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# BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

**INSIDE**  
Wizards bring end to Mavs' 12-game win streak  
Page 1B

## Be careful, alert while shopping

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

As area shoppers begin the mad dash to complete their holiday shopping in time for Christmas, they should be concerned with more than just long checkout lines and which sale is offering the best prices, according to local law enforcement officials.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said thieves will be out and about this holiday season, just waiting to fill their stockings with ill-gotten gains.

"That's what they look for," said Everett. "You're going around and



Local resident Pat Simmons accepts the Community Builder Award from Staked Plains Lodge 598 Lodge Master Bob Noyes during a meeting of Keep Big Spring Beautiful Monday afternoon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

See THIEVES, Page 3A

## Simmons receives Builder's Award from local masons

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Local resident Pat Simmons will have to make some room on her awards shelf, as Staked Plains Lodge 598 presented her with the Community Builders Award Monday afternoon.

Lodge Master Bob Noyes and Lodge member Bo Clawson presented Simmons with the award during a meeting of Keep Big Spring Beautiful — an organization Simmons helped organize — in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

Simmons, who had no idea an award was going to be presented, much less to her, said she was

stunned when Noyes said her name and began describing her many accomplishments.

"I'm just overwhelmed," said Simmons. "When I heard them say they were going to present an award I didn't think anything of it. So I was just sitting there listening when I heard Bob Noyes say my name, and I just couldn't believe it. I was just overwhelmed."

While the attention may be nice for now, Simmons said it's certainly not what drives her in her work to beautify the city of Big Spring.

"Most everyone knows about the projects I'm

See SIMMONS, Page 3A

## Gates' confirmation hearing is expected to go smoothly

By ROBERT BURNS  
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday he's gratified that Robert Gates, his choice to be the next defense secretary, is getting a quick confirmation hearing in the Senate and said "he's going to do an excellent job for us."

Bush and Gates, a former CIA director, appeared together briefly at the White House before Gates was to go before the Senate Armed Services Committee to be questioned. Bush predicted that Gates "will be a fine defense secretary" and said "those who wear the uniform know they will have a friend at the Defense Department in Bob Gates."

Although the president had said earlier that he chose Gates to provide a



Confirmation hearings began today for Robert Gates, President Bush's pick as Defense Secretary.

"fresh perspective" on Iraq, it's not clear how the former CIA chief will influence administration policy on the war.

There has been little sign that Democrats,

poised to take control of Congress in January, will block his nomination to replace Donald H. Rumsfeld. In fact, key Democrats are eager to switch Pentagon chiefs as quickly as possible.

Congress and the president are awaiting the recommendations on Wednesday of the Iraq Study Group, the bipartisan commission examining new approaches to the war. Until his nomination, Gates was a member of the commission, which is headed by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind.

As defense secretary, Gates would have to work with a Democratic-led Congress. Reflecting that reality, Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services

See GATES, Page 3A

## MEET 'N GREET



Newly elected State Rep. Joe Heflin, right, talks with Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson during a special reception held late Monday afternoon at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Advent concerts to benefit Big Spring Angel Tree program

Concerts are planned this Thursday and next at 12:05 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, located at 10th and Goliad.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will present its annual Advent Offerings luncheon concert series this year this Thursday and the following Thursday, Dec. 14, at 12:05 p.m.

Beginning this Advent, as an additional benefit to the com-

munity, each of St. Mary's Advent Offerings and Eastertide Offerings concerts will be designated to aid various charities in Big Spring.

This year, the Big Spring Angel Tree will be recipient of contributions received at both scheduled concerts. There is no charge to attend the concert and any donations will be given to the Angel Tree program.

These concerts are a gift to the community from St. Mary's. The concerts will be approximately 30 minutes in length

and a light lunch will provided at no charge by the women of St. Mary's.

This Thursday's program, Carols for Keyboards, will feature a variety of carols for solo piano, solo organ, piano duets and piano and organ duets.

Joining Linda Hill, St. Mary's organist/choirmaster, for this concert will be Vilia Walter of Midland. Vilia is a Chicago native who earned a bachelor and master of music degrees in cello performance from the American Conservatory of

Music.

Her post-graduate work was in worship studies and she serves as worship director at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Midland. She is also an accomplished pianist and singer. She plays cello in the Midland-Odessa Symphony.

This program will include "O Come, O come, Emmanuel," "Rise Up, Shepherds," "Sing We Now of Christmas," "All Is Well" and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" along with traditional carols.

The Dec. 14 program will feature Joyce Bradley, Joseph Dawes, Susan Dawes and Scott McLaughlin of Big Spring along with Linda Hill, Gloria Steelman and Vilia Walter of Midland. Carols Old and New is the theme of that concert. Members of the group of performers will be heard both in solos and in various ensemble combination.

Everyone is invited to both concerts. St. Mary's is located at 10th and Goliad in Big Spring.

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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

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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.

**RED DRESS LUNCHEON**

In the Red Dress tradition, a Red Dress Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday 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 Wednesday 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.

**HOLIDAYS AT HOWARD**

Howard College's Christmas gift to the community will be unwrapped — or lit, to be more precise — this week. The college planned a series of holiday related events this week. Tonight, there will be an arts show and reception from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and a music recital at 7 p.m. Both events are in the Hall Center for the Arts. Santa Claus will be on hand for the annual Luminaria lighting ceremony from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Hall Center amphitheater. Admission is free to the event, which will feature music from the Coahoma Kids Choir and New Dimensions.

**20 Shopping Days Til Christmas**

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Obituaries

Lonnie Ray Clanton



Lonnie Ray Clanton, 57, born in Big Spring on Sept. 4, 1949, died at his home in Sand Springs on Dec. 1, 2006. He graduated from BSHS in 1968, excelling in athletics and received a football scholarship to Southern Methodist University.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Morris and Earline Clanton, his brother, Ronnie Clanton, and by his nephew, Andy Clanton.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Don and Deborah Clanton of Cypress; nephew Ron Clanton; and nieces Kim Ransleben, Paula Hunt, Amy Hill and Annette Clanton; and many loving relatives and friends.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Graveside services will be Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006, at 10 a.m. at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

Paid obituary

Marcella Davis

Marcella Davis, 65, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ernesto Saiz

Ernesto Saiz, 72, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 4, 2006, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

1955 HYPERION CLUB IS SPONSORING A COAT DRIVE. The dropoff points are Al's and Son Barbecue, Harris Lumber and Hardware and Specs and Co. The drive will last approximately one month. The club will distribute these coats to as many different organizations as possible, depending on how many coats are received. Some of the organizations will be West Side Community Center, North Side Community Center, Big Spring State Hospital and public schools. Comet Cleaners and Classic Cleaners have volunteered to clean the coats before distribution.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES is 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 Medicaid or Medicare card. Flu shots will be offered to everyone. For more information, call 432-263-9775.

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 COLLECTING 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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

- WILLIAM AGUILAR, 17, 807 Anna, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- ISAIAH JAMES, 18, 1401 N. Highway 87, was arrested on a citation warrant.
- CHRISTOPHER BOBBITT, 23, Alto, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- DAVID SACHS, 19, 700 S. Service Road, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 400 block of Scurry.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 600 block of Warehouse Road.
- GRAFFITI was reported in the 300 block of Ninth.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy, the 1000 block of Birdwell and the 100 block of Cottonwood.

Sheriff's report

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

- JOHNNY BARRAZA, 38, was transferred from BSPD after he was arrested on a parole violation warrant.
- BARNEY DODD, 36, was arrested on a charge of credit card abuse.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Basswood. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

A RED DRESS LUNCHEON will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday 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 to attend are asked to RSVP by Wednesday 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.

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).

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

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

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

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

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

Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY
- League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 714-4185 or 263-6351 or 816-6962.
  - Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.
  - VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
  - Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
  - Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
  - Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
  - Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- WEDNESDAY
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
  - Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
  - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
  - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
  - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
  - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
  - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.  
 Wednesday—Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast in the afternoon.  
 Wednesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.  
 Thursday—Mostly sunny. Highs around 50. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.  
 Thursday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.  
 Friday—Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.  
 Friday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
 Winning numbers drawn: 12-19-21-24-25.  
 Number matching five of five: none.  
 Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:  
 Winning numbers drawn: 2-24-25-29. Bonus Ball: 31.  
 Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.  
 Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$1.15 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-6-2

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### THIEVES

Continued from Page 1A

looking for Christmas presents, and they are walking around looking for things to steal. That's how they have Christmas. Whether it's your presents or your money, you can kind of look at it as if the thieves are out there shopping. That's what they do for a living. They steal."

Everett said it may seem downright unholiday-like to be so suspicious this Christmas, but it's much safer to err on the side of suspicion than to be caught unaware.

"A lot of people will walk outside and in between cars and really not be aware of what's

going on around them," said Everett. "You need to pay attention to whether or not people are there or they seem to be watching you. I would rather have someone be suspicious of me if I'm standing out in the parking lot than to not even notice me."



Everett said, "Also for the ladies with purses, we suggest that they don't just hold them by the strap and just leave them hanging. That makes them really easy to take. If they have straps on them we suggest you keep them over your shoulder so you can keep one arm over them and keep them

secure. Also be sure that you don't leave money that's in your purse visible."

While these holiday-wrecking hoodlums may seem impossible to stop, Everett said there are some things you can do to keep you and your vehicle from being a target while shopping this season.

"Don't put your packages and presents in the back seat of your car without covering them up," he said. "The best way to discourage criminals is to keep them out of sight and out of mind by putting them in the trunk. If you have to put them in the seat though, be sure to cover them up or obscure them in some way."

"If you put them in the

trunk, it makes it a real pain for the thieves to get to them, and they don't necessarily want to be out there working on your lock in a situation where they can be seen. From time to time we try to patrol the parking lots of the mall and some of the stores looking for that sort of thing."

Most importantly, Everett said, be aware.

"If you'll sit up at the front doors of Wal-Mart or the mall, you'll see people walking up and down the parking lots just looking in cars. After a minute or two you can tell they're not looking for their car or headed for their car. What they're doing is scoping out the inside of your vehicle to see if you have any packages or

purses or anything laying loose like that," he said.

"We also suggest that people keep their doors locked whenever they go inside a store, and make sure you take your keys with you," Everett added. "If someone gets into your car to steal a radio or wallet and they find the keys, you're probably going to lose your car. We generally recover the cars that get stolen around here, but a lot of time they're not in any kind of condition to be driven."

While personal safety devices such as pepper spray and stun guns may seem like a plausible protection plan for some holiday shoppers, Everett said there are some very serious implications to consider.

"I have mixed feelings on that because from what I've seen, people with those types of personal protection items end up getting them used on themselves," he explained. "One of the things you have to remember is if you have something like that with you, you have to be prepared to use it, and use it in a timely manner."

"It's a lot like people that ask if they should buy a gun; and I tell them if they're not prepared to use it, don't have one because chances are it will be used against you."

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

### SIMMONS

Continued from Page 1A

involved in," said Simmons. "You know how involved I am with the community, and I love the work that I'm doing. I'm just speechless, and everyone that knows me will tell you that doesn't happen very often. It's such an honor for them to recognize me like this. I don't do what I do

because I want to be recognized I just do it because the community needs it. I really appreciate this."

Simmons is credited with a number of beautification efforts, including the annual Love Your Lake program and local participation in the Texas Trash Off. Simmons is also recognized as the driving force behind the annual Festival of Lights, which will begin its 10th year in the city Dec. 15 at

Comanche Trail Park.

Clawson said he and his fellow lodge members felt like Simmons was the natural choice for the award.

"In the lodge meeting we were kicking around who should get the award, and her name came up," said Clawson. "Everyone thought she would be a really good choice. She was the natural choice. Everyone knew her work and everyone was very pleased with what she's

done for the community, and we feel like we made an excellent choice."

Being able to present the award to Simmons held personal meaning for Noyes, who has a very special link to the collective nod from his peers.

"The program is under the Grand Lodge of Texas," said Noyes. "Every year the Master of the lodge works on the program and the things he wants to do, and this is one of those things that

I'm really proud of because the lodge gave me this award back when I was directing Christmas in April."

"The lodge approved Pat Simmons as an individual who has been working toward the growth and appearance of Big Spring. The brethren voted and approved her for the Community Builder award. This is very special."

Contact Staff Writer

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

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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Marcella Davis, 65, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### GATES

Continued from Page 1A

Committee for now, said Bush should solicit privately the opinions of Democrats before forging a new strategy on Iraq.

Warner, in remarks prepared for delivery at the hearing, said the president had a "moral obligation" to U.S. troops in Iraq and their families to seek out the views of Democrats as he considers the Iraq Study Group's recommendations along with an internal assessment of U.S. options.

"After the president has had the opportunity to review these important reports, I respectfully recommend that he privately consult with the bipartisan leadership of the new Congress before making his final decisions," Warner said.

A copy of the Virginia senator's prepared remarks were obtained late Monday by The Associated Press.

Gates, 63, was announced by Bush as his choice to replace Rumsfeld on Nov. 8, the day after congressional elections that were widely interpreted as a vote of no confidence in the administration's Iraq policy.

Aside from saying in hindsight that he would have done some things differently in Iraq if he had been Pentagon chief, Gates has revealed little about his thinking on new approaches to stabilizing the country.

He wrote in response to questions submitted in advance by the Senate committee that he supported Bush's decision to invade in 2003 and that leaving Iraq "in chaos" would harm U.S. interests for many years. Beyond that he has not said how the U.S. might get Iraq moving in the right direction.

At the confirmation hearing, Gates was expected to face questioning on a range of issues, including re-equipping a military strained by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; increasing the size of the Army and Marine Corps; how to approach relations with

China, North Korea and Iran, and whether to limit the Pentagon's dominance in the intelligence arena.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a member of the Armed Services panel, said Monday after meeting with Gates that she was impressed by his emphasis on seeking political consensus on national security issues. "He seems very open, eager to consult with Congress and perhaps what was most encouraging to me is he spoke about the need for a bipartisan approach to national security," Collins said.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., in line to become next chairman of the committee, told reporters that although he opposed Gates' nomination as CIA director in 1991, he is willing to give him a fresh look.

Levin added that he hoped to discern whether Gates was open minded and willing to offer dissenting views to the president.

"The president needs to have people who are strong in their positions enough to tell him when ... they disagree with

him," Levin said.

Levin was among 31 senators who voted against Gates to become CIA chief in 1991. During that year's hearings, Gates faced accusations by CIA officials that he

manipulated intelligence as a senior analyst in the 1980s in order to support White House policy.

Also, some doubted he had told all he knew about the Iran-Contra scandal, which erupted in

1986 after the Reagan administration secretly sold arms to Iran in hopes of freeing hostages in Lebanon, then used profits from the sales to help the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ronnie Cupstid  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Nominations due for Man, Woman of Year accolades

**D**o you know someone who has devoted considerable free time to make our community a better place? Someone who has made a difference in the lives of others, or the beauty of our area maybe? Do you think they deserve recognition for those efforts?

Well, those are the kinds of people the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce wants to know about.

The chamber is currently accepting nominations for Man and Woman of the Year — two individuals who will be recognized during the chamber's banquet on Jan 18, 2007.

The deadline to nominate someone is Monday, Dec. 18, so there is still time to have someone considered if you haven't made a nomination yet.

Because it is a Chamber award, those nominating someone must be a member of the Chamber of Commerce. However, nominees do not have to be a member.

Chamber officials suggest that nominations should be based on all around contributions to the community, and not for one accomplishment, unless the accomplishment was extraordinary.

It should also be noted that the term "community" in this case applies to the entire area served by the chamber.

Anyone holding a political office is not eligible to be nominated.

Applications can be obtained at the Chamber office, 215 W. Third St. For more information or to received a fax application, call 263-7641.

Remember, if you know someone who's not only voiced their pride in living and working in the Big Spring area, but have gone the extra mile to make our community a better place to live, chances are they deserve to be Man or Woman of the Year.

They won't nominate themselves, though. That means it's up to you.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

### LETTER POLICIES

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

### A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

*When others throw a boomerang into our life we can handle what comes down our path, Lord, when we have you. Amen*

## Gimmicks not needed to remember

**T**his is a great country. Because of the sacrifice paid by U.S. troops, Americans are free to voice their opinions and no government can stop them. Indeed, Americans are even free to make dishonest arguments and hide behind dead U.S. troops as they do so.

I refer, of course, to antiwar opponents who staked some 420 crosses, Islamic crescents and Jewish Stars of David in what they call a memorial to the 2,800-plus U.S. troops who died in Iraq in Lafayette, Calif. City officials told the activists they were free to put up crosses. But when a sign went up — a recent version read: "In Memory of the 2,867 Troops Killed in Iraq" — it broke Lafayette's signage size rules. It was too big.

Since city sign rules apply to all signs, Lafayette told the cross-bearers to downsize the sign by Nov. 20. They refused.

They are protesting. They are special.

Besides, the headline-grabbing brouhaha has given the cross brigadiers what they desire most — the chance to appear as victims without actually being victims.

The Lafayette cross-mongers have not bothered to apply for a

permit for a bigger sign, Mayor Ivor Samson told me.

Samson is well aware of the need "to protect freedom of expression." He also understands the need for uniform enforcement of zoning rules.

Be it noted that if the city of Lafayette were to grant a permit for a big memorial sign, other political viewpoints would be entitled to the same exemption. Just as Lafayette cannot and should not limit the "troops killed" sign because of its content, approval of bigger signs would have to apply to all political messages.

"We've been accused of being political, but the sign isn't political," memorial leader Jeff Heaton told The San Francisco Chronicle. "It's a statement of fact."

Heaton admitted that all who put up the crosses were anti-Iraq war, but, "What we're trying to do is remind people there are lives being lost, families being devastated." It doesn't speak well for Heaton and his co-believers that they can't even be honest about what essentially is an antiwar protest that hides behind those brave troops who fell in Iraq. And here's how you know that they are not simply saluting U.S. troops' sacrifice: They forgot the 346 U.S. troops who have died in Afghanistan.

More baloney: "It seems to be an effective way to make people aware of the number of soldiers who died in Iraq," Heaton told

The Chronicle. News stories, real memorials and services for fallen U.S. troops have made the public very aware of the heavy human cost of this war. It is the ultimate conceit to believe that 420 crosses — not even one per dead American — will or can make a deeper impression on the voting public than the stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Not to mention that many Bay Area families are quite aware of what is going on in Iraq and Afghanistan because they have family members serving there.

They don't need gimmicks to be aware of the risks of combat or the effects of the war against terrorism on American families, thank you very much.

Indeed, if Heaton and company really cared about these families, they would show some respect and sensitivity. They would not exploit the war dead to bolster a viewpoint contrary to those held by most in uniform. They think this charade shows them to be sensitive — and thanks to simple zoning rules, oppressed, but the view from here is: smarmy.

The cross-bearers should claim their opinions as their own, instead of hiding behind dead soldiers.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfrchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfrchronicle.com).  
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DEBRA SAUNDERS

### HUNGER: A THING OF THE PAST IN THE GOOD OL U.S. OF A!



## Taking U.S. political temperatures

**T**urns out that being a winner has helped Nancy Pelosi in the eyes of the American people, which may be a lesson for her speaker-ship. John Kerry, on the other hand, is losing friends fast, and Hillary now faces the problem that her husband is more likeable than she is.

Those are among the findings of a Quinnipiac University Polling Institute survey released this week, which creates a "thermometer reading" for national leaders as of the week after the Democrats took over Congress.

According to the "thermometer readings," the hottest guy in American politics is Rudolph Giuliani, at 64.2 on a scale of one to 100, voters having been asked to rate the warmth of their feelings for each of the leaders numerically, unless they didn't know enough to have an opinion.

In the case of the former New York mayor best known for his leadership on 9-11, only 9 percent of the survey sample opted out because of lack of knowledge.

Numbers like these would be extremely good news for Giuliani if the Republican Party ran a national primary, or four regional primaries, instead of a complex marathon in which insiders and activists on the right exercise disproportionate influence.

Even so, as of now, there is no difference in Giuliani's popularity between white Protestants and white born-again evangelical Christians, though many expect the latter will ultimately have difficulty with the New Yorker's positions on abortion (pro-choice) and gay rights (supportive).

Running second on the warmth scale is the new kid on the block, speaking in terms of presidential politics, Barack Obama, who almost no one really knows enough about to evaluate, but only 41 percent admitted that. The rest gave him a score of 58.8, allowing him to nose out Sen. John McCain at 57.7, Condoleezza Rice at 56.1 and Bill Clinton at 55.8 (1 percent of the sample said they didn't know enough about the former president to form an opinion — it's not clear where those people have been).

Hillary doesn't show up until ninth place, after Joe Lieberman and John Edwards. What's striking is that with the exception of women, who rate them about the same, voters in every other group like Hillary by a margin of six to nine points less than her husband, whether you're talking about men (36 to 27), white Protestants (41 to 35), white Catholics (33 to 27) or white born-again Christians (46 to 38); these are the percentages that put her in the very lowest category.

What's wrong? How did Hillary come to be hated so much more than her husband when her greatest sin, in most people's eyes, was standing by him?

That is a question the disparity in their popularity makes inevitable.

This is going to be one fun campaign.

But Hillary is beloved compared to John Kerry. According to those who know him, this is a message he will not get. He is about to do a book with Teresa. That will certainly change things.

To quote Borat: Not. John Kerry comes in last on likeability. In the last year, his numbers have been heading steadily in the wrong direction. The number who put him in the lowest category has grown steadily, to more than a third of the country. Overall, his thermometer reading is a paltry 39.6, 25 degrees lower than the former New York mayor.

While Kerry is falling, Pelosi is climbing. A week after the election, she is scoring 12 points higher than she was in early September, and two-thirds of the electorate says it knows enough about her to form an opinion.

If it is, as Peter Brown, the assistant director of the Quinnipiac Polling Institute, suggests, "because everyone loves a winner," then Pelosi has to keep winning. She can't afford ugly, losing inside fights like the Hoyer-Murtha battle or the brewing Harman-Hastings fight. Save it for big stuff. What goes up can go down. Just ask John Kerry. He used to be a contender.

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SUSAN ESTRICH



Parent's Corner:

# Realizing just how important music education really is

I love to listen to the voices of our children singing Christmas songs during this season. I am so thrilled that we still find time for music in our schools. The Christmas season gives us a special time to hear our kids perform the music of today and past generations in a spirit of love and giving.

With the current struggle to achieve in academics, music suffers in many of our schools

throughout the country. I am thrilled that our state recognizes that our economy thrives upon a creative and innovative workforce and that we must foster creativity in our schools and in our students to compete in the global marketplace.

Music is a creative force and can be utilized as a catalyst in educating students in math, science and the humanities.

What could singing lessons have to do with science class? As a former music teacher, I have found that training in music is a global training which assists students in concept learning. It's also a kind of preparation teenagers passionately want and need. In music training,

kids learn there's not just one right answer. They learn that judgment counts. They learn to connect.

By using a carefully calibrated mix of academics and music training, we are able to help kids become capable, creative men and women.

Music helps students learn to succeed in school and beyond. Students who participate in music are more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to be elected to class office, to participate in math and science fairs and to receive awards for school attendance.

Research shows that students in music, compared with their peers, read for pleasure twice

as much and perform more community service.

In addition, music education has a positive impact on deterring delinquent behavior in at-risk youth and can improve the developmental growth of all children.

What students learn through the music and curricula infused with creativity helps prepare them for the real life demands of today's economy. Creative programs help students learn how to collaborate with others, enhance critical thinking skills, communicate clearly in a variety of media, produce results in real-time and think outside the box.

On Thursday evening, selected groups from each of the Big Spring

elementary campuses and Goliad Intermediate will be performing a special concert as a Christmas gift to parents and friends. The music teachers of each these campuses have worked diligently to prepare our kids for this presentation.

I urge you to support their effort and attend this free concert.

A Winter Fantasy — a special presentation by choral groups of Bauer

Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Marcy Elementary, Moss Elementary, Washington Elementary and Goliad Intermediate schools — begins at 7 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. There will be no admission charge.

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



DARRELL RYAN

## Bird Poop:

# A blue-winged teal survives a falcon's attack staying down

Having rested overnight on the shallow pond, the small flock of ducks headed south during late morning. Once past the fallow fields and ranch pastures, the birds were headed for the string of lakes to the west.

Astride her favorite horse, the rancher's wife enjoyed watching the fall migration of water birds. Suddenly, she pulled the reins tight. From out of nowhere, a large bird was diving at the ducks. With its wings swept back, and more than enough speed to overtake them, the predator entered the flight formation behind its leader and the trailing "V." As it came between the smaller birds, the dangerous hunter rolled slightly and thrust its taloned feet. The impact of its attack caused a small explosion of feathers.

Already tired from having broken wind for the rest of the flock, the leader tumbled toward the ground. In the time it took the peregrine falcon to right itself, turn, and descend toward its prey, the little duck had been able to regain the use of its wings. Since it did not dare try to out fly or maneuver its attacker, the bird chose to land on the ground near a large pile of dead mesquites. Having cleared the pasture of this growth, the rancher had given the duck a convenient place to hide. As the falcon soared above the pasture, the duck remained out of sight and still.

Concerned that the bird might be injured, the lady rode to the brush and dismounted. A black tail emerging from under limbs and dried leaves

led her to the exhausted duck. In spite of the approaching horse and the woman's footsteps, it did not move. Fearing the worst, the lady decided to get the bird some help if needed.

When she called us, her voice contained both excitement and fear. "Knocked out of the sky," she repeated during her retelling of what had happened. Since she needed to come to town, the lady brought the duck to us.

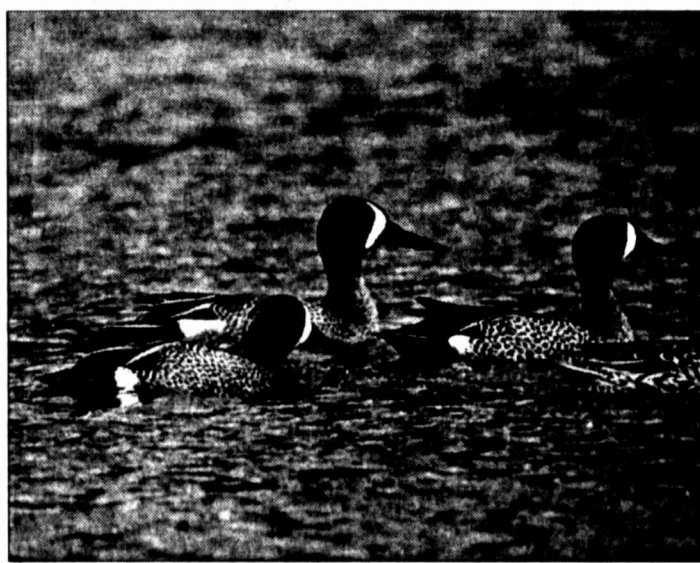
Dressed in his breeding plumage, the blue-winged teal's white facial present accentuated his dark head and beak. Even afloat, the duck's white flank would be visible. As we extended the wings to look for any breaks or cuts, the large blue patches on the forewings were striking. On the mottled breast was a dried droplet of blood.

The teal had been no match for the larger, faster falcon. As we probed the dense feathers of his breast, only a tiny nick in the skin could be seen. The hungry peregrine had failed to grab or knock from the sky an easy prey.

To make sure we had not overlooked a puncture, we took the duck to veterinarian Scott Burt. He confirmed our findings. He agreed the teal, although sore and stressed from its ordeal, needed to be returned to a source of water and food as soon as possible.

Released on an area lake, the blue-winged teal relished feeding on the surface. As it skimmed the water with its beak, we knew it was gathering aquatic insects. In the shallow parts, with its head and neck below the surface, the duck found plant foods and algae to his liking. In time, he would continue his journey from prairie "potholes" to a more southern clime.

*Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*



The lone female and four male blue-winged teal will circle a pond or lake several times before landing. They cannot, however, anticipate dangers in flight.

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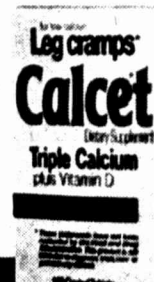
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Texas briefs

Truck driver convicted for smuggling deaths

HOUSTON (AP) — Now that a jury has convicted a truck driver for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt, his defense attorneys said they are focused on one thing: sparing him a death sentence.

The federal jury convicted Tyrone Williams on Monday of all 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting he faced for ferrying illegal immigrants during a May 2003 smuggling attempt from South Texas to Houston.

His airtight tractor-trailer was packed with more than 70 immigrants who punched out taillights and screamed for help when the heat inside the tomblike trailer became deadly. Nineteen of the immigrants died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation.

On the 20 death penalty eligible counts Williams faced in his retrial, the new jury found that his actions resulted in the death of a person, sending the trial to a punishment phase. That phase is set to begin Wednesday and last about a week.

Jurors will decide whether Williams should be sentenced to death or up to life in prison.

Craig Washington, Williams' defense attorney, said he plans on presenting testimony from about 20 witnesses. He wouldn't comment on who would testify on Williams' behalf or speculate on what will be key to his case.

"The jury has to decide whether to take another human being's life. So everything is on the table when they do that. And everything about a human being that the jury wants to know to decide whether the person lives or dies is important," said a visibly shaken Washington.

Prosecutors say Williams merits a death sentence because he was responsible for the deaths by not freeing the immigrants or turning on the trailer's air conditioning, which could have saved their lives. Some survivors testified they thought the air conditioning had been turned on.

Sam Houston State cheerleader and pre-nursing major, was shot and killed by an ex-boyfriend in an apparent murder-suicide Sunday night at the apartment she shared with three roommates, police said.

Pendray was shot several times and Jake Taylor, 24, had a single gunshot wound that appeared to be self-inflicted, police said.

"All I can say is I'm very, very proud of my daughter," Mark Scott Pendray said. "She was so full of life. She was just perfect and some fool had to come along and want and killed her."

Pendray said he had never heard of Taylor before Monday.

Taylor's mother, Linda Taylor-Gonzales, told the newspaper that the two attended the same high school but were several

years apart and didn't get to know each other until Taylor attended Sam Houston for a semester in 2005.

"I feel awful for Rachel and for her family," she said. "I didn't even know he had a gun or knew how to shoot a gun."

Taylor-Gonzales said her son had twice tried to commit suicide with overdoses of sleeping pills in October and November. Pendray called Houston police to report the second attempt after Taylor called her to tell her what he had done, his mother said.

Her roommates told school officials that Taylor stopped by the apartment to see Pendray around 11 p.m. Sunday. The two went into a room together, and after a short time, the roommates heard gunshots and found the two dead.

The roommates

described Taylor to school officials as an ex-boyfriend who kept pursuing Pendray after she had broken up with him.

**Real estate broker sues over anti-illegal immigration rule**


DALLAS (AP) — A real estate broker filed a lawsuit Monday alleging members of the Farmers Branch City Council and the city's mayor repeatedly violated the state's open meetings laws to deliberate a series of anti-illegal immigration ordinances.

Guillermo Ramos, of Farmers Branch, was among opponents who protested before council members in this Dallas suburb unanimously approved having property managers or owners verify the immigration or citizenship status of apartment renters.

The ordinance was part

making English the city's official language and allowing local authorities to become part of a federal program so they can enforce immigration laws.

Council members also approved resolutions



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♥ J 10 7 3  
♦ A K J 6 2  
♣ J 8 3

**EAST**  
♦ J 10 9 7  
♥ 9 8 5 4  
♦ Q 8 4  
♣ 10 6

**SOUTH**  
♦ K Q 6 5 4 3 2  
♥ A K  
♦ 7  
♣ A K Q

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♦ Pass Pass 4 ♦  
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Let's say you have a 65 percent chance of making a contract by adopting a certain line of play. Although this certainly makes you a favorite to succeed, you should not be willing to settle for that chance if there's another method of play that gives you a 75 percent chance.

While it is true that in this instance the more favorable approach will gain in only 10 deals out of every 100, there can be no denying that the closer you can get to 100 percent, the better off you will be, whether your chances rise from

poor to fair or from good to excellent.

Getting down to cases, consider this deal where West leads the K-A of diamonds against your four-spade contract. You ruff and play the king of trumps. West takes his ace and plays another diamond, which you ruff. When you now cash the queen of trumps, West shows out, and you must go down one, losing two more trump tricks.

It is, of course, unlucky that the trumps divided 4-1. The normal expectancy is a 3-2 division, which occurs 68 percent of the time. Nevertheless, these odds can be improved upon (by about 6 percent) by leading a low spade from your hand at trick three instead of the king!

In the actual case, this is the winning play because West has the singleton ace. In making this play, though, it is important to recognize that no harm can come from leading a low spade initially regardless of how the opposing spades are divided. If they break 3-2, you will lose two trump tricks whether you start by leading a low spade or the king.

The advantage of the low spade play is that if the spades break 4-1 and the ace is singleton in either opponent's hand — roughly a 6 percent chance — you can gain a trick, and in the actual deal, that makes all the difference.

Tomorrow: Two losers shrink to one.  
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# Sports

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SPRING

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

## IN BRIEF

### Miami program searches for coach

Rutgers coach Greg Schiano will stay with the school he led to national prominence this season, rather than pursue taking over the troubled Miami program. Schiano, Miami's defensive coordinator in 1999 and 2000, said he told Hurricanes athletic director Paul Dee that he was not a candidate to become their head coach.

### Barry Bonds update with Giants

The San Francisco Giants are seriously interested in bringing back Barry Bonds, despite the notion the club might prefer to part ways with the aging slugger.

The team has been exchanging offers with Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris.

### Nebraska accepts Cotton Bowl bid

Nebraska is playing football in January again, against No. 10 Auburn in a Cotton Bowl matchup of teams with little history in that game or facing each other.

The No. 22 Cornhuskers (9-4) are in a January game for the first time in five seasons. The New Year's Day game will be only their fourth Cotton Bowl — and first since 1980.

### Texas Tech accepts Insight Bowl bid

Texas Tech kept its bowl streak under coach Mike Leach alive Sunday, accepting its seventh bowl appearance in his seven seasons. The Red Raiders will play in the Insight Bowl.

The Red Raiders (7-5) will play Minnesota (6-6) in the Dec. 29 game in Tempe, Ariz.

"The Insight Bowl is a great bowl in a great location that provides a great matchup with the Big 12 and Big Ten conferences," Leach said. "We are excited about the opportunity to face Minnesota and look forward to spending some time in Phoenix."

### University of Texas accepts Alamo Bowl

Texas, which lost its chance to defend its national championship with consecutive losses to Kansas State and Texas A&M, will play in the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 30, a team spokesman said Sunday.

The Longhorns (9-3) will play Iowa (6-6), which finished in ninth place in the Big Ten. Iowa has lost three straight games and five of its last six.

It's the first trip to the Alamo Bowl for Texas, team spokesman John Bianco said. The Longhorns have made the 75-mile trip to San Antonio at least two other times: a loss to Nebraska in the 1999 Big 12 championship game, the most recent.

# 12-game winning streak snapped

## Wizards top Mavs in NBA, 106-97

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gilbert Arenas and the Wizards ended the Dallas Mavericks' 12-game winning streak, determined to begin a streak of their own.

"It feels great," Arenas said after scoring 38 points with eight assists during the Wizards' 106-97 victory on Monday night. "It shows what we're capable of doing if we come out and play hard. But we have to get a streak of our own pretty soon here if we want to be in that race."

All of Washington's starters scored in double figures in the first three quarters. Only once had the team accomplished that in a full game this season.

Antawn Jamison had 20 points and 12 rebounds. Caron Butler added 14 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Wizards, who built leads of 20 points in the first half and 31 in the third quarter.

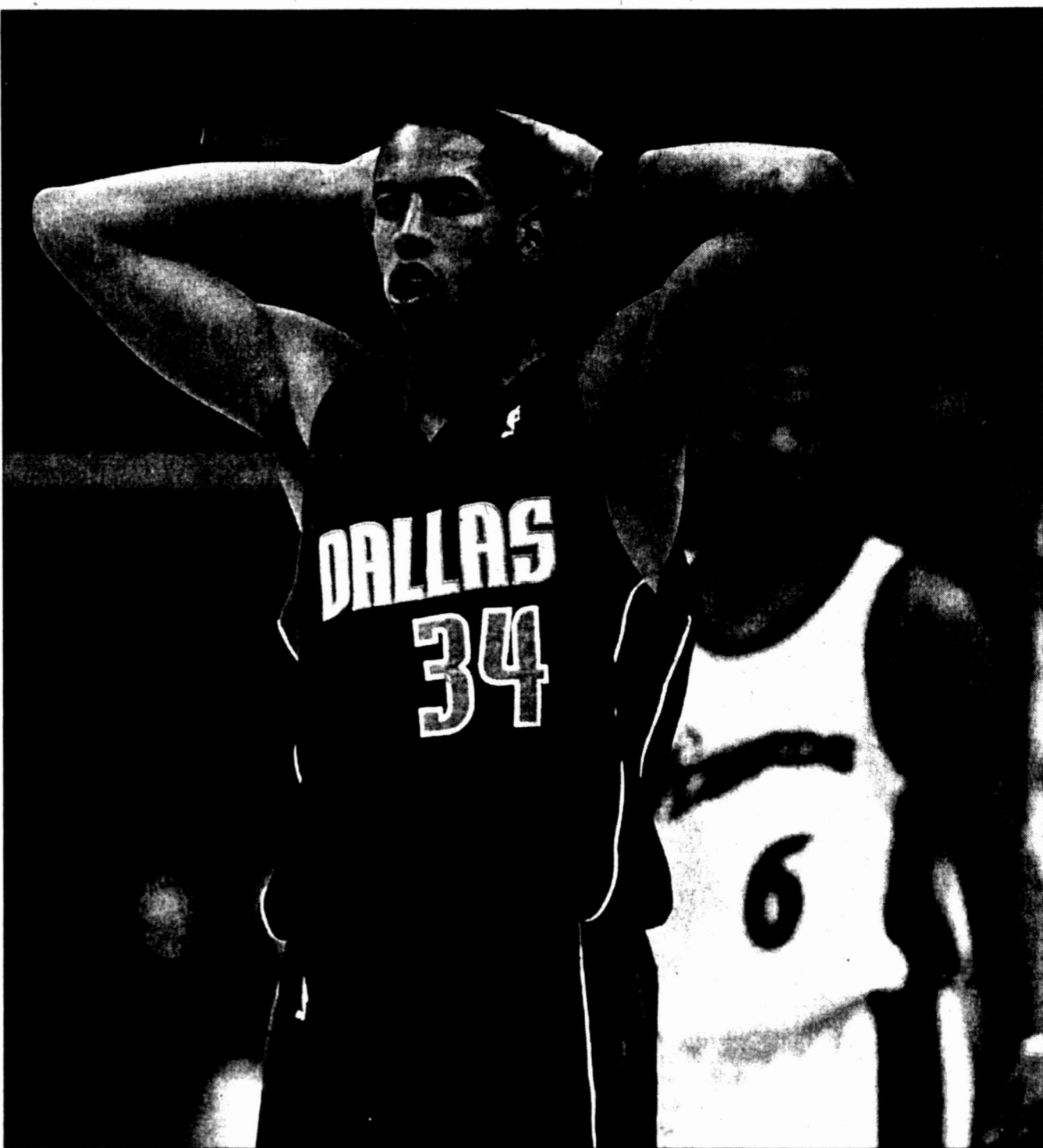
Dirk Nowitzki, who led Dallas with 27 points, capped a 19-6 run with a 3-pointer that pulled the Mavericks to within 102-95 with 1:07 remaining. Devin Harris scored nine points during the spree and finished with 14. Jerry Stackhouse and Devean George also scored 14 points for Dallas.

"They didn't quit," Jamison said. "They finished the game like a veteran team, as they should have. They've won 12 straight, so we knew it was going to be tough since they play well on the road. We did a great job of putting them on the ropes early."

The Mavericks' 12-game winning streak was the longest in the NBA this season.

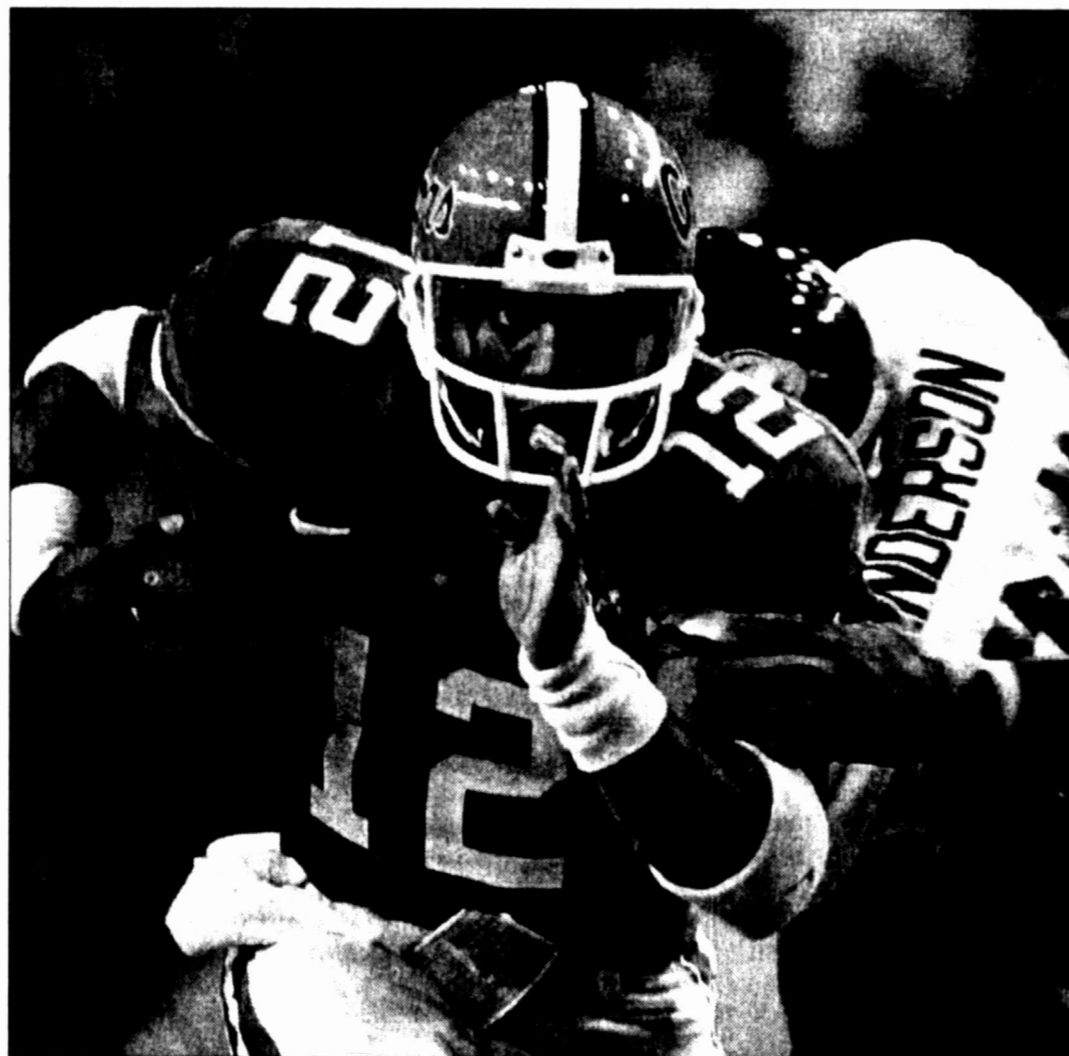
"It doesn't take much for us to get hot and make some shots. Down 20, that's doable in a game — 30 is a huge hole and it was just too deep," said Nowitzki.

The Wizards went on a 17-4 run to open the third quarter, capped by Jarvis Hayes' 3-pointer for a 76-45 lead with 6:24 remaining in



Dallas Mavericks' Devin Harris (34) reacts after being called for a foul late in their game against the Washington Wizards played at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., Monday night. Washington defeated Dallas, 106-97.

the period. A sequence earlier in the period epitomized the game. Arenas banked home a 3-pointer off the glass that gave Washington a 69-45 lead and Nowitzki's ensuing jumper at the other end drew nothing but glass. "We felt that they were going to cool down, they just never really did," Stackhouse said of the Wizards, who shot 49.5 percent and outrebounded the Mavericks, 59-46. The victory was the Wizards' first in their last seven meetings. See **MAVS**, Page 2B



Florida's Chris Leak runs upfield in the first quarter slipping through the arms of Arkansas' Antwain Robinson (right) in the SEC Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Saturday. The Gators won the SEC and are heading to play Ohio State in the national championship game.

## Pollsters avoid rematch, Gators to play Ohio State

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT  
AP Sports Writer

Avoid a rematch. Stronger schedule. Conference champion.

Those were the main reasons cited Monday by many poll voters for jumping Florida over Michigan on their final ballots, setting up a Gators-Buckeyes matchup in the BCS national title game Jan. 8.

"If you beat a team one time, why do they get the national championship if they win the second time?" said Earle Bruce, the former Ohio State coach who votes in the Harris Interactive poll and moved Florida ahead of Michigan. "I mean, they've already played one time and lost."

The Gators (12-1), who beat Arkansas to win the Southeastern Conference title on Saturday, moved from fourth to second in the final BCS standings Sunday. The Wolverines (11-1), who lost to the Buckeyes 32-29 on Nov.

18, remained third, while USC dropped to fifth from second after losing to UCLA.

"At the end of the day, Florida won its conference championship. Michigan did not," said Harris poll voter Ray Melick of The Birmingham News. "Because there's not a playoff, I think a conference champion ought to carry more weight than a conference runner-up at the BCS conference level."

Strength of schedule carried weight with voters, too.

It was such a big deal for Jim Walden, a former Washington State head coach, that he picked Florida No. 1 in the Harris poll, calling Florida's schedule "murderous."

"In my heart of hearts, I believe that neither Ohio State or Michigan could get through Florida's. See **BCS**, Page 2B

## Eagles 'D' saves game against Panthers

By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer  
PHILADELPHIA — Once Lito Sheppard read the play, he knew it was up to him to save the game — and possibly the season — for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Sheppard's interception in the end zone with 25 seconds left preserved a 27-24 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Monday night that vaulted the struggling Eagles

back into the playoff picture in the mediocre NFC.

Playing for the injured Donovan McNabb, Jeff Garcia threw for 312 yards and three touchdown passes against a tough defense. But it came down to Sheppard against Keyshawn Johnson on a fade route that worked earlier in the game on another defender.

From the Eagles 7, Jake

Delhomme lobbed a pass toward the right corner for Johnson, who is a half-foot taller than Sheppard. An All-Pro cornerback two years ago, Sheppard held his ground, leaped and made the pick while barely staying in bounds.

"It was a critical moment. Somebody had to make a play," Sheppard said. "I picked

See **EAGLES**, Page 2B



Eagles' Donte Stallworth leaps to the endzone for a 30-yard touchdown reception against the Panthers.



BCS

Continued from 1B

schedule with only one loss."

Tom Luicci, a Harris voter who bumped Florida up to second, said he made his assessment based on Florida's body of work — not one game.

"Michigan has quality wins over Wisconsin, which played no one, and Notre Dame, which won the Commander's-in-Chief trophy (a reference to wins over the service academies) which I don't consider a major coup."

As for Florida, Luicci noted its weak nonconference schedule "but that doesn't matter when you play every good team in the SEC and have quality road wins, too."

Florida played 10 bowl teams and beat nine, including road wins

against Tennessee and Florida State, neutral site wins against Georgia and Arkansas and home victories against LSU and Alabama. The Gators lone loss? At Auburn, 27-17.

"Michigan had its shot," said Harris voter Joe Biddle of The Tennessean. "If you replayed that game it would be nothing more than a Big Ten championship — and I don't think you get mulligans in college football."

"If there's a viable alternative, I stay away from a rematch and I think Florida gives them a viable alternative."

Jerry Palm, an independent BCS analyst, estimates that 40 of the 113 voters in the Harris poll and 25 of the 62 in the USA Today coaches' poll moved the Gators past the Wolverines. The teams were tied in the computer

ratings, the third component of the BCS standings.

The Associated Press media poll is not used in the BCS rankings, but 25 of the 65 voters moved Florida ahead of Michigan.

Illinois coach Ron Zook, who used to coach Florida, was among the voters in the coaches' poll who elevated the Gators. He was also the only Big Ten coach to vote Florida ahead of Michigan.

"Believe me, it's no slight to Michigan at all," Zook said. "I thought you were supposed to vote the way you feel. One vote wasn't going to make the difference. A bunch of people turned and flipped and voted Florida ahead of Michigan. For me, it was the fact that they played a 13th game."

That game, for the conference title, was one that

Michigan didn't have to play. And because it was played two weeks after Michigan's season-ending loss, it meant a big Gators win was more fresh in voters' minds.

AP poll voter Michael Vega of The Boston Globe said he wasn't against a rematch but found it hard to justify one this time.

"I had to reconcile a fundamental problem with giving Michigan a chance to win the national championship when it didn't even win a conference championship," he said.

AP voter Jon Wilner of the San Jose Mercury News said a rematch was appealing, but Florida deserves a title shot based on strength of schedule.

"Beating Arkansas, a 10-win team on a neutral field in December gave Florida that extra push," said Wilner.

MAVS

Continued from 1B

with the Mavericks, whose five-game road winning streak also ended. The last time Washington defeated Dallas was Nov. 5, 2003.

"Tonight we just went out there and played hard and did what we do best," Arenas said.

"This is one win we got that we told ourselves the way we'd been losing that we had to get a win. Now we have to go on the road and just play good basketball."

The Wizards, who are 0-8

on the road, visit New York on Wednesday.

"Our problem hasn't been finding a way to get it done at home," Jamison said. "It's been finding a way to bottle that energy and that passion at home and bringing it on the road."

Jamison and Arenas shot a combined 9-of-12 in the first quarter and the Wizards, who shot 71 percent in the period, took a 31-23 lead.

"We had to play from behind tonight and we just waited too long to respond," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said.

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EAGLES

Continued from 1B

up the signal. I saw it before he hiked the ball. I thought if I can just stay outside, I can have a chance to make a play. He overthrew it and I saw Keyshawn try to undercut it and jump at it, but it was too high for him. Once I caught it, I didn't know my left foot was that close, but I knew I got both feet in."

Before Philly's beleaguered defense came up with big plays, Garcia delivered several of his own in just his second start since replacing McNabb, who tore a knee ligament two weeks ago.

Garcia ran around like McNabb, withstood a couple hard hits and made some big-time throws. Now the Eagles (6-6) are tied with three other teams for the two NFC wild-card spots.

"We have not lost focus of what our goal is — to be a playoff team," Garcia said. "Nobody has been discouraged, nobody has hung their head, it's a really positive atmosphere in the locker room

considering what we've gone through over the last two months. This is a great way to come together; I think we can put some things together."

"It's a crazy year," coach Andy Reid said. "Anything's possible."

Garcia has thrown for six TDs and no interceptions since taking over for McNabb.

Delhomme almost matched Garcia until the two late picks. He threw for 269 yards and TDs of 9 yards to Steve Smith, 1 to Johnson and 35 to DeAngelo Williams.

"We're average right now," Delhomme said.

Garcia kept several plays alive early in the third quarter by scrambling away from the rush. Chased out of the pocket, he threw a perfect strike to Stallworth down the right side for a 30-yard score that tied it midway through the quarter.

On second-and-15 from the Eagles 35 on the following possession,

Delhomme was under pressure when he lobbed a short pass to Williams near the left side. Williams, with a convoy of blockers, broke at least one tackle and ran between several defend-

ers to reach the end zone.

"We have to do better than that," Panthers safety Mike Minter said.

"We have to finish the deal."

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# Bedtime Stories

## PACK AND PAT RAT JOIN THE RAT RACE

Pack Rat had just moved to this rat town. He loved this little town and decided that he would always want to live here. But, there were a few things that he would have to learn first. Here is one of those things. It is one of those things that we all should know. It may help you and me, too.

As Pack met more and more of his neighbors in Rat Town, he kept hearing of the Great Rat Race.

So one day he asked one of his new neighbors just what was this "Great Rat Race" all about? His neighbor, Rex Rat, told him that each year the town has a Great Rat Race, and at the finish line would be a great big chunk of cheese for the first runner who crosses the finish line. That rat would be the winner! "But each year the same rat wins this race. She is a very fast rat runner and she always wins! Her name is Pat Rat."

Pack Rat just happened to

love cheese as all rats do and he thought he must win this race. A great big chunk of cheese would taste really good, and it would last for a very long time.

He had eaten cheese once before and knew that he would love to win that great big chunk.

Pack worked hard to get himself into shape for the big race. He ate only healthy foods and drank lots of water every day just as we all should do.

As the day of the big race came closer, Pack Rat was ready! He felt as if he could beat anyone in that race, even Pat Rat.

Pack went to the finish line of the race because he had heard so much about it and now he was going to see it for himself. A little nervous, he was a sudden, a cheering and clapping for the winner. Pack Rat was about to see what

everyone was cheering and clapping for a pretty little rat. It was Pat!

Pat was a very pretty little rat. She was all dressed for the race in her pretty pink running clothes, and her little pink rat hat. She wasn't even a big rat as Pack had imagined after hearing about all the times she had won this race. He had imagined a great big rat with muscles bigger than his, but she was tiny, just a little rat. Pack would have no trouble beating her, or so he thought!

Pat came over to Pack and said, "Hello, my name is Pat. Welcome to our little Rat Town. I am so glad that you love it here, too. Good luck with the race today." Pack thought that she was very pretty and nice, but no matter, he must and will win this race! Then all of the little rats lined up for the race. It was about to begin.

The starting gun was fired. Off they went, all of them, running as fast as they could go. Everyone wanted that big chunk of cheese waiting at the end of the race, just over the finish line. Pack wanted it more than anyone!

Side by side they ran, Pack and Pat. They ran and ran. They were getting ahead of all the other rats in this Great Rat Race. And then something strange happened. It had never happened before. Someone was running faster than Pat! It was Pack. Maybe he wanted the cheese more than Pat. Maybe he was faster than Pat! Maybe Pat was letting him win because she was so nice and she knew how much Pack wanted that cheese. We will never know why!

Pack was getting very far ahead of Pat now. He was feeling very good. But he made a very bad mistake. He started laughing at Pat for being so slow. He had

heard so many times that Pat was the fastest rat in Rat Town, and he was beating her! As he turned around to look at Pat and laugh at her one more time, he didn't see a pothole in front of him. He tripped! He fell to the ground. Pat caught up with him and asked if she could help. She was so nice, wasn't she? She helped Pack back up on his feet. They

took off running again. Pack was running just as fast as he could. Pat was running very fast too. She was running much faster than Pack. She crossed the finish line long before Pack did. She was standing by her chunk of cheese when Pack did finish the Great Rat Race. He was so disappointed!

Pat said to Pack and to all the other rat runners, "Would all of you like some of my cheese? I will divide it among all of us. We are all

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winners because we tried our best." Of course Pack wanted some of the cheese, too! He had wanted to win the race so much and he was planning to keep all the cheese for himself, but Pat made him see things so differently now. He learned to never, ever laugh at someone when they are trying hard. He also learned how to share. Pat Rat taught him many things that day. That day of the Great Rat Race. They are very good friends now.

Pack is nibbling on his share of the cheese right now, but he did look up at me and asked me to tell you, "Good Night."

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Wacky Facts

■ One of the oldest forms of writing is called cuneiform, which was invented in the Middle East around 3,000 B.C. The term comes from the Latin words for "wedge-shaped" because the writer used a tool to make wedge-shaped strokes on a wet clay tablet which was then baked or dried. — *World Almanac for Kids*

# KID NEWS

2006 Chicago Tribune

Distributed by McClatchy-Trib

Chatter Box

"Put on your yarmulke, here comes Hanukkah. It's so much fun-akkah to celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights. Instead of one day of presents, we have eight crazy nights."  
— From "The Hanukkah Song," by Adam Sandler.  
AN ANIMATED SANDLER FROM THE MOVIE "EIGHT CRAZY NIGHTS"

In The News

## 'High School Musical' star goes solo

Fans know Vanessa Anne Hudgens as super-smart Gabriella from the Disney Channel movie "High School Musical." Now she's going solo with a new album, "V." The 17-year-old star is currently touring with the Cheetah Girls and gearing up for the filming of "High School Musical 2" in February. Hudgens spoke with Time For Kids about her new album and her goals.

**TFK:** How would you describe your new album, "V"?

**HUDGENS:** Well, I named it "V" because it stands for Vanessa, but it also stands for variety because my album, in a way, is kind of like a mix case. My single ("Come Back to Me") is like pop and R&B, but on my CD there is also pop, rock and dance electronic and some ballads. So, it's like a fun mixture of everything.

**TFK:** What singers do you admire most?

**HUDGENS:** I grew up idolizing Celine Dion; I do to this day. I look up to her like no other.

**TFK:** What was it like making your music videos?

**HUDGENS:** It was really fun! In the very beginning I was kind of nervous because, you know, it's me just going off on my own. And I got to the set, and I was normal and I didn't have any makeup or hair done. I was just like a normal person, and everybody was cool. And then I finally got into hair and makeup and my clothes and everything. And you walk into the room and everyone's eyes were on you. And I was like, "Oh, my gosh!" And it was like, "Oh, my gosh!" And it was like, "Oh, my gosh!" And it was like, "Oh, my gosh!"



DISNEY CHANNEL

**TFK:** Are you planning to release another album?

**HUDGENS:** Yes! I haven't started working on it yet, but it's in the works!

**TFK:** Can you tell us about the plot of "High School Musical 2"?

**HUDGENS:** I still haven't read the script yet, but all that I know is that school's out, summer vacation takes place at Ryan and Sharpay's country club, and I think I'm a lifeguard in it.

**TFK:** What would you like to see Gabriella do in the movie?

**HUDGENS:** Well, there are a few things. I think it would be fun for her to come out of her shell a little bit and have some fun... Maybe get in trouble! See, the good girls like

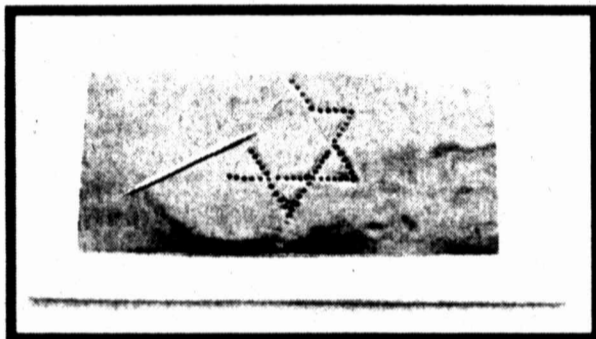
Taylor and Gabriella get in trouble because we're such the goody-girls, and I think it would be interesting to see how they could handle it. And I know all the fans want to see me and Troy kiss, so it will happen!

**TFK:** What are your goals for the near future?

**HUDGENS:** Just to keep doing what I'm doing now! After this tour, I think I'm probably going on a European press tour for my album and then we're shooting "High School Musical 2" and then my second album... There's a lot lined up. — *Madison N. Chapman, 12*

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# A festival of lights



## Make an embossed menorah to celebrate Hanukkah

These beautiful foil-wrapped candleholders will make a menorah that is bound to be the shining star of your family's Hanukkah celebration. This year Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, begins at sunset on Dec. 15 and lasts eight days.

YOU WILL NEED

- Embossment foil (We used one tube of AMACO ArtEmboss Soft Metal Sheets in Cerulean Blue, available at craft stores or at amaco.com.)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- 10 glass votive holders (Ours were 2 3/4 inches tall and 2 inches in diameter.)
- Sheet of craft foam
- Toothpick
- 9 tea light candles

To make your own set of candles, cut eight 3 1/2-by-7-inch pieces and one 6-by-7-inch piece from the embossment foil. Use a pencil to emboss the Star of David onto the center of each small piece and the upper middle section of the larger piece. One at a time, lay the foil pieces atop the craft foam and use the toothpick to poke a series of holes on both sides of the star and along the top edge.

Wrap each small piece of foil around a glass holder, keeping the top of the foil flush with the rim, then pinch together and fold the ends to secure them. Cut the bottom of the foil into a series of flaps and fold them against the bottom of the glass. To make the shammas, the candle in the center that is used to light the other candles, stack the last two holders and wrap them together in the remaining piece of foil. Place one tea light in each holder and arrange them on a table or mantel.

— *FamilyFun magazine*

Try This

## Winter wonderland ornament

This ornament lets you assemble miniature figurines into magical scenes.

YOU WILL NEED

- 9-ounce clear plastic cup
- Silver poster board
- Pinking shears or decorative craft scissors
- Polyester batting
- Miniature trees (sold in craft stores)
- Miniature animals or people (sold in craft stores or online at bjerftsupplies.com)
- 1-inch wide mirror
- Tacky glue
- Fine glitter
- Pushpin



- Monofilament
- Several craft beads

1. Trace the rim of the cup onto the underside of the poster board. Cut out the circle, but

stay at least 1/8 inch outside the trace line so the base will be slightly larger than the cup.

2. Cut out a circle of batting snow that's the same diameter as the cup and set it atop the shiny side of the poster board circle.

3. Separate or snip the batting where you'd like to position the trees, figurines and mirror pond. Glue the base of each item to the poster board, then smooth or fluff the snow around them as needed. Sprinkle the scene with fine glitter.

4. Use the pushpin to poke a hole in the center of the cup bottom. Thread a craft bead onto a 12-inch length of monofilament.

Gather the ends together, letting the bead fall to the center of the line, and thread them up through the hole from inside the cup. String a few more beads onto the doubled line (outside the cup) and then knot the ends to form a loop.

5. Apply a line of glue along the edge of the poster board circle. Press the cup, upside down, atop the glue and hold it in place for 20 seconds or so. During the first 10 minutes of drying time, occasionally check the seal and press down gently on the cup, if required. Let the glue cure for a full day before hanging the ornament. — *FamilyFun magazine*

Help!

## Ungrateful friend

**DEAR AMERICAN GIRL:** I gave my friend a Christmas present that I made. When she opened it, she didn't like it — just because it was homemade! I feel really bad. — *Hurt*

■ It was insensitive of your friend to let you know she didn't like your gift, and also just plain rude! But remember this — she missed out on the real gift: your thoughtfulness in taking the effort to make a one-of-a-kind item just for her. If you decide to give her a gift next year, choose something simple, and put your energy into making presents for people who'll appreciate them (and appreciate you!).



**DEAR AMERICAN GIRL:** My mom always buys me clothes I don't like! I usually don't tell her I don't like them because I'm worried I'll hurt her feelings. Even if I tell her what I want to wear, she buys what she wants me to wear. — *Can't Choose Own Clothes*

■ If Mom thinks the styles you like are too grown-up for you, you can't change her mind. But you should have a say in what you wear. Share your opinion when you go shopping. Be specific! Try, "I like these jeans because they're comfortable," or "I'm just not a frilly person." Focus on the clothes, not Mom's taste. With a little effort you'll be able to give advice. Visit [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) to get or provide.



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Rips & Raves

## Yoshi's Island DS'



Pssh, two screens? That's so 2004. With "Yoshi's Island DS," say hello to four screens. The lousy name might scream "remake," but "Yoshi's Island DS" for Nintendo DS is, in fact, the long-desired sequel

to the 1995 Super Nintendo classic of (almost) the same name. The premise — escorting Baby Mario to safety — is the same, and "Island DS" looks and plays like its predecessor, a 2-D platformer that heavily emphasized exploration over simply surviving from start to finish. "Island DS" doesn't do much with the DS' touch capabilities, but it uses the dual screens to full effect. Both are in play at all times, and Yoshi's ability to shoot eggs makes it possible, for instance, to grab coins and conk enemies in the top screen while standing in the bottom one. You also can "scroll" through the visible field of play so that you can move from the bottom screen to the top (or vice versa) without actually going anywhere if you'd like to see more of what's beneath or above you. Hidden secrets lie around you at any given moment, and the ability to seek these out essentially gives "Island DS" four screens for the price of two. **Rating:** Everyone. — *Billy O'Keefe*



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**NEED CASHIER and Stocker.** Apply at Fast Stop, 1500 E. 4th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

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

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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 call (432)756-3345.

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

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
Saturn's retrograde through Leo begins a review of creative projects. What went right, and what can we learn from? Also, an idea you've kept to yourself blossoms under the attention of a collective mind. The Gemini moon keeps the conversation on the upside, which is crucial, since negative comments can stop projects before they start.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You have a mind for numbers and will come up with brilliant ways to add more zeros to your income. When given a choice between popularity and honesty, a middle road might be not to involve yourself in controversy.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You continue a trend of dwelling on that which you enjoy. Good work. Keep this up - you could soon achieve that rare state best described as "deliriously happy."

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Your focus on gaining greater control over the little things in your life has far-reaching results. A true master isn't just a master of a skill, technique or language. A true master is a master of the self.

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**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You're feeling sassy and are inclined to do the opposite of what is asked of you just to get a rise out of anyone trying to control you. This tempestuous mood is irresistible to those who are too afraid to act out.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You've developed the habit of dreaming, and it serves you well now. If you were to take the situation too literally, it'd be depressing. But when infused with your sense of fantasy, the day unfolds a rainbow of hope.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're willing to follow someone through suspenseful twists and turns if there's a possibility of surprise. Unforeseen endings or hidden treats and treasures allure you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You must admit, if only to yourself, that there's something about your current problem that's fascinating, if not downright appealing. This admission takes you one step closer to its solution.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Having to explain things over and over is a sign that maybe you're talking to the wrong person or you're in the wrong place. Move yourself into different environments until you return to that sense of flow you're so used to.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Affordability is a relative term. There are ways of getting around budget limitations. Stick to what you want, and don't listen to anyone who says you can't have it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A financial situation that's been stressing you out eases up considerably. Perhaps you finally get the check that's owed you. Or somehow some mad money makes its way to you from out of the blue.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're relaxed and confident, so it's the perfect day to promote yourself. State your best qualifications in a straightforward manner, and let your natural charm win hearts.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone wears a facade. Realize that strong and controlling types are brittle and fragile underneath. This will help you have a compassionate heart. Your sensitivity makes you a favorite.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.*

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**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom  
**ANSWERS**

6	4	1	7	2	3	9	8	5
7	5	9	4	6	8	3	2	1
8	3	2	5	9	1	7	4	6
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	1	2
1	9	6	2	8	5	4	3	7
4	2	7	1	3	6	5	9	8
3	7	4	6	1	2	8	5	9
2	6	8	3	5	9	1	7	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	2	6	3

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TUESDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (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 (64) Science Fic.
6 PM	News (CC)	News	Hondas de Amor	King of the Hill	News	Vuda de Blanco	News	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lahrer	How It's Made	Stone	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	Honor Roll	College	Movie: The
7 PM	Entertainment	Whee! Fortune	La Fea Mas Bella	The Simpsons	NCIS (CC)	Manna	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Nova (CC)	Dirt Jobs (CC)	Movie: Miracle	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Movie: Lockdown	Movie: The Thirteenth Year	Honor Roll	College	Movie: The
8 PM	Big Day	Big Day	Mundo de Fieras	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Amor Mio Amores	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and City	Light of the Southwest	Pat Dovers	Dirt Jobs (CC)	Movie: The Texas	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	Movie: American Gangster	Life Derek	NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)	College	Movie: Army of
9 PM	Boston Legal	Boston Legal	Ver Para Creer	Becker (CC)	Victoria's Secret Fashion	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	My Boys	7 Secrets to Beauty	Everest: Beyond the Limit	Movie: Miracle	Chansaw	The Closer	The Closer	Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody	Quite Frankly	SportsCenter	Movie: Army of
10 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Laura	News	Friends (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose	Man vs. Wild	Real TV (CC)	The Closer	Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody	Quite Frankly	SportsCenter	Movie: Army of	
11 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill	Letterman	Late Late	Movie: The Whole Ten	Joe McGee	Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Dirt Jobs (CC)	Movie: Romanancing the	CSI: Crime Scene	In Living Color	Phil of Future	Rodeo: Wrangler	Movie: Army of	Movie: Army of	Movie: Army of
12 AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids	Show	The Insider	Pagado	Update/Israel	John Hagee	Dirt Jobs (CC)	Stone	MXC	NYPD Blue	Cornicrew	Proud Family	National Finals	NFL Live	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



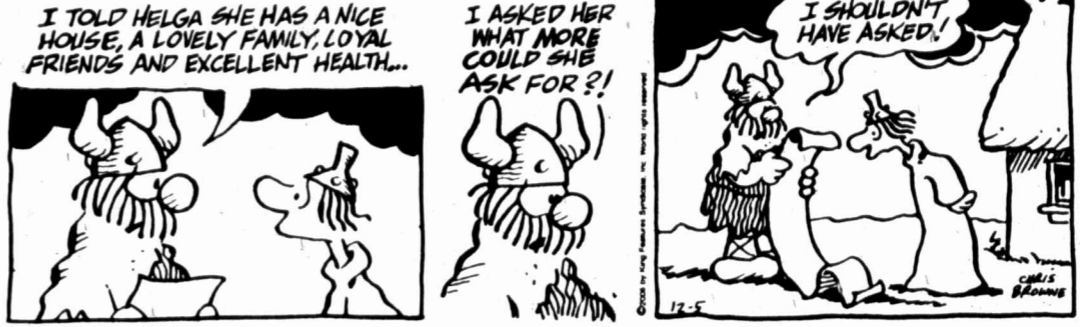
"YOU FEEL BAD 'CAUSE YOU SWALLOWED A BUG? THINK HOW BAD THE BUG FEELS!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Good news, Mommy. My shoes wore out before I outgrew them."

HAGAR



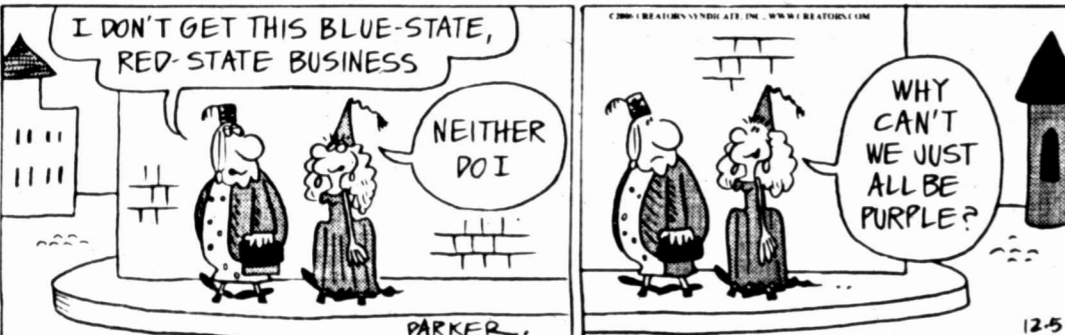
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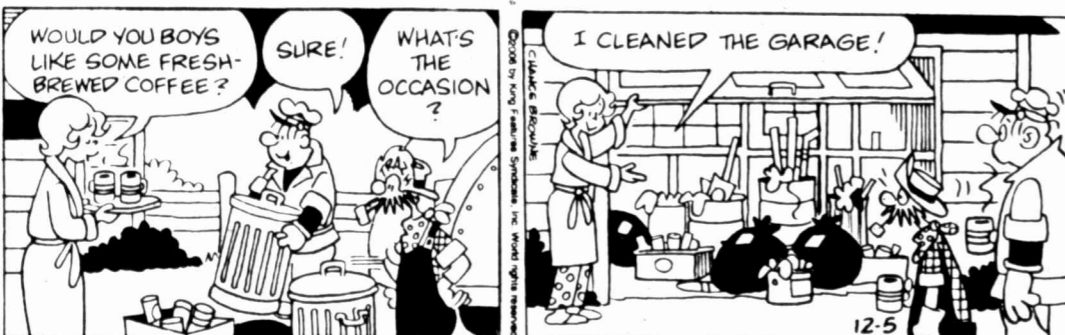
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2006. There are 26 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Dec. 5, 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

On this date:  
In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.  
In 1782, the first native U.S. president, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, N.Y.  
In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.  
In 1831, former President John Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the

U.S. House of Representatives.  
In 1848, President Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.  
In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.  
In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.  
In 1991, Richard Speck, who'd murdered eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966, died in prison a day short of his 50th birthday.  
In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

**Today's Birthdays:** Singer Little Richard is 74. Author Joan Didion is 72. Author Calvin Trillin is 71. Musician J.J. Cale is 68. Actor Jeroen Krabbe is 62. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 60. Pop singer Jim Messina is 59. Actress

Morgan Brittany is 55. Actor Brian Backer is 50. Country singer Ty England is 43. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 41. Country singer Gary Allan is 39. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 38. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 37. Actress Amy Acker is 30. Actor Nick Stahl is 27. Actor Frankie Muniz ("Malcolm in the Middle") is 21. Actor Ross Bagley is 18.

**Thought for Today:** "I've never been poor, only broke. Being poor is a frame of mind. Being broke is only a temporary situation." — Mike Todd, American movie producer (1907-1958).

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Answer to previous puzzle

BOBS	LADS	MERRY
ROUT	ONIT	ORATE
OLGA	AYOP	VICES
WALKA	FINELINE	
SLEEM	EATIE	GAG
EARG	MATEEN	SOLE
ABORTA	SHELL	
JOGONES	MEMORY	
SEVEN	KEYUP	
HEED	TASTED	OLD
ERRORS	GENIE	
RUNT	HEMETTING	
OSAKA	CLAD	WOER
ASTER	ASTI	ANNE
REESE	NEST	NYSE

Newsday Crossword

THE GREAT "S" CAPE by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 End of a river
  - 6 Oil cartel
  - 10 Thick carpet
  - 14 Sharpshooter
  - 15 Survey
  - 16 Chess turn
  - 17 More frosty
  - 18 Game on horseback
  - 19 Frequently
  - 20 Superman's hometown
  - 22 Microscope part
  - 23 AMA members
  - 24 Offer at auction
  - 26 Polite term of address
  - 30 \_\_\_ for Evidence (Grafton book)
  - 32 Dream up
  - 36 Man \_\_\_ Mancha
  - 37 Consolation component
  - 39 Kind of duck
  - 40 Legal claim
  - 41 Assembled a shirt
  - 43 Singer Home
  - 44 Flynn of films
  - 46 Competing team
  - 47 Young fellows
  - 48 Fixed charge
  - 50 Short sleep
  - 51 Otherwise
  - 52 Not very good
  - 54 Peas holder
  - 56 Performing group
  - 59 Superman's weakness
  - 65 Cleveland's lake

- DOWN**
- 1 Hurt severely
  - 2 Fairy tale's first word
  - 3 Army group
  - 4 Wedding-cake level
  - 5 New Testament king
  - 6 Completely different pair
  - 7 Place to swim
  - 8 Island formerly for immigrants
  - 9 Shuttered
  - 10 Superman's boyhood hometown
  - 11 Donut center
  - 12 Bard of \_\_\_ (Shakespeare)
  - 13 Acquires
  - 21 Do ironing
  - 25 General
  - 26 Burrowing animals
  - 27 Blazing
  - 28 Fully attentive
  - 29 Superman's nickname
  - 31 Acted as an usher
  - 33 Flawless
  - 34 Mails away
  - 35 Obliterate
  - 38 McIntoshes, for example
  - 42 Bus station
  - 45 Summer zodiac sign
  - 49 Igloo builder
  - 53 "Left face!" or "Halt!"
  - 55 Spherical roofs
  - 56 Word on a penny
  - 57 Operatic solo
  - 58 Window ledge
  - 60 Olden days
  - 61 Bakery clerk's call
  - 62 Notion
  - 63 Clock sound
  - 64 Make simpler

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				18				
17					18				19				
20					21				22				
				23			24		25				
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56	57	58			59	60				61	62	63	64
65					66					67			
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71					72					73			

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