," from Nora Roberts; 'Whirlpool," by Elizabeth Lowel;l and from true crime writer Ann Rule, "No Regrets and Other WINCHELL DEAR True Cases." I really had thought ROBERT JAMES WALLER Truman had stopped writing her

> Waller's pops up: "Murder at the fans will enjoy Opera." Truman carries his take on the Old West on her Capital Crimes meeting the New. This series with Mac Smith

mysteries, but here one

investigating the murder of an opera singer during rehearsals.

This review is from Publishers Weekly: A picture cut from a glossy magazine, Luxury Living, draws retired Navajo tribal policeman Lt. Joe Leaphorn into a hunt for a soulless killer in bestseller Hillerman's enthralling 18th Leaphorn/Chee whodunit.

The picture's sender, Mel Bork, another cop retiree, wonders if the distinctive Navajo rug shown in the picture is the same one Leaphorn described to him long ago, a rug supposedly destroyed in a fire the two officers investigated that took the life of a person identified as among the FBI's most wanted. Bork's subsequent disappearance and murder herald the dangers awaiting Leaphorn from a most formidable enemy. As Leaphorn searches for evidence to confirm his suspicions, he enlists the aid of Sgt. Jim Chee and his bride, Bernadette Manuelito, just back from their honeymoon. Only Hillerman could so masterfully connect such disparate elements as an

ancient cursed weaving, two stolen buckets of piñon sap and the Vietnam War. The conclusion is sure to startle longtime fans of this acclaimed mystery series.

New copies of A.C. Greene cattle and horse stories are in. Look for "Horse Tradin," "Some More Horse Tradin," and "Wild Cow Tails." These haven't been cataloged yet, so just look in the catalog under Greene's name to find where they will be shelved.

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

Hollis McCright is manager of the Howard County Library.



By Steve Becker

Sheer Artistry

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. WEST **EAST ♦**QJ10,4

◆107652 SOUTH ♥QJ1073

South West Pass 1 NT Pass **Pass**

king of clubs. Luck evens out in the long run, so if you want to be a winner at bridge, you have to play better than those you play with.

Let's say you're in six hearts and West leads the king of clubs, which you ruff. You play the queen of trumps and finesse, but East wins with the king and returns the queen

It looks as though you must lose a spade trick and go down one, but if way to avoid the spade loser

Accordingly, you win East's spade return with dummy's king, ruff a club with the ten, re-enter dummy with a low trump to the nine and ruff another club with the jack.

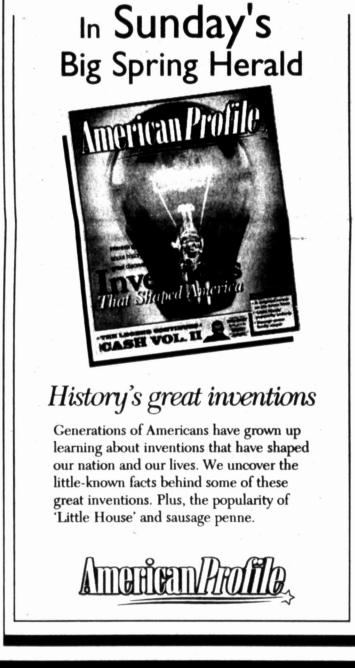
This runs you out of trumps in your hand, since you've ruffed clubs three times and led trumps twice, but that's precisely what you've been trying to do.

You now enter dummy with a diamond and draw West's last trump with the ace, discarding a spade from your hand. Your K-Q-J-10 of diamonds and ace of spades then win the last five tricks, and the slam is home as your spade loser vanishes

into thin air. To come to 12 tricks, you scored five trump tricks instead of only the four you seemed to have after the trump finesse failed. It might seem odd that to make the slam you must discard your spade loser on one of dummy's trumps, but that is the way things usually go in dummy reversal

Tomorrow: A problem of logistics. C2006 King Features Syndicate Inc

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BIG SPRING HERAL

Wednesday, Nove

AUSTIN (AP) - A panel has sided with er who complained ists were pressurir leagues to support House Speaker Tor for another term ! could not determin the actions were ille In a Nov. 9 letter t

Ethics Democratic state R Farrar said the lol promised some House that a candidate f would give them s assignments during session and would s

Judge rel

FORT WORTH (A Leaders in the Fort V Roman Catholic Di were not forthco about the extent of s abuse allegations a half a dozen priest helped them stay i ministry, according pages of secret released Tuesday judge. The files involve of

men accused of m duct with minors. show how Bishop J P. Delaney, who die year, and his top tants — the Rev. F Wilson and the Joseph Schumach dealt with accuser

the priests. Documents show diocese leaders and church officials co the days until the r civil liability had p in dealing with accuser; allowed priest who admitted ing a child to keep ing until his death withheld details accusations to min

2005 Ford F150 Super Owner w/13,000 Miles. Was \$21.995 Owner w/60,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 Local One Owner 2/50,000

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Was \$14,995 2001 Ford F250 Superc Was \$15,995 1000 Ford F250 Crew C Was \$15,995

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2004 Ford Expedition Was \$23,995

2004 Ford Explorer X Was \$16,995

2003 Ford Expedition 3rd Sent, One Owner w Was 220,995 2002 Ford Expedition Was \$17,995

Panel: Conduct intended to influence lawmakers

panel has sided with a lawmaker who complained that lobbyists were pressuring her colleagues to support Republican the candidate as Craddick, House Speaker Tom Craddick for another term but said it could not determine whether

the actions were illegal. In a Nov. 9 letter to the Texas Ethics Commission, Democratic state Rep. Jessica Farrar said the lobbyists had promised some House members that a candidate for speaker would give them sought-after assignments during the next session and would see to it that

AUSTIN (AP) — A state ethics his loyalists have "the right support" in the next election cycle.

Farrar, who later identified asked whether that constituted legislative bribery, which is barred by state law.

The commission adopted an advisory opinion on Monday that said the conduct she described "is intended to influence a member in casting a vote for or against a speaker of the House of Representatives."

But the opinion said it would be up to a "trier of facts" to determine whether the conduct

violated laws against legislative Democrats - who often combribery.

Farrar, a Democrat from Houston, said she planned to talk to her colleagues and figure out how they want to proceed. She said she has not been contacted by lobbyists but said the actions have been "pretty widespread."

"Hopefully the practice will just stop," she said. "People know that people are watching. I think there's a victory in that."

Every two years, the 150-member chamber selects a speaker to preside over the House. Some

plain that Craddick's leadership style is too authoritarian - have speculated that they could oust the Craddick in favor of a more moderate

Republican this year. Craddick, however, has said he has enough pledges of support from lawmakers to seal another term. Historically. speakers are not forced out unless a new political party wins a majority of seats.

A spokesman for the speaker said he could not immediately comment on the commission's opinion.

"Hopefully the practice will just stop. People know that people are watching. I think there's a victory in that."

> State Rep. Jessica Farrar

Judge releases documents from Fort Worth Diocese

FORT WORTH (AP) -Leaders in the Fort Worth Roman Catholic Diocese were not forthcoming about the extent of sexual abuse allegations against half a dozen priests and helped them stay in the ministry, according to 700 pages of secret files released Tuesday by a judge.

The files involve clergymen accused of misconduct with minors. They show how Bishop Joseph P. Delaney, who died last year, and his top assistants — the Rev. Robert Wilson and the Rev. Joseph Schumacher dealt with accusers and the priests.

Documents show that diocese leaders and other church officials counted the days until the risk of civil liability had passed in dealing with one accuser; allowed one priest who admitted abusing a child to keep working until his death; and withheld details about accusations to minimize Hoover, John Howlett, said this summer. "I find

public fallout.

In that 1995 case, a priest admitted Delaney that he had abused three boys, but Delaney initially publicly spoke of just one victim, in part to control "how the matter is aired."

"... Because the facts made public are so few, I hope that the publicity will quickly die down,' he wrote.

State District Judge Len Wade released parts of the files after diocese attorneys tried to keep them closed for about a year, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The Dallas Morning News reported in their online editions Tuesday.

The newspapers and several of the priests' accusers asked Wade to release the secret files notes, memos and e-mails created and maintained by diocese leaders.

The documents detail allegations against six clergymen: William

James Reilly, Philip Rudolph Magaldi, and John Renteria Hanlon. Hoover, Hanlon. and Reilly are dead.

Files for the Rev. Joseph Tu Ngoc Nguyen, a Dominican order priest, remain sealed because he appealed their release.

Tu remained in active ministry in the Houston area after allegations first surfaced against him in the 1990s, but stepped down when new claims against him surfaced earlier this year.

Last week, the diocese settled a lawsuit with 11 men who said they had been abused by Reilly.

Delaney's successor, Bishop Kevin Vann, has said he hopes the records release "will mark the beginning of a new era for the Diocese of Fort Worth and for our larger community."

"It is extremely distressing and painful to have read these files," Vann

* FORD SUVS
2002 Ford Escape XLT - Red, V-8, Cloth, All Power, Le

it all the more painful because I grew up surrounded by great examples of what the priesthood should be.'

The court-ordered release of the files is one of the few cases in the nation in which so much information has been released to the public at

The files were deemed part of the public record as the diocese was defending itself against a sexual abuse lawsuit against another priest, the Rev. Thomas Teczar, settled last year for \$4.15 million.

In August, the diocese said it would not appeal Wade's ruling to open the documents.

Magaldi's spokesman, Jerry Koller, said the priest is innocent and declined to make him available for comment, saying he is in poor health.

Renteria, who owns a house in Dallas, did not respond to a telephone message Tuesday.

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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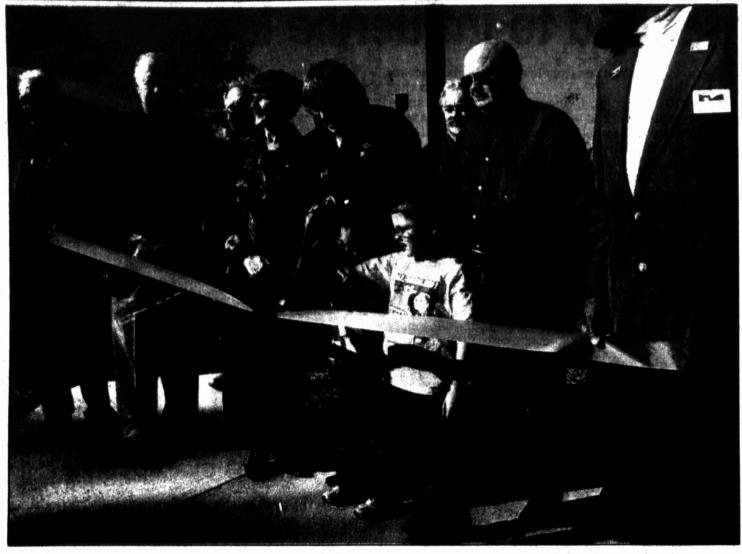
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Young Adrian Flores and Bryson Magee, with scissors, assist Howard College and Chamber of Commerce officials at a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the college's Howard Cottage day care center.

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WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

HANGAR 25 AIR Distribution is scheduled MUSEUM IS COLLECT- from 10 a.m. to noon ING RECIPES to be every Thursday. 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 bene-Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

 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.

 BIĞ 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 TABERNA-CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

The Quick Way to Payday We'll cash your personal check in minutes, deposit it on your next

payday, up to 14 days, give you the money you need, the long distance you want and the discount you deservel Requirements For Service: 1) Valid Picture ID 2) Verification Of Income

Hyperion Club sponsoring coat drive for the holidays

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.



December 2 & 3, 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 **Nursery** available

132-682-1600 HOLIDAY SHOPPING CENTER Make It A Merry Christmas! \$177 \$97" \$397 \$57** \$27 \$47* \$17" Jose Twin Bunk Bods \$27" \$37** ng CB/BVB Rock \$97** \$247** \$97** \$177* llan's Furniture Where All Of West Texas Comes To Save On Their New Furniture 202 Scurry 267-6278

Big Spring baske

officials are need The Big S Basketball Off Association is lo for officials at this Anyone intereste officiating the up junior high, fresi and sub-varsity ba ball games should tact Adam Rodrigu 517-0300 or 263-8731

Rice University accepts bowl bid Rice made its bowl appearance 1961 official Tuesda

accepting a bid to

New Orleans Bowl. The Owls, repre ing Conference will play the Sun Conference chan Dec. 22 at Superdome in the bowl game there a Hurricane Kat Troy will be Rice's nent if it beats Flo International this v A loss would Middle Tennessee

berth. Rice (7-5, 6-2 C-1 made a stunning around from last y 1-10 season, win seven of its last games after an 0-4 s

The Owls lost Kansas in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

College football p voted on by AP

The Top 25 teams i is is the number of place votes. Poll is b on results through No

1. Ohio St. (65) 2. USC

3. Michigan

4. Florida

5. LSU

6. Louisville 7. Wisconsin

8. Arkansas 9. Oklahoma

10. Boise St. 11. Auburn

12. Notre Dame

13. Rutgers. 14. Va. Tech

15. W. Virginia 16. Wake F.

17. Tenn. 18. Texas

19. Nebraska 20. BYU

21. California 22. Texas A&M

23. Ga. Tech

24. Hawaii 25. Bost. Coll.

Other teams receivotes: Georgia 44, 31, Oregon St.

Houston 1.

Longhorns QB will play in bowl

Texas quarterbac McCoy should be to play in a bowl after suffering a s ly pinched nerves neck in the lo Texas A&M, the

er's father Tuesday. "In the hospital, h killing himself fo hurting him a lot than the injury, McCoy told The

Morning News tory on the p. But I think nth to get res

Rice University accepts bowl bid

Rice made its first bowl appearance since 1961 official Tuesday by accepting a bid to the New Orleans Bowl.

The Owls, representing Conference USA, will play the Sun Belt Conference champion Dec. 22 at the Superdome in the first bowl game there since Hurricane Katrina. Troy will be Rice's opponent if it beats Florida International this week. A loss would give Middle Tennessee the berth.

Rice (7-5, 6-2 C-USA) made a stunning turn-around from last year's 1-10 season, winning seven of its last eight games after an 0-4 start. The Owls lost to Kansas in the 1961 Bluebonnet Bowl.

College football poll voted on by AP

The Top 25 teams in the ssociated Press College Football Poll. In parenthe is is the number of fire place votes. Poll is based on results through Nov. 25

CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	SECTION SECTION
1. Ohio St. (65)	12-0
2. USC	10-1
	41-1
3. Michigan	2000 (0.000 (0.000)
4. Florida	11-1
5. LSU	10-2
6. Louisville	10-1
7. Wisconsin	11-1
8. Arkansas	10-2
9. Oklahoma	10-2
(2) (2000年) (2000	
10. Boise St.	12-0
11. Auburn	10-2
12. Notre Dame	10-2
13. Rutgers.	10-1
14. Va. Tech	9-2
15. W. Virginia	10-2
16. Wake F.	10-2
6/17/2007/00/2015 (25/2005) 70/78 (8-47-3) 2015/00/2015/97/37/2016/2015/2016/2015/2016/2015/2016/2016/2016/2016/2016/2016/2016/2016	2000 N 200 N 2
17. Tenn.	9-3
18. Texas	9-3
19. Nebraska	9-3
20. BYU	10-2
21. California	8-3
22. Texas A&M	9-3
	9-3
23. Ga. Tech	60 (000) (000) (000)
24. Hawaii	10-2
25. Bost. Coll.	9-3
THE RESERVE AND THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	A RESIDENCE OF STREET OF STREET

Other teams receiving votes: Georgia 44, TCU 31, Oregon St. 17, Houston 1.

Longhorns QB will play in bowl

Texas quarterback Colt McCoy should be ready to play in a bowl game after suffering a severe iy pinched nerves in his neck in the loss to Texas A&M, the playfather

"In the hospital, he was killing himself for how e played. That was hurting him a lot more than the injury," Brac McCoy told The Dalla Morning News for story on the paper

But I think with expecting himself to clay. Physically, he

exas (9-3) has no

Big Spring Steers lose to Lamesa, 56-47

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

Jason Walker and Scott Fankhauser did everything they could to prevent Big Spring (2-4) from losing a home basketball game Tuesday night, but in the end the 27 points the two combined for was not enough against the Lamesa Golden Tornados (5-0), as the Steers lost 56-47.

"We played hard but we failed to play smart," head basketball coach Joey Martin said from his office at Steer Gym. "Eventually we are going to have to learn to stop beating ourselves."

From the first basket, the Steers never led or tied the score, but the game was never out of reach either.

After the Tornados opened the first period with a 6-2 run, the Steers fought back by playing tenacious defense and trailed 8-5 after the first quarter. According to Martin, the poor start was overshadowed by the effort the players put forth on the offensive boards and defensive end of the court.

Lamesa was able to extend the lead to 8 points, but the Steers answered quickly behind Walkers shooting touch and headed to the locker rooms down 26-21.

To start the third quarter, Lamesa continued to look for Jordan Chapman, the leading scorer of the game with 17, and built the margin back up to as many 8 points. The two teams traded baskets throughout the third, but in the final quarter the Tors were able to extend the Steers deficit to 10 points with



Big Spring's Scott Fankhauser attempts to steal a pass on the baseline in Tuesday night action at the Steer Gym.

under seven minutes to play.

one final comeback.

Down 9 points with under four minutes on the clock, Fankhauser drained a 3-pointer and was fouled in the process. Converting the 4-point play, the Steers had cut the lead to 49-43. possessions

Fankhauser went to the baseline. three free throws down the Still, the Steers would mount avoiding two defenders, and made his 13 point by kissing it 47 victory over the Steers. off the glass.

The Steers lost to Lamesa, 56-47. Fankhauser scored 13 points in the loss.

With 1:32 left in regulation, the Steers down only 6 points and in possession of the ball, the game slipped away.

Back-to-back turnovers allowed the visiting Tors to hit See BOYS, Page 2B

stretch and split town with a 56-

"They put us in a half-court game and we didn't play very well," coach Martin said. "We fought back and played well in the second half, but we could not

The Big Spring student body gives the visiting Lamesa Golden Tornados the cold shoulder Tuesday night at the Steer Gym. The Lady Steers won, 53-50 and the boys lost, 56-47.

Lady Steers kick amesa at the buzzer

Big Spring girls 53, Lamesa Tors 50

MIKE GRIMES Sports Editor

Poise and patience are not usually associated with a young and inexperienced basketball team, but that's exactly what the Lady Steers used to hold off and defeat the Golden Tornados, 53-50 at Steer Gym, Tuesday night.

For the majority of the first half, Big Spring (2-5) looked dominant as it built a 13-point lead and led 29-16 with 10 seconds until the half. Desiree Yanez was the leading scorer with 10 points, including a 3-pointer to open up a 9-point spurt by the Lady Steers.

However, when the See GIRLS, Page 2B

buzzer sounded to end the first half of play the score board showed that the lead had dwindled to 8 in the final seconds of the second period. A 3-pointer by the Tors and a steal on the inbounds pass led to a lay-up at the buzzer.

"We're young and the girls have just not experienced some of this," coach Shermin Chew said of the Lady Steers.

With less than 60 seconds into the third period of action, the Golden Tors had sliced the lead to 2 points, 29-27.

After the two teams traded buckets, Lamesa took its first lead of the game with 4:20 on the clock on a fast break lay-

"We've been challenged

Parcells feels confident without 'idiot' Vanderjagt

By STEPHEN HAWKINS **AP Sports Writer**

IRVING — A day after cutting the NFL's most accurate kicker, Bill Parcells seemed relieved instead of frustrated.

Parcells was never impressed by Mike Vanderjagt, the highpriced kicker the Dallas Cowboys signed in March in hopes of solving a longstanding problem. Vanderjagt instead struggled, never gained the coach's confidence and didn't even make it through the season.

"Obviously, I feel better than having stayed the course the other way," Parcells said Tuesday, the first time he spoke publicly since the Cowboys won Thanksgiving Day to take over first place in the NFC East.

Instead of Vanderjagt, the Cowboys (7-4) head

and Sunday's key division game at the New Giants —with Martin Gramatica, who has played only three games and kicked one field goal since 2004.

"I'm approaching it with a real positive attitude," Parcells said. So, does that mean

Parcells has full confidence in Gramatica? "I thought he was the best option available," he

said. better than Even Vanderjagt, whose 86.5 percent career accuracy rate (230-for-266) is still tops in league history, along with his record of 42 consecutive makes.

Vanderjagt was only 13of-18 in his 10 games for the Cowboys, the 72 percent rate the lowest in his nine NFL seasons. He had only seven misses the

into the playoff stretch - past three seasons in

Indianapolis. Vanderjagt missed two field goals in the first half against the Colts on Nov. 19, then four days later barely made a 22-yarder.

"The last four, five weeks, I don't think he was hitting the ball, to the point where I think it made us play the game a little differently. And we just weren't able to put him out there with a lot of confidence," Parcells said. "It's just a confidence thing. When it starts affecting how you're playing, you've got to try something else."

After being hurt and missing most of the preseason, Vanderjagt was inactive the first game. Three of his misses hit the upright and another was blocked, a potential

See KICKER, Page 2B



Newly signed Dallas Cowboys kicker Martin Gramatica practices at Valley Ranch in Irving on Tuesday.

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer **HOUSTON** — Last season, when Tracy McGrady or Yao Ming were hurt, the Houston Rockets usually collapsed. This season, they've got the supporting cast to win those games.

Yao scored 25 points, Shane Battier hit a pair of key 3-pointers and added 17, and the Rockets beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 82-75 on Tuesday night.

Rafer Alston also hit a late 3-pointer and scored 13 points as the Rockets won their fourth straight game despite an injury to McGrady.

The six-time All-Star bruised his left hip in a first-half collision and seemed affected the rest of the game, scoring only eight points on 4-of-14 shooting. He

also had seven assists. "Whatever it was, it was a painful hit," McGrady said. "It was tough for me to breathe, every step that I took."

The Timberwolves trailed most of the game, but tied it at 68 on Troy Hudson's 3-pointer with 4:53 left. McGrady said his injury threw off his shooting, so Battier stepped up to make the clutch shots down the stretch.

Battier nailed an off-balance 3-pointer with 3:39 left to put Houston up 71-68,

to help the Rockets avoid their recent trend of fourth-quarter meltdowns.

"Injuries are part of the game," Battier said. "What we have to do a better job of is, when he goes out of the game, not to let up. We need to be strong and say, 'OK, guys, we've got some pretty good players. Let's keep it up.'

Alston, who missed eight of his first 10 shots, made a steal after Battier's second 3-pointer, then finished the resulting possession with a 3-pointer from the top of the key to put Houston up 77-70.

"That's what I thought about all summer," said Alston, "to play good just in case Yao or Tracy aren't playing at their best, or are out. We have to be a better team in those cases."

Kevin Garnett had 25 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota, his league-leading 12th double-double. Randy Foye added 11.

The Timberwolves have fallen into the exact opposite pattern as the Rocketsthey trail early, then play their best in the fourth quarter. On Monday night, they trailed by 15 entering the fourth quarter in Dallas, then mounted a 17-2 run to tie the game before losing 93-87.

This time, the Timberwolves shut down Yao and McGrady late, but were

then made another one 40 seconds later beaten by the Rockets they didn't count on to make big shots.

"In the fourth quarter, we did what you want to do with your defense," Garnett said. "We made them go from their first option to their third and fourth options. But then when they went to their fourth, Battier hit those big shots. If he doesn't make those, we're still in the game."

Houston snapped a four-game losing streak to the Timberwolves at home and won for the ninth time in 11 games.

The Timberwolves committed 20 turnovers and were outrebounded 40-37. The Rockets play in Phoenix on Wednesday and McGrady isn't sure he'll be able to play.

He had four assists in the first quarter, then was hit in the ribs by Mike James and went to the bench with 3:53 left.

As the second quarter began, McGrady gingerly walked behind the bench and held his side as trainer Keith Jones watched. But the Rockets maintained a slim lead without him, taking a 26-21 lead after Luther Head's 3-pointer.

McGrady returned with 8:46 left in the half and promptly hit a jumper from the free throw line. But he missed two more jumpers-part of a 1-for-8 start-and bent touch just in time. over during play stoppages.

McGrady went to the bench again with 4:25 left in the first half and held his left hip as he walked to the locker room

with Jones. Without McGrady, Yao carried the Rockets to a 36-31 halftime lead, scoring 12 points and grabbing six rebounds in the first half.

Garnett scored 12 in the first half, but none of his teammates had more than

McGrady started the second half, missed a jumper, then threw an errant pass that James, a former Rocket, converted into a layup.

The Timberwolves pulled to a 39-all tie before Yao scored twice to rebuild a four-point Houston lead. Yao was 7-for-10 from the field at that point, while the rest of the Rockets were 10-for-44.

Houston led 62-56 when McGrady returned with 9:17 remaining. McGrady hit a hanging mid-range jumper two minutes later to put the Rockets up 64-58, but Hudson's second 3-pointer in three minutes tied it.

Battier answered with consecutive 3pointers from the corner and Alston added a 3-pointer with 2:16 left as the Rockets rediscovered their shooting

NFL players injury update

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (AP) Donovan McNabb could be sidelined between eight and 12 months after having surgery to repair a torn knee ligament.

McNabb, a five-time Pro Bowl quarterback, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee in the second quarter of the Holmes Eagles' loss to Tennessee last week.

It was his third seasonending injury in mid-November in the last five

Dr. James Andrews performed the reconstructive surgery knee Birmingham, Ala.

Head athletic trainer Rick Burkholder said McNabb also needed expected repairs to his Anothio and played his meniscus, fibers and car- college football at the tilage in the knee.

He added there was a "good" chance McNabb will be healthy for Steelers safety

manage to get over the hump. Our lack

of experience really showed tonight and

we made some JV (junior varsity) mis-

'It's still early in the season and with

Philadelphia's opener, which would be about nine months.

KANSAS CITY **CHIEFS** — Running back Priest Holmes will not return to the Kansas City Chiefs this season.

However, Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson said that medical tests on have been encouraging and Holmes hopes to return for the 2007 season. It was the last day the Chiefs could have activated Holmes.

The three-time Pro Renowned orthopedist Bowler, who turned 33 last month, has not played since Oct. 30, 2005, when he was injured on a hit by Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman in a game at San Diego.

Holmes is from San University of Texas.

PITTSBURGH STEEL-ERS Troy said.

season Polamalu has a sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee and will miss Sunday's game against Tampa Bay.

OAKLAND RAIDERS The Raiders replaced coordinator offensive Tom Walsh this week, promoting tight ends coach John Shoop to take charge of the team's struggling offense.

WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. Johnnie Bettis, the father of retired NFL running back Jerome Bettis, and former Texas Tech and Dallas high school footall star, died at a suburban Detroit hospital of an apparent heart attack, police said.

Johnnie Bettis, 61, of Detroit, was stricken while driving in a suburb north of the city around Pittsburgh noon, police Lt. Carl Fuhs

fine when district gets here." To contact sports editor Mike Grimes, call 263-7331 ext. 237, or by e-mail at sports@bigspring herald.com

Any information regarding local sports stories or photos is appreciated.

some maturity I think we're going to be

Mavericks streak to 10-0 after sputtering to 0-4 start

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS - Avery Johnson gambled this tion level and other teams almost equally. Dampier preseason, opting to let Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Terry and Jerry Stackhouse ease their bodies into action.

A week into the season, it sure looked like a mistake. After ending last season with four straight losses in the NBA finals, the Mavericks lost their first four games of this season. For all the lousy teams Dallas has had, this club- the one trying defend their new title as Western champions — was the first to start 0-4.

break through with a victory or two, they've won 10 straight, matching the fourth-best streak in club history.

Better yet, it's already propelled them to where they expected to be this season- fighting San Antonio (11-4) for tops in the Southwest Division and in the mix for the best record in the NBA.

"We had a plan," Johnson said prior to the latest victory, a squeaker Minnesota Monday night. "Even if we had to suffer through the first week, it could be beneficial for us."

Another benefit was realizing that teams view Dallas differently now. Sure, the Mavericks have been an elite team for years, but they were always considered too soft and too reliant on outside jumpers to be taken seriously. Johnson's emphasis on defense and making the finals have changed all that.

"We had to get used to the ferociousness that other teams were coming

last year's coach of the year. "We were still kind of on the summer-vacawere playing a lot tougher mentally and physically than we were. We had to adjust."

The biggest adjustment simply time. was Nowitzki, Terry and Stackhouse knocked the rust off, then starting getting more comfortable with their new teammates Although Dallas kept

together its starting lineup and two top reserves, there are still some key Conference new faces. Anthony Johnson is now the backup point guard, Greg The Mavs didn't just swingman and Austin Croshere is Nowitzki's backup. Devean George eventually will be counted on, once he can stay healthy, and rookie Maurice Ager is being brought along slowly.

"I missed two weeks, Stack missed two weeks, Dirk missed a week," Terry said. "It was more about us getting to know each other on the floor. That's a process that's continuing through the year. It isn't going to happen overnight."

Johnson is still tinkering with lineup combinations. He says he's trying to figure out which don't work as much as he is stacking up those that do.

"It doesn't matter how good a guy was with his previous team, if he doesn't hone his skills to fit with our system, it's really useless. We're trying to get to that point," Johnson said.

There's also been a tweak to the starting lineup, with Erick Dampier regaining the center spot and DeSagana Diop backing him up. Dallas won 13

at us with," said Johnson, straight games immediately after Diop joined the starters last season, but the playing time was split is now getting the majority of minutes and, for the first time since he joined the Mavs, is consistently giving strong performances- such as Monday night, when he had 12 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks in the final few minutes.

Johnson said it's not selfish for Dampier to aim for a double-double every night. 'We think it is a good

goal for him," Johnson said.

The most impressive part of Dallas' roll is that Well, look at them now. Buckner the backup most of it came without Josh Howard, the second leading scorer last season and their best defender. Howard missed the last

loss and the first seven wins because of a sprained ankle. In the three games since he's returned, the Mavs have scored at least 33 points in the first quarter. And the defense has had its two best first halves the last two games. Over the

winning streak, Dallas has led by at least 10 points in all but one game. Mavericks have been ahead by at least 20 in three of their last four games.

Next up is Toronto, which was 0-7 on the road going into a game Tuesday at New Orleans. If Dallas can get to 11 in a row, then No. 12 could come Saturday at home against Sacramento. After that, the Mavs are

off to Washington and New Jersey. Win 'em all and they'd match the franchise record of 14 straight set at the start of the 2002-03 season.

GIRLS

BOYS

Continued from 1B

takes out there.

Continued from 1B

in the past couple of games," Chew explained. "Now we're starting to see and understand just what it takes to play at the varsity level. We were able to turn things around tonight and we met the challenge."

The final period saw both teams trading basket after basket and neither team could manage more than a 3-point advantage. With 3:30 remaining in the game the score was dead even at 48-48.

After a Big Spring free throw gave the Lady Steers a 1-point advantage, the Tors took just under two minutes off the clock before hitting a 8foot shot to give them a 50-49 lead with 39 seconds remaining.

As the ball crossed midcourt Coach Chew took his final timeout.

"Briana Balles is a senior," Chew said after the game. "During that timeout we called her number and told her it was her shot to make.'

With 20 seconds to play.

Balles swished a gamewinning 3-pointer from the right side of the court.

> One free throw later and the Lady Steers had fought back to take a 53-50 lead and with 0.8 seconds to compete, the Golden Tornados missed three straight free throws that could have tied the game.

"We're on a two-game winning streak right now," Chew added as the girls left the locker room. "We just stepped up and it feels really good. Let everyone know that I'm very proud of these young ladies right now."

KICKER

Continued from 1B

game-winner in a loss at Washington on

"There was a time during the early part of the season basically after preseason was over that it looked like things were going to sort themselves out," Parcells said. "It just wasn't consistent enough. I don't know. I can't put my fin-

ger on it." Gramatica was at practice Tuesday, the first for the Cowboys after three straight days off.

Dallas players weren't completely shocked by the kicking switch.

"Bill's all about comfort and what he feels good with," tight end Jason Witten said.

"I don't know what message (Parcells)

is trying to send. I just think he wants to win," said Tony Romo, who has led Dallas to a 4-1 record since replacing Drew Bledsoe as the starting quarterback. "Any position in this room needs to play well and needs to perform well on Sunday, and prove it to Bill."

Gramatica was out of the NFL last season and cut by New England in the preseason when the Patriots decided to go with rookie Stephen Gostkowski.

When Adam Vinatieri was injured earlier this season, Gramatica played three games for the Colts. He attempted only one field goal, making a 20-yarder.

"That really doesn't show much, but physically I feel good," Gramatica said. "I had surgery a couple of years ago, and I think I fixed the problem that I had in my leg."

Vanderjagt became dispensable when the Colts signed Vinatieri, who had two ing on is on the future, and I feel great

game-winning Super Bowl kicks for New England. Vanderjagt's last kick for Indianapolis was a badly missed field goal that kept the Colts from forcing overtime against Pittsburgh in last year's playoffs.

The Cowboys gave Vanderjagt a threeyear, \$5.4 million contract that included a \$2.5 million signing bonus.

Gramatica was a third-round pick by Tampa Bay in 1999. He made the Pro Bowl in 2001, helped Tampa Bay win the Super Bowl in 2002 and then was so accurate that he was nicknamed 'Automatica."

But since that Super Bowl, Gramatica has been slowed by injuries and is only 28-of-46.

"That's the past, I don't really want to talk about that," said Gramatica, who turned 31 Monday. "All I'm really focus-

right now."

So what about stepping in late in the season for the Cowboys in the playoff chase?

"I hope I can help the team," he said. "It's not as easy as starting in the preseason, getting warmup games. I have to be ready for whatever comes."

Gramatica said he has been working out, and that it was hard being at home when he still felt he could play.

Parcells certainly hopes he can still

"I know what his track record is. And I know in 2003-2004, I know why he had some problems kicking and I know why he was out of football in 2005, and I know where he was this summer," Parcells said. "I have good information from the people that had him this summer; they were very positive about it. I looked at everything."

BIG SPRING HERALD

Wednesday, Nove

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer NEW YORK - To defend Mark McGwir

him, Big Mac is a Ha "I've believed in hi still believe in him Cardinals manager telephone intervi

Associated Press. McGwire is appear Fame ballot for the fi survey of 125 baseba eligible to vote — abo total — showed that who gave an opinion McGwire.

"It would be two in it two in five," La R

-ongho By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer AUSTIN Kevin Durant has alr shown Texas that he score from just about where. The Longh want beefy fresh Dexter Pittman to their muscle in the

While Durant had usual 22 points and s rebounds, Pit showed signs of co around against T Southern, scoring points and grabbin rebounds to help Longhorns coast **Texas Southern 90-56** final tuneup before Longhorns get their taste of Top 25 con tion.

"He's a big body," sophomore A.J. Abi the only non-fresh starter for Texas "He can bang down and score. He's ge better on defense, v will help us out."

Pittman, who at 6-fe was 388 pounds after last high school has whittled hi down to 295 with a regimen of diet and cise that includes 30 utes on a stationary before every game.

"I feel like Armstrong right

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The Texans' win

tied with two other for second-worst NFL. Arizona, Oakland, and Houston plays S have the fewest wil two apiece.

Wherever they there will be an abundance of opin what they should the coveted choice

The inevitable ment will be th Texans should giv David Carr and sta with a new quarte It was a conve

that raged in the

leading up to this draft, and with recent struggles, it be brought up aga In his fifth seas

top pick in 2002 ha

McGuire has the faith of his former manager La Russa

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Tony La Russa will defend Mark McGwire until the end: To him, Big Mac is a Hall of Famer.

"I've believed in him from day one. I still believe in him." the St. Louis Cardinals manager said Tuesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

McGwire is appearing on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time, and an AP survey of 125 baseball writers who are eligible to vote — about 20 percent of the total — showed that only one in four who gave an opinion planned to vote for McGwire.

it two in five," La Russa said. "I can't mance - enhancing drugs.

answer for anybody else, what priorities they give and how they weigh stuff. I know what my personal opinion is, and that's the way it stays."

McGwire, a 12 — time All-Star, is seventh on the career home run list with 583, but his status plummeted in the minds of many after former Oakland teammate Jose Canseco accused him last year of using steroids. McGwire evaded questions during a March 2005 congressional hearing, saying repeatedly: "I'm not here to talk about the past."

La Russa managed McGwire from 1986—95 with the Oakland Athletics, then from 1997—2001 with the Cardinals. La Russa repeatedly has said that he "It would be two in five then. I'd make never saw McGwire use any perfor-

"I've watched him for years and years and years work out and take care of himself, and if any of us do that, we get bigger and stronger," La Russa said.

McGwire's business manager, Jim Milner, did not return telephone calls Monday and Tuesday seeking comment. For La Russa, it's hard to gauge whether McGwire is being treated unfairly because of his refusal to answer

questions at the congressional hearing. "I know people are struggling with how to put it in perspective," he said. "I don't know where it goes. I don't know how people weigh. I don't know how the public feels. To me, the issue is the player that I saw for years and years. I believe in him. And that's where I leave

McGwire has stayed away from most baseball events — he wasn't seen at any of the St. Louis Cardinals' World Series games this year. While La Russa remains in close contact, they haven't discussed the upcoming Hall of Fame

"I talk to him frequently. We don't talk about it. We have other things to talk about," La Russa said.

St. Louis beat the Detroit Tigers in five games last month for its first World Series title since 1982. For La Russa, this offseason is a time to savor.

"It's been good. Enjoying every bit of it," he said. "You wouldn't feel it as deeply as you do having been through a bunch of misses."

Longhorns rock TSU, 90-50

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

Skinny AUSTIN **Kevin Durant has already** shown Texas that he can score from just about anywhere. The Longhorns want beefy freshman Dexter Pittman to be their muscle in the mid-

While Durant had his usual 22 points and seven rebounds, Pittman showed signs of coming around against Texas Southern, scoring 10 points and grabbing six rebounds to help the Longhorns coast past Texas Southern 90-50 in a final tuneup before the Longhorns get their first taste of Top 25 competi-

"He's a big body," said sophomore A.J. Abrams, the only non-freshman starter for Texas (5-1). "He can bang down low and score. He's getting better on defense, which will help us out."

Pittman, who at 6-foot-10 was 388 pounds after his last high school game, has whittled himself down to 295 with a strict regimen of diet and exer-cise that includes 30 minutes on a stationary bike before every game.

"I feel like Lance Armstrong right now,"

Pittman said after his 5of-6 shooting night. "My teammates call me Dex Armstrong."

The Longhorns play No. 22 Gonzaga on Saturday in Phoenix, then play No. 10 LSU and Glen "Big Baby" Davis in Houston on Dec. 10.

'We're going to use (Pittman)," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "We're going to keep putting him men — Durant, D.J. out there. He's got great hands and great feet."

Durant, one of the top freshmen in the country, has scored at least 20 in every game. He did just about anything he wanted against Texas Southern, scoring 15 points in just four times. 11 minutes on the court in the first half. He opened the game with a 3-pointer and scored seven straight points in a 10-3 run that kick-started Texas to 60 points in the half.

Durant started the run with two free throws, hit another 3-pointer, then used his lanky 6-foot-9 frame to slash under the needed some help from basket and finish a reverse layup.

Durant's third 3-pointer least no Courtney, said. made it 38-14 and Barnes went deep into his bench early in the game. Longhorns. We were just Pittman scored six points outmanned. Too much

in the half. "I'm getting used to the everything."

game," Pittman said. "I've got to beat my man down the court (on defense)."

Abrams, shooting 55 percent on 3-pointers coming into the game, hit three in the first half, including one in the final seconds to make it 60-25. He finished with 20 points.

Texas started four fresh-Augustin, Justin Mason and Damion James — for the second straight game. James opened the second half with consecutive dunks.

The Longhorns have scored at least 90 points

Texas Southern coach Ronnie Courtney won two Texas state high school championships on the Longhorns' home court when he coached Sugar Land Willowridge. Those teams had current NBA players T.J. Ford and Daniel Ewing.

"I think I might have those guys. We might have kept it close at "Pretty, awesome exhibi-tion of basketball by the firepower. Too much

No controversy here: Stoops unanimous choice for Big 12 honor

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — In a season of turmoil, Bob Stoops was still able to mold a championship-caliber team at Oklahoma.

Even after the dismissal of their starting quarterback and an injury to their record-setting running back, the Sooners managed to go 10-2, 7-1 in the Big 12. It was good enough for OU to win its fifth Big 12 South title and a berth in the conference championship game Saturday and, on Tuesday, Stoops was named with The Associated Press'Big 12 coach of the year.

Stoops was a unanimous choice for the honor, which he also won in 2000 and 2003. He becomes the first threetime winner in the conference's 11-year history. Only former Colorado coach Gary Barnett has won twice. Stoops is the second straight unanimous selection, following Texas'Mack Brown.

"With the things that we've had to overcome, the way he's kept this team focused, kept our mind-set focused on our main goals, is big," quarterback Paul Thompson said. "That's the main thing for coaches, keeping your team focused, keeping them away from the distractions. ... He's just done a great job overall with the adversity that we have had this year."

Stoops has had to deal with the nasty business of dismissing two players, including starting quarterback Rhett Bomar, who broke NCAA rules by taking more money than he earned at a Norman car dealership. The program is still under investigation by the NCAA, which has said Bomar took \$7,400 more than he earned while offensive lineman J.D. Quinn took \$8,100 in extra benefits.

Once the season started, Stoops had to brush aside

a crushing 34-33 loss at Oregon that could've been a win if officials had made a correct ruling on a late onside kick or a subsequent instant replay review. Next, he lost his start-

tailback, 2004 runner-up Heisman Adrian Peterson, to a broken collarbone that has kept him out six weeks. He's doubtful to return Saturday for the Big 12 title game against No. 19 Nebraska (9-3, 6-2).

Each time adversity has flared, Stoops attacked it directly by telling players no excuses would be allowed.

"It was just on and on," linebacker Rufus Alexander said. "He just came in and made it seem like it's your choice what you want to do and how you want to go through whatever has happened to you. You get dealt a hand of cards and you have to play them, and that's all we did."

The Longhorns helped by losing their last two ting so many young playgames, letting Oklahoma ers in position to play and capture the division title.

"In this building, we never took our eyes off of what our goals were and felt that we couldn't meet them. It was going to be tough, but we could do it," Stoops said.

Stoops has done it without the All-Star cast from

Tailbacks Allen Patrick and Chris Brown moved into Peterson's starting role to carry Oklahoma's running game, following an inexperienced offensive line that was supposed to be a question mark even before it lost right tackle Branndon Braxton to an injury.

Other unknowns have also emerged, including redshirt freshman Brody Eldridge, who's turned into a blocking sensation at fullback and tight end. On defense, a secondary that was shaky early on has been fixed by shuffling personnel. Only one of four starters in the defensive backfield was projected at his current spot when the season started.

"I think as much as anything we've traveled through the year and have improved as we've gone through the year,' Stoops said. "I really believe our assistant coaches have done a After an October loss to great, great job of work-Texas, the Sooners reeled ing through all of the dif-off seven straight wins. ferent changes we've had with personnel and getgetting them to play well."

The result has been one of Stoops'most rewarding seasons in eight years in Norman.

"It's been one of the most enjoyable for sure, because of just the attitude of the players," he

Let the draft talk begin for Texans

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — With five games left, the Houston Texans have three wins and still have to play Indianapolis and New England.

Looks like it's time to abandon hope for this season and start talking about next year's draft.

What will the Texans do with their latest high draft pick?

Will they satisfy the longing of fans this year and nab a high-profile skill player? Or will they continue to build around defense by choosing another player that makes the casual fan say, 'Who?'"

The odds of getting the No. 1 pick again seem slim since Houston already has one more win than it finished with in 2005.

The Texans' win total is tied with two other teams for second-worst in the NFL. Arizona, Detroit Oakland, who Houston plays Sunday, have the fewest wins with two apiece.

Wherever they end up, there will be an overabundance of opinions on what they should do with the coveted choice.

The inevitable argument will be that the Texans should give up on David Carr and start over with a new quarterback.

It was a conversation that raged in the months leading up to this year's draft, and with Carr's recent struggles, it should be brought up again.

In his fifth season, the top pick in 2002 has yet to

elite, quarterback.

Granted, he's been surrounded with mostly mediocre players and had most of his career.

make strides under forquarterback and offensive-minded coach Gary Kubiak, but so far improvements those haven't translated to much more success for the team.

Kubiak's assessment of bust Ron Dayne. Carr factored heavily in the decision to extend the quarterback's contract for three seasons this offseason, so Houston isn't likely to give up on him yet.

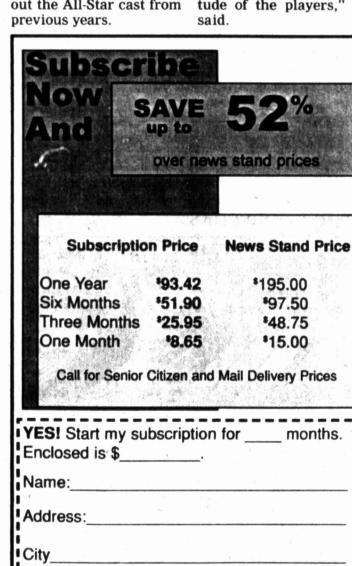
While the need for a show that he can be an new quarterback is debatgame-changing able, it's easy to see that the Texans are in dire need of a running back. Yes, Domanick Davis is a porous offensive line supposed to return next season, but there's no He was expected to guarantee that he will

> With Davis, the franchise-leading rusher, on the injured reserve, Houston has been left with rookie Wali Lundy, undrafted free agent Samkon Gado and NFL-

Lundy has right now.

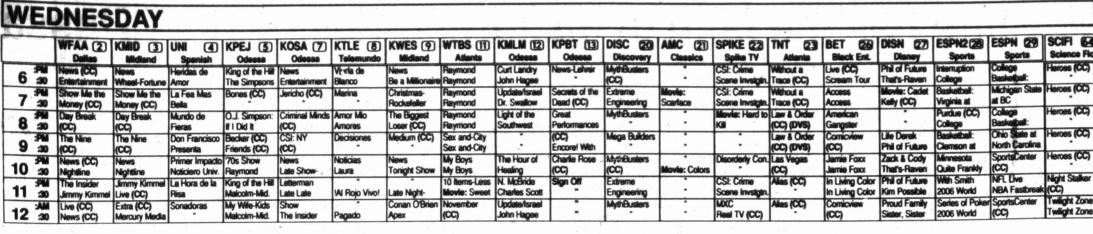
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shown promise, but the Texans don't need some future project — they need someone who can produce



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 29, the 333rd day of 2006. There are 32 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 29, 1963, President Johnson named a commission headed by Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy. On this date:

In 1530, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, one-time adviser to England's King Henry VIII, died. In 1864, a Colorado militia

killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre In 1924, Italian composer

Giacomo Puccini died in Brussels, Belgium, before he could complete his opera "Turandot." (It was finished by Franco Alfano.)

In 1929, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd radioed that he and co-pilot Bernt Balchen had made the first airplane flight over the South Pole. In 1947, the U.N. General

Assembly passed a resolution calling for the partitioning of Palestine between Arabs and Jews. In 1961, Enos the chimp

was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited earth twice before returning. In 1964, the U.S. Roman

Catholic Church instituted sweeping changes in the liturgy, including the use of English instead of Latin.

Today's Birthdays: Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Vin Scully is 79. Blues singermusician John Mayall is 73. Composer-musician Chuck Mangione is 66. Pop singer Denny Doherty (The Mamas & the Papas) is 66. Country singer Jody Miller is 65. Actress Diane Ladd is 63. Pop singer-musician Felix 62. Olympic gold medal skier Suzy Chaffee is 60. Comedian Garry Shandling is 57. Movie director Joel Coen is 52. Actor-comediangame show host Howie Mandel is 51. Actor Jeff Fahey is 49. Actress Cathy Moriarty is 46. Actress Kim Delaney is 45. Actor Andrew McCarthy is 44. Actor Don Cheadle is 42. Musician Buchanan Wallis

(Jamiroquai) is 41. Pop singer Jonathan Knight (New Kids on the Block) is 38. Rock musician Martin Carr (Boo Radleys) is 38. Actress Gena Lee Nolin is 35. Actress Anna Faris is 30. Rapper The Game is 27. Rock musician Ringo Garza is 25. Actor Lucas Black is

Thought for "Superstition is the religion of feeble minds." - Edmund Burke, British statesman (1729-1797).

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39 Word of

41 Cause of

44 Slithery

46 Airport

47 Give off

burnout

42 Prickly plants

swimmer

45 Evasive in

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annoyance

50 Goals or assists

51 Gulf War missile

48 Jabbed with

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52 Big heads

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Newsday Crossword

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- exclamation 13 Russia's Mountains
- 14 Actor Estevez 16 Grand __ Opry
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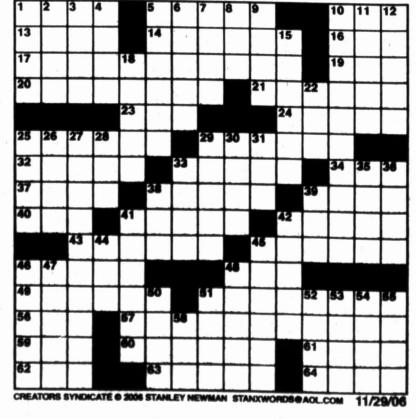
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NEW HOUSE: 517 Foster Ave. (Coahoma), 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, study, custom cabinets, jacuzzi tub master bath, large closets, large utility, stained concrete floors through out, approx. 2400 sq. ft. Call (432)517-0515, 517-0604.

Vehicles

(2) New 2005 7 Passenger Vans \$*9,500 OffI Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7424

Vehicles

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed 2002 HONDA Accord, 2 door SE Special Edition. 64k, moonproposals until 4:00 P.M., Decemroof, CD. Extended warranty ber 6, 2006, on the following area: available. \$12,995.00. Call (806)239-5108, (432)270-4279. Specifications and proposal docu-

91 CHEVY- Step-side. Custom, 350 engine, standard, black out tires & rims. Very Nice. Call (432)263-4528, 296-0277.

99 HYUNDAI ACCENT. \$500 or OBO. Needs front fender work. Call (432)394-4835 or leave message.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Most of the day is spent in preparation for a lively afternoon. Running events through your mental movie projector ahead of time helps you catch all possible glitches before they happen. As a bonus, powers of visualization are strong this morning, and then an adrenaline shot kicks in for mission-completion the

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Simplify. In any way you possibly can. If you have seven

choices, cut it down to three. Where there are five colors, choose two that are complementary. Instead inviting four people, take one.

TAURUS



(April 20-May 20). When life is mean, befriend it. Call it nice names. Ask it what it wants, and provide that. Sometimes it's better to acquiesce to life's needs instead of making it comply with yours.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may have trouble bringing anyone to your way of thinking now, but that's OK. It forces you to be an example. People believe what they see. Show them. You do it gracefully.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though you feel underrehearsed or out of your league, it's just not true. You can deliver the goods as well as anyone else, if not better. And you're not alone. There are lots of resources at your disposal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Frustration is a normal part of doing business. The puzzles you face today are exactly the kind you usually figure out quickly. Problems with no foreseeable solution require you to act on faith.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). An apology could be the

only thing standing between you and a goal. Don't be too proud to say you were wrong. Being wrong isn't so bad. In fact, it puts you in a category with the best minds in history at one time or another.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're reasonable even when others are outrageous or even slightly insane. Fighting people who are acting crazy is silly. Go with the madness. Everyone settles down by tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. better you 21). The understand the power structure at work, the more effective you'll be. Know to whom you should be talking and to whom you should be listening. Roles are carefully delineated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's been said that domestication is the enemy of romance, but you can prove them wrong. Design your home environment to bring about amorous feelings. Your attention to detail makes all the difference.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Perfectionism breeds stress. Make mistakes just to prove that nothing bad will happen if you fail. Burn dinner, mess up the house and bumble up a conversation. The sky doesn't fall. Sweet Sweet liberation!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). By focusing on your spiritual needs, you better the world in a physical, tangible way. Also, you attract the person you desire by showing what a steady, calming force you can be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). New information is all well and good, but how does it apply? Your tolerance is low now for anything that doesn't contribute directly to the bottom line. Tonight you figure out the next practical action to take. ASTROLOGICAL

QUESTION: "Can someone SYNDICATE, INC. born March 1, 1961, be a

superstar? Is it too late to be an actor?"

First, don't give anyone more power than you when it comes to determining your destiny. It's never too late to pursue your dreams, though making it in Hollywood could require more stamina, faith, hard work and talent than many choices. Look other seriously at what you're willing to do to make these dreams real, and let that dictate your pursuit. That said, Pisces is a wonderful sign for actors, because they can easily wear the persona of others. They come from a wider base of compassion for the human condition than most and often use their psychic perception to capture the essence of characters on a basic level. They don't intellectualize while performing, but they do understand the concept of "just be" the character. Pisces is the one sign that is the summation of all the other 11 preceding signs. That's why Pisceans are so spiritual — they really have the ability to see things from another's point of view. Pisces can truly walk in the shoes of others, as they actually pick up vibrations from the ground. Being happy in a part-time day job will make you feel at ease and help you work toward honing your craft.

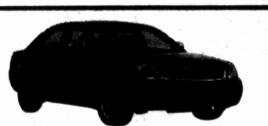
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sagittarian Anna Nicole Smith's tumultuous and heartbreaking past year will force this unforgettable blonde bombshell to get the rest and introspection she needs. I see a newfound peace and tranquility for the beautiful Smith for the first time in her 12-plus years in the spotlight, as she shies away from the media and focuses entirely on raising and nurturing newborn daughter Dannielynn.

2006 **CREATORS**

299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to **ALL BILLS PAID** accept or reject any or all bids. #5142 November 15 & 29, 2006 263-1252 1-866-265-4104 538 Westover **Housing Assistance Accepted** Autumn Clearance Sale

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Annie's Mailbox -: Advice for those in need

considered myself to be levelheaded, but somehow I've ended up in a fouryear relationship with a man I suspect is a sociopath.

At the beginning of our elationship, "Wilbur" relationship, bragged that he'd cheated on every woman he'd ever been with. He insisted he had changed, and I trusted him. Of course, he hasn't changed at all. He's cheated on me at least three times that I know of. He's never apologized, and has left me and my children (who adore him) repeatedly without a word of warning.

Every time Wilbur leaves, a month or two goes by and he gets in touch again. I desperately want to believe he really loves us, so I take him back. Then I'm supposed to act like nothing's happened. If I hold him accountable, he calls me a lot of nasty names and puts me down.

Wilbur moved in with us last Christmas, and it's been a nightmare. The other night, Wilbur blew his top over something petty and said he's had it and is leaving at the end of the month. In the meantime, he's been searching the Internet for a new sex partner. He made a point of rubbing my nose in it.

Wilbur has paid half the utilities for the month, so he thinks he's entitled to stay. He was fired from his job, so while I'm at work, I have no way of protecting my belongings from being stolen or vandalized. He's done that before.

I'm a wreck. I don't feel anything merits a call to the police, but I also don't feel my home is safe. I know I got myself into this mess, but how do I get out without things getting really ugly? — Lost in the U.S.



MARCY SUGAR

Dear Lost: Can you have someone house-sit while you are at work? Can you lock up your valuables? Can you take time off work at the end of the month? At the very least, if Wilbur takes or ruins your things, be sure to file a police report so there is a record. Change the locks once he's out. And under no circumstances should you allow Wilbur back into your life. Ever.

Dear Annie: At the age of 61, I met a wonderful woman (also 61) I'll call "Sharon." She was slim and shapely, and I was immediately attracted to her. Eight years after we married, Sharon is no longer slim, shapely or attractive. As a result, I am rarely interested in having sex with her and spend a fair amount of time daydreaming about other women. I only initiate sex with Sharon while we are in bed, in the dark, so I cannot see

I feel guilty, but haven't a clue what to do. Sharon doesn't complain about our lack of intimacy. Is something wrong with me? — Richard in Phoenix

Dear Richard: You married Sharon because she looked sexy, but looks change. (Haven't yours?) Successful marriages rely on being attracted to personality,

common interests, shared values, etc., and those things should be at least as important as the physical attraction. In your case, they aren't. It won't help to do nothing and be miserable. Suggest counseling to Sharon, saying you would like to work on some issues. If she won't go, go without

Dear Annie: May I respond to "Angry Father," whose son and daughter-in-law have rejected him? We bent over backward to please our daughter-in-law, but it didn't help. I finally brought it up to my son, and we had an argument. The things he said were reprehensible, not to mention untrue. Now we are estranged and, of course, we are not allowed to see our grandchildren.

"Angry" is not going to change his daughter-inlaw, regardless of what he does, and if his son does not have any backbone now, he probably never will. We know where we stand, even if it is without them. - Resigned Mother Dear Resigned: How sad

- especially for your grandchildren, who will lose out on the joys of knowing loving grandparents. Annie's Mailbox is

written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.n et, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, the visit Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Help Wanted

NEED EVENING Dishwasher part-time. Must be 16 yrs. old. Apply in person, Red Mesa Grill, 2401 S. Gregg.

HOUSEKEEPING APPLICA-TIONS are now being taken. Pickup application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford



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 Nursery available

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Literal Market Burgaria

THE SAN Angelo Standard Times is seeking a mature individual for home delivery of newspapers in Big Spring. Make approximate \$750.00 per month, \$100 sign in bonus. Running your own business. Must like working early morning Call today hours. 1-(800)588-1884 ext. 8294 or (325)212-8481.

CLERK II: State Park, Cust. Svc., sales, accounting, recomputer apps. 20 hrs/wk., \$9.29/hr.. Closes 11-29-06. Apply at TX. Workforce, State of TX application. Call (432)263-8373. EEO.

Fasken Oil and Ranch, Ltd. Andrews, TX Starting Salary - \$35,000/yr Free Medical and Dental

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Attention: Operations Manager Or email to pumper598@yahoo.com

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The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers in Big Spring, Snyder, Stanton, Midland and Odessa.

A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. The Districit is an equal

opportunity employer. Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

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

THE HOWARD County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a part-time dispatcher. Applications are available in the Sheriff's Office, 1st floor of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St. M-F, 8-5 EOE.

The Martin County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking personnel for a housekeeper on an as needed basis. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or

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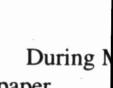
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NEW HOUSE: 517 Foster Ave. (Coahoma), 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, study, custom cabinets, jacuzzi tub master bath, large closets, large utility, stained concrete floors through out, approx. 2400 sq. ft. (432)517-0515, 517-0604.

Vehicles

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

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

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During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

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THE

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

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

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

HOW TO

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

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

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

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

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

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

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

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

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

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

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

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 and ask for a retail advertising sales representative or visit our office at 710 Scurry. Telephone lines are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SPRING HERALD

Submit your information by fax at 432-264-7205 Call us at 432-263-7331 Come visit us at 710 Scurry Street www.bigspringherald.com BIG SPRING

VOLUME 103, NUMBE



The Big Spring Mui ing of fresh powder

W

Ice and

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

A cold front with winter to Howard weeks early, as so keted the area and sure of a large chu 20.

An extremely po sure system parke Panhandle provide the storm system moving through Wednesday evening

OPENS SA Museul feature

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Heritage Museu kick off its observ the Christmas with "Silent Nigh Night — A Walk-T Nativity" beginnip.m. Saturday.

The nativity w ture several scene the story of the l the Christ child Museum Curator Schrecengost

Schrecengost.

"Every Christn
try to do someth
ferent," Schre
said. "Earlier this
was reading a ch
book, and that se
the inspiration

INDEX

Classified 3-

Wheels

Obituaries

Opinion Sports

> To reach us: Please call 263-7 a.m. to 5 p.m. M If you miss your 263-7335 before

noon Sunday.