



Chili cook-off fuels West Texas Centers for MHMR

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

A hot bite of several satisfying bowls of chili will be offered Jan. 6 during the Fifth Annual Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #3188 Chili Cook-Off to benefit the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need fund.

"This is one of my favorite events all year long," West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, said. "I just really enjoy the cam-

raderie and getting a bowl and going from booth to booth and tasting everyone's chili. And it tastes so good when the weather is cold. The timing of the event and the chili complement each other so well."

The Fifth Annual Chili Cook-off will begin at 8 a.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #3188 building, 703 West Third.

The chili pots fire up at 8 a.m. followed by a 12 p.m. judging.

Cost is \$10 per chili team, and \$5 for people entering the area to sample the chili.

"We are encouraging the residents of Howard County and surrounding areas to participate in our annual chili cook-off," Fraternal Order of Eagles member Landon Sturdivant said. "We would like as many cooks as possible to come out and participate in this worthy fund-raising event."

Novice chili cooks as well as seasoned professionals are invited to participate in the cook-off, Sturdivant said. "We like to have fun, but we also like to compete for bragging

rights."

Last year, the competition attracted 25 participants and Sturdivant expects even more this year as the cook-off continues to grow in popularity. More than 20 judges will sample each pot of chili.

"Thank goodness I am not a judge," Smith said. "My personal favorite every year is the chili that Landon's wife, Cindy, makes. It has just the right amount of spices, and they all blend together so well. I always ask everyone what's in their

chili, but they never reveal their secrets. The recipes have been perfected over the years."

Cooks also supply cheese and corn chips and other extras during the tasting, Sturdivant said.

Proceeds from the tasting and entry fees benefit the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need Fund. The fund helps purchase school supplies and clothing, summer camp tuition dues and assists

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ANOTHER WINTER WONDERLAND



Thousands of lights have helped turn the home of Stan and Sue Partee into a winter wonderland. The Partees are just one of hundreds of Howard County families who've put a great deal of work into decorating their homes for the holidays.

Courtesy photo/Lane Bond

Robbery suspects arrested

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Two Big Spring men were arrested Sunday on charges of aggravated robbery after making away from a local laundromat with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Terrance Lewis, 20, of 2612 Ent, was arrested Sunday on charges of evading arrest, possession of a controlled substance and aggravated robbery, while his brother, Daniel Ray Lewis, 18, also of 2612 Ent, was arrested on a charge of aggravated robbery.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, three men entered the 11th Place Automatic Laundry, located at 208 11th Place, just before noon Sunday.

"One of the suspects produced a handgun, pointed it at a 66-year-old female clerk and demanded money, said Everett. "The clerk complied and the three males fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

"Witnesses provided a vehicle description and approximately an hour later, a patrol officer spotted a vehicle matching the description at a shopping center in the 100 block of East FM 700."

Everett said the two suspects were taken into custody after a short chase.

"One subject fled on foot and was caught after a brief foot chase. The second subject was detained at the scene," said Everett. "Follow up investigation led to both subjects being charged with aggravated robbery. The weapon used was recovered."

Everett said both Lewis brothers were in jail awaiting arraignment Monday morning, with the third robbery suspect being sought for questioning.

Recall petitions come up short

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

An effort to force a recall election for four Big Spring City Council members has come up short, according to city officials, with only the mayor's seat on the council still hanging in the balance.

According to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, petitions targeting Mayor Russ McEwen, District 3 council member JoAnn Staulcup and District 4 council member Gloria McDonald received the required number of signatures, but certification of the signatures shows two of them have been thrown out.

"We stayed late Friday and began certifying the signatures," said Walker. "We worked on them through the weekend.

Council sets special meeting to discuss city attorney post

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will meet in special session Wednesday evening to conduct interviews for the city attorney position, which is expected to become vacant Jan. 1.

City Attorney Jean Shotts recently submitted his resignation to the council, stepping down after approximately six

years in the position.

"It was a combination of factors, mostly economic," said Shotts, who also represents about 25 other Texas municipalities in the same capacity.

Shotts served two stints as city attorney for Big Spring. He first assumed the post on Jan. 1, 1998 and served until March 1990. He then returned to the city payroll in April 2000.

The council is expected

to conduct the interviews in an executive session, reconvening to take any action on the matter, if necessary.

The meeting is slated for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

While the petitions had the required number of signatures to recall McEwen, McDonald and Staulcup, those numbers changed rather drastical-

ly when we began certifying the signatures."

According to Walker, Staulcup received 115 signatures with 100 needed to force the recall and

McDonald received 162 signatures with 150 needed.

"Upon certifying the signatures, we found only 85 valid in the petition to

recall McDonald," said Walker.

"In Councilwoman Staulcup's case, we were only able to certify 73 of the signatures, so both of those petitions have failed."

Walker said the effort to recall McEwen is still up in the air.

"McEwen received 661 signatures with 473 needed," said Walker. "It looks like this one if going to be super close. We're hoping to have certification of the mayor's petition completed late Monday or early Tuesday."

A pair of council members targeted by the petition managed to come out unscathed, as District 1 councilwoman Stephanie Horton received 87 signatures with 100 needed and District 5 councilwoman Joann Knox receiving 104

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A VERY CLOSE FAMILY

CHICAGO (AP) — Birthdays at one household in suburban Lynwood will be busy now that all three members of the family — mom, dad and baby — share the same birth date.

Dynia Humphries and her husband, Brian Montgomery, already shared a birthday, Dec. 14. Then their son, D'Majae Montgomery, was born two days after his due date — on Thursday, Dec. 14.

"No one can believe it," said Humphries, 26.

Montgomery, 33, said he had a feeling it might happen when his wife told him she was pregnant. "I said that sounds like you might have the baby on our birthday."

POLAR EXPRESS DRIVE

Coahoma Elementary will be hosting the Third Annual Polar Express Drive Through as a gift to the community. The drive through will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight.

The drive through, located at Coahoma Elementary School, will consist of 10 decorated and animated scenes which depict the story of the "Polar Express" Christmas book.

The entrance to the drive-through is located on the north side of the school. The PTA will be selling hot cocoa and cookies to enjoy during the storybook ride. Donations will be accepted.

For more information, call 394-4323.

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Obituaries

Winfred "Windy" Miears



Winfred "Windy" Miears, 91, died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006, at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home in Big Spring. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006, at Trinity Baptist Church with Dr. Randy Cotton, officiating. Family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born May 13, 1915, to Edgar William and Epsie Miears in Granger. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1933. He married O'Bera Josephine Teague July 15, 1942, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death March 12, 2004. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army serving in WWII in Germany. He was a long-time member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He worked in pipeline construction until he retired. He had also worked for the City of Big Spring for several years and had also worked for the Johansen Landscape and Nursery for several years.

He is survived by one daughter, Lillian Zonell Sneed and her husband, Leonard of Big Spring; one son, Freddy Miears and his wife, Marilyn of Big Spring; one sister, Myrl Reeves and her husband, Pete of Odessa; three brothers, Weldon Miears of Paris, Texas, Doyle Miears and his wife, Aubrey of Cody, Wyo., and Ira Miears and his wife, Jo of Seguin. Two sisters-in-law, Patsy Smith and her husband, George of Big Spring, and Thelma Teague of St. Louis, Mo. He is also survived by three grand-daughters, Cindy Miears of Big Spring, Debbie Rawls and her husband, Brian of Big Spring, and Jennifer Escobar and her husband, James of Beaverton, Ore., five great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by five brothers and three sisters. Pallbearers include his grandsons, Cody Wilkins, Cory Wilkins and his son in law, Brian Rawls. The family suggests memorials be made to the Trinity Baptist Church General Fund, P.O.Box 1448, Big Spring 79721. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Bill Barrett

Bill Barrett, of Coahoma, passed away Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006. He was born Feb. 23, 1922, in Sherman to Lofton Barrett and Mary Mina McAfee Barrett. Bill was a 1940 graduate of Lakeview High School and served in the Seabees Construction Division of the U.S. Navy during WWII. Before retiring in 1984 as a master electrician and job supervisor, Bill began working with Mid-West Electric in 1952. He was a member of Dorn Chapel United Methodist Church.

Bill is preceded in death by; his parents, first wife, Felice Barrett in 1982; son, Bill Barrett Jr. in 1998; brother, Bob Barrett in 2002 and sister, Mary Ann Probst.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Barrett, of Coahoma; daughters, Janie Routh and husband, Bill of Midland, Pat Winters and husband, Roy of Comstock; step-sons, Dale Holder of Midland and Dean Holder, of Lubbock; step-daughter, Lynda Woodruff (Long), of Coahoma; daughter-in-law, Lelah Barrett of Midland; brother, Sam Barrett and wife, Joyce of Ft. Worth; sister, Betty Gajdos, of San Viejo, Calif.; six grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to Dorn Chapel United Methodist Church P.O. Box 1027 Colorado City 79512, or the charity of ones choice.

The family received friends at Ellis Funeral Home Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. To place on-line condolences please visit www.mem.com.

Paid obituary

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-6-20-22-41.
Number matching six of six: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$14 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-14-25-34-36.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 2-7-3

Annie Margaret Hungerford



Annie Margaret Hungerford, 82, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006, at Lamun Lusk Sanchez Texas Veterans Home. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born April 26, 1924, in Post City to Gladys and Treat Hamilton. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1928. Annie married Joe Allen Hungerford on June 8, 1961, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death in 1972. Annie was a homemaker, but had also worked at Rudd's Bakery, Malone & Hogan Clinic, and 5th Season Dress Shop. Annie's hobbies were gardening, sewing, cooking and dancing. She was a loving mother and grandmother.

Annie is survived by one son, Richard Yarbar of Big Spring; one daughter, Judy Ulmer of Big Spring; one sister, Betty Burcham of Elg Spring; two brothers, Rusty Hamilton of Big Spring and Robert Hamilton of Temple; her beloved friend and fiancée, Coach Paul Ables; seven grandchildren, Konn Ulmer and his wife, Kelley, Gregg Ulmer and his wife, Candi, Dwain Yarbar and his wife, Trisha, Ritchie Yarbar and his wife, Angie, Luke Yarbar and his wife, Mique, Lisa Tatum and her husband, Scott, and Penny Phelan; and 13 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, Annie was preceded in death by two sisters, Elizabeth Osheids and Opal Moore, and a daughter-in-law, Beverly Yarbar. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 34 inmates at the time of this report.

• **ALBERT CARRILLO**, 25, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **STEPHANIE ELAINE PAINTER**, 20, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

• **RICHARD TALAVERA**, 46, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of parent contributing to the non attendance of a child and a motion to revoke probation for forgery.

• **DON RAY HENSON**, 47, was arrested Saturday by HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **ERICK SHEROD FRANKS**, 31, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of disregarding a stop sign, failure to maintain financial responsibility and displaying an expired registration.

• **WESLEY WAYNE CROW**, 29, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated - second offense and driving while license invalid.

• **JERRY THOMAS STANHOPE**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of speeding, no liability insurance, violation of a promise to appear, driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident.

• **TOMMY DEL BOLTON**, 24, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.

• **ALEXANDER CALDERON QUINTANA**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **HENRY LYN ROACH**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.

• **CLIFTON BLAIN CLINTON**, 49, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Ricabaugh Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of College in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 2900 block of West Highway 80.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of East Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of West Interstate Highway 20. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 7500 block of North Service Road. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Washington. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Merryly. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 3300 block of East 11th Place.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

• **BUFORD HOWELL JR.**, 50, of 1101 Marijo, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **TERRANCE LEWIS**, 20, of 2612 Ent, was arrested Sunday on charges of evading arrest, possession of a controlled substance and aggravated robbery.

• **DANIEL RAY LEWIS**, 18, of 2612 Ent, was arrested Sunday on a charge of aggravated robbery.

• **JACOB T. EASTHAM**, 26, of 1507 Stadium, was arrested Sunday on three local capias warrants.

• **CHRISTOPHER RANEY**, 34, of 1604 Vines, was arrested Sunday on a charge of theft.

• **KARLA PARTLOW**, 33, of 3811 Old Colorado City Highway, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.

• **ASHLEY WARD**, 25, of 3304 W. Highway 80, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **ALEXANDER QUINTANA**, 26, of 813 Anna, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants.

• **CLIFTON CLINTON**, 49, of 1617 Harding, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **HENRY RAMIREZ**, 50, transient, was arrested Saturday on a charge of theft.

• **CYNTHIA RANGEL**, 23, of 1309 Princeton, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **HENRY ROACH**, 47, of 2511 Lynn, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open

container.

• **JIM WALTERS**, 22, of 1102 Stanford, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanutte.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1600 block of FM 700.
- in the 100 block of Fifth Street.
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

• **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 1400 block of Lincoln.

• **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Marcy.

• **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 100 block of Marcy.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER** was reported in the 1400 block of Lincoln.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2500 block of Chanutte.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2100 block of Monticello.

• **AGGRAVATED ROBBERY** was reported in the 200 block of 11th Place.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Crimestoppers offering reward in Festival of Lights vandalism

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Crimestoppers of Big Spring is stepping in to catch the mean ol' Grinch that wrecked several displays at the annual Festival of Lights, offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, law enforce-

ment officials are eager to put a stop to the vandalism the festival has suffered year after year.

"This festival is financed by donations and volunteers. A lot of work goes into putting it on," said Everett.

According to police reports, the damage was discovered Monday, Dec. 11, at the festival's Comanche Trail Park location.

"The suspects had cut

electrical wires on several of the displays and broken several lights," said Everett. "The vandalism occurred sometime between Sunday, Dec. 10, and the following day.

"Anyone with information concerning this crime is encouraged to call Crimestoppers and the caller may be eligible for a reward," Everett said. "Crimestoppers is authorized to pay up to \$1,000 for information

leading to the arrest and indictment of any person or persons involved in criminal activity."

Everett said anyone with information can call 263-TIPS (8477) or 264-TIPS (8477). Callers may remain anonymous and no caller identification is ever used.

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

Young breast cancer patients test 'super' hormone treatment

By **MARI MARCHIONE**
AP Medical Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Robin Khadduri gets monthly shots of a drug that blocks the male hormone testosterone and is often used to treat prostate cancer.

But Khadduri doesn't have a prostate or much testosterone either. She and many other young women are getting the drug for breast cancer as part of a super-hormone treatment that new research suggests may improve their survival odds.

This chemical equivalent of ovary removal has one big advantage over surgery: it's not permanent, so it may preserve a woman's ability to have children.

In premenopausal women, the drugs suppress the pituitary gland, which produces hormones that control the ovaries and cause a woman to have a period every month. Side effects of this induced early menopause are similar to those of natural menopause — hot flashes, night sweats, etc., according to new research presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

Women like Khadduri, who fear cancer's return, consider that a small price to pay.

The drugs include triptorelin, goserelin, leuprolide and busarelin, sold as Lupron, Zoladex, Prostag and other brands.

Such drugs have been around for 20 years and are used more in Europe than in the United States, where attention has focused more heavily on chemotherapy, said V. Craig Jordan of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, the scientist who developed tamoxifen, a mainstay hormone drug for preventing cancer recurrence.

"This has been like tumbleweed slowing gaining momentum," he said of ovarian suppression.

The drugs are most

often used in two situations:

- As an alternative to chemotherapy for women who have had surgery for small, hormone-fueled tumors and are considered at relatively low risk for recurrence.

- As a way to keep the ovaries suppressed in women whose periods return after temporarily stopping during chemotherapy.

"They call it 'chemopause,'" said Khadduri, who is getting triptorelin shots now. The 37-year-old mother of three from Needham, Mass., was found in January to have two small tumors that had spread to at least one lymph node.

"The thing I liked about it is, it was not permanent," she said of the treatment. "It wasn't like I was having surgery to have my ovaries removed. If the side effects were too much, I could stop."

Her physician, Dr. Eric Winer of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, enrolled her in one of three large experiments currently under way. "It's the oldest of all treatments," but doctors still do not know how much benefit it gives or how best to use it, Winer said.

In the latest research, those that tested ovary-suppressing drugs on top or in place of chemotherapy and standard hormone therapy with tamoxifen found a lower risk of recurrence.

Voucher advocate to continue push

By **APRIL CASTRO**
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — After a decade of failed campaign maneuvering, millionaire voucher advocate James Leininger is trying a different tactic in his crusade for state-funded private-school vouchers.

The San Antonio businessman is going directly to lawmakers, touting a more public-school-friendly version of his perennially contentious push to spend taxpayer dollars on private-school tuition for needy Texas students.

"Dr. Leininger's very passionate about this ... he's really put so much of his own personal wealth into it and (without) a lot of return on his investment," said Democratic Sen. Leticia Van de Putte. "So maybe he should be trying a different tactic, talking directly to members."

For years, ardent critics like Van de Putte and public school advocates have stymied Leininger's efforts, arguing that vouchers would drain money from public schools and that taxpayer dollars shouldn't go to schools that are not accountable to the state.

This time, Leininger is answering his critics by offering a compromise proposal that would allow public schools to keep a percentage of the money that would otherwise be lost when eligible students transfer. It would

only apply to low-income students who meet certain qualifications.

"By leaving a healthy percentage behind with the public school, the public school has both the effects of competition to improve and more money to spend on each student," said Leininger spokesman Ken Hoagland.

Hoagland said at least 10 percent of the state spending per student — around \$7,000 — would stay with the public school. Still, the concession hasn't been enough to win support from public school groups.

"We're opposed to anything that's going to take public money away from public schools," said Adam Rondeau, spokesman for the Association of Texas Professional Educators. "When you start talking about taking public money away, (public education) ceases to become about educating students and becomes about business."

Hoagland estimates that Leininger has met with 30 lawmakers — Democrats, Republicans, representatives and senators — touting the compromise plan.

"Those meetings have been going very, very well," Hoagland said. "No one that we've met with to date has walked away from those meetings concluding that Jim Leininger is trying to destroy the public school

system."

Hearty support from the state's top leaders has not been enough to trump opposition to a pilot voucher program.

"Far be it for me to try to handicap that one. I've tried to pass it since 1999," Gov. Rick Perry said recently about prospects for vouchers during the upcoming legislative session.

Leininger's concession to public schools comes after a failed effort to get like-minded candidates elected to the Legislature this year. Spending more than \$5 million of his own money on campaigns, most of Leininger's candidates were defeated.

"I do think the fact that he was unsuccessful in many cases and that some of the most pro-voucher members of the Legislature lost to folks who are genuinely concerned with our public schools is very telling," said Kathy Miller, president of the watchdog group Texas Freedom Network.

With far less money than Leininger, the newly formed Texas Parent political action committee countered his efforts by supporting anti-voucher candidates. Twelve candidates endorsed by the group won seats in the House, including a primary candidate who bested one of the House's leading voucher voices.

The addition of 12 anti-voucher lawmakers boosts opposition consid-

erably in a chamber where voucher debates are often decided by just one or two votes, if not ending in a tie.

"It would seem to have more difficulty in the House this time," Van de Putte said. "I don't know that it will have an easier sell in the Senate, but it's part of the education dialogue."

Leaving some money with the public schools isn't enough to bring support from anti-voucher candidates like Rep.-elect Valinda Bolton, an Austin Democrat.

"I'm sure the issue will rear its head once more, but I'm hoping that we'll defeat it by a bigger margin," Bolton said.

Van de Putte, too, said she's still "extremely wary of diverting any public funds away from our public schools."

At least one voucher proposal has been filed and more are likely for the 140-day session, which begins Jan. 9. One proposal, expected from a key senator, would apply only to autistic students.

"All we really expect to see is a new shade of lipstick on the same pig he's been trying to push through the Legislature for more than a decade," Miller said.

Leininger, a former emergency room doctor, founded the San Antonio-based hospital equipment company Kinetic Concepts and also owns Promised Land Dairy.

CHILI

Continued from Page 1A

in meeting other financial needs of special children who are receiving ser-

vices from West Texas Centers for MHMR.

"This chili cook-off is our major source of donations for this fund," Smith said. "I don't know what we would've done if

the Eagles hadn't stepped forward several years ago with this chili cook-off."

West Texas Centers for MHMR is the state-designated Mental Health Authority for 23 counties

in rural West Texas. Mental Health and Mental Retardation services are provided to more than 2,000 consumers and their families each month.

Many of the children

served by the center need more services and goods than state funding will provide, said Smith.

For more information, call (432) 263-6862 or (432) 263-0007.

PETITIONS

Continued from Page 1A

signatures with 152 needed.

"In Mrs. Horton's case, only 64 of the 87 signatures received could be certified," said Walker. "Of Knox's 104 signatures received, only 70 could be certified."

Charging that the coun-

cil "circumvented the will of the majority of electors" in passing a law banning smoking in public places last month, local residents Shannon Thomason and Robert "Steve" Campbell filed an affidavit with the city secretary's office Nov. 6 to recall the five members of the council.

Also turning in petitions were Thomas Tafuro, Willard Robinson,

Cy Barg, John Huckabee and Cindy McGuire.

Councilmen Gregg Biddison and Manuel Ramirez Jr. — who voted against the smoking ordinance — were not named in the petition or affidavit.

The council's 5-2 decision to pass the ordinance has been a controversial one. With few exceptions, it eliminates smoking in all public places —

including restaurants. Bars and lounges are exempt.

The affidavit charges that the mayor and four council members "did not act in the public interest and instead acted to further certain personal agendas" and said they placed "unfair and unenforceable restrictions upon the citizens and businesses of Big Spring."

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be sure to include Coahoma display in tonight's plans

For a third consecutive year, Coahoma Elementary School students will bring a beloved Christmas story to life tonight when they hold the Polar Express Drive Through at the school.

That's right, it's another of those Howard County holiday traditions that just seems to get a little better every year.

Coahoma Elementary Principal Patricia Bennett said students will enact scenes from the book in a layout similar to the recent Drive-Thru Nativity conducted at the First Church of the Nazarene in Big Spring.

Each grade will pantomime scenes from the book, Bennett noted.

"We'll have pages from the book on posters for people to read while they watch the children act out what's on the page, then they can drive to the next scene," Bennett explained.

While the event promises to be entertaining for visitors, Bennett said it is always even more of a thrill for her students.

"It's great," she said. "The best thing about it ... is that this way, they can get out there and act out anything. They can dress up in their pajamas and pretend they're on the Polar Express. They have a great time."

The last stop on the Drive Through will give children a chance to visit with and have their pictures taken with Santa Claus — something that's always a "winner" at this time of year.

There will be no admission for the event, but donations will be accepted. All proceeds will go to the elementary schools' playground equipment fund.

The display is scheduled for 6 to 8 tonight and we're encouraging readers to make sure and include the Drive Through in their plans for the evening.

Any needing additional information can contact the school by calling 394-4323.

We look forward to seeing you there.

All aboard!

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.

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we take charge of our life by turning it over to You, Lord, we win.

Amen

The cows missed the movie

Two British news reports could not have come at a better time for Fred Singer, a scientist and global-warming denier, who has incurred the wrath of global-warming guru and former Vice President Al Gore.

The Independent reported Sunday that a new U.N. report found that livestock is responsible for 18 percent of global greenhouse gases. In other words, in the universe of global-warming alarmism, cow gas does more damage to Mother Earth than SUVs. (American cars are responsible for some 6 percent of greenhouse gases.)

The Sunday Telegraph reported that the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is downgrading its predictions as to how much sea levels will rise due to global warming. The IPCC lowered its upper estimate for sea-level rise by 2100 from 34 inches to 17 inches.

In "An Inconvenient Truth," Gore warned that global warming would cause sea levels to rise by some 20 feet. "I claim that Al Gore is a contrarian because he disagrees with the IPCC," Singer said, as he smiled. Singer was in San Francisco to speak at a meeting of the American Geophysical

Union. Gore also spoke to the group about global warming on Thursday.

If there's one thing that irritates Singer, it is Gore's belief that there is a scientific "consensus" about human-induced global warming, even as Gore incessantly complains about scientists who deny global warming.

"Well, which is it?" Singer asked. If there is a consensus, there should be no deniers. Singer has co-written a book, "Unstoppable Global Warming — Every 1,500 Years," that argues that the Earth warms every 1,500 years due to a solar-linked cycle. The book begins in the year 1100, when Vikings grew vegetables on Greenland, where the population reached 3,000 before creeping glaciers and cold killed the remaining residents. Now, Greenland is warm again.

Don't blame manmade global warming for rising sea levels, the book argues. "Sea levels have been rising steadily since the peak of the last Ice Age about 18,000 years ago. The total rise has been 400 feet." For the last 5,000 years, sea levels have risen about 7 inches per century. No surprise, Singer sees the new IPCC take on sea levels as "more realistic" than past predictions.

As vice president, Gore blasted Singer for receiving money from corporate interests. Singer responded by noting that many environmentalists — and let me

add, Gore, who perfected White House fund raising — have taken money from Big Energy, as well.

Still, I don't think money is the reason Gore has transformed himself from a man who wrote that fighting global warming would require "sacrifice, struggle and a wrenching transformation" from committed Americans to a movie figure who argues that reducing greenhouse gases can be profitable.

As Singer noted, the Kyoto Protocol on global warming was supposed to be a first step to reductions in greenhouse gases of more than 50 percent.

For his part, Singer believes that higher CO2 levels follow higher temperatures. Singer also understands that if enviros want to halve greenhouse gases, there are two ways to do it. "You can collapse the world economy," or, as the cow-gas story suggests, you destroy half the population. "Then you could reduce emissions by 50 percent."

I marvel at those who consider themselves to be in sync with the sage voices of science when it comes to global warming, then argue that America can reduce greenhouse gases with better light bulbs and hydrogen fuel cells.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com.

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It's so simple ... kids' stuff

So much for "the course." According to the Iraq Study Group, it turned out to be a failure. Bush's policy, the Baker Group concluded, "is not working" and is "no longer viable." The situation in Iraq is "grave and deteriorating." The "ability of the United States to influence events is diminishing."

A drastic change of course is required. "Our ship of state has hit rough waters," the Group's co-chairman former Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton said. "It must now chart a new way forward."

I could have told you that. My teenage children could have told you that.

Anti-war activists have been saying as much for months, if not years.

Anyone who has turned on a television in the last six months should have been able to tell you that, even if the Defense Department has, according to the same report, been underplaying the severity of the violence and the deterioration of the situation in Iraq.

If you hadn't figured it out yet, you could also take account of the fact that on the day the report was released, 11 American soldiers were killed in Iraq, making it the deadliest day yet of this long year for our troops.

So if the Iraq Study Group, at one

level, is telling us nothing that our kids couldn't tell us, that we haven't been hearing, seeing and, in some cases (George Bush's, perhaps) trying very diligently to ignore, what's the big deal?

The big deal is this: The conclusion has now become inescapable. There is no other side anymore.

Last Tuesday, it was then Defense Secretary-designate Robert Gates who testified in plain English that the president's policy had failed.

The next day, it was the most respected Republican veteran of the Bush 41 Administration, James Baker, who reached the same conclusion.

The point is not that we are learning something new.

The point is not even that we are finally hearing the truth from some of the powers-that-be in Washington.

The point is that there is no room to spin anymore.

No more dancing with the stars. No more excuses.

There was a time when Democrats were afraid to say out loud what Republicans are now finally being forced to admit.

There was a time when the conservative talk-meisters would accuse you of not supporting the troops if you said out loud what Jim Baker said to the president yesterday, what Robert Gates said to the Senate on Tuesday.

There was a time when reasonable people could disagree. That time has passed.

The question used to be: Who will tell the president?

Now that he has been told, will he listen? Will he do anything about it?

But that is only part of the story. It isn't just George Bush who has run out of excuses, justifications, counterarguments and "on the other hands."

Democrats have no excuse anymore, either.

The handwriting doesn't get any clearer.

The country said the policy was a failure when it voted with its feet in November. Now it's the Republican establishment's turn. What are the Democrats afraid of?

If Jim Baker is saying the policy is a failure, it's time for the Democrats to unite, make this their top priority and say it, too. If Jim Baker is saying it's time for withdrawal, it's time for Hillary to say it, too. If a bipartisan commission is calling the president's policy a failure in no uncertain terms, then the opposition party should be at least as strong, or what's the point of calling them the opposition?

Profiles in courage are no longer required. There is no longer any political risk, any issue of being tough enough or too soft. Baker has written the script. Baker has provided the cover. No one is better at it.

The next steps may well be difficult and dangerous, but recognizing where we are today is in itself painfully easy. Just ask a 13-year-old. Or James Baker.

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Giving a bike? Then give a helmet, and fit it right, physicians urge

TMA Health Tip

When parents give bikes, skates, skateboards, and scooters to children this Christmas, "include the gift that could save a life, then make sure it fits," the physicians of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) advise.

Give a bicycle helmet, and ensure that it fits the child well, physicians recommend. "We tell parents to make sure

the helmet fits down over the child's forehead, snugly, and truly protects the head," said Tamra Kay Deuser, MD, a family medicine physician in Flower Mound/Lewisville. "Otherwise, the helmet's just a pretty dressing."

When properly fitted, the bicycle helmet can prevent serious head injury or even death, which can occur when a child takes a spill on his or her bike. "If a helmet doesn't fit right,

the child is more likely to suffer serious injuries that could change his or her life forever," Dr. Deuser added. A helmet is made to absorb the energy of an impact, provided it fits properly.

TMA sponsors the Hard Hats for Little Heads program, in which TMA physicians encourage children to wear bicycle helmets when riding bikes and participating in other wheeled activities. With support from TMA's philanthropic arm, the TMA Foundation, the medical society's physicians have given more than 30,000 helmets to children. At Hard Hats outreach events, doctors stress that the helmet must fit properly for it to offer the most protection.

Dr. Deuser notes that most helmets are sized based on the child's age or weight, so parents should look for that guidance when making the purchase.

"Kids are generally very healthy — it's accidents that can cause serious, life-altering injuries or even death. We can't prevent all accidents, but we must do what we can to minimize the effects of those accidents."

Dr. Deuser is sponsoring her fourth Hard Hats event, which will provide 500 helmets free to people in need this holiday. TMA's Hard Hats for Little Heads physicians recommend these steps to fit a helmet:

— The helmet must sit squarely on top of the child's head.

— The front of the helmet

should cover the forehead, approximately one inch above the eyebrows.

— Un-twist the chin straps. — Fasten together the ends of the chin strap and tighten them to secure the helmet to the proper fit. The straps should be snug but comfortable.

— Use the pads included with the helmet to make it fit snugly.

— Test the fit by pushing the helmet with your hand. If it shifts or slides off, adjust the straps to tighten the fit, or try a different-size helmet. "If they wiggle their head and the helmet bobs around, the fit is not good enough," advises Dr. Deuser.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 41,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.



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REATORS



Nancy Cole demonstrates the squat exercise.

Miami Herald MCT photo/AI Diaz

Yes, you can do squat

By NANCY COLE
McClatchy Newspapers

The squat is the least loved yet most lauded leg exercise. This compound move simultaneously works the quadriceps, hamstrings, glutes, adductors and core stabilizing muscles. It's the lower body exercise that gives you the most bang for your butt. Squatting on a machine allows you to squat lower and move more weight than you would freely. Here's how to lower yourself to that level:

Facing the machine, position your shoulders under the pads while grasping the handles. Position your feet about hip width apart and in the middle of the foot plates.

With your abs tight, push up slightly to release the safety bar.

Then slowly push your hips back and down until

your knees and ankles form a 90 degree angle. (If your flexibility and strength allow you to go lower, then at the start of the exercise, widen your feet, turn your toes out slightly and carefully squat lower.) Then squeeze your glutes to return to the top of the movement. Make sure your knees are still bent and not fully extended and move immediately into your next repetition.

Key points: Staying lower in the exercise will maintain the tension on the leg muscles. Keep an arch in your back to pro-

tect your spine. After you become comfortable with your form, add 25- to 45-pound weight plates to both sides of the machine until the weight is challenging for 12 to 15 reps.

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Scientists tackle Alzheimer's puzzle

By ROBYN SHELTON
The Orlando Sentinel

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Nobody can say exactly how Alzheimer's disease starts. But the end is no mystery.

Researcher Huaxi Xu opens a photo on his laptop that shows a healthy brain and then one from a victim. The Alzheimer's brain is smaller and shriveled, the result of massive cell death that first destroys tissue, then memories and all normalcy.

A few more clicks on his computer, and Xu is peering at microscopic images of the damage, pointing out the clumps of protein that are the subject of his work at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research here.

The protein — called amyloid beta — accumulates as thick deposits in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Xu and his team are trying to unravel the construction process that leads to the buildups, identify its weaknesses and help shut it down.

"The main goal is to understand the underlying mechanism of Alzheimer's," Xu said. "Society is getting older, and the prevalence of (Alzheimer's) is going to be huge."

His work typifies the kind of research planned for Burnham's future campus in Florida, which could be home to research on obesity, diabetes, cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and many other illnesses.

At its ocean-side location in California,

Burnham already has a team of researchers focusing on brain ailments, degenerative diseases and aging.

While some forms of Alzheimer's are linked to specific genetic defects, the vast majority of cases come without a smoking gun. This mystery has been the focus of Xu's career, which includes a

stint working under a Nobel Prize-winning brain researcher at Rockefeller University in New York.

"This disease is much more complicated than almost any other disease," said Xu, who joined Burnham in 2003. "This is about memory, cognition

See MYSTERY, Page 6A

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♠ 8 4 2
SOUTH
♦ K 10 4
♥ 6
♦ A K Q J 8 5 2
♠ 9 5
The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♦ Pass 2♥
Pass 4♦ Pass 4NT
Pass 6NT
Opening lead — ace of hearts.
We can all take solace from some of the hands played at the highest levels of the game. This deal, for example, took place in the match between Great Britain and the United States in 1955, and demonstrates how far from par the experts can stray even in a world championship.
When the British were North-South, the bidding went as shown. Kenneth Konstam bid one diamond, and Boris Schapiro jumped to two hearts. Schapiro was trying for a slam, of course, and Konstam went
along with the idea by leaping to four diamonds in an attempt to show a respectable opening bid containing a single spade suit.
It is not known whether Schapiro's four-notrump bid was intended as Blackwood. However Konstam interpreted four notrump, his raise to six indicates he did not treat the bid as asking for aces.
Konstam might have thought that a five-diamond response, showing one ace, would not do his hand justice, considering the number of winning tricks he had. At any rate, six notrump became the contract, whereupon the American East led the A-K of hearts to defeat the slam.
At the other table, the American pair of William Rosen and Milton Ellenby arrived at the same contract! Rosen opened the South hand with three notrump ("gambling"), showing a long, solid minor with not much else on the side, and Ellenby raised him to six.
Ellenby was hoping there would be either a legitimate play for the slam or that the defense would make the wrong opening lead. The latter wish was granted when the English West led the jack of spades, and Rosen made all 13 tricks.
So the American team gained 1,070 points on the deal. Both teams missed the ice-cold six-diamond contract.
Tomorrow: The obligatory finesse.
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Medical spas move into malls to reach more customers

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Amy Andrade had been thinking about Botox for a while. So when she spotted a spa-like "cosmedical" clinic in the upscale Dallas mall she visits about once a month, she was immediately interested.

When she learned the clinic was connected with one of Texas' leading medical institutions, she was sold.

She had Botox injected into her 32-year-old forehead and near her eyes to smooth out infinitesimal wrinkles.

"It was great. I felt like I was getting a facial," said the furniture showroom manager.

She was hoping to look younger and knew about Botox because several of her friends have had the injections.

Medical spas like the one at Dallas' NorthPark Center are booming. The number in the United States has jumped from 50 in 2002, when Botox injections won federal approval, to about 2,500 this year, according to the International Medical Spa Association. Malls and

other retail sites are the hot spot locations as companies and medical institutions move closer to their customers.

Such spas offer minimally invasive cosmetic procedures like injections of Botox, which relaxes facial muscles to make lines fade, and fillers like Restylane, which add volume.

Not all medical spas have ties with a major medical institution like the Klinger Advanced Aesthetics Cosmedical Center, Spa and Salon at NorthPark, which has teamed up with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Some "cosmedical" clinics don't even require their practitioners to be plastic surgeons or dermatologists.

Those who specialize in the field say involvement by a plastic surgeon or dermatologist ensures consumer safety.

Dr. Rod Rohrich, professor and chairman of the department of plastic surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, is one of two plastic surgeons who help oversee cosmetics

procedures at the NorthPark operation.

"When you peel back 'Botox in the mall,' you have a top-notch medical facility in a mall setting," he said. "What you're doing is you're getting the best of the best in a place where people shop and you're doing it safely."

The doctors are generally there just half a day a week — sometimes more. But they say they are always available for the nurse practitioner, who does most procedures.

Benjamin Akande, dean of Webster University School of Business and Technology in St. Louis, said that it's a business decision that makes sense.

"The partnership with these legitimate entities gives them the kind of credibility that cannot be questioned," Akande said. "They're saying this is as good or better as you coming to your local plastic surgeon."

Moving such procedures closer to consumers also makes sense because "cosmetic surgery in the 21st century is not an anomaly," Akande said. "It's a daily fact of life."

The Klinger spa in

Dallas is located across from the Barneys New York store and near Neiman Marcus. It offers haircuts, massages and nail services along with its cosmedical procedures. Botox there starts at \$400 for one area of the face, Restylane at \$650.

Andrade, the 32-year-old who got the Botox treatment, said that she'd made a few phone calls to research the procedure before being drawn in by the sleekly designed spa, which is connected to the Sephora cosmetics store next door.

Almost two weeks after her injections, she said she's been pleased with the results, which she described as a natural look. "I still have expression," she said, while getting rid of some creases between her eyes. "Nobody really notices it except me."

Aware that the results fade in three to five months, she said she'll

decide then whether to do it again. She has gotten some compliments.

"Some people say, 'Oh my God, your skin looks so beautiful.'" Her typical reply is that she's been using a new skin product.

Her bottom line, though, is: "I like it, so I think that's what counts."

Botox is the No. 1 minimally invasive cosmetic procedure, with 3.8 million treatments done last year, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

The International Medical Spa Association estimates that by the end of the year revenue from medical spas will exceed \$1 billion, said Hannelore Leavy, founder and executive director of the group.

The Dallas location is an example of a concept Klinger plans to market to other medical spas and doctor's offices, said Klinger chairman and chief executive officer Richard Rakowski. For a

licensing fee, the Norwalk, Conn.-based company plans to put the Klinger name on other spas that adhere to its standards, which include supervision by board-certified plastic surgeons.

Klinger has another such flagship clinic in an affluent shopping area in Chevy Chase, Md., that is overseen by doctors from Johns Hopkins Medical.

Leavy said each state has different qualifications rules for those who perform minimally invasive cosmetic procedures. Work done by those pocomplications.

In October, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery drew up "guiding principles" for supervision of non-physician personnel in medical spas.

Specialists in the field say the issue is who's running these spas and who's supervising.

MYSTERY

Continued from Page 5A

everything human."

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, which refers to the loss of one's ability to think, communicate and reason. There are many other causes of dementia, including strokes, late-stage Parkinson's disease, drug abuse or alcoholism, and Huntington's disease.

But Alzheimer's is particularly devastating and a growing national concern. An estimated 4.5 million Americans have the condition, but their ranks could swell to more than 15 million by 2050 as an increasing number of people survive into their 80s.

Because Alzheimer's patients ultimately become bedridden and need constant care, the cost associated with the illness is staggering. The National Institute on Aging estimates that the United States spends about \$100 billion on Alzheimer's-related medical care.

By midcentury, economists are predicting that the entire gross national product of the United States "will be consumed by the cost of caring for the elderly with dementias such as Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Stuart A. Lipton, who directs Burnham's center for neuroscience and aging.

Beyond the financial

impact, the illness takes a horrible emotional toll on victims and their loved ones. More than 70 percent of patients live at home and receive the majority of their care from family members — often aging spouses with their own health issues. The unique, identity-robbing nature of the disease makes it especially daunting for everyone involved.

"Little by little, day by day, (the Alzheimer's patient) is losing the capacity to remember and understand, to do the basic activities of daily living," said Nancy Squillacioti, executive director of the Alzheimer Resource Center in Orlando, which provides assistance to caregivers. "There's an emotional loss day by day, so there's a kind of constant suffering that goes on."

Against that troubling backdrop, Xu's team focuses on the physical changes that can be seen in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. In addition to the protein deposits, the cell biologist studies the bundles of fibers that often are found inside the brain cells themselves.

These bundles — called neurofibrillary tangles — are another sign of Alzheimer's. Xu's laboratory has identified some of the key processes involved in creating the tangles, again with the hope of paving the way to future drugs that might

derail their production.

For now, Alzheimer's patients have only a short list of approved medicines that might slow progression of the disease. Lipton, recruited to Burnham from Harvard Medical School, is behind the only drug that is available to treat patients in the late stages of the condition.

It focuses on the release of a chemical, glutamate, that can trigger cell death in excess amounts. In normal circumstances, glutamate aids in cell-to-cell communication. But when it builds up in the brain, the helpful chemical becomes a hazard, causing the cells to perish.

Lipton said his drug works by blocking the effect of glutamate, thereby preserving cells and possibly allowing the damaged ones to regrow their injured connections. The medicine, marketed as Namenda, is an example of the type of therapies that Burnham hopes to develop in coming years.

Lipton doesn't think a single miracle drug is going to wipe out Alzheimer's. But he sees hope for a variety of therapies that could prevent the underlying brain damage.

"I think they'll probably be a cocktail of drugs eventually that you might take to protect against cell injury and death," he said.

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Dear Santa Claus,
Maybe, well I can't have markers because I draw on myself. Maybe some toys or something. Oh, and my dog to be Santa Claus. I want a train like Bryson. I think I will get a four wheeler and maybe get a car at my home. And a go cart really I am going to get one.

Ethan
4 years old
Howard Cottage

Dear Santa,
I've been a little bad at school ok maybe a big problem! I had my cellphone out in class! WRONG TIME! hu?
But but wait this it's not for me its for soldiers. This is what I want! for all soldiers in iraqe to come home nad be with their family! they diservere a lot more than us spoiled kids. Just give them super presents! Make sure they get this and write me back!

from Riley King to Santa
Second Grade Connie Eggleston
Elbow Elementary

Dear Santa,
I hope you can Fine me. I will be at my Grandma Barbaras house. Santa Please can I have a tractor and a play tractor for my baby brother. Some roller skates and a lap top. I am going to Leave mike and cookies for you.

Love Matthew
Mrs. Multer's first grade
Garden City Elementary

See All Of Santa Letters In The Wednesday,
Dec. 20 Edition Of The Big Spring Herald

IN

Class 5 football

DIVISION STATE Southland vs. Aust 2), 7 p.m. Anoton

DIVISION STATE Cypress Cedar H Saturday Anoton

Class 4 football

DIVISION STATE Copper S.A. Ala 28.

DIVISION STATE Waco Marquee Friday, Alamos

Six-Man football

DIVISION STATE Richland Rule

DIVISION STATE Vernon defeated

Nugget in wild

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Houston win w

The proved that the game McGr is high defense Yao points Rafer points and snapper losing victory Angeles Sunday game w

Forsan basket

Forsan defeated City B OT Fri

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

Monday, December 18, 2006

IN BRIEF

Class 5A high school football playoffs

DIVISION I STATE FINAL
Southlake Carroll (15-0) vs. Austin Westlake (12-2), 7 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio's Alamodome.

DIVISION II STATE FINAL
Cypress Falls (12-3) vs. Cedar Hill (15-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio's Alamodome.

Class 4A high school football playoffs

DIVISION I STATE FINAL
Copperas Cove lost to S.A. Alamo Heights, 40-28.

DIVISION II STATE FINAL
Waco (13-2) vs. La Marque (14-1) 7:30 p.m. Friday, San Antonio's Alamodome.

Six-Man high school football playoffs

DIVISION I STATE FINAL
Richland Springs defeated Rule, 78-58.

DIVISION II STATE FINAL
Vernon Northside defeated Jayton, 60-41.

Nuggets, Knicks in wild brawl

Ten players, including NBA scoring leader Carmelo Anthony, were ejected for fighting during a wild brawl near the end of Saturday night's game between the Denver Nuggets and New York Knicks.

All 10 players on the court at the time were tossed for their involvement in the ugly incident that spread across the court and spilled into the crowd at Madison Square Garden.

Anthony scored 34 points before the melee took place with about 1:15 left in the Nuggets' 123-100 victory over the Knicks.

Houston Rockets win without McGrady

The Houston Rockets proved to themselves that they could win a game without Tracy McGrady. The next step is tightening up their defense.

Yao Ming had 32 points and 10 rebounds, Rafer Alston added 24 points and eight assists, and the Rockets snapped a three-game losing streak a 108-103 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday in their fourth game without McGrady.

Forsan high school basketball update

Forsan Buffaloes defeated the Garden City Bearcats, 49-42 in OT Friday.

Adam Bailey led Forsan with 16 pts and 9 rebounds, Seth Johnson had 10 pts, Jeremy Robbins had 8 pts and 8 rebounds, Cameron Parker had 7 pts and Blake Grantham had 6 pts.

The J.V. score was Forsan 45 and Garden City 30.

Game for Forsan vs. Garden City at the Garden City Center, Dec. 18, 2006.

Parcells says Cowboys 'in the race now'

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — That speech Bill Parcells gave about how to win a championship finally seemed to sink in for the Dallas Cowboys.

The words of wisdom were ignored last week when the Cowboys were routed at home by New Orleans. They still weren't having an impact when Dallas let an early 14-0 lead turn into a 28-21 deficit to the Atlanta Falcons on the road Saturday night.

Then, everything clicked. The defense stopped giving up big plays and started making key stops, the offense started humming again and the Cowboys pulled out a 38-28 victory, moving them a step closer to the playoffs and ensuring they'll lead the NFC East for at least one more week.

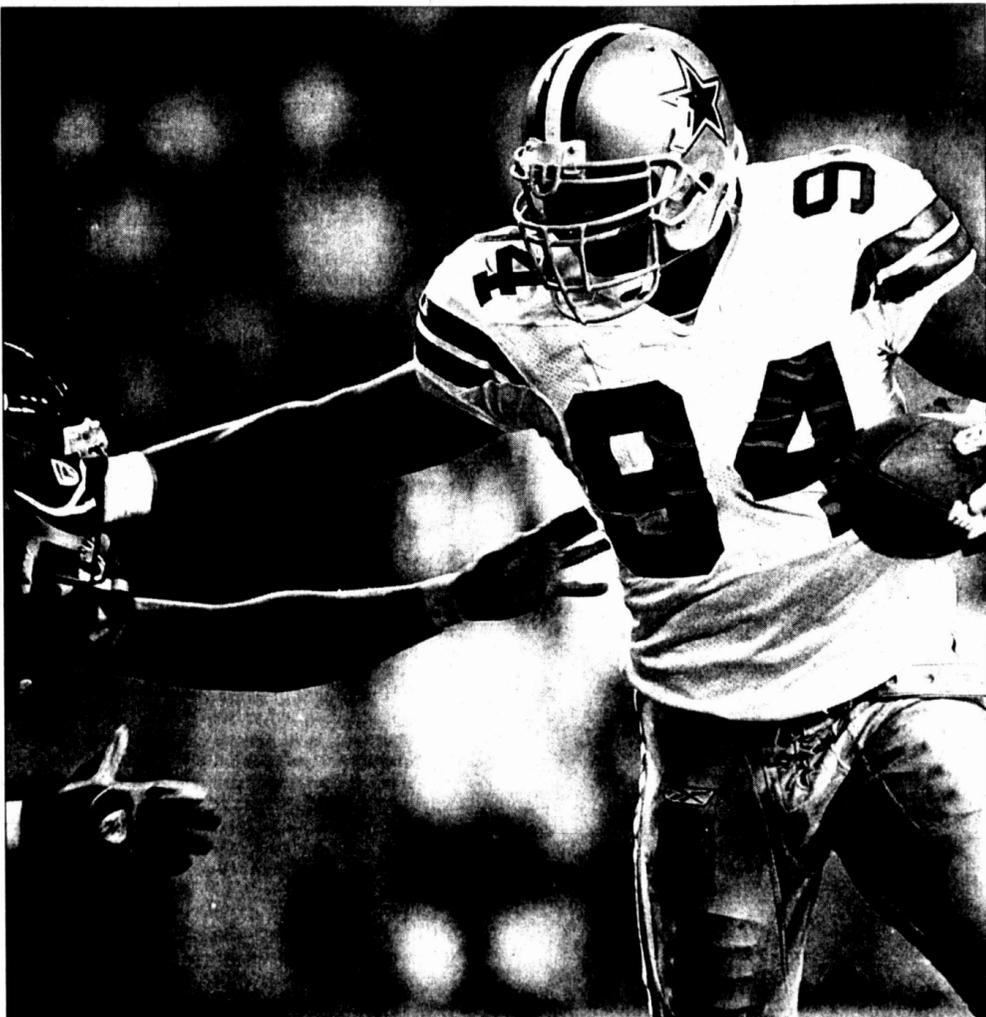
"Championship teams, the ones that really have a chance come January, bounce back and win," quarterback Tony Romo said. "We did that tonight. ... It was awesome."

Parcells didn't go around kissing anyone like he did after another pivotal road win earlier this season. Instead, he did other things players probably appreciate more. He said he's "really proud of them" and gave them several days off. Their only obligations until Wednesday are visiting hospitalized children during the day Monday, then the team's holiday party that night.

The rest isn't only a reward. It could be a necessity since there's a good chance the Cowboys (9-5) will be playing in January.

"We're in the race now," Parcells said. "We'll be in it until the last day."

Dallas' final two games are against Philadelphia on Christmas and Detroit on New Year's Eve; both are at Texas Stadium. A sweep would guarantee winning the division and having either a first-round bye



Dallas Cowboys' DeMarcus Ware makes his way to the end zone for a touchdown against the Atlanta Falcons at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA. The Cowboys won 38-28.

or a home game against a wild-card team.

The Cowboys could have clinched a playoff berth Sunday, if certain scenarios played out. There was more interest, though, in the game between Philadelphia and the New York

Giants because the winner would be a game behind Dallas in the division.

If the Eagles beat the Giants, then the upcoming Dallas-Philadelphia game would be for first place in the division. A win by the Eagles would tie them

with the Cowboys, but Philadelphia would own the tiebreaker.

A Dallas win would clinch the East title because the Cowboys would have a two-game lead with one to go.



Texas Tech coach Bob Knight (right) hugs Pete Newell, as Knight accepts the Pete Newell Lifetime Achievement Award before their game against Stanford at the HP Pavilion in San Jose, Calif. Sunday, Dec. 3, 2006.

Tiger ends year in style

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods has two trophies he can use as bookends for a year like no other.

It started 322 days ago down the coast at Torrey Pines when he won his first tournament of the year in a playoff at the Buick Invitational. It ended Sunday at the Target World Challenge with a 6-under 66 that allowed Woods to blow past U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy and win his tournament for the third time in eight years.

In between came a mas-

sive loss with the May 3 death of his father, a missed cut for the first time in a major, then six months of golf that Woods considers his best ever.

The benchmark always has been 2000, when his nine PGA Tour victories included three straight majors. He won 53 percent of his PGA Tour events this year — eight of 15 — including the final two majors.

"I think if you compare the two years, I think this year would have to be better because of, obviously, things I've been dealing with off the golf course," Woods said. "In 2000, I didn't have to deal with

that. Hey, life is full of mysteries and you've got to deal with things as they come. Who's to know that if Dad didn't struggle and end up passing that I wouldn't have played that well in the summer."

The question for the 16-man field he beat: How much better will he get?

Since missing the cut at the U.S. Open, Woods hasn't finished worse than second in stroke play, winning his final six PGA Tour events of the year, and closing out 2006 with a victory that doesn't count in the record books, but means plenty to Woods.

Knight wins No. 878, one more ties record

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Texas Tech played like a Bob Knight team and moved him within one victory of Dean Smith's all-time coaching record.

The Red Raiders moved the ball patiently, shot well from the perimeter and shut down Arkansas' stagnant offense during an 18-0 first-half run and went on to a 71-56 victory Saturday.

Knight has 878 victories and he can tie Smith's Division I mark when Texas Tech hosts Bucknell next Saturday — although he downplayed the accomplishment after the game.

"Doesn't mean anything to me," Knight said of

catching the former North Carolina coach. "It means I've coached a long time. You guys think too much about records."

The Red Raiders (9-3) play their next four games at home, giving Knight a good chance to break the record in Lubbock.

Arkansas' Sonny Weems opened the scoring with a 3-pointer, but Texas Tech scored the next 18 points. Jarrius Jackson scored 16 of his 17 in the first half as Texas Tech took a 35-22 lead. The Razorbacks (8-2) cut their deficit to eight several times in the second half, but the Red Raiders held on.

"It's as pleased as I've been with our team in the

See KNIGHT, Page 2B



Tiger Woods grins as he accepts the Gary Player Cup after his win at the WGC Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club earlier this year.

Saints, Ravens, Cowboys make playoffs; NFL round up

By The Associated Press

(AP) — If they are partying on Bourbon Street, the Saints aren't taking part. Not yet.

New Orleans, coming off a nomadic season forced by Hurricane Katrina, clinched the NFC South on Sunday despite losing to Washington 16-10. The Saints (9-5) got the title thanks to losses by Carolina and Atlanta this weekend.

"I won't be celebrating at all tonight if that's what you're wondering," quarterback Drew Brees said. "I have the shirt. I have the hat. They're in my bag. I'll go home and I'll put them in my closet."

Still, the Saints are going to the postseason with only their third division title.

Also heading to the playoffs are the Ravens, Cowboys and Colts.

Baltimore didn't back in, beating Cleveland 27-17 for at least a wild-card berth. Dallas won 38-28 at Atlanta on Saturday, then got its playoff spot when Carolina and Minnesota lost Sunday.

Indianapolis, which doesn't play until Monday night at home for Cincinnati, won the AFC South when Jacksonville fell at Tennessee 24-17.

Chicago secured home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs by beating Tampa Bay 34-31 in overtime.

The weekend began Thursday night with San Francisco (6-8) beating Seattle (8-6) 24-14.

Redskins 16, Saints 10

Despite their stumble, the Saints have gone from 3-13 to division winner.

"Our standards are higher than maybe what you would think," Brees said. "We won the division. That's great, but it came in a loss. We still have more things now

that we want to accomplish."

The Redskins neutralized Reggie Bush, holding him to only 14 yards rushing and 19 yards receiving.

Ravens 27, Browns 17

At Baltimore, the Ravens (11-3) blew a 14-point lead and were without injured quarterback Steve McNair. Then Demetrius Williams ran under Kyle Boller's long pass and took it into the end zone, a 77-yard strike that snapped a tie.

"It speaks to the depth of this team and how this team is built," linebacker Bart Scott said.

Bears 34, Buccaneers 31, OT

At Chicago, the Bears (12-2) blew a 24-3 second-half lead, then recovered with big plays from backups Rashied Davis and Adrian Peterson in overtime that led to Robbie Gould's 25-yard field goal.

Coupled with Washington's upset of New Orleans, the Bears got the home-field advantage in all of their NFC playoff games.

Cowboys 38, Falcons 28

On Saturday in Atlanta, Terrell Owens hauled in two touchdown passes. Marion Barber scored on two punishing runs and the Cowboys (9-5) came back after blowing an early 14-0 lead.

It was a devastating defeat for the Falcons (7-7), who had climbed back into the NFC wild-card race with two straight wins. Michael Vick tied a career high with four touchdown passes and eclipsed Bobby Douglass' 34-year-old record for most yards rushing in a season by a quarterback with 990.

Morten Andersen became the leading scorer

in NFL history. The 46-year-old kicker booted four extra points, giving him 2,437 points for his career and breaking Gary Anderson's mark of 2,434.

Titans 24, Jaguars 17

The Titans' defense beat up David Garrard and returned turnovers 83, 92 and 61 yards for TDs as host Tennessee (7-7) won its fifth straight.

Adam "Pacman" Jones returned an interception 83 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter for a 7-0 Tennessee lead. Then the Titans broke open a 10-10 game in the third quarter despite the Jaguars (8-6) running 32 consecutive offensive plays.

Eagles 36, Giants 22

Jeff Garcia threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Brown and a 2-point conversion and Trent Cole returned an interception 19 yards for a touchdown 10 seconds late in the fourth quarter.

The error-plagued game unworthy of two playoff contenders was third straight victory for the Eagles (8-6). If they win at Dallas next week and beat Atlanta at home two weeks later, they win the division title.

The host Giants (7-7) still have a shot at the playoffs despite losing for the fifth time in six games. They face New Orleans at home next weekend and then close at Washington.

Steelers 37, Panthers 3

At Charlotte, N.C., Willie Parker rushed for 132 yards and a touchdown and Ben Roethlisberger threw for a score and ran for another.

Parker, a Clinton, N.C. native and a little-used running back in college at

North Carolina, ran all over his local team, including a 41-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter to put it away.

The Steelers (7-7) also blocked a punt and returned another for a touchdown as they won their third straight game.

Chris Weinke, starting for the second straight week in place of the injured Jake Delhomme, threw for 170 yards and an interception and was sacked five times for the Panthers (6-8), who lost their fourth straight.

Chargers 20, Chiefs 9

At San Diego, LaDainian Tomlinson turned a simple off-tackle play into an 85-yard touchdown run, and finished with 199 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries to take over the NFL rushing lead from Kansas City's Larry Johnson. It was Tomlinson's eighth straight 100-yard game.

The AFC West champion Chargers (12-2) won their eighth straight and kept the inside track to home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Tomlinson has 31 TDs, extending the single-season record he set a week ago; 186 points, extending the single-season record he set in the first quarter with a 15-yard TD run. Tomlinson broke Paul Hornung's 46-year-old NFL season record of 176, set with the Green Bay Packers in 1960. Hornung was a kicker as well as a halfback for Green Bay.

L.T. also has an NFL-record 28 TDs rushing, three TD catches, and his totals don't count the two touchdown passes he's thrown. The scores Sunday gave him eight straight multi-touchdown games, breaking the record he shared with John Riggins.

The Chiefs (7-7), playing four nights after the death

of their owner, Lamar Hunt, had their wild-card chances severely damaged.

Patriots 40, Texans 7

A week after their worst loss of the season raised doubts how far they could go in the playoffs, the host Patriots dominated. New England (10-4) leads the AFC East and can clinch the title with a win next Sunday at Jacksonville.

The Texans (4-10) were outgained 147 yards to 76 in the first two quarters. And on the kickoff right after Houston's touchdown, Ellis Hobbs ran 93 yards into the end zone for his first NFL touchdown and a 34-7 lead.

After a six-week stretch in which the Patriots were just 3-3 with 19 turnovers — they lost 21-0 at Miami last week — they committed no turnovers while forcing David Carr into four interceptions.

Jets 26, Vikings 13

Chad Pennington bounced back from a bad game with 339 yards passing and one touchdown in leading the Jets to their third straight road victory and a 5-2 overall record away from home.

Brad Johnson was benched for the third time this season, but a late touchdown drive conducted by rookie Tarvaris Jackson was too little, too late for the reeling Vikings (6-8), who have lost six of eight.

Broncos 37, Cardinals 20

Jay Cutler got his first NFL victory as a starter, throwing two touchdown passes as the visiting Broncos (8-6) snapped a four-game losing streak. In his third start, Cutler completed 21 of 31 passes for 261 yards and was

intercepted once.

Fellow rookie Matt Leinart was 20-of-35 for 214 yards with no touchdowns and two interceptions for the host Cardinals (4-10). He was sacked three times.

Bills 21, Dolphins 0

The Bills forced two interceptions while limiting the Dolphins to 118 yards through three quarters and 212 overall. It was Buffalo's first shutout since a 2003 season-opening 31-0 win over New England, and first against the Dolphins since a 29-0 win in November 1987.

The visiting Dolphins (6-8), coming off a 21-0 win over New England, were eliminated from postseason contention despite losing for only the second time in seven weeks.

Packers 17, Lions 9

Brett Favre broke Dan Marino's career completions record, but also had to overcome three interceptions he threw. It was only the second home victory all season for the Packers (6-8).

Favre connected on a 21-yard pass to receiver Carlyle Holiday just before halftime for his league-record 4,968th completion.

Detroit (2-12) is winless in seven games on the road.

Rams 20, Raiders 0

The visiting Rams took advantage of five Oakland turnovers, including two that set up touchdown runs by Steven Jackson. Jackson finished with 127 yards on 31 carries, scoring on runs of 4 yards after Chris Carr fumbled a punt and 19 yards after Andrew Walter threw the first of two interceptions.

KNIGHT

Continued from 1B

last two years. To be able to start in a game and exercise a control of the game in the first half," Knight said. "We kind of held them off ... which was very good for us because we've not been particularly good at that."

Texas Tech went 15-17 last season, and the Red Raiders face Bucknell, UNLV and New Mexico

before opening Big 12 play against Oklahoma on Jan. 6. Knight said the next three nonconference games are crucial. When asked whether his team is ready for league play, he gave out a phone number for his sports information director and said to call after a couple weeks.

"I'll tell you on the Second of January if we're ready to go into Big 12 play," he said.

Jackson hobbled off with an apparent foot injury with 17:33 remain-

ing in the second half. He returned quickly, then departed again with 14:57 to play and headed toward the tunnel moments later. He came back late in the game.

"I still wanted to go in and help my team win in the second half," Jackson said. "They had great heart and executed the game plan. I wasn't worried."

Martin Zeno picked up the slack while Jackson was gone, beating the Razorbacks' press for a

dunk to make it 47-37 and scoring nine straight for Texas Tech at one point. He finished with 17 points, and Charlie Burgess added 19 for the balanced Red Raiders.

Arkansas struggled with its halfcourt offense, turning the ball over 11 times in the first half. Charles Thomas scored 19 of his 21 points in the second, when the Razorbacks started getting the ball inside, but it wasn't enough.

"We were not able to get

the ball inside like we wanted because it seemed that they were being more physical inside and pushing our big guys off the

sweet spot in the post," Arkansas coach Stan Heath said.

Knight had a slightly different explanation.



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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.

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

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Position - We are looking for a outgoing, friendly, reliable, person with experience and love for animals. Must be people and pet oriented. Experience with computers a must. Serious inquires only. Fax resume to 432-267-8292.

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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.

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FOUND KITTEN (calico color) in the Kentwood area. Call Jill at 432-263-7113 to claim.
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su | do | ku

Puzzles by Pappocom

ANSWERS

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Sagittarius moon ignites the spirit of adventure, possibility and curiosity. The luckiest thing you can do during this moon is suspend prejudice and explore new worlds. Keep in mind that travel doesn't always mean leaving the city. You can mentally travel, too, with activities that are close to home, but outside your normal routine.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your perception is sharpened to a point. With X-ray-like vision, you'll see the bones of your situation, why it works and also what's wrong. Use the quiet authority of your presence to navigate a precarious situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have all the ingredients to invent a recipe for the lifestyle you've always wanted. So get cooking — your life is calling. Sagittarius and Scorpio people are ideal

kitchen assistants.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You want to be loved, not possessed. Assert your independence. This may include taking an impromptu excursion. All the better if it involves a suitcase!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be the cheerleader, the taskmaster or the drill sergeant — whatever persona is needed to help your team. Make calls to bring new work. Even cold calls are better than none at all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your stars are philanthropic. You'd like to feed the hungry and house the homeless. But if you can't do that, do as much as you can. Every time you make the world a little bit better, you're changing it forever.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've figured out what you want from the future, and it's going to be expensive. Alternate between using your fertile imagination and your practical approach to life. You'll get there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel a lonely pulse in the world — it whines to you of various ailments. Fortunately, you are

uniquely qualified to handle some of what needs fixing. But the best part is, tonight, you're among the faces that you cherish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The mysterious lure of an exclusive situation is titillating. You want in! Speak with those who already belong. Do your homework to avoid unwelcome surprises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though your sign is known for being gloriously open-minded, even you have a collection of biases that qualify as "common sense." One of those beliefs will be challenged today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The one thorn in your bouquet of roses is your love life. Why is it so challenging? Hold the question in your craw as you go about your business, and by sundown you'll get your answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know where you want to go, but you've kept one foot in the past, and it's slowing you down. So just pull that foot up by its bootstrap, and there'll be no stopping you!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You, like most, value

what you pay for. Something you got for free is, however, even more valuable than a lot of your purchases. This is a favorable day to protect or insure it. A Leo person is helpful in this matter.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: To say beaming bride Katie Holmes has had a good year is like saying her new husband Tom Cruise is good looking — what an understatement! From the birth of her and Cruise's precious daughter Suri, to the grand scale of their wedding, Holmes is definitely living the Sagittarian dream for out-of-this-world experiences. After taking a deep breath, she'll return to being a movie star in 2008.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I live downstairs from a family of four adults and two toddler boys. Our upstairs neighbors are good people and we like them, but the children are incredibly noisy.

Between 6 and 7 a.m., the kids run back and forth throughout the apartment, stomping, pounding, banging and screaming. I know they're young boys, but this drives me crazy. I'm constantly stressed out and have a migraine that never ends.

I've spoken casually to the mother about the noise, but she's the ultimate Mama Bear. And frankly, she kind of scares me. I worry she may take any further requests for silence as a threat and somehow make our lives difficult. But my mental and physical health is waning. How can I curb the noise and regain my wits? — Quickly Losing My Mind

Dear Losing My Mind: It isn't unusual for apartment sounds to be magnified, and in fact, those children may be behaving in a perfectly reasonable fashion — which means you are not likely to get them to be quieter. Instead, work on ways to soundproof your environment. Is the upstairs apartment carpeted? Can you put in ceiling tiles that muffle the racket? Talk to your landlord about noise requirements that may already be in existence, and then discuss what improvements you can make to your apartment. If none of this helps, and you truly cannot tolerate the commotion, complain to the landlord or start looking for another place to live. Sorry.

Dear Annie: My mother-in-law and I have a disagreement about what happens to her credit card bills after she dies. Mom thinks they all are automatically paid off.

My husband will be the executor of her estate when the time comes. His concern is, if her estate is not large enough to pay off all her bills, what happens? Will we be responsible to pay everything else out of our own pocket?

Mom is trying to lower her outstanding bills, as her health is not the greatest. We're just afraid that, with no life insurance, no savings and lots of outstanding bills, it's



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

going to cause financial hardship for us. Don't you think people should at least have enough life insurance to pay for a decent funeral? — Concerned in Ohio

Dear Ohio: No one should leave this earth preferring to dump their financial burdens on their children, funeral costs included. As for your mother-in-law's debts, her creditors will be paid from the assets she leaves behind. Assets held only in Mom's name, such as her house, car and bank account, cannot be transferred to heirs until all debts have been satisfied. However, if her assets are not sufficient to pay her debts, your husband has no liability to her creditors. Rest easy.

Dear Annie: I read your column every day, and the letter from "Anxious," whose 16-year-old daughter was barely 4 feet 11 inches tall, caught my attention.

My paternal grandmother was 4 feet 10 inches tall and a real pistol. She was the leader of her social set until her death at 92. My mother was 4 feet 11, smart, attractive, successful in the business world and loved by everyone. She led a happy and productive life.

I think my lucky stars every day for my wonderful wife of 44 years, who is 4 feet 11, a wonderful mother and lover, bright, vivacious, and loved by our children and all their friends. Our daughter is 4 feet 11, and while she had some self-doubting years, young men were lining up for dates in high school and college. She now has a master's degree, a 6-foot-tall husband and two fabulous children.

Tell "Anxious" it's not the size of the package that counts. Many "vertically challenged" people overcompensate and end up being very successful at life and love. — Lover

of Short Women in Bent Mountain, Va.

Sounds like your family packed quite a lot of punch in those compact packages. Thanks for the words of encouragement.

Dear Annie: My sister, "Blanche," just left after another TOO LONG visit. Every time she leaves, I discover that photos have been ripped out of albums, my artwork is either missing or destroyed, and other items are gone.

When I confront her, Blanche lies, plays the victim and tells everyone that I'm persecuting her. She is verbally abusive, and ridicules and gossips about me to others. After she leaves, I feel violated. I've been treated for clinical depression because of her visits, and it takes months to recover.

What is wrong with someone who makes a six-figure income and steals from a sibling who is barely scraping by on her meager retirement? What can I do? — Guests and Fish Smell After Three Days

Dear Guests: For starters, you can stop inviting Blanche to stay in your home. You are under no obligation to provide hospitality to someone who abuses it so thoroughly. Blanche seems mentally ill. You should suggest that she seek therapy, and in the meantime, your house should be off-limits to her.

Dear Annie: I usually agree with your advice, and since I don't seem able to figure out my own problem, I hope you can help.

I have two grown sons who currently live in the same city, not far from my town. They do not speak to each other, based on their childhood disagreements. I had always hoped that being grown would solve the problem, but apparently not.

With the holidays approaching, I know one won't come to my house if the other is coming. Although they know this is painful for me, they don't seem willing to talk their problems out. I am really tired of trying to mediate and don't feel I should have to turn my life inside out in order to keep them separate.

How should I handle this? I don't want to create additional problems between them. Should I just extend the invitation

and whoever comes, fine, and if neither shows up, just let it go? I don't want to pour on the guilt, but neither do I want them to think this doesn't hurt me. What should I do? — Disappointed Mom

Dear Mom: We say give them one more chance to behave like adults. Invite both your sons and tell them you are doing so. Of course, even if they come, it doesn't mean the meal will go well, but at least you will be spending the holiday with your children, which is important to you. However, if neither shows up, we strongly urge you not to keep punishing yourself. Next year, make plans to do something else, perhaps with friends, or volunteering at a homeless shelter where you can take your mind off your troubles by helping others get through theirs.

Dear Annie: I am hoping to get the word out about qualified interpreters for the deaf. There is a massive shortage of sign language interpreters, and due to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the need has skyrocketed.

In my area, the average cost for an interpreter is between \$30 and \$50 per hour with a two-hour minimum. I see doctors, lawyers and private businesses trying to convince family members to act as interpreters in order to save money. Sometimes this means deaf people are forced to admit to having STDs, taking drugs and other very private problems in the presence of parents and children.

Please help me encourage businesses that private information should be relayed through a professional, neutral party. To find a local interpreter, log on to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf at www.rid.org. Thank you. — Rebecca Madigan, Director, Deaf Community Services, Indianapolis (A Division of Easter Seals Crossroads)

Dear Rebecca Madigan: Thank you for bringing this issue to our readers' attention. We hope anyone looking for interpreters for the deaf will log on to the registry.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

MONDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLT (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPK (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odesa	Odesa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odesa	Odesa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel Fortune	Hondas de Amor	King of the Hill	News Entertainment	Vuola de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Van Impe Pres	News-Laher	American Chopper	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Live (CC)	Phi of Future	College Basketball	Monday Night	Stargate
7 PM	Family First	Wife Swap	La Faa Mas	House (CC)	How I Met	Marina	Deal or No Deal	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel	Antiques	American Hot	Movie: Three	CSI: Crime	Movie: A	Show (CC)	Movie: The	Oklahoma St.	Monday Night	Stargate
8 PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Mundo de Feras	Bones (CC)	Two-Half Men	Amor Mio	Identity (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the	Sweetwater	Rollin' Out	Little Lady	CSI: Crime	Perfect Day		Billiards	Billiards	Cincinnati	Stargate
9 PM	What About Brian	What About Brian	Cristina	Becker (CC)	CSI: Miami	Decisiones	Studio 60	Family Guy		Nagara Falls	the Road	15 Movie: Down	Disorderly Con	Movie: A	Soul Food	Movie: The	Billiards	Indianapolis	Stargate
10 PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	10 Items-Less	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose	American Chopper	15 Movie: in Beverly Hills	UFC Unleashed	Movie: A	Jamie Foxx	Movie: The	Billiards	Indianapolis	Stargate
11 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill	Letterman	Late Late Show	AI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night	Conan O'Brien	Sign Off	American Hot	15 Movie: Three Men and	CSI: Crime	Movie: A	In Living Color	Phi of Future	With Smith	Madden Nation	Tales-Darkside
12 AM	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	El Privilegio de Amar	My Wife Kids	The Insider	Pagado	Apex	Update/Israel	John Hagee		Rollin' Out	Gearheads Hit	Blind Date	Movie: A	Comicview	Proud Family	2006 World Series of Poker	NFL Primetime	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE

"GOLD, INCENSE AN MYRRH THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF PRESENTS I'D WANT FOR CHRISTMAS!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"MOMMY! I HID MY PRESENT FOR YOU IN A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT!"

"So don't go near my closet!"

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HAGAR

"HAGAR! COME BACK!"

"YOU FORGOT THIS LITTLE BOX OF TOOTHPICKS!!"

"I HATE A SARCASTIC LOSER!"

BC

SUREFIRE

WILEY'S DICTIONARY

GIVING A BOX OF MATCHES TO A PYROMANIAC

WILEY'S DICTIONARY

BLONDIE

"BOY, THERE'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES!"

"REALLY!"

"COULDN'T AFFORD LIGHTS"

"WE GAVE AT THE GAS PUMP!"

WIZARD OF ID

"THIS MAN WAS PEEPIING IN MY BEDROOM WINDOW"

"HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS HIM?"

"HE HAD A HEART ATTACK IN THE BACKYARD"

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2006. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1944, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of Japanese-Americans, but also said undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

On this date:

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1956, Japan was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1969, Britain's Parliament abolished the death penalty for murder.

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 12 days later.)

In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.

Today's Birthdays:

Television writer-producer Hal Kanter is 88. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 79. Actor Roger Smith is 74. Blues musician Lonnie Brooks is 73. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 63. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 63. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 60. Blues artist Ron Piazza is 59. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 56. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 56. Rock musician Elliot Easton is 53. Actor Ray Liotta is 51. Actor Brad Pitt is 43.

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AGNES

"I AM GOING TO COME UP WITH A WINTER HOLIDAY THAT ALL HUMANS, EVEN THE FEDS, CAN CELEBRATE WITH NO REPERCUSSIONS."

"EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO SHOP AND BUY CARDS AND HAVE PARTIES! LUTHERANS, HINDUS, MUSLIMS, WICCAN'S, SCIENTOLOGISTS, JEW'S, BUDDHISTS, ORTHODOX ATHEISTS. EVERYONE!"

"WILL IT STILL BE ON DECEMBER 25?"

"NAH. TOO MANY STORES ARE CLOSED."

Newsday Crossword GOING TO EXTREMES by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Not feminine: Abbr.

5 Statistical info

9 Christmas season

13 West Coast sch.

14 Once ___ a time

15 Attractive kid

17 Completely, as in a search

20 Not as many

21 Unaccompanied

22 Shipped off

23 Similar to

25 Shade tree

27 Biblical strongman

30 Materialized

35 In the past

36 Mean one

38 Field of battle

39 Completely, as on a ship

43 Spooky

44 Loch ___ monster

45 Pregrown grass

46 Kept changing one's mind

48 Attractive

51 Ultimate, as a degree

52 ___ Lisa

53 Something prohibited

56 Lighten, as a load

59 Stand up to speak

63 Completely, as in reading a line

66 River-flood preventer

67 Bring up

68 Norse explorer ___ the Red

DOWN

1 Bungle

2 Land measure

3 Apply the brakes

4 Desert caravan beasts

5 Twosome

6 The Big ___ (New York City)

7 Wizard of Oz dog

8 Of unknown authorship: Abbr.

9 Sgt., for example

10 Get the better of

11 Diminutive ending

12 King of the jungle

16 CPR expert

18 Threesome

19 Car-horn sound

24 Shoelace securer

26 Grassy fields

27 Places for valuables

28 See eye to eye

29 Mary Tyler ___

30 Carrying a weapon

31 Cats, dogs and hamsters

32 Actress: Witherspoon

33 Sign up

34 Just great

37 Heredity unit

40 Inappropriate name

41 Chair or stool

42 Norway's capital

47 "This is fun!" ___ about (approximately)

50 Wasn't consistent

52 Tin or titanium

53 Super Bowl org.

54 Sandwich cookie

55 Bright star

57 Bushy hairdo

58 Crockpot contents

60 Taj Mahal site

61 The one right here

62 Engrave deeply

64 ___ Misérables

65 Hosp. areas

HI AND LOIS

"THIS FRUIT IS A LITTLE OVER-RIPE"

"PERFECT"

"TRIXIE LOVES STRAWBERRY, APPLE-BANANA SMOOSHIES"

THE OTHER COAST

"DO DOGS CELEBRATE XMAS?"

"MY EARLIEST MEMORY IS OF BEING ABANDONED IN A COLD, DARK ALLEYWAY..."

"I WAS TAKEN TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER, BUT MY FUTURE SEEMED UNCERTAIN..."

"UNTIL A NICE COUPLE PICKED ME UP AND TOOK ME TO THEIR WARM HOME"

"FOR ABANDONED ANIMALS GIVEN ANOTHER SHOT AT LIFE, EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS."

SNUFFY SMITH

"TRYIN' TO BRIBE A JUDGE IS A FELONY, SMIF!!"

"TWO MORE OF THOSE AN' I'LL KNOCK IT DOWN TO A MISDEMEANOR!!"

BETLE BAILEY

"BETLE, ARE YOU TRYING TO BE THE ALL-TIME GREATEST GOOF-OFF IN HISTORY?"

"DON'T BE SILLY"

"ALTHOUGH LATELY I FEEL I'M 'IN THE ZONE'"

VOLU

Cok Acc rain.

M

By TH Staff

The Moon Mond renew Austi tant and smoot "I've local agree comir a lobb Frank

Re

Fo

'in

By ST Staff

FOR his card" Super Johns many — h most he sav S c trustee public to rev A c a Ex c e Indica for th year d ly me istrati room l The mariz formal catego

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Place a.m. 1 If you 263-77 noon