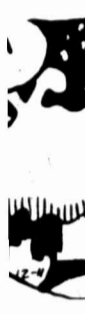


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11/06

# BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 17

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



**INSIDE**  
Bears lock  
up first-  
round bye  
with win  
over Rams  
Monday.  
Page 1B

## Rotarians give third-graders early presents

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Every local third-grader got an early Christmas present from the Big Spring Rotary Club Monday.

To promote literacy and to spread some holiday cheer, Rotarians presented third-graders at the five Big Spring elementary schools with a personalized dictionary.

"We do service projects each year and we decided to do this to promote literacy, which Rotary is big on," said Rotarian Carie Dunnam.

"We hope this helps motivate and encourage students to stay in school by letting them know the community supports them," Dunnam added.

The gifts were without question appreciated on the campuses.

"These dictionaries are personalized ... which makes them a special gift," said Bauer Magnet School Principal Wenda Christopher. "This is something they can use at home or at school."

Dunnam, who is the principal at Marcy Elementary, said teachers at her school were already incorporating the dictionaries into class lessons.

"I think it was a big surprise to students," she said. "I think this ... will display to them in a tangible way that education is important ... and for some of them, it's their first Christmas present of the year."

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



Carie Dunnam of the Big Spring Rotary Club presents a dictionary to a Bauer Magnet School student Monday morning. The Rotarians presented dictionaries to every Big Spring third-grader Monday.



Festival of Lights Chairperson Pat Simmons examines some lights that were apparently vandalized sometime Monday at Comanche Trail Park. The 10th Annual Festival begins Friday and runs through Dec. 31.

## Festival of Lights set to open

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

It's time to light the lights.

Well, almost all the lights.

Despite some last-minute power problems and a rash of vandalism, the 10th Annual Festival of Lights is just about ready to debut.

Personnel with the event will conduct a power-up test tonight to make sure everything is set for Friday's opening night.

Festival chairperson Pat Simmons seemed resigned to last-

minute problems such as the power problems and vandalism.

"Things just aren't going as smoothly as usual," Simmons said. "There's just some last-minute hurdles we've had to jump over."

The power problems, which could result in some displays not being lit, is more an irritant than a major problem.

"Things just might not be as totally complete as we'd want them," Simmons said. "People may not even notice it. We just may not have everything in tip-top shape."

If Simmons was really upset about anything, it was the annual rash of vandalism that hit some displays in the last few days.

"I just don't understand it," she said. "It's so very discouraging."

But, switching the topic of conversation from problems to highlights of this year's festival brightens Simmons' mood considerably.

Long-time visitors will notice a few changes this year. Gone from the entrance is the lighted U.S. flag

See FESTIVAL, Page 3A

## Toy drive

One week left to fill needs of community's children

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
Managing Editor

One week. That's all the time that's available, but the Big Spring Herald and the Salvation Army plan to make the most of it by teaming up to bring a little extra happiness to children this Christmas.

The Herald is now conducting a toy drive through Monday, Dec. 18, asking local residents to bring a new unwrapped toy to the newspaper office at 710 Scurry between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, the toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution the next day.

The drive, brainstormed by former Herald advertising account representative Bob Rumpff, has become a tradition during the holiday season.

What's more, it's an important tradition.

"We have hundreds of children on our Angel Trees," notes Salvation Army Capt. Russ and Linda Keeney. "That's of great concern, because the angels don't seem to move off the trees at the

same pace they used to. So, we're again concerned that not all the children will receive a gift this year."

That's simply not acceptable — not to the Keeneyes and not to the Herald's staff.

When the drive was initiated, Rumpff said he became concerned when he first noted that efforts were under way to provide food and clothing for children in Howard County but there was no dedicated project to provide toys.

"While food and clothing are important, to a child," Rumpff said at the time, "Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy."

"I don't think anything could be more true," Russ Keeney said in recalling Rumpff's observation. "That's why this toy drive is extremely important, because it allows us to supplement Angel Tree donations."

"There are a lot of families that have several children whose names are on the Angel Tree cards," Russ added. "And very often one person will pick up one child's card, while somebody picks up the other child from a family."

See DRIVE, Page 3A



KEENEY

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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.

### A SPECIAL GIFT OF SNOW

ATLANTA (AP) — Living in balmy south Georgia, Gene Long knew his wife Crystal pined for the winter snows of her native Pennsylvania.

So he decided to do something about it. Armed with a homemade snowmaking machine, the 41-year-old paramedic and firefighter stayed up overnight during a rare subfreezing snap and crisscrossed their property.

Saturday morning, he presented her with an inch-deep blanket of snow on their lawn.

"She thought it was pretty cool," Long said. "We actually had a little snowball fight."

### RIPPED OFF AND IN JAIL

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A Wichita man called 911 to report he was the victim of an armed robbery.

The theft? A pound of marijuana worth about \$1,100 that he had been trying to sell at his home.

The victim told police that a buyer had pulled out a sawed-off shotgun and stole the drugs.

Police brought a drug-sniffing dog to the house and located more marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

The victim was booked into Sedgwick County jail on several charges, including possession with the intent to sell drugs. The thief has not been found.

### 13 Shopping Days TII Christmas



Serendipity Ice Cream - N

Inside The Big Spring Mail 264-1544



## Obituaries

### Doralene Flanagan Robnett

Doralene Flanagan Robnett was born in Courtney May 1, 1923, to Webb and Lila Flanagan. She passed away Dec. 9, 2006. She attended Courtney public schools, graduating from Courtney High School in 1940 and from Texas Technological College in 1944 with a degree in business administration. She married William Edward Robnett Sr. in Lubbock Feb. 5, 1943. Doralene was a stay at home mom and was a housewife until 1966. In the summer of 1963 she re-enrolled at Texas Technological College and received her teaching certification in secondary English. She coached and was a PE instructor in Stanton prior to moving to Midland in 1967. She taught Secondary English at Midland ISD in 1967. In 1983 she and her husband returned to Stanton where she taught 2nd grade until her retirement in 1991. Doralene entered Manor Park Mabey Health Care in Midland in 2001 where she resided until her passing. She maintained her permanent residence in Stanton.

Doralene was a member of First Baptist Church of Stanton and later in Midland.

Doralene was preceded in death by her husband, mother and father and sister, Mary Francis Flanagan Rogers. Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Elizabeth Bizzell and husband, Gary of Hale Center; three sons, William Edward Robnett Jr. of Monterey, Calif., Stephen Webb Robnett and wife, Amy of Midland and Jeffrey Todd Robnett and wife, Dila of Midland; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a sister, Mat Jones and husband, Ralph of Ft. Worth; one niece and one nephew.

The Robnett family would like to thank Home Hospice and Manor Park Mabey Health Care Center for their unyielding care.

Funeral service will be 11a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, at First Baptist Church in Stanton. Interment will follow at Stanton Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Home Hospice, 901 W. Missouri Ave., Midland 79701, Manor Park Mabey Health Care Center, 2208 N. Loop 250 W., Midland 79707, or Midland Association for Retarded Citizens, 2701 N. A St. Midland, 79705.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

### Richard Leroy Linney



Richard Leroy Linney, 77, died at home Dec. 11, 2006, in Stanton. He was born Oct. 11, 1929, in Robert Lee.

He was raised on a farm in Garden City and graduated from Garden City High School in 1948. That same year he enlisted in the United States Air Force. After his service time ended he remained in the Air Force Reserve.

Leroy moved to Stanton in 1950. He was a farmer for 50 years and was pastor at Hosanna Christian Fellowship for 13 years. He ministered at Pyote Children's Prison for six years and ministered at Big Spring Federal Prison for 12 years. He was a lifetime member, president, and area director for Prison Ministry of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International of Midland for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Jannie Linney of Stanton; three daughters, Debbie Robinson of Stanton, Kathy Hull of Stanton, Karen Parker of Midland; one sister, Frances Linney Herzog of Stanton; one son-in-law, Robert Robinson of Stanton; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services have been scheduled for Wednesday Dec. 13, 2006, at 10 a.m. at Hosanna Christian Fellowship in Stanton.

The funeral service will be officiated by Dick Spencer of Cornerstone Fellowship of Midland, assisted by Pastor Van Pendergrass of Downtown Church of Christ, Pastor David Harp of First Baptist Church, and Pastor Daniel Armstrong of First Methodist Church, all of Stanton. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

Grandsons will be serving as pallbearers.

The family suggests memorials to be given to Hosanna Christian Fellowship or Teen Challenge of Midland.

Arrangements are under the direction of Stanton Memorial Funeral Home

## Support Groups

### TUESDAY

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

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## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-10-24-26. Bonus Ball: 17. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$225,000.

...

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 16-18-28-34-35. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$33,164. Winning ticket sold in: Huntsville. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night, in order: 3-2-6

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday afternoon, in order: 9-9-4

## Take Note

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP will have its final meeting today, at 6 p.m. at the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. It will include a gift exchange. If you have any questions, contact Tracey at 263-4948.

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS, part of the Big Spring Heritage Series, are available for the holiday season; however, only a few remain. Sales of the ornaments supports community history and the museum. For information, contact Hangar 25 at 264-1999 or come by 1911 Apron Drive.

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 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.

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

## Police blotter

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

- RAUL FLORES JR., 26, 509 S. Lancaster, was arrested on a Howard County warrant.
- JODY ROGERS, 47, 47, 507 Union, was arrested on a parole violation warrant.
- ANGELITA NEAL, 24, 704 S. Bell, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- ROBERT SANCHEZ, 42, Colorado City, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

## Sheriff's report

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

- JODY KYLE ROGERS, 47, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a parole violation warrant.
- RAUL FLORES JR., 26, was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- ANGELITA HILARIO NEAL, 24, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- TEODORO DIAZ, 52, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350.
- HARASSMENT was reported in Forsan.
- THEFT was reported on Val Verde Road.

## 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 1700 block of Harvard. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2200 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton.

## Weather

Today — Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Light and variable winds.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Light and variable winds.

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

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# Commissioners hear jail report; OK burn ban

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

In the wake of the Howard County Jail's closure, sheriff's deputies and jailers have been busy transporting prisoners to different facilities across West Texas.

At Monday's county commissioner's meeting, Sheriff Dale Walker said about 50 Howard County prisoners have been transported to and from Big Spring since the state jail standards commission closed the jail in November.

Authorities expected to be very busy transporting

prisoners and Walker said they have not been disappointed.

"It's been as we expected," he said. "But one thing we didn't figure on ... was what happened last Friday, when the judge needed 10 prisoners in county court at the same time. That kind of threw us into a tailspin."

Only five of those prisoners could be held in the jail, which meant that off-duty jailers had to be called in to watch over the rest, which were held in the county courtroom.

Exact costs incurred by the jail's closure is uncertain, but Walker said that,

so far this month, deputies and jailers have logged 2,191 miles and have spent \$400 for fuel transporting prisoners.

The only long-term alternative to the constant shuffling of prisoners is to bring the jail back into compliance with state regulations, and Commissioner William Crooker discussed efforts toward that end at Monday's meeting.

County efforts are concentrated on fixing the two major safety shortcomings of the jail — an inadequate smoke evacuation system and the lack of a stand pipe to provide

firefighting water to the facility.

A representative with the engineering firm contracted by the county recently toured the jail and hopefully will soon draw up plans for a new smoke evacuation system.

As for the stand pipe, drawings and specifications should arrive from engineers within the next day or so, Crooker said.

Also Monday, commissioners approved:

• A county-wide ban on outdoor burning and the use of certain types of aerial fireworks.

Tommy Sullivan, chief of the Howard County

Volunteer Fire Department, said dry conditions, combined with an abundance of grass, weeds and other foliage, have heightened the danger of wildfires.

"I'm here to tell you (the burn ban) is warranted," Sullivan said. "We've got areas in the county where the weeds are eight feet tall, and all it's going to take is one spark to set it off."

The ban will remain in effect indefinitely, Crooker said.

• An increase in the county's contribution to the employee retirement fund. Effective Jan. 1, the

county's contribution will equal 200 percent of the individual's retirement set-aside.

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

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Robert L. "Twiggy" Gilbert, 64, died Saturday. A Rosary was at 10:00 AM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass followed at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial was at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Chairperson Pat Simmons, center, and the rest of the Festival of Lights committee will present the 10th annual edition of the event beginning at 6 p.m. Friday. The Festival, which runs through Dec. 31, is free to the public.

## FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

and in its place will be a 20-foot silhouette of the Settles Hotel, framed by two pink poinsettias.

And the diorama, formerly chock full of candy canes, is now a "poinsettia pasture," Simmons said.

The Festival normally draws thousands of visitors from several states and countries and Simmons hopes to attract more than 20,000 — which would be a record — this year.

The Festival will run nightly through Dec. 31.

Admission is free, although donations are accepted.

"I've had people tell me they've gone to other lighting events and it would cost them \$10 — and they don't hold a candle to ours," Simmons said.

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



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## DRIVE

Continued from Page 1A

Not everyone can give at the same level, so quite often one of the children will have been given much more than another child in the same family has been given. Toys given to us during this drive allow us to even out the disparity.

"There are also situations where a child's card doesn't list a toy," Keeney added. "But we want to make sure every child has a toy."

For more information concerning the toy drive, call the Herald office at 263-7331.

Keeney also noted that the Salvation Army is also still in need of food donations, which can be dropped off at the corps building, located at 811 W. Fifth Street, or can also be dropped off with toys at the Herald's offices.

It's also a busy time for Salvation Army fund-raising activities, Keeney noted. In addition to the donation kettles set up at Wal-Mart and the truck stop, Keeney said a year-end mail solicitation is also under way.

"The mail solicitation is confusing some people, because the return address is to a donation processing center in Stafford," Keeney said. "We've had calls from people who are concerned that if they donate by mail, the money won't be used here in Big Spring. That's simply not the case. All the money that they receive in Stafford is automatically deposited to our local account."

"If people are still concerned, they can always come by our office and drop off their donations,"

the captain added, "and we'll forward it to the processing center for them. The processing center does the paperwork of keeping track of monetary donations and that's important."

"What's good about using the processing center in Stafford, is that we don't have to pay for reports ... that's something we used to have to pay for when donations were processed in Atlanta," Keeney continued.

"We know there are a lot of scams out there," he concluded, "but people can rest assured that they can send donations to the processing center in Stafford and know that money is going right into our accounts to help people in need right here in Big Spring and Howard County."

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley by calling 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

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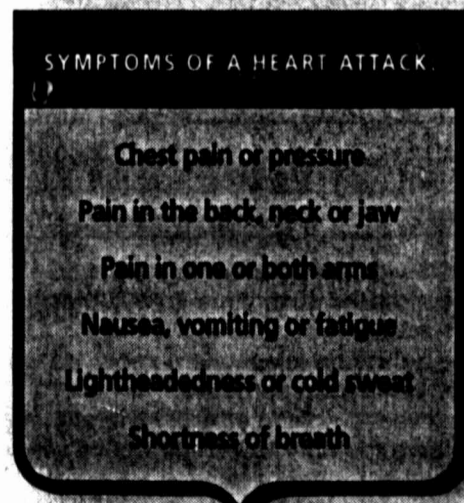
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## EDITORIAL

"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  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## No better place to get your gifts than right here

There's not any doubt about it, the holiday season is in full swing. Everywhere you look around Big Spring, Christmas decorations are up. It's a Crossroads Christmas, and there is none better.

Stores seem to be getting a little busier. That's not really a surprise because, as usual, with just 13 shopping days remaining before Christmas, most of us haven't finished all of our holiday gift shopping.

And that's why we want to take this opportunity to again remind our readers that we've found there's no better place to shop for Christmas gifts than right here in Big Spring.

Yes, we know we've said this before. And you can expect us to keep saying it — it's important to shop at home.

If you haven't been looking around, you probably don't realize just how many shops there are in Big Spring. From the downtown area to Scurry and Main streets with all of their interesting boutiques, to Big Spring Mall and all along Gregg Street and FM 700, there are a wide variety of gifts available.

From the latest item to hit the stores to antiques and hand-crafted items, you'll find just about everything you need right here at home.

As we have also noted before, when it comes right down to it, shoppers are limited only by their imagination.

With our Festival of Lights, the performance of "The Nutcracker" and so much more on tap in the next few days, we encourage you to take advantage of everything the Crossroads has to offer — not just for entertainment, but for shopping, as well.

Make this a completely Crossroads Christmas.

We believe you'll find a lot of satisfaction in the long run.

What's more, we'll all be the better for it.

## 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

Our finances gain when we relax and trust in You, Lord.  
Amen

## Thinly disguised war on Christianity

In this self-congratulatory age of multiculturalism and hyper-tolerance, what religion other than Christianity is treated as inherently offensive? In fact, haven't our cultural high priests instructed that we dare not find other religions offensive, but must even enthusiastically embrace them for contributing to our diversity of ideas and values?

Of course they have, but that admonition — as all but the most inattentive recognize — doesn't apply to Christianity, as this year's annual war on Christmas demonstrates once again.

The city of Chicago asked organizers of the German Christkindlmarkt, a downtown Christmas festival, to reject New Line Cinema as a sponsor because its advertisements for the movie "The Nativity Story" might offend non-Christians.

Isn't that line getting a little old, especially in a nation where some 90 percent of the people supposedly identify themselves as Christians? It's always easy to say people might be offended, because some people are always in a desperate hurry to be offended.

But what is more likely is that activist organizations like the ACLU, various atheist groups and other radical secularists want to create the impression that Christianity is offensive in order to diminish its influence and its presence in the public square.

But since we're talking about offensiveness, how about the sensibilities of Christians? Isn't it far more reasonable for Christians to be offended at the banishment of their displays from the public square than for non-Christians to be offended at their presence?

Yet this obsession with scrubbing away Christianity from public places suggests there is something offensive about Christianity. I wish just once some of these anti-Christian charlatans would be asked to specify precisely which of Christ's teachings they find offensive — other than perhaps his unequivocal pronouncement of absolute moral standards.

Secular leftists usually tell us that their primary interest in these matters is to ensure that our society and our laws guarantee religious freedom for all. But this nativity flap is one of many that reveal their true mindset, which is hardly as pluralistic and tolerant as they would have us believe.

If religious freedom were their driving motivation, they would be on the side of the German Christkindlmarkt, and its unfettered right to choose its own sponsors. Shouldn't those who boast of their commitment to religious liberty fight for the right of entrepreneurs to promote Christian-based movies or themes?

But these secular objectors aren't committed to religious liberty across the board as they claim, because their tolerance and pluralism don't extend to Christianity, for which they have an obvious hostility.

I saw one propagandist disguised as an ACLU lawyer in an interview on "Fox News" defending Chicago's policy as a vindication of the Constitution's guarantee of church/state separation. Of course, this "constitutional lawyer" has to know better than that the Constitution contains any such guarantee.

Indeed, most of the opponents of the ad aren't seriously objecting on constitutional grounds because even the ridiculously distorted judicial precedent that has turned the First Amendment Establishment Clause into a sword

against — instead of a shield for — religious freedom won't help them here. Instead — as mentioned — they are hanging their hats on the presumed "offensiveness" of Christianity.

People would be well served to understand the differences in these issues. While Christians don't set out to offend others, we must be clear that there is no right in the Constitution not to be offended. But there is a right to religious liberty, and it even applies to Christians.

The Framers deemed this right so important that they made it the subject of the very first two clauses of the very First Amendment: the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause, both of which were designed to safeguard religious liberty, not to separate church and state.

The Establishment Clause was intended to protect religious liberty by preventing the federal government from establishing a national church or religion. The Free Exercise Clause sought to do so by guaranteeing our right to worship as we please.

The zealous advocates of church/state separation and the opponents of Christian expression in the public square, in the name of promoting religious liberty go a long way toward selectively suppressing religious liberty: that of Christians.

So when you read about such controversies as the one involving the German Christkindlmarkt, try to look behind the deceptive claims of the secular activists who are at best fair weather champions of tolerance, pluralism or constitutional religious liberty.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com).

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## Is this America in Wonderland?

This just in: Iraqi security forces to take over by June 2007. Or how about this one? This just in: Osama bin Laden found in Iraq running the civil war.

"I can say that Iraqi forces will be ready, fully ready to receive this command and to command its own forces, and I can tell you that by next June our forces will be ready," Mr. al-Maliki said.

If you believe that, I have a bridge for you, at an excellent price.

The reporter on the radio gives the latest from the summit, as if we are supposed to believe it. Joint statements. All is well.

Do you laugh or cry? The United States is not looking for a "graceful exit," Mr. Bush assured Mr. al-Maliki after their first meeting was cancelled because a confidential assessment was reportedly leaked in which the administration's honest evaluation of the Iraqi government was revealed.

Excuse me, but why aren't we looking for a "graceful exit?" Isn't that what we voted for in November? Graceful would be great. Even not so graceful would be better than what is going on right now.

The war is a failure. October was the deadliest month in two years. Each day brings new horrors. The networks, with the exception of my friends at Fox, have finally conceded that it is a civil war we are policing. Fox says otherwise, and not because the country is not driven apart, but because they believe outside forces are also involved.

"I would call it a civil war," no less an authority on the subject than Colin Powell told a business forum in the United Arab Emirates this week. "I have been using it (civil war) because I like to face the reality," added Powell.

Facing reality, we should be mad as hell.

The president got a thumping, and what difference does it make? The Emperor has no clothes. Six months and they'll be in charge.

Is this what Alice felt like in Wonderland?

The Baker Commission is about to propose dragging this failure out for an indefinite period of withdrawal, the idea apparently being to propose gradual troop withdrawal with no fixed dates and no timetable. Getting Iran involved, which would leave Israel high and dry, is just about the worst idea going.

That we are not angrier about this whole mess is not necessarily a reflection of the gravity of the

situation, but of whose ox is' — and isn't' — being gored.

For most Americans, the war in Iraq is a theoretical disaster, not a personal one. For Americans who don't want to be part of the effort, there is nothing forcing them to be. The burdens of this war are not shared equally by all.

Why aren't people up in arms, I'm asked every day. Why aren't young people angrier, young people themselves ask me. Why indeed? Why should they be? Those who want to serve, do. These days, two and three tours' — more than they signed up for. The rest of us, everyone else, the people who don't want to, we reap the benefit. Fair?

This is the good and bad news of a volunteer army, even when that army is being pushed too hard. They don't complain, and neither does everyone else, at least not as much as we would if our kids were the ones in harm's way.

It is quieter that way, but the absence of raised voices can be deceptive.

Maybe we are all just too stunned to speak. Next thing you know, there will be a secret plan for peace. Those of us old enough to remember, remember all too well. In the meantime, six months to peace.

Not.  
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SUSAN ESTRICH



Bird Poop

Puddle hopping eared grebe visits refinery in desperate move

Instinctively, the small water bird searched for a place to land. Tired from flying through a December storm during the night, it saw ahead the wet, glistening surface it sought. Regardless of the tall, round structures adjacent to the water, the bird had to set down to rest.

Instead of sinking into the supposed pond, and floating at ease though the rest of the night, the little bird felt the sudden impact of asphalt on its feet and legs. Even with its wings beating to slow it, the bird skidded a few yards, then stopped. Unable to walk, it wiggled clumsily into a darkened area to await the dawn.

"Who'd a thought we'd have thunder and lightning at this time of the year," joked the unit foreman with some of the yard crew. Leaving the warmth of the control room, he indicated he'd be back as soon as he checked an area affected by the storm.

As the foreman walked through the refinery, he occasionally waved at other men on duty. Having weathered another storm without major outages, he turned to start his walk back, but stopped when he detected a movement on the ground under one of the large vessels. With his flashlight, he discovered a small visitor.

Struggling against the large, rough hands that suddenly grabbed it, the water bird was no match for the foreman. After he placed it inside his coat, the bird was still. When he entered the control room, he bellowed, "You guys aren't going to believe what I found..." Fortunately, there was little debris on the concrete pad under the vessel. The bird appeared to be clean. Taking some rags from the bin, the men made a thick nest in a cardboard box for the delicate creature that had arrived with the storm. Knowing it wasn't a duck, they wondered just what it could be.

During breakfast, the phone rang. From the description given by a plant employee, we felt we knew what specie had



Courtesy photo

Flared behind the eared grebe's eyes are the distinct yellow tufts that indicate a breeding season. As one of the smallest of water birds, the grebe compensates for its weak flight abilities by being an excellent underwater swimmer.

been found. When we arrived at the refinery we were able to identify it as an eared grebe. Its winter plumage was nondescript. Gone were the golden tufts or plumes which accent the head behind the bird's scarlet eyes during breeding season. Even the black on the head, neck, and back seemed to have faded. Its slender, short pointed bill and lobed feet were the tell-tale signs of identification. Essentially, the water bird was black above, white to grey below. Only a whitish patch back of its ears dignified its drab appearance. Nature had certainly helped the grebe to blend with the starkness of winter.

For a bird that feeds, sleeps, courts, and even has a floating nest on water, the eared grebe had been desperate as it searched for a place to land. A diving, swimming bird, the grebe, except in flight, spends its life on water. Depending upon where it summered, the little bird was either heading to an inland, fresh water lake, our saline lakes, or the seacoast. Its inland diet would include small fish, insects, and their larvae. The Gulf would provide

this bird may have been "puddle hopping." Resembling a small duck while in flight, the grebe would have used any body of water on its way south. Its unfortunate detour could have meant disaster. Unable to become airborne unless it had a running start on the water's surface, the little bird would have had a slim chance of survival if it had not been found.

A bathtub check of the grebe's ability to use its feet and legs was a pleasure, both to us and the bird. Enjoying the deep

water, it dove to the bottom of the tub and swam the length underwater.

It was well prepared to dive swiftly and swim rapidly when threatened. With hardly any tail, the grebe was equipped with its legs located at the rear of its body. In flight, the bird's feet would be extended behind to help steer it.

On an area pond with sufficient length for the grebe's departure, we said goodbye to the winter visitor. Even as sleet pelted us, the eared wonder welcomed another "puddle" on his way to freedom.

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



BEBE MCCASLAND

crustaceans as well. Since the grebes are known to be weak fliers,

Contract Bridge

A Tactical Defensive Maneuver

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A K Q 4, Q 10 7, 7 6 5, 8 4 3. WEST: 8 7 3, 8 6 4 3, 10 9, J 9 7 5. EAST: J 10 5, A J 9, Q J 8 3 2, Q 10. SOUTH: 9 6 2, K 5 2, A K 4, A K 6 2.

The bidding: South 1 NT, West Pass, North 3 NT, East All Pass. Opening lead — ten of diamonds. If you look at all four hands, it isn't easy to see how declarer can possibly go down in three no-trump. He seems certain to score two clubs, two diamonds, a heart and, because of the lucky 3-3 spade division, four spades for a total of nine tricks.

Yet, as reported by the great Australian star Tim Seres, South failed to make the contract. Not only that, but in winding up with only eight tricks, it's hard to prove that declarer did anything really wrong!

West started by leading the diamond ten from his virtually worthless collection, hoping to strike his partner's long suit. As it happened, West was successful in his aim, but this was not the real cause of South's undoing. Declarer took the diamond lead with the ace and tested the spades by cashing the A-K. Had East woodenly followed suit, there would have been no tale to tell. But when the two top spades were cashed, East followed with the ten and jack!

South naturally assumed that West had both missing spades, so he next led the four of spades to his nine. He then played the king of hearts, hoping the opponent with the ace would win the trick and thereby provide him with an entry to the queen of spades. But East had not come this far to make things easy for declarer. He did not take his ace, leaving South with no choice but to lead a second round of hearts toward the Q-10. When West followed low, South finessed the ten, losing to East's jack. Not long after that, declarer finished down one.

In summarizing the deal, Seres cited the basic principle of defense that East had followed: When you see that declarer is bound to succeed by normal play, you should look for a way to present him with a losing alternative.

Tomorrow: Win a lot, lose a little. ©2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

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Illustration of a reindeer and Santa Claus. And you have emergency service?

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Parent's Corner:

# We should all look for opportunities to do good

I have been blessed with a close family. By that I mean that we all care for one another even though we may not be together very often.

When I was a kid my mom's older sister's family lived in the same town and not too far from our house.

Aunt Ruby had five girls, the two younger girls were close to my age and we were together a lot.

Today they seem more like sisters to me than cousins and since Aunt Ruby is the only remaining member of mom's siblings, I think of her as a second mom.

But that's not the essence of this writing.

I received a note from my cousin this morning concerning the value of personal relationships.

Now this seems like a deep subject, but in reality, it presents a simple question.

How much do we really care about the feelings of our friends and family members?

Personalities and self esteem can be affected in positive and negative ways through feelings.

Do we protect the feelings of others whenever we can?

Allow me to share the story my cousin wrote:

Come with me to a third grade classroom. There is a 9-year-old kid sitting at his desk with a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants is wet.

He thinks his heart is going to stop because this has never happened before and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it.

When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives.

The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, "Dear God, this is an emer-

gency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat."

He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered.

As the teacher is walking toward him, a classmate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap.

The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, "Thank you, Lord! Thank you!"

Now all of the sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rush-

es him to the office and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out.

All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. The sympathy is wonderful.

But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else — Susie.

She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. You've done enough, you klutz!"

Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?"

Susie whispers back, "I wet my pants once, too."

Saved by the actions of another!

We should look for the opportunities to do good. They are always around us.

There is always someone who can use a kind word or deed.

Many people will walk in and out of our lives, but a true friend will leave an impression in our hearts.

May we be the friend to another that we would desire for ourselves.

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



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# Sports

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Tuesday, December 12, 2006

## IN BRIEF

### Big Spring Lady Steers play tonight

The Big Spring Lady Steers basketball team will be in action tonight at the Steer Gym. This will be the last home game before the semester break and all students, student parents and Big Spring Steer fans are encouraged to come out and support the teams.

Both junior varsity and varsity will play Pecos in a non district game — the JV game starts at 4:30 and the varsity tips off at 6:30.

### NBA update, Suns top Magic

The Phoenix Suns look simply unstoppable. Amare Stoudemire scored a season-high 30 points and the Suns coasted to their 11th straight victory, 103-89 over the Orlando Magic on Monday night.

It was Stoudemire's highest-scoring game since he had 42 in the Suns' Game 5 playoff loss to the Spurs on June 1, 2005.

Shawn Marion had 19 points and Steve Nash added 18 points and 15 assists for Phoenix, which displayed a stifling team defense in the third quarter. The Suns held the Magic to 28-percent shooting and forced seven turnovers in the period while outscoring them 30-14 to break open a close game.

### NBA update, Suns top Magic

Vince Carter put on a long-range show en route to setting a Nets' single-game record with nine 3-pointers in New Jersey's 105-92 victory over the struggling Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

Carter finished with 37 points and Jason Kidd moved into sole possession of third place ahead of Wilt Chamberlain for career triple-doubles, registering his 79th with 12 points, 13 assists, 10 rebounds.

The Nets also tied a franchise record with 15 3-pointers in snapping a three-game losing streak and winning for only the third time in 11 games.

### MLB update, Texas Rangers dealing

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Free agent Kenny Lofton reached a preliminary agreement Monday on a one-year deal with the Texas Rangers worth about \$6 million.

The deal for the center fielder was confirmed by a person familiar with the negotiations. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement was pending a physical on the 39-year-old Lofton, a six-time All-Star.

Lofton, who turns 40 on May 31, hit 301 with 32 steals and 41 RBIs for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season but was just 1-for-13 (.077) as the Dodgers were swept by the Mets in the first round of the playoffs.

# Chicago Bears clinch NFC North

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

ST. LOUIS — Devin Hester is just a rookie, yet he's already been dubbed "The Man" by teammates. He certainly was the Chicago Bears' main man in St. Louis, where he set an NFL record for kick return touchdowns.

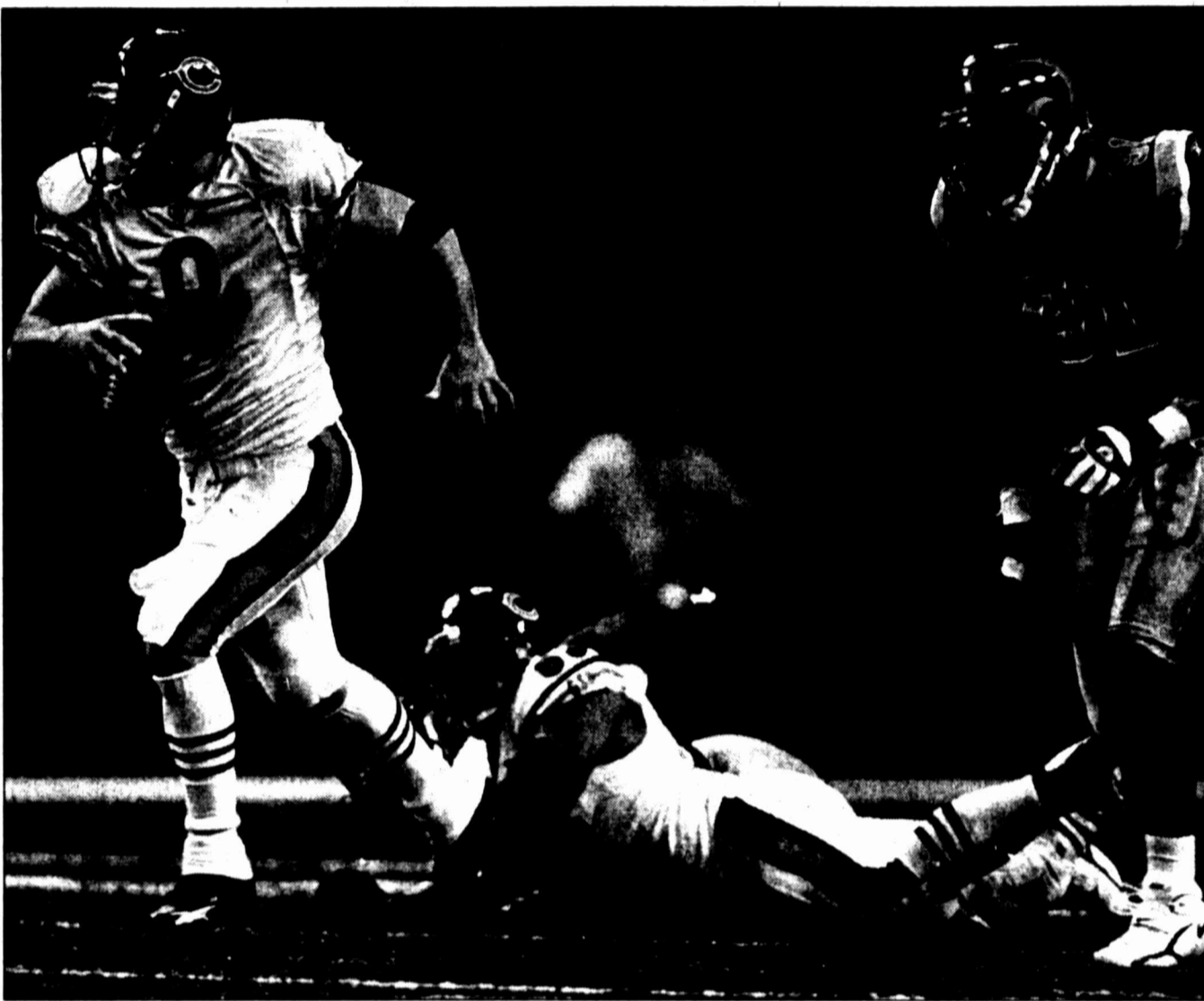
The high-stepping youngster got his fifth and sixth returns for touchdowns this season, a 94-yard kickoff runback in the second quarter and a 96-yarder in the final period of Chicago's 42-27 victory Monday night. With the win, the NFC North champions (11-2) earned a bye for the first week of the playoffs.

"He's spectacular, man. He's prime time, baby," running back Cedric Benson said. "He's been doing that in college. I was a fan of his in college."

Added linebacker Lance Briggs: "I guess you can call him 'The Man.' Give him the status and all that goes with that. He's an impact player in this league. He's something special. Get your popcorn ready, you know he's going to put on a show."

Many of the Bears put on a show in all but eliminating the Rams (5-8) from playoff contention. Thomas Jones keyed the running game that dominated the decisive third quarter and Muhsin Muhammad made several clutch catches. So did Bernard Berrian as beleaguered quarterback Rex Grossman silenced the critics — for now.

But Hester was the most spectacular, and he doesn't expect his heroics to end anytime soon.



Chicago Bears quarterback Rex Grossman (8) runs for a first down against the St. Louis Rams in the first quarter at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Monday night. The Bears beat the Rams 42-27 and clinched a first round bye in the playoffs.

"It's the NFL and a team is not going to bow down to one player," Hester said. "They'll continue to kick to me."

They're fools if they do.

"It's like the gates of Heaven opening up for me," he added.

A second-round draft pick, Hester also has three punt return touchdowns and ran back a

missed field goal 108 yards against the Giants to tie the

See BEARS, Page 2B



The New Orleans Saints defense sacks Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) during game action at Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas, Sunday. The Cowboys, according to Coach Bill Parcells, are 'not as bad as what happened' in the 42-17 loss to the Saints.

## Parcells not doom and gloom after loss

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — No team ever gained more yards against the Dallas Cowboys at Texas Stadium.

Only Philadelphia scored more points against a Dallas team coached by Bill Parcells, and the New Orleans Saints missed matching that 49 only because they stopped trying to score. Drew Brees took a knee on four straight snaps after first-and-goal at the 4 with three minutes left.

Still, Parcells tried to avoid the doom and gloom a day after the 42-17 loss and the worst defensive effort of the season — in the most meaningful game so far.

"I don't think we are really as bad as what happened," Parcells insisted Monday.

Maybe not, but the miserable performance came less than a week after Parcells talked to the

Cowboys (8-5) about what championship teams need to do in December and beyond.

The Saints (9-4) had 536 total yards and 28 first downs — without even throwing a pass in the fourth quarter. With three games left, they have sole possession of the second-best record in the NFC, which would mean a first-round playoff bye and second-round home game.

"I don't think you ever like to get beaten badly," Parcells said. "But you've heard me say before that you can only get beat once."

Dallas had its four-game winning streak snapped, but still has a one-game lead in the NFC East over Philadelphia and the New York Giants.

"They're a lot of people who would like to be in

See DALLAS, Page 2B

## Texans try to put positive spin on loss to Young, Titans

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Houston coach Gary Kubiak was all about the future Monday, focusing on the New England Patriots and trying to forget about Vince Young's electrifying 39-yard touchdown run that beat his Texans in overtime.

Even the turf the hometown hero scorched was gone, but that's routine after a home game and not an attempt to erase reminders of the player they passed over in the NFL draft.

The 26-20 loss to the Tennessee Titans on Sunday ensured the Texans (4-9) of their fifth straight losing season.

They don't have much time to dwell on it — they play their final road game at New England (9-4) on Sunday.

"As disappointing as this loss was, imagine what it would feel like to go into a place like that and beat a team that's got a very legitimate chance to be a world champion this year," Kubiak said. "You've got to look at the opportunity you have ahead of you. That's what we have to focus on."

Quarterback David Carr, who's shouldered much of the blame for the Texans' disappointing season, said the team will get over the loss quickly.

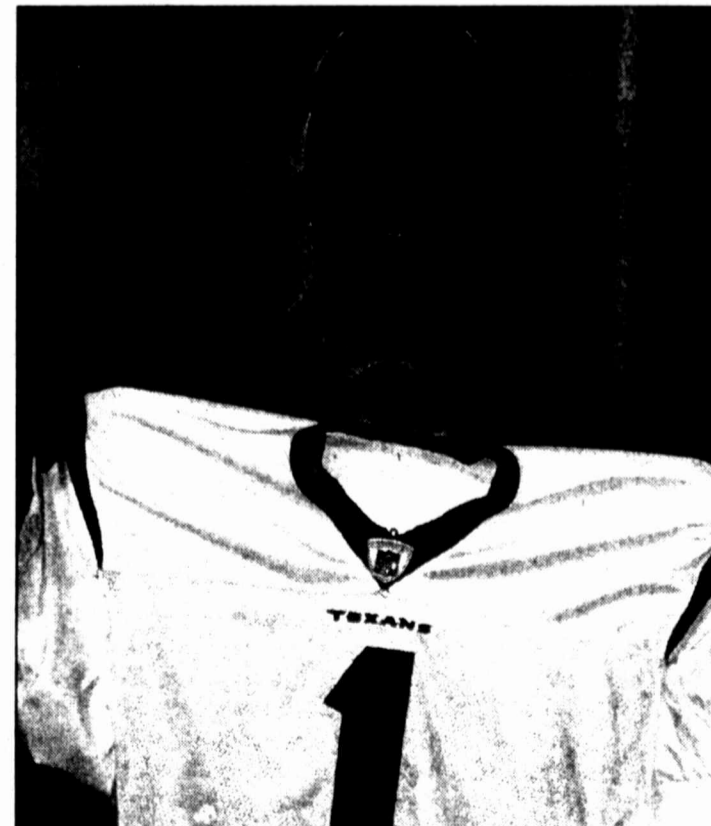
"We've all been playing this game since we were little kids," said Carr,

who leads the AFC in completion percentage. "If you lose that, the passion, the enthusiasm, and you start dwelling on the losses and the things that are said about you and your team, it's not going to be fun anymore. You'd probably be better off going and finding another job."

Carr completed 17 of 23 passes for 140 yards on Sunday. But he didn't throw a touchdown pass and Young's heroics rekindled doubts that Carr would ever be able to lead the Texans to the playoffs, even with a better team around him.

Since he was hired last December, Kubiak has

See TEXANS, Page 2B



The Houston Texans selected Mario Williams, defensive end from North Carolina State as the first pick in the 2006 NFL Draft ahead of Texas' Vince Young. Coach Kubiak is now fielding questions about that decision.



**BEARS**

Continued from 1B

longest play in NFL history. But he'd returned only six kickoffs all year before his historic romps.

"The story of the game is Devin Hester," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "It's time we start looking at him as an offensive player. There are a lot of good offensive rookies in the league making big plays, but who has had as much impact as Devin Hester has in the league as a rookie right now?"

Hester struggled to find a position in college at Miami, but he's been a sensation with the ball in his hands on kick returns for the Bears.

He came through the middle on the first runback, then swiftly cut to his left untouched and sped down the sideline, high-stepping like a drum major the last few yards while holding up the football for the raucous Bears fans.

"I almost thought we were back at Soldier Field," Smith said.

Hester outdid himself in the fourth quarter when it appeared the Rams might try an onside kick. The only Bear standing deep, he went straight up the center of the field, again untouched, and

turned around at the Rams 20 looking for pursuers. No one was there.

"He's explosive, you can see that on film," St. Louis cornerback Ron Bartell said. "They did a great job, we didn't do what we were supposed to do, and we paid for it."

"It's real dejecting. You stress it all week and you practice it all week."

Carrying a 14-13 lead into the second half, the Bears outgained the Rams 191 yards to 31 in the third quarter. They scored on Jones' 30-yard run and Muhammad's superb fingertip catch of a 14-yard pass from Grossman.

Grossman was 6-for-19 for 34 yards in a win over Minnesota last week and had thrown six interceptions and no touchdowns in the last two games, but was 13-for-23 for 200 yards and two scores against St. Louis. Aside from the fade pass to Muhammad, he hit Berrian on a perfect slant pattern for a 34-yard score late in the second period.

"The best way of describing it is efficient and decisive and getting the ball to guys I needed to," Grossman said.

The Rams did get a 6-yard TD pass to Torry Holt midway through the fourth quarter, and a 6-yarder to Steve Jackson with 4:41 left. But they barely stung thanks to Hester's heroics.

**DALLAS**

Continued from 1B

our position right this minute," Parcels said. "We do have pressure on us to play well, but we're still in good position if we take advantage of it. If we just can play well for the next couple of weeks, if we win out, we win the division."

The Cowboys play Saturday night at Atlanta before closing the regular season at home against the Eagles and Detroit.

"It's just human nature to be concerned, particularly if you're a coach," Parcels said.

The play-calling by Saints coach Sean Payton, a Cowboys assistant for Parcels the past three seasons, included a reverse on fourth-and-1, four TD plays by two players who had never

scored before and an onside kick that set up their last score.

"When you take a bad beating, you have to get it back and you have to be quick to recover. We don't have the luxury," he said. "Next week at this time, we're just going to have two games to go. ... We need to get on track as soon as we can and try to play better than we did this week."

Only twice have teams

gained more yards than New Orleans against the Cowboys, and both were road games. The Houston Oilers had 583 yards in November 1991, and Cincinnati gained 570 in December 1985.

So is it different taking a lopsided loss in the middle of the playoff chase in December?

"I don't know whether it is or not," Parcels said. "We'll find out."

**TEXANS**

Continued from 1B

defended Carr and reiterated his confidence in him on Monday.

"He should feel good about some of the things he did (on Sunday)," Kubiak said. "David was about as ready to play a game as I've seen him. He did some good things. We need to do one or two more. He's got to come back this week and play a world championship team. He better let it go and get ready to play really quickly."

It won't be easy for Carr and the Texans to stay positive if they listen to local sports radio shows, which fielded calls from people blasting the team all over again for not drafting Young, the former University of Texas star. The player they selected, defensive end Mario Williams, had three tackles and a pass deflection on Sunday.

Asked if he would like to have Young now, Kubiak again defended the Texans' draft strategy. "We've had one of the

best drafts I've ever been around since I've been in professional football," he said. "We have a long way to go, but we're going to keep working until we get there. I like our players. I like the direction we're heading."

The Texans locker room was nearly empty on Monday, but the players who passed through said they were still motivated to finish the season well.

"We've got to just take a different approach to these last three ball games," said offensive guard Fred Weary. "We went into the last eight games wanting to be one of the most improved teams in the NFL. We haven't done that. But in these last three games, we can really set the tone for next year and leave the season with a good taste in our mouths."

After Sunday's game, the Texans finish the season with home games against Indianapolis and

Cleveland.

"It's disappointing not to be a winning team," said running back Wali Lundy. "When you're not winning games, everybody's disappointed. Still,

if you're younger and in Pop Warner, you always play for pride. That's what we're doing now — playing to get better and playing for our own pride."

**Car Wrecks**

are not accidents. Someone was not paying attention. Maybe they were distracted or didn't adjust for road conditions. Maybe the trucker was late, sleepy or did not maintain his rig. Many injuries, like head trauma, are not readily apparent. Apparent injuries, like burns, paralysis or death, have many underlying and life altering consequences for you and your family. Our experience can help you now and your family's future. Call us for professional insight.

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**Bedtime Stories**

**TOCK TICK AND TICK TOCK**

This story is about a little tick named Tock Tick and it's also about a little Flea named Tick Tock. It's a funny little story that my Grandfather told to me many years ago. I suppose this story is true, too. After we finish, please tell me if you think it was a true story or make believe. Will you remember to tell me?

Tock Tick was a little tick who was always cold. Even in the summertime when the sun was very hot, poor little Tock Tick would be cold. Tick Tock was the same way. He was always cold, too. How would they get warm? Build a fire? No! That is too dangerous, isn't it? They did not have matches anyway.

They tried moving their homes under rocks, hoping this would help them stay warm. That only made them colder. They tried moving into the treetops. That didn't work, either! They tried moving into a big barn that was in a pasture that was on a farmer's farm. But the big barn was cold,

too. Tock Tick and Tick Tock were just about out of places to try to get warm and were thinking of moving to Central America where it is warm most of the time. Do you know where Central America might be? Can you find Central America on a map? Can you find North America on a map? Do you live in Central America? Do you live in North America? Back to the story!

It all happened one bright sunny day when all of the animals and insects were outside playing in the sun and enjoying the warmth, everyone except Tock Tick and Tick Tock. They saw the old lazy hound dog lying in the shade, trying to cool himself off from the hot sun. He looked mighty warm. Just what Tock Tick and Tick Tock wanted. To finally get warm.

They asked the old lazy hound dog how he stayed so warm all the time, even

in the winter time. "Well," the old lazy hound said to the tick and the flea, "I suppose I stay warm all the time because of all the fur I have on. I have lots and lots of hair to keep me warm." Fleas and ticks don't have very much hair. Maybe that's why they are so cold all the time. Tock Tick looked into his mirror. He didn't have much hair. Tick Tock looked into his mirror. He had even less hair! Then they both asked the lazy old hound the very same question at the very same time. "May we move into your hair so we can stay warm, too?" The old lazy hound dog thought for a moment and said to them, "I will help you if you will help me." "Yes, yes, we will do anything to move into your hair. What can we do for you?" asked the tick and the flea.

"I am kind of lazy if you have not noticed, and I have trouble waking up every morning. My friend Tommy, always wakes up

early and wants to feed me. If I don't wake up early, then the crows will get all my food. I missed my breakfast two days in a row, now. I am getting really hungry. Can you help me?"

Tock Tick and Tick Tock would help the old lazy hound dog of course, but how? They were all getting sleepy now because it was beginning to get very late in the day. "Jump on," said the old hound. "Hide in my fur and get warm." They did just that. Suddenly they were warm. For the first time they could even remember, they were warm! They loved it!

The old lazy hound dog went into his doghouse for the night, with Tock Tick and Tick Tock hanging on and enjoying every minute of it. After the old hound finally went to sleep, Tock Tick and Tick Tock began wondering just how they could wake up the hound early the next morning, before the crows could eat the dog's food. They were thinking. They

were wondering. They were warm. They were sleepy, too. They all fell asleep. Would anyone wake up early enough to get the hound to his breakfast dish before those early morning crows did?

Tock Tick woke up with a jolt. He knew that he had better get himself awake if he wanted to stay in his new warm home. He also knew that he had to wake the hound. But he also had a problem! He had slept so well that he was tangled in the old hound's fur and couldn't move.

"Tick Tock," Tock Tick shouted, "Tick Tock, Tick Tock, wake up. Wake up, Tick Tock. Tick Tock, Tick Tock." The old lazy hound heard all the shouting and woke up. He looked outside at his breakfast dish. Tommy had just filled it and the crows were not even awake yet. The breakfast dish was still full!

The old lazy hound dog ran outside to his dish and ate his first breakfast in three days. He was very happy that Tock Tick and Tick Tock had awakened

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him at just the right time. He told them that they could live there, in his fur, forever. And they did! They were never cold again. The old hound dog never missed his breakfast again, either. The crows had to find a new place to eat their breakfast.

And that worked out so well for the old lazy hound that, to this day almost, your alarm clock makes a noise that sounds like, "Tick Tock." The old lazy hound was going to tell you "Good Night," but he is asleep. Tock Tick and Tick Tock are warm and cosy and they are not going to come tell us, "Good Night." And my Grandfather knew this was going to happen so he said to tell you, "Good Night." Is this a true story?





Laugh Lines

● What do Santa's elves learn in school?  
*The elf-a-bet!*

● What does Santa like to do in the garden?  
*Hoe, hoe, hoe!*

● What breakfast cereal does Frosty the Snowman eat?  
*Snowflakes!*

— FUNOLOGY.COM

# KID NEWS

Obat

"It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."  
— Dr. Seuss

Puzzle Play

DECEMBER WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words that have something to do with the month of December?

BLIZZARD	D S L E D D I N G T O N
BOOTS	R W K G H O D C M E S T
CHRISTMAS	S N R W F L E X I X Q W
HANUKKAH	C H N N O T N I T C E S
ICICLE	A A Z N A W K N T W L A
KWANZAA	R I E A I S T L E M U E
MITTENS	Y G D M O Z I Q N X N F
SCARVES	V E R Y W F N H D S M L O
SHOVEL	S N M O C I A T P N O B
SLEDDING	D S W N S H N N G T L S
SNOWFLAKES	R A K S H O U O N I S E
SNOWMAN	O M E L P E K X Z X Q K
	J T V N O T K Z L C E A
	X S N T P O A N B L S L
	E I E S I R H L Y E U F
	V R D X D Z I Q A V N W
	Z H Y T F N U D A O L O
	L C M U C I A T P H O N
	R G I N G B O O T S T S

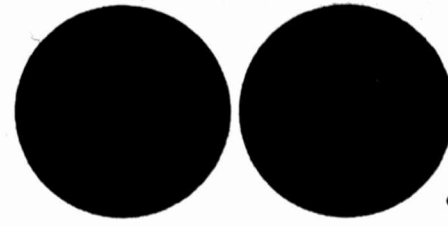
MARTY WESTMAN/MCT

In The News

## Past U.S. presidents will be the face of new dollar coins

The U.S. Mint hopes American presidents will be as popular as historic heroines Susan B. Anthony and Sacajawea. Both women appeared on the dollar coin, which is being reintroduced with the faces of past U.S. presidents.

The series will honor four different presidents each year, in the order they served in office. The image of the first president, George Washington, will be on the first coin when it is introduced in February.



COURTESY OF U.S. MINT

Along with Washington, past presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison are set to decorate the coins in 2007. A different president will appear every three months. Each president will appear on only one coin, except for Grover Cleveland. He will appear on two because he was the only president to serve non-consecutive terms.

The idea of rotating designs comes from the 50-state quarter series. Since it began in 1999, the program has introduced five state designs each year. The states appear in the order each joined the union.

### A NEW LOOK FOR CHANGE

The coin designs were made public during a ceremony Nov. 20 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery in Washington. The Smithsonian is home to many presidential portraits that served as models for the coin images.

"These designs are beautiful and so eye-catching that a lot of Americans are going to do a double take when they get them in their change the first time," said Edmund C. Moy, the director of the Mint.

The coins will be a little bigger than a quarter and will be a golden color. The image of the president will be on one side and the Statue of Liberty on the other.

— Jill Egan

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Here are four fabulous presents that little elves can create for family and friends

## HANDMADE GIFTS

### HOT CHOCOLATE CONES

Great for babysitters, teachers and neighbors. A perennial winter favorite, hot cocoa with all the trimmings (mini marshmallows, chocolate chips and a cherry-red gumdrop) sports an even sweeter look packaged as a cone. Be sure to add a tag letting your recipients know the cone contains enough for four servings.

#### YOU WILL NEED

- 3/4 cup cocoa mix
- 2 (6- by 12-inch) cone-shaped cellophane bags (available at party stores)
- 2 clear rubber bands
- Scissors
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 large gumdrop

1. Pour the cocoa mix into one of the bags. Close the bag with a clear rubber band, then trim the end of the bag 1 inch above the band.
2. Place the cocoa-filled bag into the second bag and flatten its top so the end doesn't stick up.
3. Layer the chocolate chips and the marshmallows, then top with the gumdrop. Secure the bag with the other rubber band.

### FESTIVE HOLIDAY NAPKINS

Give these to grandparents, aunts and uncles. Customized for the holiday of your choice, these delightful — and washable — napkins look great whether at the kids' table or next to Grandma's best china.

#### YOU WILL NEED

- Felt
- Scissors
- Fabric glue (we used Fabri-tac)
- Set of machine-washable napkins
- Sequins
- Mini pom-poms

1. Cut decorative shapes from the felt, such as a dreidel, Christmas tree or reindeer (to download our templates, go to FamilyFun.com/magazine).
2. Glue the shapes to a corner of each napkin and decorate them with glued-on sequins and/or mini pom-poms.

— FamilyFun magazine

### PERSONALIZED MEMO PAD

Great for dads, grandmothers and anyone who needs reminders!

With a little help from your parents, you can turn a simple photo frame into a made-to-order message center that showcases your artwork or photo. We designed ours for Dad to take to the office and for Grandma to use by her phone.

#### YOU WILL NEED

- White glue
- Craft knife
- Decorative paper
- Thumbtack
- Pencil
- Stickers, beads or other embellishments
- Paintbrush
- Wooden picture frame
- Artwork or photo
- Ribbon or shoelace
- Post-it note pad

1. Thin some white glue with water and paint it onto the front of the frame. Then place the paper on the glue and smooth it with your hand.
2. When the glue is dry, use the craft knife (a parent's job) to trim the paper flush with the edges of the frame.
3. Place a photo or a piece of artwork in the frame, then add embellishments to the front, such as stickers, painted flowers and beads. For one frame, we threaded alphabet beads on elastic beading cord and used thumbtacks to attach the cord to the back.
4. Use a thumbtack to attach a ribbon or shoelace to the side of the frame, and tie a pencil to the other end.
5. Glue the back of the pad to the frame, or use a Super-Sticky Post-it pad, which doesn't need glue, and write a message on the top note.

### FUN FELT PENS

These are perfect for siblings, cousins and friends. These cute, friendly-faced pens are so simple to make, you can create a zoo in an afternoon. Just be sure to keep one for yourself, and use it to write those postholiday thank-you notes!

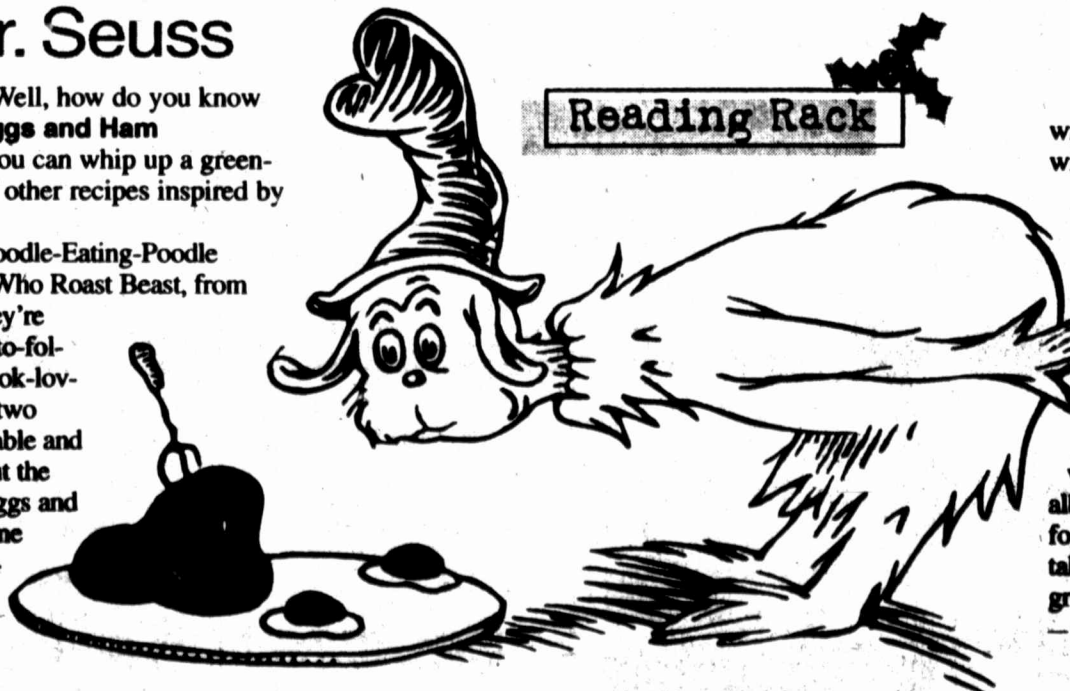
1. Cut a strip of felt.
2. With an adult's help, run a thin bead of hot glue along one edge, roll up the pen in the felt and glue the other edge.
3. Once that's dry, glue on googly eyes and felt details, such as wings and ears.

## Cooking with Dr. Seuss

You do not like green eggs and ham? Well, how do you know without trying? With the new "Green Eggs and Ham Cookbook" (Random House, \$16.95), you can whip up a green-eggs-and-ham dish, along with dozens of other recipes inspired by Dr. Seuss and his fanciful books.

The recipes may have wacky names (Noodle-Eating-Poodle Noodles, inspired by "Fox in Socks," and Who Roast Beast, from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas") but they're real dishes, with real ingredients and easy-to-follow instructions. They're perfect for the book-loving family to make together, and useful in two ways: You can put a yummy meal on the table and clear up some long-standing mysteries about the Seuss classics. (Such as, what makes the eggs and ham green? According to author Georgette Brennan, it's evidently a combo of tomatillos, cilantro and avocados.)

— By Patricia Rodriguez



### Reading Rack

## Action for 'Amalee'

Dar Williams, known primarily as a singer-songwriter, branched out into the world of pre-teen literature with her first novel "Amalee" in 2004.

Now, Williams picks up the story of Amalee, who is crazy over a boy and dealing with an odd inheritance from her grandmother, in "Lights, Camera, Amalee" (\$16.99, Scholastic Press). The book is for readers ages 9 to 12; pair it with Williams' latest album, "My Better Self," for a double dose of her take on life, love and growing up.

— Kristine M. Kierzek





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**BACKHOE OPERATOR** with at least 1 year experience. Call or go by Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. Call (432)756-2821.

**Help Wanted**

**BLAST MASTERS** has a position available for:  
\* Crew Technician  
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.

**CLINE CONSTRUCTION** is accepting applications for the following: General Laborers, Concrete Workers. Apply at 1807 N. FM 700, OR call (432)267-6006.

**COME JOIN** our friendly team at Kate's Fina Mart. Good benefits. Now hiring full & part time. Apply at 1100 N. Lamesa Hwy.

**DELL'S CAFE** is looking for part time cook helper. Come by 1608 East 4th Street. Please No Phone Calls.

**Help Wanted**

**DOWN HOLE Pump Repair/Delivery Person.** Experience Preferred, but will train. Must have valid Driver License. Salary D.O.E. Full Benefits Package. Background and drug test required. Send Resume to P.O. Box 2234 or come by 2903 North Birdwell for application.

**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**NOW HIRING** pushers and hands. Top pay. Must pass drug test. Call (432) 394-4161.

**Help Wanted**

**DRIVERS: CDL-A** Hot Oil, Vacuum Operators, Home Daily! Excellent Pay, Benefits! Great Company w/lots of work! C&W Transport 432-570-1911.

**FULL TIME** day cook. Willing to work, positive attitude. No experience necessary, will train. Apply at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry. No phone calls.

**HELP WANTED-** We are looking for part time night Auditor. Starting pay \$6.00. Also need full-time maintenance person. Experience in Commercial property. Starting pay \$7.50. Must pass background check. Please apply at Comfort Inn, 2900 E. I-20. No phones please.

**MIDWEST FINANCE CORP** now hiring Part-time Help for days. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

**Help Wanted**

**MAKE UP** to \$1,500 in 13 days !! Looking for enthusiastic adult to manage a fireworks stand outside Big Spring, December 19th thru January 1st. No investment required. Phone 10am thru 5pm for more information. 432-550-2264 or 888-585-9484.

**MEDICAL RECORD** Clerk needed full time. Experienced from Hospital or Doctors Office. Fax resume to 417-777-8459 or call 1-800-873-1831.

**CARY Heating Air Conditioning SERVICES**  
NEED AN experienced HVACR technician for the Big Spring area. Refrigeration and Ice Machine experience a plus. Willing to pay top dollar for the right person. Guaranteed work, benefits package, sick leave, paid vacation, 401K and profit sharing. For confidential consideration please call 888-229-1757 and ask for Tony Cary.

**Corner of Birdwell & FM 700**

**Jimmy Hopper Auto Sales**

All Cars Come with A 3 Month/4,500 Mile Warranty

Financing Available 267-5588

 <p>2002 Chevrolet Pickup 271 Power Windows, Door Locks, Tit/Cruise, Bucket Seats. <b>\$13,900</b></p>	 <p>92 Ford Bronco 4 WD, Power Windows/Door Locks/Tilt/Cruise. <b>In House Financing</b></p>	 <p>03 Ford Windstar Van Fully Loaded, 4 Doors, 65,000 Miles, Rear Air. <b>\$10,900</b></p>	 <p>1996 Chevy Corvette Fully Loaded, Automatic, 80,000 Miles. <b>Reduced To Sell \$13,900</b></p>
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# BUSINESSES & SERVICES

**\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract: \$1.58 Per Day**

Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!

VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express

<p><b>AUTO CARE</b></p> <p><b>G &amp; M Auto Care</b> Locally Owned &amp; Operated Service 1972 <b>263-1091</b> George &amp; Mary 900 &amp; 3rd St. Big Spring</p>	<p><b>AUTO PARTS</b></p> <p><b>WESTEX</b> Since 1947 • 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles • 20,000 sq ft. of Warehouse storage • Specialize in late model quality auto parts • Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 Wkday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT 1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000</p>	<p><b>CARPET</b></p> <p><b>Teal Carpets</b> * Ceramic Tile * Laminate * Wood * Vinyl * Carpet <b>We carry all your carpet supplies</b> 2810 E. FM 700 • 268-0008</p>	<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p>STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES <b>Chico and Sons Concrete</b> (432) 466-0573 (432) 816-8561 621 Sgt. Paredes Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p><b>J. T. Builders</b> Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick &amp; Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco Swimming Pool Decks <b>JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ</b> (432) 213-0882 Cell (432) 263-2110 Res.</p>	<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p>All Types Concrete Work Block &amp; Brick Repair Trenching &amp; Tractor Service <b>Campbell Concrete Contractors</b> Call-Tommy Campbell Concrete Contractor (432) 466-0623 2006 Runnels Big Spring, TX 79720 (432) 935-3844</p>
<p><b>DIRT WORK</b></p> <p><b>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY &amp; NURSERY</b> We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. <b>432-756-3444</b></p>	<p><b>FENCES</b></p> <p><b>Quality Fence Co.</b> Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood &amp; Chainlink Free Estimates <b>432-267-3349</b></p>	<p><b>FENCES</b></p> <p>CHAINLINK METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON <b>B &amp; M Fence Co.</b> COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE &amp; COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 • 1-800-525-1389 1006 Lamesa Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p><b>FIREWOOD</b></p> <p><b>Mixed Firewood</b> <b>\$125<sup>00</sup></b> Cord Delivered &amp; Stacked Also Sell Mesquite Call (432) 238-6770 or 570-9617</p>	<p><b>HEATING &amp; AC</b></p> <p><b>JOHNSON AC, HEATING &amp; SHEET METAL</b> • Servicing all heaters central &amp; wall • Duct work - all sheet metal work • Registers &amp; Grills <b>We Carry All Heating Parts &amp; Filters, Belts</b> 1408 East 4th 263-2988</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>DOORS/GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS</b> Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen &amp; Bath <b>BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK</b> 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>
<p><b>YOUR AD</b></p> <p><b>PUT YOUR AD HERE</b> CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Day &amp; Day Builders</b> Custom Building • Remodeling • Roofing Tile • Garage Doors • Cabinets Vinyl Siding D. W. Day (432) 457-2289 Cell (432) 270-8783 Dennis Day (432) 816-5080 Box 266 108 West 7th Forsan, TX 79733</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Gibbs Remodeling</b> New home Construction • Room Additions Dry Wall Hanging &amp; Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation &amp; Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE</b> •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance 7 Day Emergency Service Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Russ Crain (owner) 432-276-2585</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>RS HOME REPAIR</b> Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical <b>FREE ESTIMATES</b> Garage door repair, Appliances installed <b>816-3030</b></p>	<p><b>JANITORIAL</b></p> <p><b>BREATHE-EZ CLEANING SERVICE</b> Chimneys, Maid Service, Home &amp; Office, Carpets, Air Ducts &amp; Much More <b>432-353-4849</b></p>
<p><b>LAWN SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>FALL CLEANUP</b> Alleys • Tree Trimming Light Hauling • Odd Jobs CALL <b>267-5460</b> CELL <b>816-6150</b> Danny Scoggin</p>	<p><b>NAIL SALON</b></p> <p><b>Pro Spa Nail Salon</b> Pedicure: \$21.99 Manicure: \$11.99 Full Set: \$20.00 &amp; up Refill: \$13.99 &amp; up <b>SPECIAL Solar Nails: \$29.00</b> 111 E. Marcy Dr. Ste 110 (432) 263-6245</p>	<p><b>PEST CONTROL</b></p> <p><b>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL</b> Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com</p>	<p><b>PLUMBING</b></p> <p><b>ADVANCE PLUMBING</b> Drain Cleaning Gas Line Water Leaks Fixtures • Licensed • Bonded • Insured M-37359 263-4973 or 517-0751</p>	<p><b>RENTALS</b></p> <p><b>VENTURA COMPANY</b> 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings For rent/sale 610 E. 12th 1003, 1011 E. 11th</p>	<p><b>REPAIRS</b></p> <p><b>Sewing Machine Guy Steve</b> REPAIR AND SERVICE ALL MAKES &amp; MODELS (432) 935-6380 All Work Guaranteed</p>
<p><b>ROOFING</b></p> <p><b>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING</b> Shingles, Hot Tar &amp; Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring &amp; Surrounding Areas. <b>267-1110</b></p>	<p><b>ROOFING</b></p> <p><b>PALACIOS ROOFING &amp; HOME IMPROVEMENT</b> Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured &amp; Bonded Home Phone# <b>432-263-5430</b> Cell# <b>432-213-0363</b></p>	<p><b>STORAGE</b></p> <p><b>AAA Mini-Storage</b> 1/2 Off First Month Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year No Deposit Now Accepting Visa &amp; Mastercard 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732</p>	<p><b>TREE TRIMMING</b></p> <p><b>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING</b> More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6406</p>	<p><b>WELDING</b></p> <p>Bar-B-Q Pits Ornamental Iron Work Car Ports • Fences Gates • Handrails Portable Welding <b>V.J. Morris Welding Service</b> 2300 S. Williams Rd. Big Spring, Tx 79720 432-263-6908 270-5109</p>	<p><b>WINDOWS</b></p> <p><b>Rose of Sharon Wood Blinds</b> • Custom Blinds • Shutters • Arches View online www.rosblinds.com Ricardo Parra 432-689-8850 - Office 432-878-8677 - Cell</p>



**Help Wanted**

**NEED EARLY** Morning Front desk person. Computer & phone skills a plus. Honest and Dependable. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylford.

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



**NEEDED**  
**COOKS \*SERVERS**  
All shifts available  
Apply at:  
1710 East Third Street  
E.O.E.

**NEW CHRISTIAN** FM radio station needs full time sales person. Start immediately. E-mail resume to tdwork@gmail.com.

**NEW PAIN Management**  
Practice seeking a full time LVN/ Office manager and a Medical Assistant. LVN should have excellent communication and office management skills. An experienced medical office manager without LVN certification will also be considered. This is an excellent opportunity for a motivated team player. Computer skills needed. Medical assistant with good communication skills and good computer skills preferred. Spanish speaking is a plus. Good salary and benefits. Please e-mail your resume to drsaig@yahoo.com or Fax to 432-263-0800.

**NIGHT OWLS** - child care position 5:30 p.m.-midnight. Apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

**PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION**  
Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for Certified Nursing Assistant's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Looking for reliable and caring CNA's to join our team. Apply at 3200 Parkway Rd.

**Help Wanted**

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



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

**NOW HIRING** full time. Apply in person at Gill's Fried Chicken, 2100 S. Gregg. No phone calls please.

**PARKPLACE RETIREMENT**  
Living is seeking a late night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. 16 hours part time. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th. Street.

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

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

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

**Help Wanted**

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

**START YOUR DAY EARNING EXTRA MONEY!** Work 4:30a.m.-7:30a.m. at Jack & Jill Child Care. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.

**STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS**

Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for **LOCAL** work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

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

**THE BIG** Spring Independent School District is accepting applications for Full Time Evening Custodian. Benefits available. Apply in person at the Bus Barn. 3600 E. 11th Place. (432)264-4108.

**THE MARTIN** County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

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.

**Freebies**

**TO GIVE** away (5) Free Computers. Call (432)264-0910.

**Help Wanted**

**TRANSIT MIX CONCRETE MATERIALS COMPANY** is now hiring MIXER TRUCK DRIVERS. CDL license is required. We offer competitive wages along with an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, 401(k) profit sharing and a pension plan. EOE/AA  
Please apply in person at the following location:  
Transit Mix Concrete  
605 North Benton St.  
Big Spring, TX 79720

**TRUCK DRIVER**

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:  
Helena Chemical Company  
100 S. St. Peter  
Stanton, TX 79782  
Pre-employment drug screen required.  
EOE M/F/V/H

**VAN DRIVER.** Apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

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

**Help Wanted**

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

**WORK TODAY!**  
**SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT**  
LOCATED IN BIG SPRING  
Forklift Drivers  
Baggers  
Must be able to pass drug test  
Reliable transportation  
Clean criminal background  
Call Kelly Services  
432-689-9801  
to schedule an appointment.  
Interviews will take place in Big Spring.  
Never an applicant fee.  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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**Act now for career training from Southeastern Career Institute - Midland.** Train in Computer Business Systems, Dental Assistant or Medical Assistant.  
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**Items for Sale**

**BACK FROM** Lease- 14'x40' Office Building with 1/2 bath \$399.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

**SHELLED PECANS.** Pick up at the Fillin' Station, FM 700, Ezell-Key Feed or Big Spring Farm Supply or call (432)267-1180

**SPECIAL PURCHASE-** 12'x16' Barn/Workshop, \$78.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

**WHY PAY RENT?** 10'x16' Storage Buildings \$59.00 a Month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

**Lost and Found**

**FOUND** 1 Chihuahua, male and 2 small female dogs. Call 432-267-7387 to identify.

**FOUND CHIHUAHUA** puppy, male, between Lamar and Neighbors. Call (432)935-6599 to identify.

**Miscellaneous**

**5 TO 6** person Hot-Tubs as low as \$84.00 a month. Delivery/Financing available. 432-563-3108.

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

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

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

**COMFY COUCH** and loveseat. Microfiber \$489, Leather \$799. 806-549-3110.

**FOR SALE,** Pool tables, jukeboxes, video games. Call (432)263-3855 or 263-7648.

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

**LARGE DINING** room table, 6 chairs, buffet, hutch, still boxed \$999. 806-549-3110.

**SACRIFICE;** 6 pc sleigh bedroom set. Still boxed. \$499. 806-549-3110.

**Miscellaneous**

**MOVING!!!** QUEEN mattress set \$125. Twin mattress set \$99. NEW, CLEAN. Washer \$225. 806-549-3110.

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

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

**SEA CONTAINERS** in stock. Local Company - 8x20, 8x40 and high cubes 9-1/2x40. Call now (432)267-6006.

**SLIGHT DAMAGE-** 12'x16' Storage Building. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

**URGENT SELL** -- King mattress set \$210. Full mattress set \$109. PERFECT CONDITION Microwave \$225. 806-549-3110.

**ZERO ACHEs,** NASA memory foam mattress set. List \$1599. Sell \$399. Warranty. 806-549-3110.

**Pets**

**ENGLISH BULLDOG** pup 12wks old, beautiful markings, AKC Registered wormed, vet checked. \$500. For more information call (201)795-8201 or email: diane\_kindred@yahoo.com

**FOR SALE,** Blue Heeler puppies, \$50. Call (432)263-8665.

**JACK RUSSELL** Terrier Puppies, \$100.00 each. Call (432)354-2334 leave message or (432)553-1728.

**Real Estate for Rent**

**104 WEST** 13th. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. \$300.00 month or \$550.00 with All Bills Paid, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

**South Plains Apts**  
*Efficiency, 1 & 2 Bdrms*  
New Appliances & Fixtures  
Dish Network w/ 300+ Channels incl 34 Latino  
Hi-Speed Wireless Internet  
Picnic/BQ Area  
New Laundry & Vending  
Ask about our New-Style Special  
3304 W Hwy 80  
(432) 714-4840

**1003 NOLAN,** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, stove & refrigerator furnished. \$285.00 Month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)268-6424.

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

**608 HOLBERT,** clean, 3 bedroom, 1 bath and garage. CHA. Contact information on location.

**817 WEST** 8th, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, stove & refrigerator furnished. \$425. Month, \$200 deposit. Call 432-267-1543.

**BARCELONA APARTMENTS**  
**\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL** + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.  
ALL BILLS PAID  
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Housing Assistance Accepted

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**HOME REALTORS**  
(432) 263-1284 Big Spring, Tx. 79720 110 W. Marcy  
Call One Of Our Professional Associates For All Of Your Real Estate Needs  
**WONDERFUL HOME LOCATED IN COAHOMA I.S.D.** - Approx. 4.33 acres, newer kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 2144 living sq. ft., wood burning fireplace in living area. Barn with 3 stalls.  
**Give Me A Call To See This Lovely Home Today!**  
**LINDA BARRIS - 432-270-0062**

If your idea of a high-powered job involves high-powered equipment and a rugged, outdoor lifestyle, then consider a career with BJ Services. We're a leader in the oilfield services industry and we're interviewing for the following position located in Odessa, Tx.

**Mechanics**  
Working as a Mechanic you will perform all necessary preventative maintenance on gasoline and diesel engines, pumps, hydraulic systems, brake adjustments and overhauls.

**Requirements**  
• Entry level with six months experience or recent graduation from a vocational school  
• Ability to meet DOT standards for drivers would be considered a plus  
• Welding experience is a plus  
• Experience with hydraulic systems a plus  
• Must have own tools

**Benefits**  
• Medical/Dental plan - Prescription card  
• Life Insurance - Disability Insurance  
• 401(k) thrift/retirement plan  
• Holidays and Vacations

For immediate consideration, please apply in person at:  
**BJ Services**  
6166 W. Murphy  
Odessa, TX 79764  
We support a drug free work environment



The best place to work - on earth  
BJ Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Red Tag Event Sale**  
**Shroyer Motor Co.**  
*Best Deals In Town!*  
**2006 Pontiac GTO**  
LS 2 Engine, Loaded, Red With Black Interior.  
MSRP \$33,785  
**SALE PRICE \$29,997**  
**2006 PONTIAC G6** - White w/Tan Leather, Panoramic Retractable Roof, Loaded.  
MSRP \$25,205  
**SALE PRICE \$21,500**  
**2006 PONTIAC Vibe** - White w/Charcoal Interior, Loaded.  
MSRP \$20,070  
**SALE PRICE \$17,500**  
**2004 GMC Yukon XL** - One Owner, Extra Clean, Silver, All Power.  
Was \$24,995  
**SALE PRICE \$21,995**  
**2006 GMC Sierra Crewcab** - 2 WD, Loaded, SLT Trim with Heated Seats.  
MSRP \$35,105  
**SALE PRICE \$28,995**  
**PONTIAC GMC**  
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HOME OF THE MOST USED CARS IN HOWARD CO.  
See Our Ad In The Area Wide Phone Book

**Snubbing Supervisors Required for Overseas Opportunities**  
Successful candidate will have:  
• Experience supervising 340K or 460K self contained hydraulic and combustion engines  
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High level of education, experience and an excellent track record  
To apply, please submit your resume and cover letter to:  
Recruitment  
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**Be a tax pro.**  
We're looking to hire and train people to become tax professionals. You'll learn to complete even the most complex Federal and State returns.  
**Tommy Richmond** 1512 S. Gregg  
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TUESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLT (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (29)	AMC (21)	SPIN (22)	TNT (23)	BET (29)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (6)
6 PM	News (CC)	News	Heridas de Amor	King of the Hill	News	Vida de Blanco	News	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Letter	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	Interruption	SportsCenter	The Last Room
7 PM	Entertainment	Grinch Stole Christmas	Grinch Stole Christmas	La Fea Mas Bella	Standoff (CC)	Mania	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Nova (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: The Beach (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Boy (CC)	Movie: The Fox and the	(CC)	Year in Review (CC)	-
8 PM	Big Day Help Me Help	Big Day Help Me Help	Mundo de Fieras	The Unit (CC)	Amor Mio Amores	Decisiones	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Everest: Beyond the Limit	CSI: Miami (CC)	Without a Trace	Hound (CC)	NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)	2006 World Series of Poker	The Last Room	
9 PM	Barbara Walters Presents	Barbara Walters Presents	Ver Para Creer	Becker (CC)	3 Lbs. (CC)	Friends (CC)	SVU	My Boys	The Hour of Healing	Independent Lens	Man vs. Wild	Deliverance	CSI: NY (CC)	The Closer (CC)	American Gangster	Life Desk	2006 World Series of Poker	The Last Room	
10 PM	News (CC)	News	70s Show	Noticias Laura	News	Noticias Laura	Tonight Show	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs (CC)	45 Movie: Colors	CSI: Crime Scene	NYPD Blue (CC)	In Living Color	Madison Nation	NFL Line	NBA Fastbreak	
11 PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	El Privilegio de Amar	King of the Hill	Letterman	Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night: Conan O'Brien (CC)	Update/Israel	Update/Israel	John Hagge	Colors	NYCC	NYPD Blue (CC)	ComiView (CC)	Proud Family	NFL's Greatest Game (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	The Last Room
12 AM	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"CAN I BORROW YOUR LAP FOR A SEC? I NEED TO PRACTICE READIN' MY SANTA LIST."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"While they have me on hold I keep hearing the music from Grandma's car radio."

HAGAR



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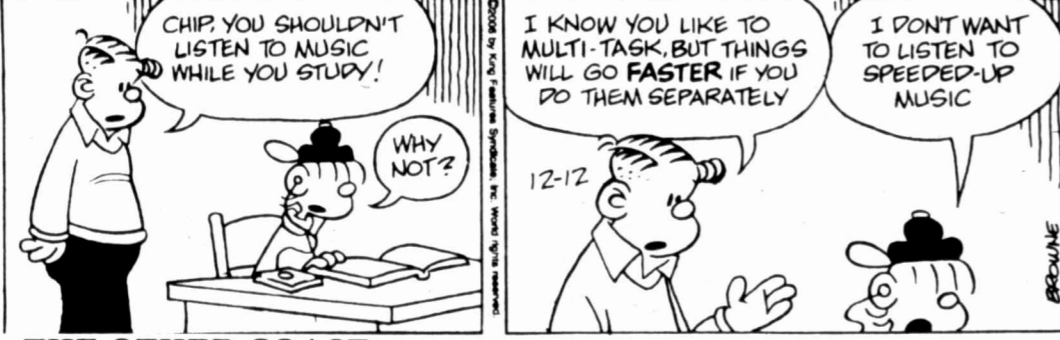
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2006. There are 19 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Dec. 12, 1906, the Senate confirmed Oscar Straus to be President Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish member of a presidential cabinet.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the "Mona Lisa," stolen

from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1925, the first motel — the Motel Inn — opened in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River.

In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 2000, a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election, transforming George W. Bush into the president-elect.

**Today's Birthdays:** TV host Bob Barker is 83. Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch is 82. Singer Connie Francis is 68. Singer Dionne Warwick is 66. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 63. Actor

Wings Hauser is 59. Country singer LaCosta is 56. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 54. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 48. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 47. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 43. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 39. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 36. Actress Madchen Amick is 36. Country singer Hank Williams III is 34. Actress Mayim Bialik is 31. Model Bridget Hall is 29.

Thought for Today: "To escape criticism — do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." — Elbert Hubbard, American author and publisher (1856-1915).

**Answer to previous puzzle**

CHAP	OVALL	DAILY
HALL	HIFI	OLDIE
ELSE	IRAS	GLEAN
FOODCOURT	TEARS	HAS
SCREEN	SNUG	MPS
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ROBIE	USER	MAMA
STERN	PODS	KINK

Newsday Crossword

IT'S A GUY THING by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- Highly excited
- Rocky ledge
- Partially open
- "What can I \_\_\_ help you?"
- Opponent
- Horse's hair
- Commeal concoction
- First part of a play
- Soft leather
- Leg joint
- Onion covering
- Walks noisily
- Wine barrel
- Baseball great Gehrig
- Comes to the aid of
- California (region south of San Diego)
- Singer McEntire
- Farewell, in France
- "Are you a man \_\_\_ mouse?"
- False friend
- Hula hoop or pet rock
- More cunning
- Drench
- Family rooms
- Cattle-herding horse
- Batter's stat.
- Office assistant
- Spicy dips
- Right-angle shapes
- Sharpen, as an appetite
- Ranchland measures
- Ono
- Shoddily constructed

**DOWN**

- Noun modifiers: Abbr.
- Leave home
- "On the \_\_\_ hand..."
- Venetian boat
- Bawl
- Moistens, as a stamp
- Lendl of tennis
- Counterfeit
- Sheep's coat
- Accumulated
- Fancy dive
- Prefix meaning "against"
- Harness strap
- Verne captain
- Contented cat's sound
- Miles away
- Computer input
- University official
- Lather
- Pear variety
- Folk singer Guthrie
- Law-breaking pedestrian
- Simple
- Life story, for short
- Stepped heavily
- Gumbo veggie
- Soap-opera segment
- Talk over
- Result of a successful interview
- Ruin the secret
- Sprinkle around
- Incite (disturb the peace)
- Alabama city
- Jane (Brontë novel)
- Clumsy one
- Will beneficiary
- Author Stanley Gardner
- Editor's notation
- Gridiron gains: Abbr.

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

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