

The Big Spring Municipal Auditorium — along with the majority of the city's downtown area — got a generous helping of fresh powder this morning with accumulation of 1-3 inches expected through the day.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Moore targets \$3 million for Settles project

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Dallas-based Settles Hotel Development Company asked members of the Moore Development Board of Directors Wednesday night to kick in \$3 million for renovations of the downtown landmark — if it's legal.

The board approved a motion that will begin the process to grant the company a \$3 million, 4A-eligible grant, first requesting a letter of opinion from the economic developer's attorney to confirm the grant is legal, then issuing a letter of intent to pony up the funding for the project.

"I really feel like we



McLellan



Parker

need to get this letter of opinion from our attorney before we make a motion for a letter of intent," said board member Frank Parker, who joined the meeting via a conference call. "We need to know what parameters we can enter into this thing on before we can commit to funding any particular items for the project.

"There is also the ques-

See MOORE, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Moore Development board members Richard Steel, left, Raul Marquez, Mike Niklasch and Larry McLellan go over the details of a \$3 million grant for the Settles Hotel Development Company during a conference call with fellow board member Frank Parker.

Winter arrives

Ice and snow bring fender benders, close of I-20

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A cold front with a kick brought winter to Howard County a few weeks early, as snow and ice blanketed the area and forced the closure of a large chunk of Interstate 20.

An extremely powerful low pressure system parked over the Texas Panhandle provided the trigger for the storm system, which began moving through this area Wednesday evening.

"It wasn't a super-complicated system, but it was strong. We saw it coming for days," said David Marsalek, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "It kind of got hung up along the Dawson-Scurry-Borden line Wednesday, but once the evening hours kicked in, it came through with a bang."

Temperatures plummeted as the system brought strong winds, snow and ice into the area. The biggest impact was on area roads, which became slick and hazardous under the icy coating.

Numerous accidents have been reported on county roads this morning, although most were minor and did not involve injuries. The sheer number of fender-benders, however, forced officials with the Texas Department of Transportation to close a huge portion of Interstate 20 early today.

James Gilbert, maintenance supervisor for the local TxDOT office, said Interstate 20 was closed from U.S. Highway 87 west to the

See SNOW, Page 3A

OPENS SATURDAY

Museum exhibit will feature Christ's birth

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Heritage Museum will kick off its observance of the Christmas season with "Silent Night, Holy Night — A Walk-Through Nativity" beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday.

The nativity will feature several scenes from the story of the birth of the Christ child, said Museum Curator Tammy Schrecengost.

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

"The stories in the nativity will be about nice things that have happened to people during the Christmas season."

—Tammy Schrecengost

nativity."

The exhibit will feature artwork by local resident Lenita Fryar and costumes donated by First

See MUSEUM, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tammy Schrecengost of the Heritage Museum adjusts a mannequin that will be part of the museum's "Silent Night, Holy Night — A Walk-Through Nativity" exhibit which opens at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Canterbury bazaar full of gifts, eats

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Call it one-stop shopping — Canterbury style.

The retirement community will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday, and officials say it offers senior citizens, as well as others in the community, a perfect opportunity to buy all their holiday gifts under one roof.

The bazaar, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Canterbury South, will feature a variety of items, ranging from Christmas trees to handicrafts, said Shannon Nabors, Canterbury executive director.

In addition, the Canterbury Auxiliary will hold a rummage sale

See BAZAAR, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B

Wheels 5A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B



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LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

A community Christmas tradition returns this Saturday.

The Living Christmas Tree will be held Saturday and Sunday at First United Methodist Church, located at 400 Scurry St.

This is the 28th straight year for the event, which features more than 100 participants, officials said.

There will be a 2 p.m. dress rehearsal Saturday, followed by regular performances at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is free to all showings, but church officials ask that you contact the church at 267-6394 to obtain tickets for the evening performances.

VAMC PLANS ACTIVITIES

The Big Spring VA Medical Center has two annual events planned Friday. The public is invited to both.

At 11 a.m., the health care facility will hold a World AIDS Day ceremony in the chapel. 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 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.

Refreshments will be served and Santa will visit with the children.

RED DRESS LUNCHEON

In the Red Dress tradition, a Red Dress Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Heritage Museum.

Guests are invited to wear their red dresses and a fancy red hat. An award will be given to the woman with the best hat.

Lunch will be provided by the Heritage Museum Events Committee.

Those planning on attending are asked to RSVP by Dec. 6 to reserve a place. Seating will be limited to 60 guests.

For more information, contact the Heritage Museum at 267-8255 or go by 510 Scurry.

NOV

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2006

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

tion of liability. If we enter into this agreement and then later on its discovered it's not legal, then our attorney and his insurance company would have to share in the liability."

Troy Tompkins, who was named earlier this week by project leader and Big Spring native G. Brint Ryan as the local liaison for the effort, told the board SHDC was hoping to come away from the meeting with a letter of intent from Moore Development.

Parker urged the board to take the matter one step at a time.

"It's important that we do this right," said Parker. "We have to make sure we follow all of the steps on this, and the first one is to get a letter of opinion from our attorney saying what we can and can't do."

Board President Larry McLellan said it was important to send a message to Ryan that Moore Development was solidly behind the effort.

"I feel like this is a good project for the city of Big Spring," said McLellan, "and I feel like it's a project the people of this city will get behind. I'm very excited with the vision that Brint (Ryan) has for this community. I want him to understand that we are behind him unanimously on this."

A consensus of the board indeed proved members are behind the \$3 million grant.

The board struggled for nearly an hour with the wording of a motion that would accomplish two things — allow the board president to get the letter of opinion from the board's attorney and prepare a letter of intent committing the agency to providing \$3 million for the project — before finally settling on a structure it was comfortable with.

Board member Mike Niklasch also asked that additional verbiage be added to the motion to make it clear the \$3 million was not yet being approved, and would require another vote by the board to seal the deal

with SHDC.

"I want people to understand what we're doing here," said Niklasch. "I don't want them to think we're giving them a \$3 million grant without even knowing if we can. We're simply instructing our attorney to see what we can and can't fund for this project, and if we can do legally do so, begin developing a letter of intent. We're not writing any checks right now."

Cursory estimates for the project — which would renovate the structure into a mixed use commercial and residential complex — were placed between \$10 million and \$12 million. According to McLellan, \$3 million would come from Moore Board, while SHDC — with an undetermined amount of fiscal help from state historic agencies — would cover the remainder of the cost.

Ryan and SHDC agreed to purchase the historic Settles Hotel from the city of Big Spring for \$75,000 nearly two weeks ago, following approval from the city council.

According to a press release issued by Ryan Monday morning, preliminary plans for the historic downtown building include commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

The 15-story hotel — which opened its doors in 1930 — has been vacant since the early 1980s.

Also during the meeting, the board approved a \$12,000 grant for Forsan High School to purchase a computerized plasma cutting system for its welding trades department.

The board also met in executive session to discuss applications for executive director position, which became vacant more than a month ago when former executive director Kent Sharp announced he would be leaving for a similar position in Gainesville.

According to McLellan, the list of applicants has been narrowed to approximately six, and he and the board are preparing to begin conducting in-person interviews soon.

SNOW

Continued from Page 1A

Martin County line because of unsafe driving conditions. Westbound traffic was detoured along State Highway 176.

Officials hoped to have I-20 open for traffic again by mid-morning, he added.

Gilbert said reports of slick roads were a common thread for communities ranging from Colorado City to Midland-Odessa.

"We would urge drivers to please drive slow today," he said. "The major problems we've had today is people going too fast."

Coahoma and Forsan schools delayed the start of classes until 10 a.m. today, while Big Spring ISD classes started on schedule, officials said.

Temperatures are expected to reach only into the mid-30s today before plummeting into the upper teens overnight, Marsalek commented. Warmer conditions, with highs in the mid-50s, should prevail Friday and Saturday, he added.

BAZAAR

Continued from Page 1A

at the same site, while Canterbury North will be the site for a surplus sale of maintenance supplies.

"There's a couple of reasons we hold this bazaar every year," Nabors said. "First, it gives our residents a venue to sell their handcrafts. And for seniors, there's a lot of shopping they can do in a small area. It's a good way for seniors — and

everyone else in the community — to do their Christmas shopping."

The bazaar will be held in the public area of Canterbury South. There, residents and outside vendors will sell baked goods and items ranging from baskets, Christmas trees and crosses to crocheted items and kitchen supplies.

"Basically, there will be something for everyone," Nabors said.

The rummage sale, held exclusively by residents,

will raise money for various events held at the retirement community during the year, Nabors said.

The surplus sale at Canterbury North will offer items such as carpet, tile and plumbing supplies.

For more information, call 263-1265.

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

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A

United Methodist Church, she added.

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

"We have inspirational stories ... in our archive collection," Schreengost said. "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 Community Christmas Parade, which will wheel past the museum's loca-

tion Saturday evening.

Raney said refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 267-8255.

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

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NEW IDENTITY

Second-generation G35 revamps 'soul' of Infiniti brand

By MATT NAUMAN

San Jose Mercury News

Right before the first G35 near-luxury sedan went on sale in March 2002, Infiniti was a brand without an identity.

Launched by Nissan as its upscale division in 1989, Infiniti's showroom was populated nearly 15 years later with a collection of old, overlooked and unwanted cars.

"The product was a little iffy," said Mark Igo, vice president and general manager of Infiniti, "and the G really corrected that."

With a starting price of about \$27,000, buyers recognized the G35 as a performance-luxury value. Auto critics loved it, too, with Motor Trend selecting it as its influential car of the year for 2003.

A hit product, coupled with Infiniti's reputation for quality and customer service, proved a recipe for success. A G35 coupe arrived shortly thereafter, and the two G35s helped pave the way for subsequent models such as the FX sport-utility vehicles and the higher-priced M sedans. Sales have increased every year since 2002.

"The first-generation G really started the renaissance of the Infiniti brand," Igo said in a recent interview. "It really gave us a statement of what our brand is about. It's really the soul of our brand, because it is our volume leader. People connect with it."

On Nov. 1, the second-generation G35 sedan went on sale. It will be followed by a two-door coupe version late in the spring. Prices haven't been announced, but an Infiniti spokesman said they'll be close to what the current G sedan sells for — \$31,900 to \$33,950, according to Kelley Blue Book's Web site, www.kbb.com.

Infiniti executives such as Igo and Jim Hooke, a senior marketing manager, are quick to point out that G35 version 2.0 represents an evolutionary change.

"This car is not revolutionary," Hooke said. It's more elegant and refined, he said, with intuitive, relevant technology. Both performance and luxury features are upgraded.

It's all a carefully studied effort to make sure history doesn't repeat itself.

Having a successful second-generation G is "very important," Hooke said. "We've been around for a long time, but we seemingly haven't strung together two, three, four generations of cars to be successful."

Here's what's new:

- A more aerodynamic exterior. The silhouette is sleeker. And the grille is bolder, shinier and resembles a stack of ancient Japanese swords, the

company says.

- A warmer interior. Materials are upgraded. Seats are larger and more supportive. Instruments are easier to read. The steering wheel is encased in hand-stitched leather. And, in another reference to the brand's Japanese heritage, the aluminum trim resembles washi, an ancient style of paper.

- Plentiful technology. A "smart" key that allows the door to open and the car to start with the push of a button, and a seven-inch color monitor are standard. Options include a navigation system with real-time traffic and intelligent cruise control.

- Entertainment options. There's a 9.5-gigabyte hard drive for capturing music from CDs, and a 10-speaker Bose stereo that's part of the Premium package. Huge 10-inch woofers are built into each front door in this package.

- Mechanical improvements. The second-generation of Nissan's FM chassis is 40 percent stiffer for a better ride. The fourth generation of its VQ V-6 gets 80 percent new parts. It now makes 306 horsepower. A five-speed automatic transmission is standard, although the Sport model can be had with a six-speed manual. The Sport with automatic comes with magnesium paddle shifters. The front suspension set-up is new, and the G35 now comes with four-wheel active steering to correct the previous version's propensity for understeering.

Dimensions change only slightly on the new model. It's less than an inch longer and wider. It's a half-inch shorter. Front and rear track grows by less than an inch, and the wheelbase is unchanged at 112.2 inches.

Five models are offered, including two Sport versions and the all-wheel-drive G35x.

The new G35 enters a



The 2007 Infiniti G35

near-luxury car segment that Hooke characterizes as "hyper-competitive." Rivals such as the BMW 3-Series, Lexus ES and IS and Lincoln MKS sedans are new, and the Acura TL and Cadillac CTS continue to be strong sellers. Infiniti forecasts that segment sales will grow from about 600,000 cars a year now to 750,000 by decade's end.

Segment prices range from just under \$30,000 to a little more than \$40,000 for well-equipped versions of cars such as the BMW 335i and the Lexus IS 350. The average transaction price for the current G35 is about \$34,000, and that's likely where the new one will end up, too, Hooke said.

Jack Nerad, executive editorial director and market analyst at kbb.com, said the first-generation G35 did well, but it was overshadowed by the slicker coupe version. The new G35 sedan will be sold for several months before the new coupe arrives, and it "promises to steal some of the limelight — at least temporarily."

With the success of the G and M sedans and the FX SUVs, Infiniti has become a confident brand, Igo said.

"I think for a while we

were in search of an identity, for what our brand identity really was," he said. "Now we're comfortable with where we are."

Both Infiniti and Lexus arrived in the United States in 1989, and thus were seen as natural rivals. But while Lexus topped 100,000 sales for the first time in 1998, Infiniti didn't reach that mark until 2003. And while Infiniti's 180 dealers sold a record 136,401 cars and SUVs last year, Lexus' 221 dealers sold more than 302,000 vehicles.

These days, Igo said, Infiniti isn't interested in chasing Lexus or Mercedes, both of which sell many more different models.

Industry weekly Automotive News recently forecast a relatively stable future for Infiniti, with a redesigned Q sedan in 2008 or 2009, a redesigned FX in 2009, a redesigned QX SUV in 2010 and a crossover set to debut in 2008 that's smaller than the FX and a natural rival for the BMW X3 and Acura RDX.

"We now recognize we have a very strong place we can build off of," Igo said. "We'd liked to be able to create an image, to create a halo effect for the Infiniti brand."

Contract Bridge

A Problem of Logistics

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ AK
♥ 10 9 2
♦ 9 6 4
♠ J 9 7 6 3

WEST EAST
♦ J 6 ♦ 9 4
♥ Q 8 6 4 ♥ K 7 3
♦ K Q 10 5 ♦ A J 8 7 2
♠ 10 8 5 ♠ A Q 4

SOUTH
♦ Q 10 8 7 5 3 2
♥ A J 5
♦ 3
♠ K 2

The bidding:
East 1♦ South 1♠ West 2♦ North 2♠
3♦ 4♦

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Solving an entry problem is often the critical factor in the play of a hand.

Consider this case where the defense starts off with two rounds of diamonds. South ruffs and would like to take two heart finesses, as well as lead a club toward his king. Since he has only two entries to dummy to attempt these three plays, South has a problem of logistics to solve.

The best way to resolve the problem is to lead a trump to the king at trick three and return a low heart, finessing the jack after East follows low.

West takes the queen and can do no better than return a diamond. South ruffs, crosses to dummy with a trump and leads the ten of hearts, finessing again after East follows low.

This is declarer's second lead from dummy, and when the finesse succeeds, he discontinues hearts and leads a club to the king. Since East, as expected, has the ace, South accomplishes his mission; his only losers prove to be a heart, a diamond and a club.

Note that if East covers the ten of hearts with the king on the second round of the suit, South is able to return to dummy with a low heart to the nine to make the crucial club lead toward the king.

Note also that if South starts playing the hearts by leading the ten from dummy, instead of the deuce, he later runs into a dead end. The next time he gets to dummy with a trump, he can lead a heart or a club — but he can't do both. As a result, he finishes down one.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Cell phone hackers, rejoice!

The U.S. Copyright Office specified new rules

Wednesday allowing cell phone owners to hack software designed to prevent them from using their phones on competing carriers.

Retro-gaming enthusiasts will also be permitted to crack copy protection on abandoned titles, albeit for "archival" purposes only.

The rules also allow teachers to copy "snippets" from DVDs for educational compilations, and confer the right to have third-party software read copy-protected electronic books — if you're blind.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) has been held to criminalize circumvention of any kind of software protection, even in the pursuit of applications that would have previously been considered fair use.

There is at least one ongoing legal action concerning recycled cell phones based on this law, according to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

Guess you can close the books on that one.

While the copyright office didn't offer everything campaigners wished for — they refused to protect the copying of DVDs to other media, for example — they granted an unexpected bonus for abandon-ware fans: It's now going to be legal to hack copy protection on obsolete computer software and video games, including those that use hardware-based methods such as "dongles."

While would-be cell phone hackers received good news this week, Mozilla Corp. isn't quite so happy.

A flaw in Mozilla's Firefox browser makes it easy for cyber-criminals to steal user information on Web sites where users create their own pages, such as MySpace.com.

The flaw lies in Firefox's Password Manager software, which can be tricked into sending password information to an attacker's Web site, said Robert Chapin, president of Chapin Information Services Inc.

For this attack to work, attackers need to be able to create HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) forms on the Web site, something that is allowed on blogging and social networking sites.

The attack was used in a MySpace phishing attack reported in late October. In that attack, users registered a MySpace account named login_home_index.html and used it to host a fake log-in page that exploited the flaw.

This page sent MySpace username and password information to another Web site, and MySpace users who visited the page using Firefox could have easily had their information compromised, said Chapin.

Firefox developers rate this bug critical, according to an entry in the project's Bugzilla database.

The flaw arises because Firefox's Password Manager does not perform a thorough enough check when it is deciding whether to send password information, and

then does not ensure that password information is being sent to the server that requested it, Chapin said.

In the MySpace attack, for example, Firefox would check to see if the form was coming from the MySpace.com domain, but did not make sure that the password information was being sent back to a MySpace server.

"From a programming point of view, this is almost like a typo," he said. "Ironically I think that's why it hasn't been discovered until now. It was just way too obvious."

Chapin has posted an analysis of this type of attack, which he has dubbed a Reverse Cross-Site Request, as well as a demonstration of how it works.

Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer (IE) is also susceptible to these type of attacks because, like Firefox, it does not ensure that password information is being sent to the same server that requests it, Chapin said.

However, IE is less likely to be tricked because it does a more thorough job in checking to see where the log-in form is coming from before it automatically submits password and user information, he added.

Also in the news, law enforcement officials arrested a suspect in the theft of a laptop belonging to a Transportation Department's Office of Inspector General in the same restaurant parking lot near Miami from which the laptop was taken, according to an OIG status report released today.

The laptop taken in July contained sensitive, personally identifiable information for 133,000 pilots, commercial truck drivers and individual driver's license holders in Florida.

Authorities have not recovered the laptop.

An identity risk management company reviewed the personal data involved and found no indication of data misuse, the report said.

Transportation awarded a contract to ID Analytics Inc. of San Diego to provide data breach analysis services to determine over time whether the personal information of the thousands of license holders is exploited.

The agency has launched an investiga-

tion with the Miami-Dade Police Department. Investigators found a small theft ring that stole laptops at and near the restaurant, loaded new operating systems and then sold the computers on the used computer market, primarily to high school students, the report said.

An investigation continues in the theft of another Transportation OIG laptop in April during a conference in Orlando, Fla. The laptop was taken from a secure room at the conference facility.

"No credit fraud has resulted from the theft of either laptop, and based on our investigation to date, we believe that the risk of credit fraud in the future is very low," the report said.

Whether the suspect in the laptop theft is found guilty or not, I doubt he has to worry about finding himself in the kind of hot water a Chinese Web site owner is in this week.

A Chinese court has sentenced the owner of a porn Web site to life in prison and sentenced eight others to terms ranging from 13 months to 10 years, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

Chen Hui and the other defendants started the "Qingseliuquetian" (Pornographic Summer) Web site in 2004, and opened a further three porn Web sites, attracting more than 600,000 users," according to the state media report, which was picked up by the Associated Press.

China has been roundly criticized for censoring the Web, blocking access to information they deem subversive and jailing citizens for blogging and otherwise using the Internet to disseminate information officials object to.

Microsoft Corp. is also doing its part to take a bite out of international Web crime, having initiated 97 lawsuits throughout Europe and the Middle East during its eight-month investigation into fraudulent Web pages, with another 32 criminal complaints filed in cooperation with local authorities, the company said this week.

All of the cases are against individuals who attempted to capture the log-in and password details of users by constructing fraudulent Hotmail and MSN.com sign-in pages, said Jean-

Christophe Le Toquin, a Microsoft attorney. A total of 253 sites were investigated, he said.

Microsoft's Global Phishing Enforcement program, started in March, aims to curtail fake Web sites built by criminals trying to obtain financial information or passwords by tricking users, otherwise known as "phishing." The company uses its technology to crawl the Internet to find Web pages that look suspicious, Le Toquin said.

Once a phishing site has been identified, Microsoft either files a criminal complaint or forwards the information to prosecutors, depending on the country's legal requirements.

By country, Turkey led the pack with 50 criminal complaints, followed by 28 in Germany and 11 in France. Legal actions were also filed in the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands and the U.K.

Microsoft has settled with four phishers, all 16- to 20-year-old males, in France and Norway, Le Toquin said. Each of those pursued in France paid Microsoft \$2,564, a fine the company felt is in proportion to their actions, he said.

Many of the fake sites were created by the phishers to trick their peers into divulging their log-in credentials, Le Toquin said. The phishers would try to lure their friends to the fake pages through links sent by instant messaging programs.

Microsoft said it will continue its investigation, particularly focusing on phishing sites connected with more sophisticated hacking, Le Toquin said.

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

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Sun. Dec. 3rd 12 pm - 5pm

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December 1 * Friday • Midland Shopping - 9:00 AM - ?	December 13 * Wednesday • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM
December 3 * Sunday • MCT Seussical - 1:00 PM	December 14 * Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM
December 5 * Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ PRL - 10:00 AM • Supper Club "Casa Blanca" - 5:30 PM	December 18 * Monday • MEET & GREET - 2:00 - 3:00 PM (Treats & Grab Bag Bingo)
December 6 * Wednesday • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM	December 19 * Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Cowboys" - 5:30 PM
December 7 * Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM • BUNKO - 5:00 PM	December 20 * Wednesday • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM
December 8 * Friday • Lunch Bunch & Friends Birthdays "Just Peachy's" - 11:30 AM	December 21 * Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM • BUNKO - 5:00 PM
December 11 * Monday • GAMES - 1:00 - 3:00 PM	December 22 * Friday • Christmas Pot Luck & Present Swap 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
December 12 * Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Hunan's" - 5:30 PM	

The Senior Circle office will be closed December 25 through December 29, 2006.

Senior Circle Advisor / Volunteer Director
Anita Cline
268-4721

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December 2 & 3, 2006
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Dress Rehearsal Open To Public
Saturday, December 2nd at 2:00 P.M.

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(Free) Limited Seating Nursery available

Sp

IN BRIEF

Quarterback Ch...

meeting schedu...
Big Spring School's Quarter Club will meet M at 7 p.m. in the Spring High S Athletic Tra Center.

Mark Tissue, booster club's pres encourages all p of BSHS football p and the teams' fi attend.
Officers for next s will be the topic r versation.

For more inform call Tissue at 816-

Rice University

accepts bowl bid...
Rice made its bowl appearance 1961 official Tues accepting a bid i New Orleans Bow.

The Owls, repr ing Conference, will play the Su Conference cha Dec. 22 at Superdome in the bowl game there Hurricane Ka Troy will be Rice's nent if it beats F International this A loss would Middle Tennessee berth.

Rice (7-5, 6-2 C made a stunning around from last 1-10 season, wi seven of its last games after an 0-4 The Owls lo Kansas in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

Six-Man high sc...

football playoffs

DIVISION I

Region I and II State Quarterfin Garden City vs. Meadow (12 p.m. Friday, Star Rule (10-0) Throckmorton (9- p.m. Friday, Stam

Region III and State Quarterfin Trinidad (10-1 Blum (12-0), 7:30 Friday, West.

Richland Spring 0) vs. Calvert (11- p.m. Friday, Gate

DIVISION II

Region I and II State Quarterfin Borden County vs. Jayton (9-3 p.m. Friday, Mer Whitharral (9- Samnorwood (2 p.m. Sat

Bushland.
Region III and State Quarterfin Vernon Norths 1) vs. Woodson (8 p.m. Friday, Mun Gustine (11- Zephyr (8-3), 7:3 Friday, Comanch

Texas Aggies b...

Holiday Bowl b

No. 22 Texas Ag represent the against No. California in Holiday Bowl o 28.

The Aggies f their regular Friday with a 12 win over Texa will be the 29t appearance for A&M (9-3, 5-3 Bl.

It will be the trip to the Holid for the Aggies won the 1990 against Brigham 65-14, the bigge gin of victo Holiday Bowl hi

California (8-3 ing in the bowl second time in three years.

IN BRIEF

Quarterback Club meeting scheduled
Big Spring High School's Quarterback Club will meet Monday at 7 p.m. in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.
Mark Tissue, the booster club's president, encourages all parents of BSHS football players and the teams' fans to attend.
Officers for next season will be the topic of conversation.
For more information, call Tissue at 816-3458.

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 turnaround from last year's 1-10 season, winning seven of its last eight games after a 0-4 start.
The Owls lost to Kansas in the 1961 Bluebonnet Bowl.

Six-Man high school football playoffs

DIVISION I
Region I and II State Quarterfinals:
Garden City (11-0) vs. Meadow (12-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Stanton.
Rule (10-0) vs. Throckmorton (9-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Stamford.

Region III and IV State Quarterfinals:
Trinidad (10-1) vs. Blum (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, West.
Richland Springs (11-0) vs. Calvert (11-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Gatesville.

DIVISION II
Region I and II State Quarterfinals:
Borden County (8-4) vs. Jayton (9-3), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Merkel.
Whitharral (9-2) vs. Samnorwood (7-5), 6 p.m. Saturday, Bushland.

Region III and IV State Quarterfinals:
Vernon Northside (11-1) vs. Woodson (8-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Munday.
Gustine (11-1) vs. Zephyr (8-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Comanche.

Texas Aggies accept Holiday Bowl bid
No. 22 Texas A&M will represent the Big 12 against No. 21 California in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 28.
The Aggies finished their regular season Friday with a 12-7 upset win over Texas. This will be the 29th bowl appearance for Texas A&M (9-3, 5-3 Big 12).
It will be the second trip to the Holiday Bowl for the Aggies. They won the 1990 game against Brigham Young 65-14, the biggest margin of victory in Holiday Bowl history.
California (8-3) is playing in the bowl for the second time in the last three years.

Six-Man football shootout

No. 3 Bearkats vs. No. 1 Broncos

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

It's not like the Garden City Bearkats are being disrespected. Sure, the computer generated polls dropped them in the Six-Man football rankings for consecutive weeks, but with a victory over the No. 1 ranked Meadow Broncos (12-0) Friday night in Stanton, all will be forgiven.

According to coach Vance Jones, the rankings don't really matter at this point in the season, but Meadow is certainly one of the best teams the Bearkats (11-0) have faced.

"They are a very talented team and they match up with us when it comes to size, athleticism and execution," Jones said. "They are a solid football team and I would put them right up there with Fort Davis — who they beat last week — and say that they are definitely one of the best teams we will face."

On offense the Broncos are loaded with talent, none more impressive than senior wingback Adrian Sanchez (No. 12). Jones says that Sanchez is the playmaker and that if the games on the line, he's going to get the ball.

The No. 1 ranked team also fea-



Bo Eggemeyer (4) tries to escape the arms of a defender in Six-Man football action. Friday night Eggemeyer and the Bearkats will challenge No. 1 ranked Meadow for the regional championship and right to advance in the state playoffs. Game time is 7 p.m. at Stanton.

tures a strong back in Zach Morrow (No. 30). At 6-foot-2 and close to 200 pounds, the starting running back has shown he can run over — or around — defenders all season long.

The dual threat attack has kept See **KATS**, Page 2B

Texans looking for help

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Track star Justin Gatlin worked out for the Houston Texans on Tuesday, but coach Gary Kubiak said signing him was "not something we would do right now."

Gatlin, an Olympic gold medalist and co-world record holder in the 100 meters, tested positive for testosterone and other steroids in April.

Kubiak said Gatlin, who last played football in high school, had worked out for several teams over the last month. The Texans worked him out as a receiver and Kubiak said team officials told him he was "very impressive."

"I'm sure it would be a big step for him to step up and start playing football," Kubiak said. "But that looks like it's something that he's interested in."

Gatlin was banned from track by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency but still has the option to appeal the length of his punishment. While his Olympic medals are not affected, he's likely to lose his



Texans linebacker Morlon Greenwood (56) intercepts a pass and looks for the end zone. The Texans defeated the Jaguars, 13-10 on Nov. 12.

share of the world record worried about the when appeals process is steroids matter, because complete.
Kubiak said he isn't See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Big Spring makes a splash at swim meet

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

In what may turn out to be a preview of the regional swim meet in Lubbock this February, the Big Spring swim team traveled to Monahans and competed well.

The meet consisted of upper echelon swimmers and gave the Steers a good idea of where they stand at this point in the season.

The meet was dominated by former 5A teams from El Paso, but according to coaches, the girls worked hard and scored 52 points to swim to an eighth place finish.

Andrews was the lone district foe to accumulate more points than the Lady Steers.

On the boys side of the water — despite being short a few swimmers — the Steers came in with 28 points and a 10th place finish.

Freshman Kelly Sage had the best overall Big Spring finish with a third place showing in the 200 freestyle.

Three other girls scores were district bests.

Lauren Sage received sixth place in the 100 meter butterfly, Ashley Oliver was eighth in the 500 freestyle and Kelly Sage finished 10th in the 100 backstroke.

Lauren Sage also competed in the 50 meter freestyle and sped to a seventh place finish.

The girls 200 meter individual medley and 200 meter freestyle consisted of the Sage girls, Oliver and freshman Natalie Beach, who claimed ninth place finishes in both races.

The Steers were paced by Ryan Hughey who placed sixth in the 200 freestyle and fourth in the 100 breaststroke.

Other boys scoring well were Deshae Green in the 100 meter butterfly (10th), Daniel Shanahan in the 500 meter freestyle (12th) and the boys 400 freestyle relay team of Hughey, Green, Shanahan and Westen Graham swam to an 11th place finish.

The next action for the Big Spring swim team will be in Seminole on Dec. 8-9.

5-2A All-District football honors

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

When the football awards were announced in District 5-2A football, Stanton and Coahoma were well represented this season.

While the all-district team is loaded with student athletes from district champion Haskell — 10-0 regular season — Roby Noland of Stanton was a unanimous selection for one of the most prestigious of honors, offensive newcomer of the year.

The 6-foot-1 inch, 175 pound sophomore running back was joined by Haskell defensive end Gary Frierson, the most valuable player in the district, as the only two to be chosen as unanimous players for highlighted awards.

The other award winners were Travis Adams of Haskell, the offensive MVP; Chad Tailon of

Hawley, the defensive MVP; and Earnest Galvan of Anson, as the defensive newcomer of the year.

The following players received First Team offensive awards:
Quarterback: Mathew Brown (Sr.) Haskell.
Running back: Greg Guzman (Jr.) Haskell, Josh Stevens (Sr.) Hawley and Detrich Mays (Sr.) Stamford.
Fullback: Cord Garcia (Sr.) Anson.
Receiver: Elijah Ramos (Sr.) Anson, Steven Houck (Sr.) Hawley and Dakota Teaff (Sr.) Coahoma.
Tight End: Jeffrey Lisle (Sr.) Stamford.
Center: Cory Clanton (Sr.) Coahoma.
Guard: Josh Kimmel (Sr.) Haskell and Jeremy Arce (Sr.) Anson.
Tackle: Billy Lusk (Sr.)

Hawley, Alecc Herrera (Sr.) Coahoma, Ricky Villanuava (Sr.) Anson.

The following players received First Team defensive awards:
Nose Guard: Dante Prior (Soph.) Stamford.
Tackle: Josh Kimmel (Sr.) Haskell and Corbin Coonrod (Sr.) Hawley.
End: Derek Agraz (Jr.) Haskell and Josh Ramos (Sr.) Anson.
Linebacker: Josh Rodriguez (Sr.) Haskell, Jeffrey Lisle (Sr.) Stamford, Cord Garcia (Sr.) Anson, Justin New (Sr.) Hawley and Dakota Teaff (Sr.) Coahoma.
Corner: Mike Carmona (Sr.) Stanton and Roman Seballos (Sr.) Anson.
Safety: Garrett Fulton (Jr.) Stanton and Greg Guzman (Jr.) Haskell.
Kicker: Boone Dugan (Jr.) Coahoma.

Punter: Chase Bellah (Sr.) Merkel.

The following local players received Second Team offensive awards:
Quarterback: Blaine Kerby (Sr.) Coahoma.
Running back: PJ Daylong (Soph.) Coahoma.
Receiver: Michael Carmona (Sr.) Stanton.

The following local players received Second Team defensive awards:
Nose Guard: Ryan Kennedy (Sr.) Coahoma.
End: Adam Evan (Jr.) Stanton.
Linebacker: Angel Verastigul (Sr.) Stanton.
Safety: Blaine Kerby (Sr.) Coahoma.
Punter: Chase Pinkerton (Jr.) Stanton.

See **PLAYERS**, Page 2B

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Cowboys in same situation with different confidence

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys are in the same situation they were a year ago, atop the NFC East with a 7-4 record and headed to play the division rival New York Giants.

Still, things are different this time. Mainly the Cowboys' confidence.

"Right now, it's obviously we're definitely playing the best ball we've been playing all year," linebacker Bradie James said Wednesday. "We've been in this position before. You don't get too many opportunities to become No. 1. That's what this game is about."

The Cowboys head to the Meadowlands on Sunday with a three-game winning streak and wins in four of their last five games — all since Tony Romo became the starting

quarterback. His first extended action was after halftime in the game before that, a home loss to the Giants.

When the Cowboys went to New York last year, they were coming off a Thanksgiving Day overtime loss against Denver.

This year, Dallas won its traditional holiday game when Romo matched a team record with five touchdown passes in a 38-10 victory over Tampa Bay. That came only four days after Romo outplayed Peyton Manning and the Cowboys handed Indianapolis its only loss of the season.

"There is a lot of confidence building around this team right now," tight end Jason Witten said. "We're just excited. We're playing well, not turning the ball over. Everybody's expectations are up right now."

Only the Chicago Bears (9-2) have more wins than the Cowboys in the NFC. Dallas has a one-game lead over the Giants in the NFC East.

"Guys are just focused more, not to say last year we weren't," defensive end Marcus Spears said. "I think the magnitude of what we can do now and how we can set ourselves up in the future and hopefully getting into the playoffs, I think it's important and it's prevalent. The air is thick right now."

Dallas and New York were tied for the division lead when they played last December. The Giants won 17-10, part of a 2-5 finish by the Cowboys that kept them out of the playoffs.

"We had our chances up there last year," coach Bill Parcells said. "We just didn't make enough plays that day."

The Cowboys had four

turnovers, including a fumble on the first play of the second half that New York returned for a touchdown and 17-0 lead.

"I think this is a different team. I think the team is more confident and playing better and doing a whole lot of things better at this point in time this year than it was last year," Parcells said. "Doing a whole lot of things better, almost everything. ... We've basically been running the ball OK and stopping the run. We've cut down our turnovers as of late."

In the past five games, the Cowboys have only three turnovers: a fumble and two interceptions. None of those came in the loss at Washington.

The Giants carry a three-game losing streak into Sunday, but a win would help right things quickly. New York would be tied for the NFC East

lead again, with the important tiebreaker because of two wins over Dallas plus a 4-0 mark against division foes.

So this is pivotable for both teams, a game the Cowboys realize is probably their biggest of the season.

"It's almost like guys

are smelling it," cornerback Aaron Glenn said. "Last year, it was almost like, 'Wow' that we're in it. This year, all the guys expect to be in it. That's different, expecting it than when it jumps on you like 'Wow.' It's a different confidence."

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Even with Nowitzki's night, Mavs keep rolling

(AP) — Dirk Nowitzki's early departure couldn't slow the Dallas Mavericks.

Josh Howard scored 26 points to make up for Nowitzki's loss, and the Mavericks beat the Toronto Raptors 117-98 Wednesday night for their 11th straight victory.

Jerry Stackhouse added 23 points for the Mavs, who haven't lost since their 0-4 start and moved into first place in the Southwest Division after Utah beat San Antonio 83-75.

"We know we are a good team no matter who's out there on the floor," center

Erick Dampier said. "We're hard to beat if we're playing the type of defense that we are capable of playing. We can play with anyone in this league, so it's up to us every night and go out there every night and play good defense consistently."

Nowitzki departed with 1:46 remaining in the first quarter with blurred vision and left the arena to be examined by a team specialist. The Mavs said he had a bruised retina, and team specialist Dr. Maurice Syquin cleared him for all basketball activity.

The All-Star forward said he hopes to play Friday night against Sacramento.

"We have a lot of guys who can step in," Nowitzki said. "This team is deeper than last year's. When somebody is out, somebody else moves in."

Jazz 83, Spurs 75
Carlos Boozer had 23 points and 16 rebounds, Matt Harpring added 13 points and 12 boards, and host Utah snapped its two-game losing streak.

Deron Williams finished with 15 points and nine assists in the Jazz's first win over San Antonio since April 2005. Utah

also had a 50-34 rebounding advantage.

Tim Duncan had 21 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio, which lost for the third time in four games.

Suns 102, Rockets 91
Steve Nash broke out of a bad shooting night with eight points in a 19-5 fourth-quarter run, and host Phoenix won its fifth in a row.

Amare Stoudemire had 22 points and 15 rebounds for the Suns, who dominated the boards 55-36 and snapped the Rockets' four-game winning streak.

KATS

Continued from 1B

defenses off balance and has led the Broncos to 12 straight victories.

On defense Meadow will continue to look for Sanchez to make big plays. Sanchez anchors a stingy unit, along with 6-foot-5 and 250 pound Tanner Streety, the defensive end who is second on the team in tackles.

"Those two are quick and very good," Jones said when asked about the Broncos defense. "We have to account for both of those

guys on every play if we want to be successful, but we're not going to change how we play the game. We are still looking to establish the run and set up the play action pass. That's what we do."

The running game should get a shot in the arm this week, as Bo Eggemeyer returns from a hip injury that sidelined him for the final three quarters in last week's win over Wellman Union. In Eggemeyer's absence, Jared Bradford stepped into the position and rushed for 185 yards on 11 carries.

"Bo is fine, he's running well this

week and Jared feels great as well," Jones added.

According to Jones and his players, this is just another football game against a quality opponent. Last week Jones said that Meadows sliding to the No. 1 spot actually helped the Bearkats focus and that it got the "monkey off our backs."

"Those rankings don't mean anything right now," Jones stressed. "The only reason they exist is to give people something to write about. I could care less if they want to rank us No. 10."

"As long as we keep winning, I'm going to continue to be happy."

TEXANS

Continued from 1B

the NFL is allowing him to work out for teams.

"It was positive," Kubiak said of the workout. "He did a good job. Some of our people who were over there watching him were amazed at how

fast he ran. I don't even know if he was full speed at that time. But he did catch the ball pretty good."

At 6-foot-1 and 180 pounds, the 24-year-old has the size to be an NFL receiver. Houston already has a former track standout on their roster in Jerome Mathis.

Mathis, who once participated in track's U.S. Olympic trials, earned a trip to the Pro Bowl last season as a kick returner.

He was just moved to the active roster on Tuesday after missing the first 11 games with a fractured foot.

PLAYERS

Continued from 1B

The following local players received Honorable Mention:

Quarterback: Garrett Fulton (Jr.) Stanton.

Tackle: Skyler Mundell (Sr.) Coahoma.

Guard: Justine Cline (Sr.) Coahoma, Jake McCain (Sr.) Coahoma, Eric Phillips (Sr.) Stanton.

Center: Adam Evans (Jr.) Stanton.

Linemen: Jake McCain (Sr.) Coahoma, Cody Sheppard (Soph.) Coahoma, Zach Anderson (Sr.) Stanton.

Linebacker: Corey Roberts (Soph.) Coahoma, Jacob Cazares (Soph.) Stanton, Cory Clanton (Sr.) Coahoma.

Corner: Kaegan Saenz (Jr.) Stanton, Jason Gonzales (Sr.) Coahoma, Kaegan Hunt (Soph.) Coahoma.

To contact sports editor

Michael Grimes, call 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

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Big Spring Herald
Thursday, Nov

Jimmie Johnson

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After plan

BY DAVID POOL
McClatchy Newspa

Jimmie Johnson's good season "Last year, it was almost like, 'Wow' that we're in it. This year, all the guys expect to be in it. That's different, expecting it than when it jumps on you like 'Wow.' It's a different confidence."

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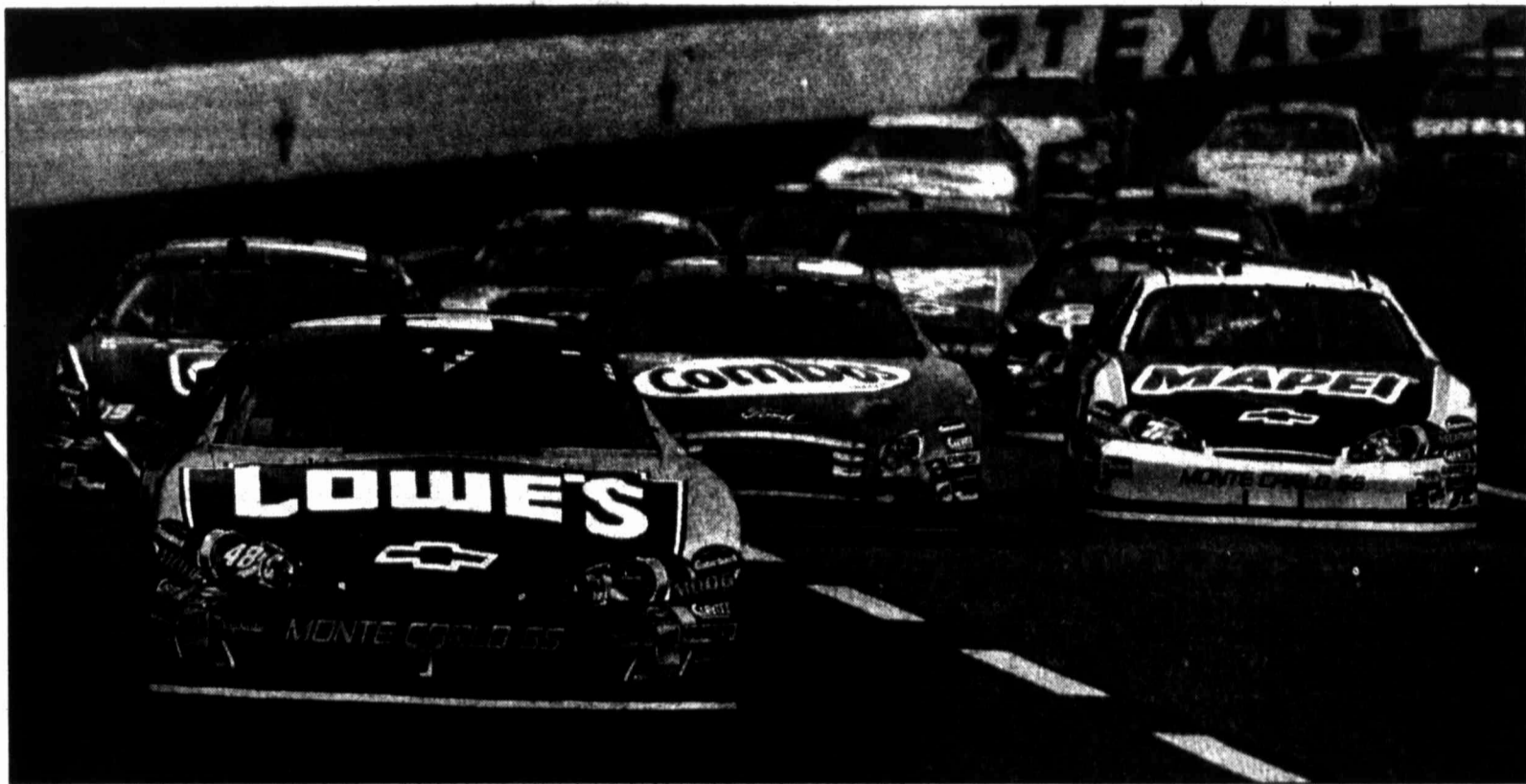
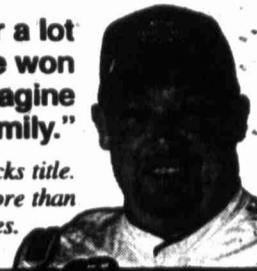
That's Racin'

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

"We finally did it. ... We've been racing for a lot of years. This is first time as a family we won something this important. You can't imagine what this means to me and my family."

— Todd Bodine, on winning the 2006 NASCAR Trucks title. Bodine and brothers Geoffrey and Brett have more than 1,800 starts in NASCAR's top three series.



Jimmie Johnson, in the Lowe's No. 48 car, leads a group of cars at the 2006 Dickies 500 at Texas Motor Speedway in November.

Head of the pack

After years of being a contender, Jimmie Johnson plans to enjoy his reign as Nextel Cup champion

By DAVID POOLE
McClatchy Newspapers

Jimmie Johnson finally gets to sit in the good seats. "Last year Rick and I were talking during the banquet," said Johnson, referring to car owner Rick Hendrick. "We were saying, 'This stinks, being down on the ground level. We want to be up there.'" Up there is the main stage in the grand ballroom at New York's historic Waldorf-Astoria hotel, the perch from which the Nextel Cup champion views NASCAR's annual awards ceremonies.

After his first four seasons in NASCAR's top series, Johnson watched Tony Stewart, Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch and Stewart, again, bask in the champion's spotlight.

"It's a very motivating experience, to say the least," Johnson said. "You're sitting through the banquet and all of the things that take place during banquet week, watching the champion experience all the great things and then sit on stage. Anybody with a competitive spirit wants that to be them. You want to be up there getting all of the praise."

Johnson, Hendrick and crew chief Chad Knaus are getting that praise this week, and while that center-stage moment will be the sixth championship that Hendrick has celebrated, it will be the first for Johnson and Knaus.

It's a moment Johnson looks forward to. "The high that you're on from winning a race is short-lived," Johnson said. "You go to the next race and in most cases, somebody else is the winner. But I'm the champion and no one is going to be the champion until next year this time. I get an entire year of riding this high."

While Johnson is only 31 years old, he has made 183 career starts — the same number of Cup races Rusty Wallace had started when he won his championship in 1989. Because he's never finished lower than fifth in the standings in his first five full seasons, it seems as though Johnson has been a championship contender forever.

"I don't remember a year when that team hasn't been great," said Kenseth, who finished second behind Johnson in this year's standings. "Ever since he and Chad got together over there, they've been a force, the guys to beat, really."

"When you try to set your standards for the season you try to look at them and you realize that they're going to be one of the favorites."



Johnson celebrates his first Nextel Cup championship after finishing ninth in the 2006 Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

There are a lot of great teams that can do it, but you always realize that they're going to be right there."

The fact that Johnson and his No. 48 Chevrolets have been there year in and year out, of course, is a big part of this year's championship story.

After opening the season with a victory in the Daytona 500, Johnson led the standings throughout much of the regular season leading up to the 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup. But after sputtering to a 39th-place finish in the Chase opener, and then getting wrecked on the final lap of the fourth Chase race at Talladega, Johnson was 156 points out of the championship lead and, it seemed, headed for another year of only coming close.

"That was probably the low of emotions," Johnson said of the Talladega wreck, where teammate Brian Vickers bumped Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. out of the way to score his

first career Cup win. "But still at that time no one ever said, 'We can't do this.' We just kept telling ourselves, 'This isn't over, keep fighting, it's not over.'"

Johnson finished second at Charlotte, then won at Martinsville and found himself right back in the middle of things. After running second at Atlanta, Texas and Phoenix, he went into the finale at Homestead ahead of Kenseth by 63 points. All he had to do in Florida was dodge disaster, and he did that easily with a ninth-place finish.

This year, Knaus was suspended for four races after a rules violation in Daytona qualifying. But Johnson won two of those races, at Daytona and Las Vegas, then added wins at Talladega and Indianapolis after Knaus returned to set up the Chase drive. The victory at Martinsville was the team's 23rd in the past five years — more than any other team in the sport in that span.

"Chad is a self-admitted workaholic," Johnson said. "He just puts himself through too much. As last year wound down, he admitted and we all recognized (that) he just worked too hard and burned himself out."

"We had a plan in effect for him to start counting on more people, surrounding him with guys he really trusted and believed in. He started building that confidence in those guys over the off-season. Then we hit Daytona and he was suspended. We were forced to live by that theory."

"When you're faced with adversity, faced with a mistake, faced with doing something wrong, that's when I do the most learning and growing on my own."

Johnson knows that after the banquet's festivities, a page will be turned and it will be time to get ready to try to become the first driver since Gordon in 1997-1998 to repeat as champion.

Before that, though, he plans a trip to France to race in an international competition and then a vacation to the island where he and his wife, Chandra, were married. And he's also going to enjoy the view he'll get from the best seats at the awards banquet.

"It's an amazing feeling to be able to be the champion," Johnson said.

"It's something I always wanted to be, and I've worked my whole career to get to this point."

"I'm the guy for a year, and I'm going to enjoy every day of it."

THIS WEEK

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES AWARDS CEREMONY

Where: Grand Ballroom, The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.
When: 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (all times ET) Friday, Dec. 2.

TV: TNT, 9 p.m.
Radio: MRN/XM Satellite.

Final NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Top 10:

Rank	Driver	Points
1.	Jimmie Johnson	6,475
2.	Matt Kenseth	6,419
3.	Denny Hamlin	6,407
4.	Kevin Harvick	6,397
5.	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	6,328
6.	Jeff Gordon	6,256
7.	Jeff Burton	6,228
8.	Kasey Kahne	6,183
9.	Mark Martin	6,168
10.	Kyle Busch	6,027

11th-place driver: Tony Stewart.
Raybestos Rookie of the Year: Denny Hamlin.

Musical entertainment: Jewel.
Hosts: Bill Weber and Jay Mohr.

RACIN' NOTES

Budweiser Shootout 2007 list announced

If you'd like to get a jump on your pool for the Budweiser Shootout on Feb. 10, the list of eligible drivers is complete: Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Denny Hamlin, Brian Vickers, David Gilliland, Kevin Harvick, Jeff Burton, Kurt Busch, Greg Biffle, Kasey Kahne, Kyle Busch, Elliott Sadler, Scott Riggs, Ryan Newman and Boris Said all won poles in 2006 and are in the field. Former Shootout winners Dale Jarrett, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Tony Stewart, Mark Martin, Ken Schrader and Bill Elliott also are eligible.



Gordon

MB2 Motorsports changes name

MB2 Motorsports has officially changed its name to Ginn Racing.

Edward Robert "Bobby" Ginn III bought majority interest in the team in July. Ginn, 57, is president and CEO of The Ginn Company, a real estate and resort development company based in Celebration, Fla., outside of Orlando.

The team will field Nextel Cup cars for Sterling Marlin, Joe Nemechek and a shared ride between Mark Martin and Regan Smith in 2007.



Joe Nemechek's No. 01 car will race under the Ginn Racing banner in 2007.

Parsons to be honored

Television broadcaster and former NASCAR champion Benny Parsons will receive the Achievement in Motorsports Tribute Award when the North Carolina Motorsports Association holds its inaugural awards banquet on Jan. 30 at the new Concord (N.C.) Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center.



Parsons

Awards for the state's motorsports industry will be given in categories that include diversity, marketing, economic development, safety innovations, event facilities and manufacturers and suppliers.

— David Poole

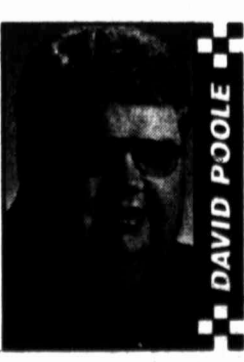
Stewart prepares for new job on the other side of the microphone

Tony Stewart competes. Certainly, he competes every time he's behind the wheel of a race car, no matter whether it's a Nextel Cup car on a superspeedway, a sprint racer on a dirt track or a go-kart goofing off with his buddies.

But he competes everywhere else, too. He's down to 179 pounds thanks to a trainer who's helping him with an exercise program and watching everything the 2005 Nextel Cup champion consumes.

"I have to do everything full out," Stewart said. "That's just the way I am. Everything I agree to do I want to do it the best that I can."

That's one reason Stewart will spend the first part of this week in New York City doing "practice" shows in preparation for Thursday's preview edition of the weekly Sirius Satellite Radio show



DAVID POOLE

he'll be doing next year. The show is scheduled to air at 6 p.m.

"This is going to be a huge challenge for me," said Stewart, whose show co-hosted by television racing analyst Matt Yocum will air for two hours each week on the NASCAR channel that begins full-time on Sirius channel 128 on Jan. 1.

Musician Kid Rock and diet guru Richard Simmons are scheduled to be guests on the first show, along with 2006 Nextel Cup champion Jimmie Johnson. That lineup indicates Stewart's idea for the show, which will be about more than just racing.

"I want the show to be informative, but foremost I want it to be entertaining," he said. "We'll talk about the hot topics of the week in NASCAR, I am sure, but because we're going to talk about things outside of racing I am

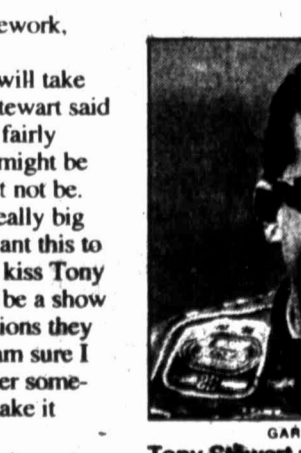
going to have to do my homework, too."

Stewart and Yocum also will take phone calls from fans, and Stewart said he wants the calls to be split fairly evenly between callers who might be his fans and those who might not be.

"That's something I am really big on," Stewart said. "I don't want this to just be a show where people kiss Tony Stewart's butt. I want this to be a show where fans can ask the questions they normally don't get to ask. I am sure I will get backed into the corner sometimes, but that's what will make it entertaining."

Stewart competes at interviews, too. Sometimes he tries to answer the question he wants to answer instead of the one he's being asked, and he can be quite good at it. Now, though, the tables are turned.

"I will be on the other side of the mike, so now I have to create the questions and the dialogue and take the phone calls," he said. "I am a person



GARY W. GREEN/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Tony Stewart will host a radio show on Sirius satellite radio in January.

who likes to be mentally stimulated. It's going to be fun, I think."

Stewart will be on stage at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City to collect honors for finishing 11th in this year's standings, tops among drivers not qualifying for the Chase for the

Nextel Cup. He won five races this year, three after failing to qualify to the 10-race playoff.

"We did what we said we wanted to do after missing the Chase, and that was go out and try to win races," Stewart said. "It was another of those situations where we battled adversity and came out of it better and stronger than we were. That's the thing I am most proud of this year."

Stewart knows he'll get some ribbing about being, on at least a part-time basis, a member of the media thanks to his radio show.

"That's part of the reason I agreed to do this," he said. "Just like owning a race track has given me greater appreciation for race tracks and promoters, doing this will give me a better perspective about the media, I think. I think this is going to help me both as a NASCAR driver and help me become more well-rounded as a person."

Otherwise, why bother?

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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KAMJ (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (63) Science Fic.
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Handas de Amor	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Odessa	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Laher	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC) Black Carpet	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Women's College	College	Dragons: Wrath of the Dragon God
7:30 PM	Ugly Betty (CC)	Ugly Betty (CC)	La Fea Mas Bella	Ti Death Ti Death	Survivor: Cook Islands (CC)	Marina	Name is Earl The Office	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Updates/Israel Sid Roth	Proud Heritage Proud Heritage	A Haunting	Movie: Patton (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	NBA Basketball: The Parkers	The Parkers and Weep	Movie: Read It and Weep	Basketball: Marathon MAC	Football: Championship - Teams TBA	Movie: Basilisk
8:30 PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mundo de Fieras	The O.C. (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Amor Mio Amores	Scrubs (CC) 30 Rock	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	National Geographic	Surgery Saved My Life		TNA IMPACT! (CC)	Detroit Pistons at Miami Heat	Girlfriends (CC)	College Basketball: Arkansas at Missouri	Championship - Teams TBA	Movie: King	
9:30 PM	Men in Trees (CC)	Men in Trees (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	Shark (CC)	Decisiones	ER (CC)	Movie: Overboard (CC)		Charlie Rose (CC)	Most Evil (CC)	Movie: The Enemy Below (CC)	UFC Unleashed	Basketball: Utah Jazz at Los Angeles Lakers (CC)	Jamie Foxx Phil of Future	Zack & Cody That's-Raven	Quite Frankly With Smith	NFL Live	Movie: Demon Hunter (CC)
10:30 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News (CC) Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	King of the Hill Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	The Hour of Healing		Big Cat (CC)	A Haunting	Enemy Below (CC)	UFC Unleashed	Los Angeles Lakers (CC)	In Living Color Kim Possible	Phil of Future Kim Possible	Rodeo: Wrangler	NFL Live	
11:30 PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	Laura IAI Rojo Vivo!	Conan O'Brien	15 Movie: Captain Ron	Curt Landry Y. Salamanca				UFC Unleashed	Inside the NBA	BET After Dark (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister	National Finals - First Round	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone
12:30 AM	News (CC)	Apex Media	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids Malcolm-Mid.	Show The Insider	Pagado	Apex						UFC Unleashed	Inside the NBA					

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"I said I'm worried that the inventor of the leaf blower might be working on something else!"

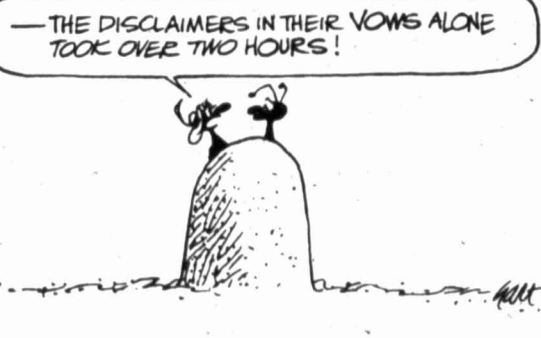
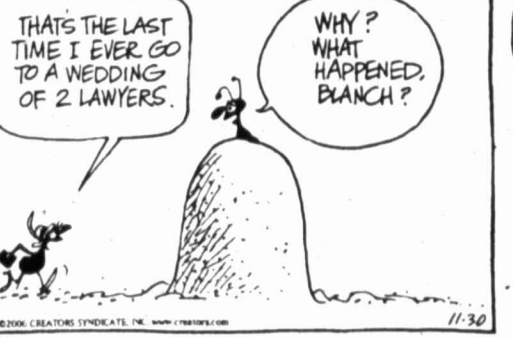
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2006. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Nov. 30, 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

On this date:
In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.

In 1936, London's famed Crystal Palace, constructed for the International Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire.

In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland.

In 1962, U Thant of Burma, who had been acting secretary-general of the United Nations following the death of Dag Hammarskjold the

year before, was elected to a four-year term.

In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.

In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

In 1993, President Clinton signed the Brady bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Efram Zimbalist Jr. is 89. Actor Robert Guillaume is 79. TV personality and producer Dick Clark is 77. Radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy is 76. Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 69. Movie director Ridley Scott is 69. Singer Rob Grill (The Grassroots) is 63. Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 63. Singer Luther Ingram is 62. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 61. Playwright David Mamet is 59. Actress Margaret Whitton is 56. Actor Mandy Patinkin is 54. Musician Shuggie Otis is 53.

Country singer Jeannie Kendall is 52. Singer Billy Idol is 51. Comedian Colin Mochrie is 49. Former football and baseball player Bo Jackson is 44. Rapper Jalil (Whodini) is 43. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 41. Rock musician Mike Stone is 37. Actress Sandra Oh is 36. Country singer Mindy McCready is 31. Singer Clay Aiken is 28. Actress Elisha Cuthbert is 24. Actress Kaley Cuoco is 21.

Thought for Today: "The real problem is what to do with the problem solvers after the problems are solved." — Gay Talese, American author and journalist.

Answer to previous puzzle

TIDE	BATES	BAM
URAL	EMILIO	OLE
BALLBEARING	NIT	
ANISLETTE	GREECE	
ALI	ELMER	
AMPERE	ODESSA	
BOARD	DRIES	RUN
COPE	COLOR	ORSO
STE	SPOON	COOTS
RETURN	WAHWAH	
DETER	PAC	
EXILES	SOFTENER	
LUG	STICKFIGURE	
AIDE	SAMUEL	ODIE
YER	TODDY	SEND

Newsday Crossword

FUN FELLOWS by Randall J. Hartman
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Doesn't leave alone
 - 5 Are after
 - 9 Horticultural transplant
 - 14 Skin-cream ingredient
 - 15 Nastase of tennis
 - 16 The Kiss sculptor
 - 17 Repetitive learning
 - 18 Fender-bender reminder
 - 19 Film critic from Chicago
 - 20 1999 National League MVP
 - 23 Cotton fabric
 - 24 Soon
 - 25 Screen pop-ups
 - 28 Little bit
 - 30 Take five
 - 32 Videotape format
 - 35 Lowered oneself
 - 38 Casino game
 - 39 Frozen-food mascot
 - 43 Farm cart
 - 44 Military response
 - 45 Cal. pages
 - 46 Facet
 - 49 Without a date
 - 51 "Absolutely!"
 - 52 Stolen goods
 - 55 Piano recital tunes
 - 59 Sports comedy film of '96
 - 61 Tree on the flag of Lebanon
 - 64 The Odyssey, for one
 - 65 Kurdistan's locale, in part

- DOWN**
- 1 DEA agents
 - 2 Waikiki welcome
 - 3 "Makes sense to me"
 - 4 Leaked
 - 5 Getting broader
 - 6 Ranger or Tiger
 - 7 Ancient mercenary
 - 8 Range (part of the Rockies)
 - 9 Our Man in Havana author
 - 10 Rips off
 - 11 Summer cooler
 - 12 Christmas tree
 - 13 Explosive initials
 - 21 Bright and bouncy
 - 22 Here/there connector
 - 25 Special Forces unit
 - 26 "Beats me!"
 - 27 Ocelot features
 - 29 European capital
 - 31 Participate in a biathlon
 - 32 August 15, 1945
 - 33 Gymnastics item
 - 34 Duel preludes
 - 36 The Producers character
 - 37 Hardy title character
 - 40 Sodium hydroxide solution
 - 41 Acts too fussy
 - 42 Indiana Jones quest
 - 47 Red wine
 - 48 Toy with a string
 - 50 Apollo preceder
 - 53 Newspaper sections
 - 54 Aggressive sort
 - 56 Nuclei
 - 57 Do away with
 - 58 Have a feeling
 - 59 Visibility problem
 - 60 Main point
 - 61 Tech
 - 62 Outback runner
 - 63 TVA project