

Obituaries

Kerry Franklin Simpkins

Kerry Franklin Simpkins, 44, of Clyde died Sunday at a local hospital.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2006, at the Bailey Chapel with Brother Trey Turner and Brother Doug Shelley officiating. Burial will follow in the Clyde Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Kerry was born April 21, 1962, in Abilene to Gene and Frankie (Turner) Simpkins. He was a 1980 graduate of Big Spring High School and attended Howard College and Cisco Junior College. He married Heather Maples on Nov. 18, 1989, in Snyder. They moved to Clyde in 1993.

Kerry was a correctional officer at the TDCJ Roberson Unit. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Heather of Clyde; two sons, Brad Bair of Big Spring and Archie Simpkins of Longview; one daughter, Jami Keith and husband, James, of Clyde; his parents, Gene and Frankie Simpkins of Big Spring; one sister, Mitzi Kriesel and husband, Buck, of Joshua; one granddaughter, Kalysta Keith of Clyde; and special friend Christina Baidas of Clyde.

He was preceded in death by two granddaughters, Kaia and Kayden Keith.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Paid obituary

Betty L. Price



Betty L. Price, 76, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, in a local hospital. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Graveside funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 22, 2006, at the Mont Meta Memorial Park, San Benito, under the direction of Henry Thomae Funeral Home, San Benito.

She was born Jan. 10, 1930, in Oklahoma City.

Betty was a graduate of Rio Hondo High School and Texas A & I University. She had worked as a book-keeping teacher at Snyder High School for 21 years, retiring in 1971. After retiring she moved to Harlingen where she lived for six years and then moved to Big Spring. She enjoyed playing bridge, visiting with friends and playing with her grandchildren.

Survivors include three sons, Bob Price and wife, Jessica of Big Spring, Jim Price of Laredo, and Jerry Price and wife, Tracy of Ft. Worth; and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers and four sisters.

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

Paid obituary

Maude B. Smith

Maude B. Smith, 87, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• **SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH IS** giving away 19 10-inch particleboard pews. Pews must be picked up by early January. If interested, please call 432-263-3382 or 432-263-1444.

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

• **THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING** is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive

Police blotter

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

- **BERNARDO PEREZ, 42**, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1700 block of Thorpe.
 - in the 1700 block of Laurie.
 - in the 500 block of Westover Road.
 - in the 400 block of Runnels.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2000 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 1500 block of Wood.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 37 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ANTONIO RODRIQUEZ, 27**, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- **GILBERTO DURON, 74**, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- **FRANK LEE JACKSON, 48**, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **ROBERT EARL REED, 51**, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of displaying a fictitious registration and driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **SHANNON FEE, 26**, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of fraudulent use/possession of identifying information (three counts).
- **KARLA DAWN PARTLOW, 33**, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation/shelter center.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One persona was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House.

Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

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

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

• Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downton Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.

• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

Weather

Tonight—Rain. Widespread fog. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight. Chance of rain 90 percent.

Wednesday—Mostly cloudy. Windy. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph increasing to southwest 20 to 30 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. West winds around 10 mph.

Thursday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Friday night—Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain and snow. Lows in the lower 30s.

Saturday—Cloudy. Slight chance of rain and snow in the morning. Then a slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Colder. Highs in the lower 40s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday night—Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows in the upper 20s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-6-9-22-26
Number matching five of five: 2.
Prize per winner: \$15,220.
Winning tickets sold in: Dayton and Garland.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-13-30-33. Bonus Ball: 31.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 2.
Winning tickets sold in: Amarillo and Austin.
Prize per winner: \$137,500.
Number matching four of four: 10. Prize: \$1,243.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-6-7

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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
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OUR VIEWS

Let's remember what Christmas really celebrates

What a wonderful time of year the Christmas season is ... the parties, parades, carols, the gathering of families and giving and getting of all those gifts. There's absolutely no surprise that most people will tell you this is their favorite time of the year.

But enjoying what is for most of us our favorite time of the year, we need to remember the "reason for the season."

Every year on Dec. 25 we Christians celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, we know there are a great many "educated" people who want to remind us that the winter solstice has been a celebrated pagan holiday since time immemorial.

Some Christians are even ready each year to remind us that Dec. 25 wasn't the date of Christ's birth. And that's true. The date of Dec. 25, roughly corresponding to the date of the winter solstice, was chosen as the "traditional" birthday of Jesus by early Christians for no other reason than to appease pagan tribesmen. The Christmas tree, the Yule log, the wreath and countless other Christmas traditions come directly from pagan celebrations and ceremony.

But that makes little difference today.

Christmas is not a few days off from school or work. It is not the giving and receiving of material gifts. The true meaning of Christmas is not even found in the opportunity for families to come together and fellowship.

It isn't found in Dickens' "Christmas Carol," the songs about "Frosty the Snowman" or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" or even in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" penned by good old Dr. Seuss.

All of those things have become Christmas traditions and we should cherish them.

What we must not forget, once again, is that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ.

We Christians know why that is important. The real reason for the season is to remember what His immaculate birth represents for all of us.

Yes, we believe that Jesus is the reason for the season. More importantly, we think, He is the reason for every season.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We possess unusually high charisma and energy when we walk with You, Lord.

Amen

Naive idealism of the ISG 'realists'

Upon further study, what strikes me most about the Iraq Study Group report (ISGR) is its profound naivete. The group could better identify its operative philosophy as "unrealism," rather than realism.

The modern form of foreign policy "realism" emerged, according to "The Oxford Companion to the World," in reaction to "idealism," an "approach which held that countries were united in an underlying harmony of interest — a view shattered by the outbreak of World War II." But there's more:

"Rather than study the world as it might be, Realists maintained that a science of international politics must study the world as it was — an insistence that resulted in the Realists' self-acclaimed appellation."

I suppose the Baker-Hamilton "realists" might accuse President Bush of idealism for believing in the potential contagiousness of democracy. Indeed, it might be wishful thinking to believe a democratic Iraq would lead to a democratization of the Middle East, especially given the theocratic nature of Islam.

But you don't have to be a Kool-Aid drinker of this theory to recognize that the Iraqis did in fact flock to the polls at great risk to themselves to participate in their new democratic government. Nor do you have to be a blind fool to recognize that a highly imperfect democratic system in Iraq, especially one at least currently friendly to the United States, is vastly superior to what existed before and what might exist if we leave too soon. In other words, you can support the democratization of

Iraq without being a foreign policy idealist and without even being unrealistic.

But how about the self-acclaimed realism of the ISGR? After reviewing it, couldn't we say to the ISG, "Rather than study the world as it might be ... you must study the world as it is?"

The lynchpin of the ISGR is its recommendation for a "New Diplomatic Offensive." That pivotal recommendation — No. 1 on a list of 79 — appears to rely on several highly dubious assumptions.

One — as many have noted — is that Iran and Syria perceive a stable Iraq to be in their respective national interests. Another is that resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian issue would disincentivize Islamic terrorists and their sponsoring states from pursuing global jihad. Another is that all global conflicts can be resolved diplomatically.

Could Hitler's or the Soviet's thirsts for world domination have been resolved diplomatically? Shouldn't we recognize that certain regimes, ideologies and radical theologies have no interest in diplomacy other than as a diversion to lull their enemies into concessions or a false sense of security?

Indeed how realistic is the ISGR when it doesn't even address contingency plans? What if the various nations don't respond like pawns as the ISGR projects on its global chessboard?

For example, the ISGR recommends forming an "Iraq International Support Group" among nations that are presumed to have an interest in avoiding chaos in Iraq — sort of a synthesis between Rodney Kingism ("Why can't we all just get along?") and Alcoholics Anonymous. What if these nations refuse to comply? Or, if they do, will it then be necessary for the uniformly reviled state of Israel to form its global

version of Al-Anon?

The ISGR also says the beneficent support group would not seek to impose obligations or undertakings on the government of Iraq. So not only is the omniscient ISGR going to form the group; it is going to speak for it in advance and guarantee that it won't seek to impose its will on Iraq. Oh, really? What if the new Iraq doesn't behave?

Let's just test this assurance with the words of the ISGR itself. The ISGR says Iraq's neighbors "favor a unified Iraq that is strong enough to maintain its territorial integrity, but not so powerful as to threaten its neighbors." What if Iraq insists on becoming more powerful? What then?

Plus, is it just me, or are these realists displaying their naivete here again, assuming a nation can be strong enough to maintain its territorial integrity without also having sufficient power to threaten its neighbors? That's a fine line that even these diplomatic geniuses of Realpolitik can't achieve.

Wouldn't it be more realistic, sane and in the best interests of the United States for our foreign policy to be conducted from the perspective that evil exists in the world and that it must be confronted, rather than wished away or mollified? Wouldn't that be a more responsible approach, given the lessons of history that are readily available to all but the willfully ignorant?

But if nothing else, the deeply flawed ISGR should awaken us to the "reality" that Bush's war opponents have never had a viable plan, which is why they steadfastly refused to offer one.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Pork is apparently still on menu

Democrats fool themselves if they think that the voters divorced Republicans last month and married them. Sure, Americans threw Republicans out of the house. They were tired of their faces. But the public does not enter committed relationships with politicians. The booting of a party is only a separation. The bounced ones eventually come back. It could take 12 years, as happened to the House Democrats, or a mere two. That depends on a number of things.

One of those things will be spending discipline. Since Republicans took over the House in 1994, the number of earmarks — the vast majority pork — has tripled to 16,000, costing a grand total of \$64 billion a year. The most famous specimen was the \$233 million Alaskan "Bridge to Nowhere."

Abusive pork spending is politically dangerous because it offers colorful examples. Anyone can understand a Bridge to Nowhere. If Democrats fail to end such outrages, they can be guaranteed this: Come 2008, Republicans will find a schnauzer museum — or some other strange project — to ridicule and hold up as emblematic of their profligate ways.

An earmark is spending that a politician slips into a larger bill, often anonymously, often at the last minute. A project following the traditional funding path must

first go through an authorization process, during which its value is debated. Earmarks that are awarded without competition or serve only a special interest qualify as "pork," according to Citizens Against Government Waste. That means most of them.

Whether Democrats will show more propriety in this area remains to be seen. The early signs are not encouraging.

Consider the incoming leaders of the House and Senate spending subcommittees — the places where pork happens. Because of their power over earmarks, the chairpersons of these panels are called "cardinals." Democrats donning the robes don't seem eager to change the game they will soon control.

For example, Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii will sit atop the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee. His predecessor is Alaska Republican Ted Stevens, father of The Bridge. Asked how earmarks would be handled under his rule, Inouye responded, "I don't see any monumental changes."

Inouye also told The Honolulu Advertiser that he spoke with Stevens before the election, and everyone is cool on earmarks. "We pledged to each other that no matter what happens, we will continue with our tested system of bipartisanship."

Washington state's Patty Murray is about to become chairwoman of the Senate transportation appropriations subcommittee. Murray last year defended Stevens' ludicrous bridge and chewed out colleagues who tried to stop it. Her astounding remarks followed a

proposal by Republican Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma to send the billions earmarked for pork projects to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, instead. "I tell my colleagues," Murray warned, "if we start cutting funding for individual projects, your project may be next."

This is not good for Democrats. Anger over Washington's spending orgy was especially strong around Denver, Philadelphia and other formerly Republican suburbs. They went blue in the last election, but their voters haven't signed on any dotted lines with the Democratic Party. If Republicans run Schwarzeneggerian candidates who promise both stem-cell research and spending discipline, they could win those districts back.

Before Murray assumes that her new power over pork insulates her from voter wrath, she should consider the lesson of a fellow Washingtonian and porkmeister, Tom Foley. In 1994, Ross Perot was campaigning for Foley's opponent in Spokane when he famously asked a riled-up crowd: "Are you for sale? Can you be bought for pork?" Foley had been the mighty speaker of the House and a 15-term incumbent. The voters showed him the door.

Froma Harrop is a syndicated columnist for The Providence Journal.

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HARROP

Bird Poop:

Red-tailed hawk survives scrape with illegal hunters

"There it is. Get ready," urged the driver while the other man slowly lowered the window of the old pickup. As the vehicle inched closer to the telephone pole, the passenger started easing the shotgun out the window. "NOW," directed his friend.

As the so-called hunter squeezed the trigger, the wary hawk leapt into flight. With her legs throbbing, the broad-winged bird glided to the ground. "Come on, let's go get it," encouraged the driver to his buddy. Climbing through the barbed wire fence, they suddenly heard the crunch of gravel as a game warden stopped his vehicle on the shoulder of the road. Having waited for this opportunity for weeks, the officer had finally caught the roadside shooters.

Numerous calls had been coming in regarding these two men. Catching them would require patience and time. Concealed by a rise in the terrain, the officer's truck was well camouflaged by scrubs and mesquite. When the old pickup stopped for the hawk, the warden had no way of preventing their crime. Without turning on the motor, he did, however, let his vehicle roll quietly down the pavement. Intent upon retrieving the hawk, the shooters were not aware of the warden or his truck until he reached their pickup.

Having already given his location and the license number to headquarters, the warden cautioned the men to stand away from their prize. Seeing the red-tailed hawk was still alive, the warden informed the men of their impending visit to a judge and the charges to be faced. Shooting from the road, no hunting license, hunting out of season, willful injury of a federally- and state-protected species, and trespassing were a few of the infractions. By the time the warden had finished citing the cost of each violation, another warden had arrived. While one officer escorted the men to federal court, the other picked up the injured raptor and took it to a veterinarian.

"The hawk can't stand," was the grim news from the Odessa clinic. They had already contacted Harry Hopkins, who had helped us numerous times in transporting injured birds from that area. When we met Harry in Stanton, he repeated the vet tech's evaluation of the hawk.

Although the raptor's wings had no damage, its upper legs were tender to the touch. Also of concern was the lower abdomen. With the bird unable to stand, we knew it would be some time



Courtesy photo
Perched atop a pole, the red-tailed hawk uses its binocular vision to locate small mammals and birds in its search for food. Seen year round in parts of West Texas, the raptors are thought to pair for life or until the death of a mate.

before her feet and talons would hold food while she tore it with her beak.

Since it was late in the afternoon, we tube fed the hawk. The liquid diet

would give the bird sustenance, energy, and be readily absorbed by its

body. Placed on several layers of sheets and towels, the hawk was made as comfortable as possible for the night.

The next morning, Christmas Eve, we started loading our vehicle with boxes of beef heart and sacks of bird seed for the unexpected visit to the wildlife center. As Art opened the large cardboard box that housed the hawk, in one stunning move she jumped upward. With a strong flap of her wings, the raptor landed on top of the garbage can by the kitchen door. Seemingly unafraid, the red-tailed hawk stood proudly and glanced at her new surroundings. "That super food really works," said Art as we stared in

amazement.

Since the hawk seemed contented, we remained still while appreciating what had happened. Dark brown above, with dark streaks accenting her lighter belly, the bird had the colorful rufous tail of maturity. Weighing about 3-1/2 pounds, she would be larger than her mate. Her wing span we estimated at almost six feet. After the injury and trauma she had suffered, her desire to be active was encouraging.

Once at South Plains in Lubbock, the red-tailed hawk was examined and medicated for any inflammation and infection. Given small chunks of

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			2	5	3
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Parent's Corner:

Let us always remember the reason for this season

Christmas time is a time for memories — memories of the real meaning of Christmas; memories of family gatherings; memories of childhood adventures; and memories of people who have crossed our lives and have left — impressions that will last forever. I would like to share a story I read recently which bring back some of these memories.



DARRELL RYAN

It all began because George hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it — the overspending; the

frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Chris and the jewelry for Grandma; the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for George.

The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin, who was 15 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church.

These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them

together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up really whipping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

George, seated beside me, shook his head sadly. "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of

potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

George loved kids, all kids, and he knew them, having coached youth league football, baseball and soccer.

That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling George what I had done and that this was his gift from me.

His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition — one year sending a group of mentally handicapped

youngsters to a hockey game. Another year, a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas. And so on and so on.

The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost George last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I

barely got the tree up. But, Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more.

Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope.

George's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

May we remember the reason for the season and always be true to the Christmas spirit.

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

Family will be keeping a closer eye on 'Traveling Jesus' this year

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — This Christmas, a family here may keep a closer eye on their statue of baby Jesus.

Last year someone plucked it from the nativity scene in their front yard and spent eight months traveling the state, returning it complete with plenty of photos of where it had been.

"When we tell people about it, they just look at us and say, 'Wow, that

really happened?'" Joan Leising said. "Then, we show them the photo album."

The statue was taken Dec. 23, and a note — promising to return the baby Jesus in three days — was left in the statue's place.

Eight months later, Joan's husband, John Leising, opened the front door and found the statue on his porch, along with a photo album that showed

images of the figurine in front of highway signs in Binghamton, Rochester, Albany and Poughkeepsie.

It was photographed at the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, and posed on a bicycle, on a horse, in a car wearing a seat belt, in a chair next to a campfire and in someone's kitchen.

A note enclosed, signed "Creators of the baby Jesus chronicles," assured the family that

the prank was not intended to be "blasphemous or disrespectful."

The Leising's were glad to have their statue back, but remained confused as to why it was missing for so long since the statue-nappers promised it would be returned in three days.

"The real Jesus Christ would have forgiven them for that," John Leising said. "And we do, too."

HAWK

Continued from Page 5A

mice and beef heart, she would be taken to their veterinarian the day after Christmas.

On Dec. 26, the assist-

ant director called. Twenty pieces of shot were found in the muscles of the hawk's legs when X-rayed. The bird's not standing was due to soreness. Leaving the fragments in the bird, the vet felt removal of the shot could cause per-

manent damage. Over time, the raptor would be checked for lead poisoning, but had a chance of returning to the open

country of West Texas.

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♥ A Q 6
♦ K J 10 8
♠ 9 7 4 2
WEST
♦ A 5
♥ 8 4 2
♦ 7 6 3
♠ A K Q 10 6
EAST
♦ J 10 2
♥ 10 9 7 5 3
♦ 9 4 2
♠ 8 3
SOUTH
♦ K 9 8 7 6 3
♥ K J
♦ A Q 5
♠ J 5
The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ 2♦ 2♦ Pass
2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass
4♦
Opening lead — king of clubs.
The obligatory finesse is a play used by declarer to win a trick that he would otherwise surely lose. Because the play is not a favorite to succeed, it is used by declarer more out of desperation than by choice.
As an example, examine the North-South spade holding in this hand. The normal way for declarer to start playing this combination is to lead a low spade toward the queen in dummy. If the queen holds the trick (marking West with the ace), declarer next returns a spade from dummy and plays low after East produces the ten or jack, hoping West started with the doubleton ace.
Observe that it would be wrong for South to cover the jack or ten with the king because the king would lose to the ace and South would later have to lose another spade trick. This maneuver is the obligatory finesse, and when the cards are favorably placed for declarer, it gains him a trick.
Occasionally, the defense can invoke a countermeasure to the obligatory finesse, as in the present deal. South is declarer at four spades, and West cashes the K-A of clubs, then continues with the queen.
If South is allowed to go about his business unimpeded, he will, as we have seen, lose only one trump trick and so make the contract.
But if the defense functions perfectly, South can be defeated. When West leads the queen of clubs, East ruffs with the ten, even though it appears routine to discard on his partner's high club.
South is helpless against this defense. He is forced to overruff with the king — otherwise, he is down immediately — and lead a trump toward the queen.
This does him no good because West rises with the ace and returns the ten of clubs. Dummy has to follow suit, whereupon East once again trumps his partner's high club — this time with the jack — to secure a one-trick set.
Tomorrow: Better safe than sorry.
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News in brief

Search for missing climbers narrows to rough section

HOOD RIVER, Ore. (AP) — The search for two climbers still missing on Mount Hood narrowed Tuesday to a small rugged section of ridge and glacier on the dangerous north side, but searchers say it has had up to 10 feet of snow since the two men, and another found dead, were reported missing.

The body of Kelly James, 48, of Dallas, was removed by helicopter Monday from the 11,239-foot summit after rescue workers winched it up from a snow cave about 300 feet down the steep north side.

Hood River County Sheriff Joe Wampler said James had an "obvious" arm injury. Wampler said the other climbers had likely left their injured companion in the cave to find help, but had to dig a shallow cave of their own on a steep slope as the bad weather worsened.

Wampler said the search for Brian Hall, 47, also of Dallas, and Jerry "Nikko" Cooke, 36, of New York City will continue for now as a rescue effort, not a recovery operation. But more bad weather is expected at midweek and Wampler said the chances for survival are less if the two were without shelter.

Thousands without water in San Angelo

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A leak in San Angelo's water lines shut down restaurants, closed some elementary schools and forced some people from their homes in southwest portions of the West Texas city.

As many as 22,000 customers were without water or had intermittent service between Saturday afternoon and Monday night. The first problems were reported Friday and crews continued to work Monday night to fix breaks in the feeder line that supplies all of southwest San Angelo.

Breaks in the 27-inch diameter line poured 2 million to 3 million gallons of water per day into the Red Arroyo, Water Utilities Director Will Wilde said in a story in Tuesday's San Angelo Standard-Times.

Marina Torres had to flee her home through the back door after a water line break in front of her house broke out windows and sent water and rocks into her house and yard.

"I grabbed my purse and my Bible," she told the newspaper. "I don't have money. I don't have anything except the Lord."

City officials said water could be out to residences and businesses in one of the city's busiest districts until the end of the week.

A citywide boil order was in place. The outages also affected San Angelo Community Medical Center, the regional airport, nursing homes and apartment complexes. The hospital canceled elective surgery Monday but planned to return to its regular schedule Tuesday.

The city placed tanker trucks at fire stations in the affected areas.

Wilde said crews had been digging out portions of the line to determine the best place to install plugs and valves for work on another leak when the cast-iron pipe split.

"The soil was literally holding it together," he said.

Wilde said it will take three to five days to replace 400 to 500 feet of the line.

Texas A&M names fundraiser as interim president

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The Texas A&M System Board of Regents has picked Ed Davis, the university's chief fundraiser, to serve as the flagship institution's interim president.

Davis, who has been president of the

A&M Foundation since 1993, takes over on Tuesday in the position vacated by Robert Gates. Gates was sworn in Monday as the U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Davis said he expects his term, which could last up to nine months, to be focused on representing the university's interests in the Legislature and helping implement changes enacted by Gates.

Texas A&M System Chancellor Michael McKinney said he recommended Davis because of his extensive legislative experience and long history with Texas A&M.

He said the school is forming a search committee to seek a permanent president.

One dead, another injured in oil tank explosion

SPRINGTOWN (AP) — One teenager was killed and another was injured Monday when a crude oil storage tank exploded as the pair used a lit match to try to look into the tank, authorities said.

Parker County Fire Marshal Shawn Scott said the two were exploring around a pair of tanks when the explosion occurred after the lid was raised and the lit match ignited vapors in the tank. The resulting fire spread to about four acres and a second tank.

The explosion occurred late Monday afternoon. Fire in the tanks was being fed by gas flowing into the tanks. Crews were working to shut off the gas but the fire was expected to burn through the night, Scott said.

Parker County Judge Mark Riley said a shelter in place call went out for residents in about a two-mile area around the tanks. The warning was lifted a few hours later.

EnCana officials reported the tank that exploded held 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of crude oil. The tank that caught fire after the initial explosion did not have much oil in it, Scott said.

Houston-area serial rapist preys on male victims

HOUSTON (AP) — A serial rapist has stalked, robbed and sexually assaulted at least five men at gunpoint in the Houston area, police said Monday.

The victims, attacked between mid-September and Nov. 30, appear to have been chosen at random and attacked near or inside their homes, police said.

"I wish we had a link between the victims, because we might have a better chance of catching him," said Lt. Richard Whitaker of the Baytown Police Department, which has jurisdiction in two of the cases. "We don't have any affirmative links at all."

There may be even more victims, but they're reluctant to come forward because of their ages and "a pride thing" that makes men more reluctant to acknowledge being the victim of sex crimes, Whitaker said.

Investigators believe the same man committed each attack, and that rape appeared to be the motive even though some victims were robbed. Evidence is being tested against other DNA samples in an effort to identify the man, Whitaker said.

In some cases, the attacker approached his victim outside their home. Other times, as in the most recent case, he broke into the home to confront his victims.

"I think he just sees one that he prefers, and then he begins to follow them and gather information, finding out where they live and watching their house," Whitaker said.

Whitaker said the victim in the most recent attack was slightly injured during a struggle with his attacker that led to his escape.

Victims have described the attacker as a clean-shaven black man, 18-21 years old, between 5-foot-6-inches and 6-foot tall and with a shaved head.

Kidnappers in Mexico release Texan abducted in November

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico (AP) — A customs broker kidnapped from his hunting ranch near the U.S. border three weeks ago was released by his captors and is now home in Laredo, Texas, Mexican officials said Monday.

Librado Pina Jr., 49, crossed an international bridge into Laredo at 8 a.m. CST and was reportedly in good health, said Santos Vasquez, a prosecutor in the border state of Coahuila, where the kidnapping occurred. Vasquez did not comment on whether a ransom was paid for his release.

Vasquez also said there was no information on the ranch's Mexican cook, Marco Ortiz. Ortiz was kidnapped along with Pina, his son, and two other men.

Pina's son, 25-year-old Librado Pina III, was released Friday in Nuevo Laredo, which is across from Laredo.

Pina was on a hunting trip Nov. 26, with his son, David Mueller, 45, of the Sweetwater area, and Fidel Rodriguez, of Monterrey, Mexico, when 30 to 40

armed men entered the La Barranca ranch and abducted them.

Mueller and Rodriguez were released unharmed three days later.

The elder Pina owns the popular deer-hunting ranch near Hidalgo in Coahuila, about 40 miles northwest of Nuevo Laredo.

Mexican police said the assailants stole five all-terrain vehicles, two pickup trucks, furnishings, appliances and food and wine from the ranch.

Authorities investigating plane crash near high school

AUSTIN (AP) — A small propeller plane crashed near a high school Tuesday, killing one person on the plane and injuring another, emergency medical officials said.

The two-seat single-engine Cessna went down behind Connally High School near a football stadium in the Pflugerville Independent School District. The school, which was not in session, was not hit. The injured person was taken to a hospital, Hassinger said. Travis County sheriff's deputies got the call about the crash at 8:19 a.m. Some deputies already were in the area doing a search for homeless camps when the plane went down near them.

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Letters to Santa



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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 and be with their family! they deserve 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

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Sports

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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

Tuesday, December 19, 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.

Texas Rangers exam Eric Gagne

Reliever Eric Gagne had his physical exam with Texas Rangers medical officials Monday, the last step before finalizing a one-year contract the team planned to announce.

Texas Tech loses outdoor game

There's a reason basketball is an indoor sport. It's cold outside in mid-December, even in the desert, and it might rain. Just like it did Monday night when the Lady Red Raiders challenged the Lady Sun Devils.

Tenth-ranked Arizona State beat Texas Tech 61-45 when the second outdoor game in women's college basketball history was called on account of rain.

With 4:18 to play at Chase Field, home of baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks, the game ended prematurely due to Mother Nature.

Dallas Mavericks assign draft pick

The Dallas Mavericks assigned first-round draft pick Maurice Ager to their developmental league team Monday.

Ager, the 28th pick out of Michigan State, appeared to have a chance to get some playing time as a rookie, much the same way Josh Howard did three years ago when he was drafted in a similar situation and eventually became a starter in the rotation.

However, the former Baylor was squeezed out of the rotation in

Mavericks have now won 18 of last 21

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and 13 rebounds, Josh Howard scored 28 points and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Sacramento Kings 109-91 on Monday night for their fourth straight victory.

Jason Terry scored 22 points for the Mavericks, who have won 18 of 21 after starting the season 0-4. The defending Western Conference champions never trailed in their eighth win in 12 trips to Arco Arena, turning it into a blowout with a 16-4 rally in the fourth quarter.

Howard made nine of his first 10 shots — mostly against Ron Artest's defense — and finished two points shy of his career high. Nowitzki made his final five shots and scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to finish off the Kings, hitting a jumper with 5:24 left that put Dallas up by 20.

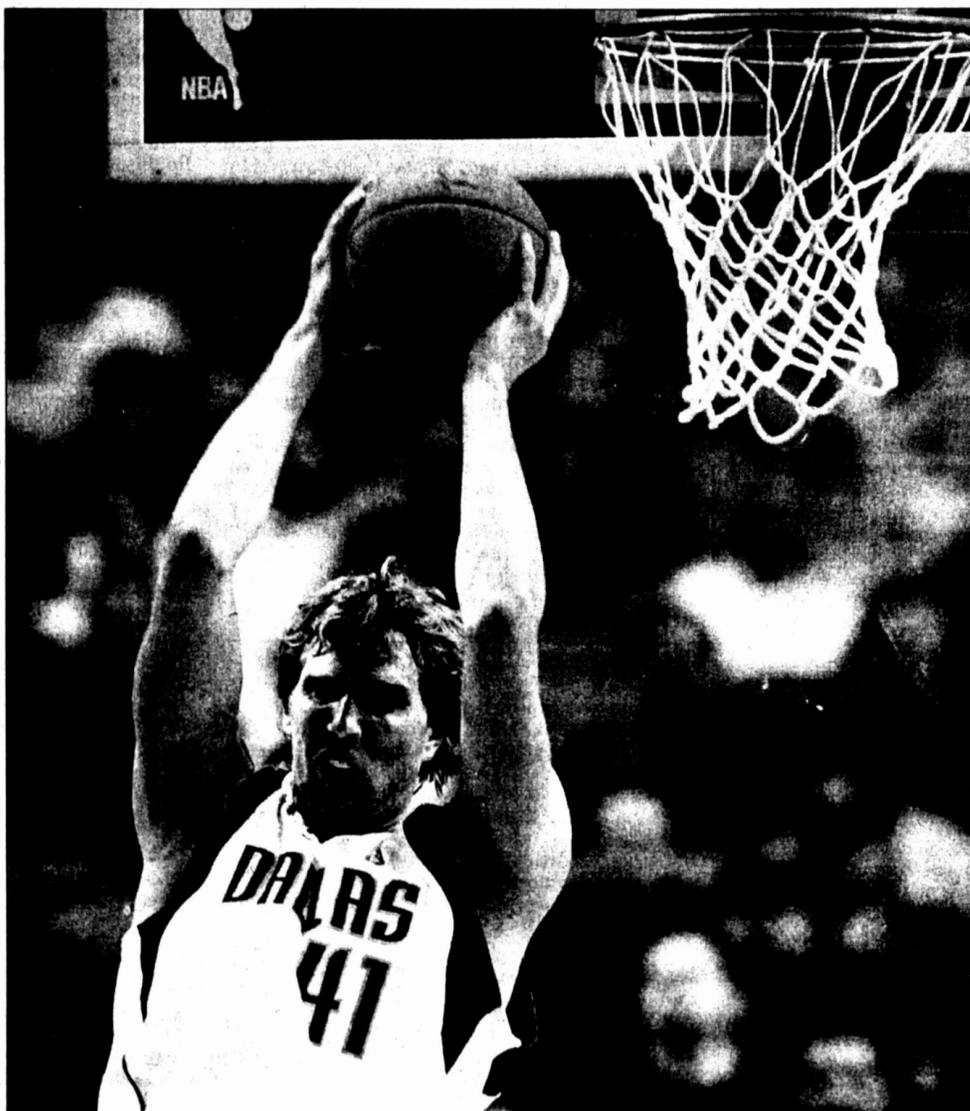
Brad Miller scored 19 points and Kenny Thomas had 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Kings, who have lost eight of 10 to fall three games below .500. Playing without injured scoring leader Kevin Martin, Sacramento lost for the sixth time in nine games in what was once the NBA's most intimidating arena for road teams.

The clubs once had one of the West's liveliest rivalries, but Dallas has dominated recently, including a 19-point victory in Texas on Dec. 1.

Martin, who averaged 21.3 points while starting each of the Kings' first 22 games, sprained his ankle in the third quarter of Saturday's loss to Phoenix. John Salmons struggled in Martin's spot in the starting lineup, while Artest finished with just 14 points in another poor shooting performance.

But the Kings didn't have a lineup that could contend with the Mavericks.

Dallas roared to a 17-point lead late in the first quarter by mak-



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) rebounds the ball and looks for an outlet pass. The Mavericks defeated the Sacramento Kings, 109-91 in Sacramento Monday night.

ing 14 of its first 18 shots, including 14 points from Howard, while holding Sacramento to 6 of 24 shooting.

Sacramento trimmed the lead to six points in the third quarter, but repeatedly failed to get closer despite a series of baskets from

Mike Bibby, who missed eight of his first nine shots. Bibby is hurting the Kings as he is struggling with his shot this season.

Manning leads Colts over the Bengals

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts' defense wanted to prove it was playoff-ready.

Monday night was a good start.

With a stronger defensive effort and Peyton Manning's four touchdown passes, the Colts broke out of a late-season funk with a 34-16 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

"You hear the stats and that stuff and we turned it around," defensive end Dwight Freeney said. "We heard everything, we were called every possible name and tonight we came out and got it done."

With three losses in four weeks and a defense that had been allowing nearly 176 yards rushing per game, many outsiders questioned whether these Colts (11-3) were ready to make a post-season run — or more likely headed toward another early exit.

The four-time AFC South champions provided a few answers Monday night as they pace with Baltimore for the AFC's No. 2 seed. San Diego has a one-game lead over the Colts and Ravens for the top spot.

Manning, the two-time MVP, looked like his old self. He carved up the league's worst pass defense, finishing 29-of-36 for 282 yards

and passing Vinny Testaverde for eighth on the career touchdown list with his final TD — No. 270 — late in the third quarter. He had a 136.3 quarterback rating.

Harrison, too, reverted to usual form by catching eight passes for 86 yards and three TDs, his most scores in a game since Thanksgiving Day 2004 at Detroit. Manning and Harrison now have 103 TDs, the most productive duo in league history.

Far more impressive, however, were the Colts' defensive accomplishments.

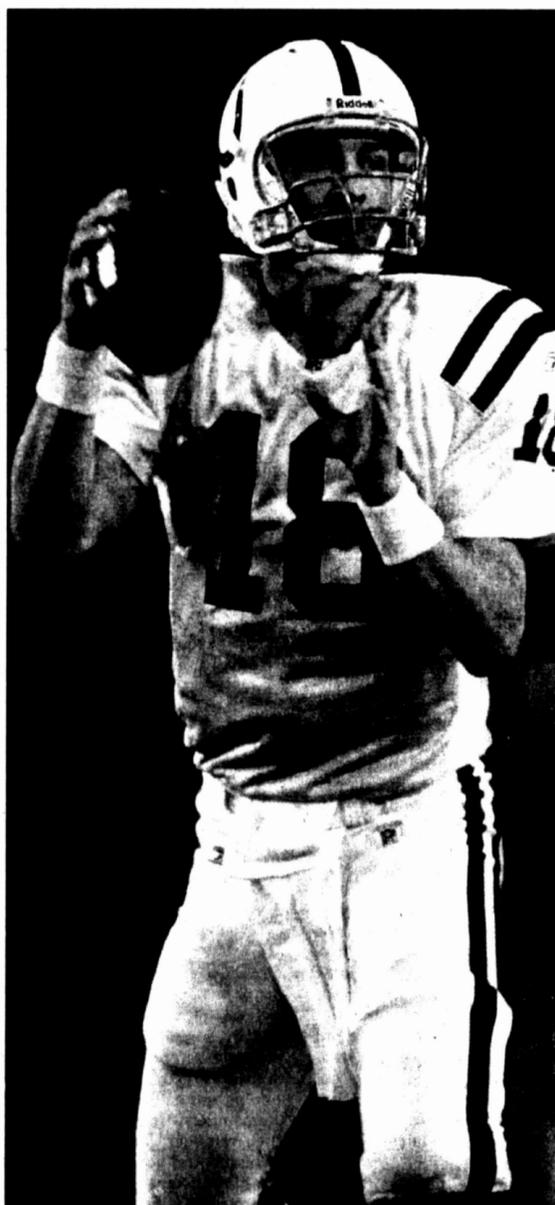
Seeing Indianapolis allow nearly 600 yards rushing in the past two games, including 375 to Jacksonville last week, the usually pass-happy Bengals (8-6) changed their philosophy.

Cincinnati ran 30 times for 133 yards, and threw only 14 times in the first three quarters.

The Colts shut down the Bengals with a unit that was missing its top four safeties and a new starter, Rob Morris, at outside linebacker.

"They played cover-2 the whole game, they gave us the run, but we didn't take advantage," Carson Palmer said.

When the Bengals did throw, Freeney was usually menacing Palmer. The three-time Pro Bowler finished with three sacks — more than he'd had all



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) looks for an open receiver. Manning led the Colts past the Cincinnati Bengals, 34-16 Monday night and threw four touchdown passes in the process.

National Buffoons Association

At a time of the year when children are being rewarded with presents for being good throughout the year, I find it appalling that the NBA commissioner was in a forgiving mood when he handed down suspensions and fines to the New York Knicks and Denver Nuggets for the brawl that took place over the weekend.



Sports writers across the country are writing that David Stern came down hard on both teams and their players after the basketball game turned into a scuffle in the final minutes at Madison Square Garden, but that's not the case here. Have we not seen all of this before?

Did the Indiana Pacers not go into the stands during a game in Detroit to take a few round-house swings at an idiot fan a couple of years ago?

Did the Houston Rockets former coach-player, Rudy Tomjanovich, not have his playing career end prematurely by a devastating punch on the basketball court?

See NBA, Page 2B

See COLTS, Page 2B

Four-interception day hurts Carr

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — David Carr has had plenty of bad days in his five seasons with the Houston Texans, but what happened in an embarrassing loss to New England has left him at the lowest point in his career.

Carr threw a career-high four interceptions in the 40-7 loss to the Patriots, which again raises questions about whether he can lead Houston to respectability.

"This is as hard as anything I've gone through playing football," he said Monday. "I've never had to work so hard to achieve so little. You wish you had the answers, and if I did I would just go out there and find a way to win."

Carr was 16-of-28 for 127 yards and was sacked four times Sunday. He has 11 interceptions and 10 touchdowns with two games left and could finish with more intercep-

tions for the first time since 2003.

Coach Gary Kubiak said Carr did not play well against New England but cautioned against faulting him entirely for the loss.

"There's plenty of blame to go around," Kubiak said. "The quarterback gets a lot of credit and gets a lot of blame, but we had plenty mistakes in a lot of areas."

Carr said his mistakes came because he was trying to do too much. While he is upset and frustrated, he said Sunday's outing has not shaken his confidence.

"I will never lose my confidence in what I can do," he said. "I still know what I'm capable of doing with the football in my hand."

Carr said he isn't worried about his position with the team despite the restlessness of fans who believe he is no longer what is best for the Texans. Houston had a two-year option on Carr's contract before the season

but decided on a three-year extension.

Kubiak wouldn't discuss Carr's future Monday.

"I'm not going to put all the stock in one football game," Kubiak said. "We've got to evaluate a lot of football games, a lot of situations and that's with every player, not just David."

Receiver Andre Johnson said Carr's teammates won't lose confidence in him and said it was unfair for the quarterback to take the brunt of criticism that should be aimed at the entire offense.

"I'm behind him," Johnson said. "I'm pretty sure everyone else on this team is going to rally behind him. He's our quarterback. We have to go out on the field and play with him. The people in the stands don't."

Johnson leads the NFL in receptions with 97, but his production has dropped because of Carr's recent problems.

NBA

Continued from 1B

The NBA suspended its up and rising star Carmelo Anthony for 15 games and six other athletes were penalized for their participation in the mayhem. Both the Knicks and Nuggets basketball franchises were suspended \$500,000 for the actions of their buffoons.

Nuggets players Nate Robinson and J.R. Smith were sent home for 10 games, New York's Mardy Collins was shelved for six games and teammate Jared Jeffries was suspended for all of 96 hours.

I know that each player will lose game checks the likes of which most of us will never see, but that is nothing more than a second home and a mid-season vacation for today's athlete.

What would the Big Spring Herald do if I got checkmated by my news editor and decided to send him to the mezzanine in the final minutes

of today's deadline?

What would the Big Spring Independent School District have done if Steers football coach, Tim Holt, would have chased down the referees in the overtime loss to Hereford and given them a little right hook for the pass interference calls that were conjured up in Lubbock?

We would be facing assault charges and out of work — that's what.

Not a suspension without pay and not a place to come back to work in 2007.

As a society, athletes have always been given special operandi off the field of competition and I don't see that ever changing, but there comes a time when the message of respecting your opponent and protecting the integrity of the game must be delivered.

"I am going to start holding our teams accountable for the actions of their players and other employees," Stern told the Associated Press this week. "What I'm saying is if you con-

tinue to employ employees who engage in these actions, your organization is going to have to pay a price even beyond the suspensions that are involved here."

That is not the message that was sent here.

The punishments delivered in this case, as it so often happens when it comes to a professional sports league, do not fit the crime and a crime is exactly what was committed on the floor of the Garden.

The guilty parties were not good little boys that should be let off the hook. They are multi-millionaires who should be sent home — without pay — for no less than 30 days. And in the case of the young, free swinging Anthony, he should be gift-wrapped and left under the tree until next season.

Contact Sports Editor Mike Grimes by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

COLTS

Continued from 1B

season (2 1/2) — and forced three fumbles.

It was that kind of night.

Palmer completed 14 of 28 passes for 176 yards with no touchdowns, was sacked four times and managed only one touchdown drive — a 25-yarder after Cincinnati recovered a fumbled punt.

"I played terrible, I missed too many balls," Palmer said. "I didn't think it was dropped pass-

es, it was bad passes, bad throws."

The game was expected to be a shootout, like Indianapolis' 45-37 victory last season.

Instead, the Colts' defense made sure it wasn't.

On the game's fifth play, a scrambling Palmer ran right into Freeney and lost the ball. Anthony McFarland recovered at

the Bengals 46, and Cincinnati struggled the rest of the night.

"Yeah, that kind of set the tone," Freeney said.

Indianapolis settled for a short field goal by Adam Vinatieri, and Manning got the Colts' high-scoring offense moving in the second quarter. Using a flurry of short passes and productive runs to move to the Bengals 4, Manning

threw a nifty TD pass to Harrison between two defenders.

From that point, Manning was masterful.

He nearly burned up the final 7 minutes of the half before finding Harrison on a 3-yard TD pass to make it 17-10 at the break.

Shayne Graham's second field goal got Cincinnati within 17-13, but Joseph Addai's 41-

yard run on the ensuing series set up Manning and Harrison again for a 1-yard TD and a 24-13 lead.

The next time Indy got the ball, Manning hit Reggie Wayne for an 18-yard score, and it was game over.

"We've been very successful for the past month. Then, of all the games to not be success-

ful, this was it," said the Bengals' Chad Johnson, who had three catches for 37 yards. "It was just one of those games, you know."

Cincinnati's loss dropped it into a tie with Denver, Jacksonville and the New York Jets in the hunt for the AFC's two wild-card spots.

But it was just what the Colts' defense needed.



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Bedtime Stories

SANTA'S ELVES AND THEIR BIG HELPER

Here it is Christmas time again and Santa and his elves are working very hard, making all the toys for every little boy and girl who have been good all year. Have you been good all year? Did you give your family lots of hugs? Did you tell them you love them every day? Did you tell them you will always love them? You did? Good! I'll bet the little elves are making a special toy just for you right now.

This story is about elves and Santa. When you think of elves, you always think of little people, don't you? The elf we are going to read about this time is not a little elf, but a great big elf. He is even bigger than you or me.

The story was told to me by my Grandfather, so I do believe it is true. He said that his Grandfather told it to him when he was just a little boy. It started off as a sad story, but this is Christmas time and it is the time of the year when everyone should be very happy. It is the time to give a gift of love. Do you know what a gift of love might be? When you are finished with this story, think of your mummy or daddy and what would make them very happy. A great big hug is a gift of love.

Telling them you love them is a gift of love. Why don't you give them both of those gifts right now. I'll bet they smiled, didn't they?

Back to the story. The big elf was called McDermitt. Santa really loved him. The other elves would soon love him, too. McDermitt was so big that he could not fit into the toys that the other elves were making for all the good little boys and girls. And, someone had to get inside the toys to nail them together and paint them. McDermitt was just too big to fit anywhere.

The other elves even laughed at him when he tried to squeeze through the tiny doors of the dollhouse they were making for a pretty little girl that lives near you. McDermitt could get his big hand in the door, but not his head and he could not see what he was painting. He got paint all over the windows. The other elves laughed. Santa did not laugh. Santa is too kind to ever laugh at anyone. So was McDermitt. Poor McDermitt! He told Santa that he was going to quit his job because he was of no use to anyone and those toys had to be perfect for all

the children. Santa asked him to please stay. They would find something he could do.

That something was coming very soon! It was the very night before Christmas. Santa was getting excited. Rudolph was getting excited. Remember when all of the other reindeer laughed at Rudolph? And now, they love him because he saved Christmas so long ago. Now it's McDermitt's time to save Christmas. All of the little elves were getting excited, too.

McDermitt was even more excited than anyone even though he could not help in making the toys. He was excited because he knew that so many good little

could not load the dollhouse onto the sleigh. That poor little girl would be so sad when she woke up Christmas morning and there was no dollhouse under her tree. What could they do? What would they do? Will Santa be mad? No, Santa never gets mad!

All of the little elves ran up to Santa's house to tell him about the dollhouse. Santa was drinking a cup of hot chocolate as they knocked on his door. He slowly put the cup of hot chocolate on his coffee table, and went to answer his door. He was smiling because he already knew what was happening. Santa knows and sees everything. "Santa, Santa," cried the head of all the elves, "We have made the good little girl's dollhouse so big that we can't lift it to load it on your sleigh. That little girl has been so good this year, and she wants the dollhouse so much. We can't let her down. What can we do?"

Santa smiled even more and said to the head elf, "You have the answer right in front of you. Did you ask McDermitt to help? Maybe if you ask him very nicely and then tell him you are sorry that you laughed at him. Then maybe, just maybe, he will help." "Of course, of

course," said the head elf. "We never meant to be mean we laughed at him, we thought he would laugh, too."

The tiny elves ran back to Santa's workshop to tell McDermitt they were sorry and ask for his help. When he opened the door to the workshop, they saw something that was amazing. There was the big dollhouse already loaded on Santa's sleigh and McDermitt had already loaded all of the toys for all the good little girls and boys all over the world.

This story will end like Rudolph's. From that Christmas on to this day, every year, McDermitt had a very important job to do. He saved Christmas each year. The little elves smile even more. Even Rudolph and Santa smile more. And as for McDermitt, well, you know he is smiling. And, he wants very much to tell you, "Good Night!"



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Wacky Facts

■ One pig can create thousands of pounds of waste in a year. Hauling away the smelly sludge from pig farms takes time and money. North Carolina has more than 6,000 waste ponds, or lagoons. Using poplar trees may help manage this waste. One acre of these trees absorbs gallons of waste per day! — World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch — we are going back from whence we came."
— President John F. Kennedy, on brainyquote.com. Kennedy is shown with his son, John Jr., on the beach at Newport, R.I. on Sept. 12, 1963.

CLOTHES CONSCIENCE

Make a statement by purchasing from fair trade-minded companies

Who made the shirt you're wearing? Where do the people who made your shirt work, how much are they paid, and what happens to them when they get sick?

Most Americans prefer not to ask these questions. Most who shop at large retailers, whether they shop for price or style, know they probably wouldn't like the answers. Sweatshops are no secret in the fashion industry, but alternatives to them sometimes seem hidden.

"These non-sweatshop clothes aren't in the mainstream," said Mike Wright, a senior at Palo Alto High School in Palo Alto, Calif. "You don't go to Mervyn's and see a non-sweatshop shoe on the rack — you'd have to go to a whole 'nother store."

But it's easier than people think to take a stand against sweatshops by buying "fair trade" clothes. All it takes is a little research, maybe a few clicks of a mouse. And, usually, the cost is just a couple of dollars more than you'd spend at the mall.

At its core, the fair-trade movement is a reaction to the exploitation of workers. (Exploitation: to make a profit from the labor of others without giving a just return.)

As manufacturing spreads to the poorer areas of the world, some manufacturers take advantage of workers' willingness to work for low wages. The pay is lower than what is acceptable — or legal — here in the United States.



Stephanie Dianu/Chicago Tribune
Irina Hernandez inspects clothing at the American Apparel factory in Los Angeles.

Some fair-trade companies fight this exploitation by producing products in the United States, as in the case of American Apparel. Others make sure their foreign factories have high standards in the treatment and compensation of workers. And some companies go a step further by creating eco-friendly products using organic and recycled materials.

For some companies, like American Apparel, fair trade is simply sound business.

"It makes good sense to treat your workers well," said Cynthia Semon, communications director at American Apparel, which manufactures its products in Los Angeles. According to Semon, the company considers paying high wages and providing workers with good benefits "part of the company's philosophy and culture."

No Sweat Apparel, another fair-trade company, manufactures its products in union shops inside and outside the United States. A labor union unites workers for the purpose of serving their interests with respect to wages and working conditions. No Sweat Apparel CEO Adam Neiman said he hopes his company's business model will spread.

"We want to offer not just a solution for a small number of guilt-ridden consumers, but something the rest of the industry could adopt," Neiman said. No Sweat uses union factories in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but also in other countries, including El Salvador, Indonesia, Nicaragua and South Africa.

Both American Apparel and No Sweat specialize in clothes kids and teens often wear: T-shirts, sweatshirts and more. The clothes also are easy to find, thanks to the Internet. But they do come with a higher price than your local discount store because paying workers a fair wage does make manufacturing more costly.

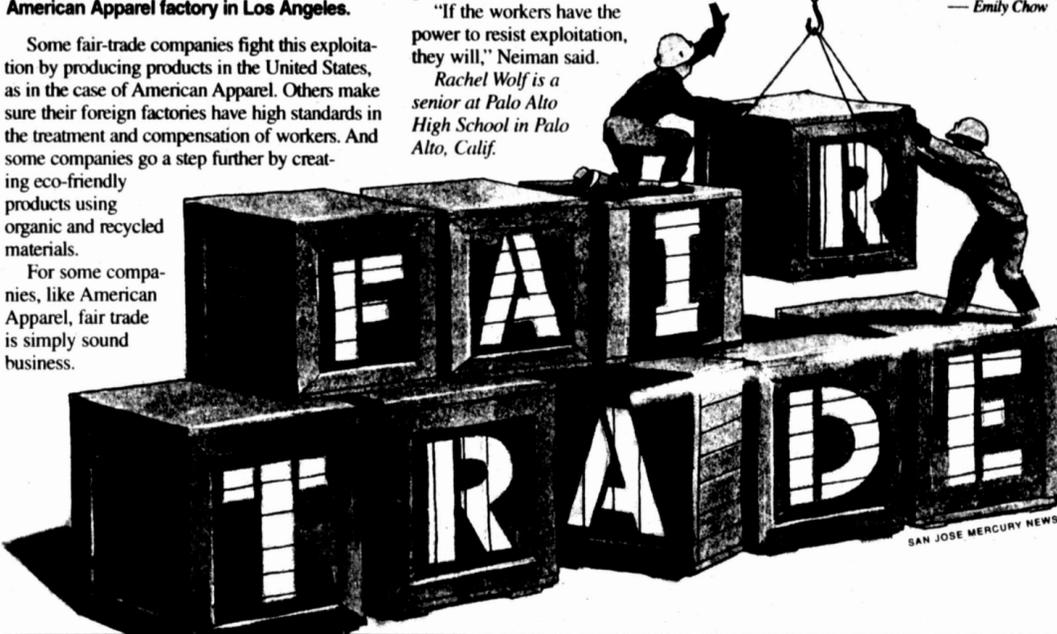
"Our products will never be as cheap as Target's or Wal-Mart's," Neiman said. But buying fair trade can help you make a difference. You buy from companies that treat their workers well; these workers are able to enjoy a better life because of higher wages and greater benefits.

"If the workers have the power to resist exploitation, they will," Neiman said.

Rachel Wolf is a senior at Palo Alto High School in Palo Alto, Calif.



nosweatapparel.com
The Solidarity Tee, \$14, available at www.nosweatapparel.com



REDUCE WASTE WITH YOUR WARDROBE

With a little effort, you and your wardrobe can help conserve energy, ease the demand for sweatshop labor and even save money. The key is to make what you already have last a little longer and buy less in the future. Here's how you can start:

■ **Fix stuff.** Whether it be a purse or a T-shirt, spending a little extra time to sew up those holes will allow your favorite clothing and accessories to last a little longer. If they are beyond repair, recycle the material for something else.

■ **Take care of your clothes.** Wash and dry your clothes according to the directions on the tags. Fold clothes neatly or hang them up nicely. These simple steps will help your clothes last longer.

■ **Keep it simple.** Try not to be tempted by those "10 T-shirts for \$20" deals. Does one person need one style of shirt in every color available? By buying less, you help ease demand.

■ **Buy second-hand stuff.** Flea markets and thrift shops are great places to find vintage, inexpensive clothes. It takes a little patience to go through all the piles and racks to find the perfect top, but it's worth it. The best part: No one else will look like you.

— Emily Chow

In The News



COURTESY OF FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND SEABORN PROJECTS INC.
Corals are animals, and their skeletons create reefs, the largest structures made by living organisms.

Plan brings hope to an ailing coral reef

Beneath the ocean's surface, a vibrant world encircles the globe. Striped and spotted fish swim through brightly colored formations called coral reefs. "It's just a riot of movement and color," Rod Salm, a marine ecologist with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), told Time For Kids.

But time is running out for these underwater treasures. This fall, at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) coral-reef meeting, researchers warned that 60 percent of the world's coral could die within the next 25 years. About 27 percent of the living underwater cities have already been lost.

Though some coral formations resemble lifeless stone, coral is made up of tiny animals called coral polyps. They grow and divide to build coral colonies. When corals die, their skeletons are left behind. New corals grow on top, forming elaborate reefs. The complex reef ecosystem covers less than 1 percent of the ocean floor, yet supports about 25 percent of all marine life.

The destruction of coral reefs puts many species at risk of extinction. Some researchers say that at least 1 million species of plants and animals live in the world's reefs.

REEFS IN HOT WATER

What is killing these coral communities? Irresponsible fishing practices and pollution have taken a toll. Local governments have created protected marine areas to help manage these problems. But rising ocean temperatures are harder to address.

Water that is warmer than normal can cause deadly coral bleaching. Coral contains tiny algae, which are plant-like organisms. They give coral its vibrant color. Coral uses the algae to create food and grow. At high temperatures, corals get stressed and release the algae. Without the algae, coral loses its color and starves. The weakened coral becomes more sensitive to sunlight and disease.

WORKING A CORAL COMEBACK

TNC scientist Salm has been observing bleaching events for more than 20 years. He noticed that within bleached reefs, healthy patches of coral remained. Salm's observations led to a new conservation strategy: focus on saving reefs that have resilient coral. Corals that are resilient are able to absorb shocks and bounce back. Some coral species have genetic features that help them survive.

Scientists are working to identify these factors. In addition, some reefs are better positioned for survival. Salm has identified several environmental factors that help coral resist bleaching events. For example, reefs are better off if they are washed by currents that cool temperatures by mixing deep, cold water with warmer surface water. A reef's ability to recover is also helped by the diversity of its species of coral and fish.

"We need to work with nature to create conditions that enhance recovery," Salm says. The situation, says NOAA's Mark Eakin, "is far from hopeless."

— Kathryn Satterfield

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Breaking bad habits

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I'm a pack rat! I can't get rid of anything. I have stuffed animals from when I was born. There are 2 million things under my bed! Can you help me?

— Super Saver

■ It's fun to save a few things from when you were little, but you can't keep everything. Divide your stuff into a "keep" pile, a "maybe" pile, and a "donate or toss" pile. Put the "maybe" pile into a box, close it, and put it out of sight. A month later, if you can think of anything you still want that you put in there — without looking in the box! — take it out and save it. Ask Mom to look through the rest and to donate what you don't need. You won't even miss it!

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I always lose library books and have to pay for them! I can't stop going to the library, because I have to do reports and school projects.

— Not a Book Crook

■ Next time you go to the library, take a tote bag. Put your books in the tote bag and keep the books and the bag together at all times. Pick a place in your room to keep the tote bag and resist the urge to take the books to school or to someone else's house. When you need to return the books, you just need to find the tote bag! Visit americangirl.com to get or give advice.

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Hats off to a new year

These chocolate-covered cones are a stylish addition to a New Year's celebration, serving as both festive decorations and a sweet topping for a scoop of ice cream.

To make a batch, spread melted chocolate chips (one 12-ounce bag covers 10 to 12 cones) over each sugar cone with a small spatula. Let the chocolate harden for about one hour (or 20 minutes in the refrigerator). For chinstraps, use icing to attach the ends of a fruit strip or a length of shoestring licorice (we used Kellogg's Fruit Streamers) to the inside of each cone. Use icing to decorate the hats and attach nonpareils.

— FamilyFun magazine



CLASSIFIEDS

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Business Opportunity

A COKE/ M&M ROUTE
Great Locations. Earn BIG
\$\$ \$0 down financing.
800-367-2106 (24/7) x:####

ABSOLUTE GOLD MINE!
Newest avail! \$0 Down wac.
M&M's/Hershey's/Frito-Lay
Route in Big Spring.
Huge Cash Profits. Work
8 hrs/wkly, Net \$35K
Free Info 800-761-4611

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

Educational

SOUTHEASTERN CAREER INSTITUTE
Midland Campus
Act now for career training from Southeastern Career Institute - Midland.
Train in Computer Business Systems, Dental Assistant or Medical Assistant.
1-800-497-1557
www.scinow6.com
4320 W. Illinois Avenue, Suite A, Midland, TX 79703

Help Wanted

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

FULL TIME Recovery Driver needed, CDL required, willing to train. Pat Gray Towing and Recovery. Call (432)263-0582.

Help Wanted

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

BOOKKEEPER/ TAX PREPARER needed for local accounting firm. Computer and tax experience skills a necessity. Apply in person at 307-C West 16th, Big Spring.

LOOKING FOR a person to work in an Office. Receptionist with account's & receivable experience. Hours 8:00am-5:00pm with 1 hour for lunch. Monday-Friday. Salary Based on Experience. Applying at 210 South Lancaster also bring references.

Help Wanted

City Government Career Opportunities
City Attorney DOE
Police Officer Certified \$14.40
Police Officer Non-Certified \$14.40
Utility Service Worker \$9.94
Contact:
Human Resources
City of Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-2346
Fax: 432-264-2387
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

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.

Help Wanted

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

EZ PAWN now Hiring 2 full-time SLR's. Need to have High School/GED, pass background, drug test. Come in for application, 1010 Gregg.

HIRING IMMEDIATELY for Night Watchman. Must have a clean background check, reliable transportation, and a valid driver's license. Retirees welcome to apply. Call 325-320-4461, 970-352-7248.

Help Wanted

FULL TIME Delivery Driver position available. Must have good driving record, excellent communications skills, be able to lift 50 lbs. High school graduate or equivalent. Must be able to pass drug screen & background check. Apply in person, 501 E. Birdwell Lane, Suite 14, ColorTyme of Big Spring. No Phone Calls Please!

KELLY SERVICES HIRING EVENT
Tuesday, December 19, 2006
Workforce Network
310 Owens
Big Spring, Texas
10:00-3:00 PM
Immediate openings for the following:
Baggers
Forklift Drivers
Warehouse Personnel
Production Workers
Work is located in Big Spring area.
Call Kelly Services @ 432-6898-9801 for information
Equal Opportunity Employer
"Never a Fee"

Corner of Birdwell & FM 700

Jimmy Hopper Auto Sales

Financing Available 267-5588
In House Financing w/Approved Credit Easy Low Down Payment







BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract:\$1.58 Per Day
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!





<p>AUTO CARE</p> <p>G & M Auto Care Locally Owned & Operated Service 1972 263-1091 George & Mary 900 a 3rd St. Big Spring</p>	<p>AUTO PARTS</p> <p>WESTEX Since 1947 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles 20,000 sq ft of Warehouse storage Specialize in late model quality auto parts Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 Wkday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT 1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000</p>	<p>BOOKS</p> <p>Now At SEEING CITY AUCTION 501 Birdwell Lane College Park Shopping Center Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30</p>	<p>CARPET</p> <p>Teal Carpets * Ceramic Tile * Laminate * Wood * Vinyl * Carpet We carry all your carpet supplies 2810 E. FM 700 • 268-0008</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES Chico and Sons Concrete (432) 466-0573 (432) 816-6561 621 Sgt. Paredes Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>J. T. Builders Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick & Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco Swimming Pool Decks JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ (432) 213-0882 Cell (432) 263-2110 Res.</p>
<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>All Types Concrete Work Block & Brick Repair Trenching & Tractor Service Campbell Concrete Contractors Call Tommy Campbell Contractor (432) 466-0623 2006 Runnels (432) 935-3644 Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-267-3349</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>CHAINLINK METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 • 1-800-528-1389 1006 Lamesa Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p>FIREWOOD</p> <p>Mixed Firewood \$125⁰⁰ Cord Delivered & Stacked Also Sell Mesquite Call (432) 238-6770 or 570-9617</p>	<p>HEATING & AC</p> <p>JOHNSON AC, HEATING & SHEET METAL • Servicing all heaters central & wall • Duct work - all sheet metal work • Registers & Grills We Carry All Heating Parts & Filters, Belts 1408 E. 4th 263-2980</p>
<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Day & Day Builders Custom Building • Remodeling • Roofing Tile • Garage Doors • Cabinets Vinyl Siding D. W. Day (432) 457-2289 Call (432) 270-8783 Dennis Day (432) 816-5080 Box 266 108 West 7th Forsan, TX 79733</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance 7 Day Emergency Service Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Russ Crain (owner) 432-270-2585</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>R S HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances installed 816-3030</p>	<p>JANITORIAL</p> <p>BREATHE-EZ CLEANING SERVICE Chimneys, Maid Service, Home & Office, Carpets, Air Ducts & Much More 432-353-4849</p>
<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>FALL CLEANUP Alleys • Tree Trimming Light Hauling • Odd Jobs CALL 267-5460 CELL 816-6150 Danny Scoggin</p>	<p>NAIL SALON</p> <p>Pro Spa Nail Salon Pedicure: \$21.99 Manicure: \$11.99 Full Set: \$20.00 & up Refill: \$13.99 & up SPECIAL Solar Nails: \$29.00 111 E. Marcy Dr. Ste 110 (432) 263-6245</p>	<p>PEST CONTROL</p> <p>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swa1pc.com mm@swa1pc.com</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>ADVANCE PLUMBING Drain Cleaning Gas Line Water Leaks Fixtures • Licensed • Bonded • Insured M-37359 263-4973 or 517-8751</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings For rent/sale 610 E. 12th 1003, 1011 E. 11th 204 11th Place 1402 Main</p>	<p>REPAIRS</p> <p>Sewing Machine Guy Steve REPAIR AND SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS (432) 935-6380 All Work Guaranteed</p>
<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-5430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p>	<p>STORAGE</p> <p>AAA Mini-Storage 1/2 Off First Month Merry Christmas & Happy New Year No Deposit Now Accepting Visa & Mastercard 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732</p>	<p>WELDING</p> <p>Bar-B-Q Pits Ornamental Iron Work Car Ports • Fences Gates • Handrails Portable Welding V.H. Morris Welding Service 2300 S. Williams Rd. Big Spring, TX 79720 432-263-6908 270-5109</p>	<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>Rose of Sharon Wood Blinds • Custom Blinds • Shutters • Arches View online www.rosblinds.com Ricardo Parra 432-689-9850 - Office 432-878-6677 - Cell</p>

Big Spring Herald
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Help Wanted

Maintenance Positions Available
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers in Big Spring, Snyder, Stanton, Midland and Odessa. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

MATURE CHRISTIAN adult to work in a private Christian Preschool. Experience preferred. Part time or full time available. Apply in person, 118 Cedar Rd.

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

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

CARY Heating & Air Conditioning SERVICES
A Building Automation

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

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



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

Help Wanted

NIGHT-FREIGHT DELIVERY DRIVER
Fortune 500 company has driver position available part time or possible full time. Must have Class A/CDL. Travel within 250 miles radius and weekends. Excellent pay. Fax resume to Kassie at (972)289-8741 or call (972)288-7614 for more details.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711



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

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

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

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT. www.WorkNowNotLater.com
VAN DRIVER. Apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

Help Wanted

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

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775 USWA Ref#6901.

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

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS

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

TEAM CO2 is a small but growing local oilfield service company. We need help with driving near Goldsmith, TX. CDL with Hazmat and Tanker endorsement required. Salary DOE. Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance. Please call Joe at 432-770-1994 or 432-682-7581 for more information.

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

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

VETERINARY ASSISTANT
Position: We are looking for an outgoing, friendly, reliable, person with experience and love for animals. Must be people and pet oriented. Experience with computers a must. Serious inquiries only. Fax resume to 432-267-8292.
NIGHT OWLS - child care position 5:30 p.m.-midnight. Apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

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

WIS INTERNATIONAL is now hiring for Inventory Clerks. Starting pay \$7.00/hr. up to \$9.00/hr. for Crew Managers and up to \$11.00/hr. for Team Leader. No experience required for inventory clerks. Must have some management experience for Crew Manager or Team Leader. All who are interested please call Natasha, @ (806)543-1778 or (806)793-2598.

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Puzzles by Pappoosm
ANSWERS

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Instructional

SOUTHEASTERN CAREER INSTITUTE
Midland Campus
Act now for career training from Southeastern Career Institute - Midland. Train in Computer Business Systems, Dental Assistant or Medical Assistant. 1-800-497-1557 www.scinow6.com 4320 W. Illinois Avenue, Suite A, Midland, TX 79703

Items for Sale

DEMO- 5 to 6 person Hot-Tub \$79.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

EXTRA LARGE 30" Whirlpool self cleaning oven. Used sparingly for 3 years. Like New. \$350.00. Call (432)263-8618 or 270-8702.

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

SPECIAL PURCHASE - 12x24 Barn \$99.00 a month. Delivery/Financing available. 432-563-3108.

SPECIAL REDUCTION - 8x8 and 8x10 Display/ Demo Buildings. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

Lost and Found

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

LOST IN vicinity of Highland area. Female black & white cat. Call (432)268-1065.

LOST LAST year in December. Gold Christmas tree pin with crystals, "A Keepsake". Please call (432)267-8990. Reward!

REWARD!! LOST: 2 female chocolate labs; in the area of FM 461 & 87. Orange collar on larger dog & bright striped collar on smaller dog. Please call (432)457-0164 if you have any info. Thanks!

Miscellaneous

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

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

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call --Griehams (432)267-8191.

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

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

JUNQUE MART
Thrift Store
600 Lamesa (432)264-0542 Mon-Sat. 10:00-5:00
Looking for a unique inexpensive gift? Come see our brand new just arrived items.

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

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

MOVING!!! 2 Twin beds, dresser & mirror \$350 couch/sofa set with 2 cherry end tables, 1 trundle and 2 mattresses \$300. Call (432)599-9637.

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

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

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

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

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

Miscellaneous

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

WHY PAY Rent? 10x16 storage buildings. \$59.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

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

Pets

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

JACK RUSSELL Terrier Puppies, \$100.00 each. Call (432)354-2334 leave message or (432)270-0737.

Real Estate for Rent

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

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

446 ARMSTRONG. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$435. month, \$200. deposit. 1204 Lamar. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$365. month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1220 EAST 16th- 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A. \$575. Month, \$325. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

1509 SUNSET. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, CH/A, wood floors. \$430.00 Month, \$295.00 deposit. References required. Call 432-263-8005 or 816-1330.

1524 EAST 17th. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, garage, fenced backyard. \$400. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)213-3864.

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

2603 LYNN (Kentwood) 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, \$675. month, \$600. deposit. Ready to move in now. No pets please. Call (432)264-6160.

502-1/2 GOLIAD 1 BR, furnished. (432)267-7380.

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

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

FOR LEASE 207 North Gregg, 40x100 Building with offices. \$600.00 Month plus deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 40x120 Building with 2 offices, 4 over head doors on 2 acres, fenced land. 1514 Hwy. 30. \$750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

FOR RENT To Own. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Forgan School District, 209 W. 7th St., Forgan. \$450. Down payment negotiable. Call (432)816-1671.

FOR RENT, Coahoma 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. Call (423)816-1671.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

Real Estate for Rent

ONE BEDROOM trailer furnished or unfurnished, single or married couple preferred, fenced yard, washer & dryer connections, no pets. Call (432)267-3826 or 466-3335.

VERY NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home for rent. Many recent upgrades with central AC and Heat. \$550 plus deposit. Call Yolanda at 432-267-2771.

Real Estate for Sale

HOME REALTORS 110 W. Marcy 263-1284 263-4663
707 Baylor
BEAUTIFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION
Custom built 3 bedroom, 2 bath featuring Austin Stone exterior, gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, electric range with built-in microwave, dishwasher and disposal, living area has tall ceilings, fabulous stone fireplace and crown molding. Master bedroom has tray ceiling, master bath has dual sinks and his and her closets. Wood fence and 2 car garage.
Call Jeannie Rutledge 270-1478

1518 VINES. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas. Owner finance available. Call for information, Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty (432)213-2842.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

3-2 IN Kentwood, open floor plan, WB fireplace, central heat/ref. air, range, refrigerator, washer, dryer and deep freeze stay, covered patio, 2 car carport. \$69,900. Linda Leonard @ Home Realtors 432-263-1284.

3/2 PLUS Office and laundry room in Ackerly. 4 acres, large workshop, livestock barn and corral, 2 car garage, well water. By appt. only. No owner finance. (432)353-4731.

ABSOLUTELY DARLING 1211 Lloyd, \$44,900.00 OBO. Owner Financing Available. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully decorated. Just waiting for the right family. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

CUTE LITTLE Cottage w/backyard playhouse. \$39,900 OBO. 1108 Mulberry. Owner Finance Available. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

FOR SALE: Car lot with nice office & storage building. Fenced for locking at night. Paved Lot will hold 20 plus cars. Property on E. 4th Good Location. Price - \$32,000.00 Call for address or to see inside office 432-213-0533

OWNER FINANCE 2503 Central Drive, Big Spring. Newly Remodeled. \$3,950.00 Down, flexible terms. Must Sell. Call 866-999-8499.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A, 1224 sq. ft. Close to Goliad school. Nice covered patio and yard. \$46,500. Call (432)264-8983, (432)263-0118.

Vehicles
(2) New 2005
7 Passenger Vans
\$9,500 Off!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7121

2003 HONDA Shadow 750cc. Great condition. \$4,500. firm. 1993 Kawasaki jetski 750cc, two seat, needs some work. \$2,000 firm. Call after 4:30 (432)263-6827

JUST IN time for Christmas! 1980 Honda 250. New engine. Red. Ready to go! \$800. Call (432)263-4080.

CORNELL COMPANIES, INC. in Big Spring, Texas is currently seeking full-time Correctional Officers \$14.99 per hour
Big Spring Correctional Center offers great opportunities for career advancement and is seeking qualified applicants with determination, commitment, and the desire to succeed. The appropriate training is provided to all employees.
Requirements: Must be at least 19 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be able to pass pre-employment physical, drug screen, criminal background investigation. Credit Check for employment purposes as described in the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
Benefits package includes: Medical, Vision, and Dental Insurance, 401k Plan, Life Insurance, Disability Plan and Tuition.
Please contact the Human Resources Department at: 1701 Apron Drive, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-0060 for more information.
Email resume to HYPERLINK "mailto:dlopez@cornellcompanies.com" dlopez@cornellcompanies.com or fax to 432-264-6641. 25212

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SALE PRICE \$29,997
2006 PONTIAC G6 - White w/Tan Leather, Panoramic Retractable Roof, Loaded.
MSRP \$25,205
SALE PRICE \$21,500
2006 PONTIAC Vibe - White w/Charcoal Interior, Loaded.
MSRP \$20,070
SALE PRICE \$17,500
2004 GMC Yukon XL - One Owner, Extra Clean, Silver, All Power.
Was \$24,995
SALE PRICE \$21,995
2006 Yukon XL Denali - Back w/Tan Leather, Center Row Captain Chairs, DVD, Sun Roof & Navigation, Immaculate, One Owner, 35,000 Miles.
SALE PRICE \$37,995
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Help Wanted
Maintenance Positions Available
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers in Big Spring, Snyder, Stanton, Midland and Odessa. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.
MATURE CHRISTIAN adult to work in a private Christian Preschool. Experience preferred. Part time or full time available. Apply in person, 118 Cedar Rd.
MEDICAL RECORD Clerk needed full time. Experienced from Hospital or Doctors Office. Fax resume to 417-777-8459 or call 1-800-873-1831.
MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring Part-time Help for days. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!
CARY Heating & Air Conditioning SERVICES
A Building Automation
NEED AN experienced HVAC technician for the Big Spring area. Refrigeration and Ice Machine experience a plus. Willing to pay top dollar for the right person. Guaranteed work, benefits package, sick leave, paid vacation, 401K and profit sharing. For confidential consideration please call 888-229-1757 and ask for Tony Cary.
NEED EVENING Dishwasher part-time. Must be 16 yrs. old. Apply in person, Red Mesa Grill, 2401 S. Gregg.
Denny's
NEEDED COOKS *SERVERS
All shifts available
Apply at:
1710 East Third Street
E.O.E.
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Items for Sale
DEMO- 5 to 6 person Hot-Tub \$79.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.
EXTRA LARGE 30" Whirlpool self cleaning oven. Used sparingly for 3 years. Like New. \$350.00. Call (432)263-8618 or 270-8702.
SHELLED PECANS. Pick up at the Fillin' Station, FM 700, Ezell-Key Feed or Big Spring Farm Supply or call (432)267-1180
SPECIAL PURCHASE - 12x24 Barn \$99.00 a month. Delivery/Financing available. 432-563-3108.
SPECIAL REDUCTION - 8x8 and 8x10 Display/ Demo Buildings. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.
Lost and Found
FOUND KITTEN (calico color) in the Kentwood area. Call Jill at 432-263-7113 to claim.
LOST IN vicinity of Highland area. Female black & white cat. Call (432)268-1065.
LOST LAST year in December. Gold Christmas tree pin with crystals, "A Keepsake". Please call (432)267-8990. Reward!
REWARD!! LOST: 2 female chocolate labs; in the area of FM 461 & 87. Orange collar on larger dog & bright striped collar on smaller dog. Please call (432)457-0164 if you have any info. Thanks!
Miscellaneous
ALL NEW Mattress Set, Full Size still in packaging. Sell for \$119. Call 432-349-4043.
BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$149.00. 432-349-4043.
CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call --Griehams (432)267-8191.
COMFY COUCH and loveseat. Microfiber \$489, Leather \$799. 806-549-3110.
FOR SALE, Pool tables, jukeboxes, video games. Call (432)263-3855 or 263-7648.
JUN

TUESDAY

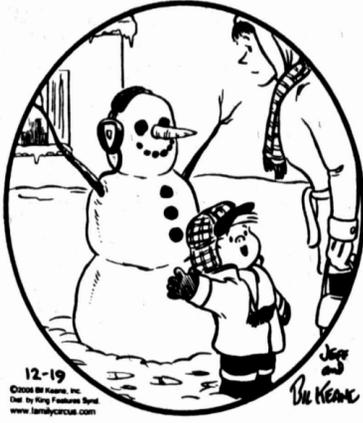
Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for Tuesday, Dec 19, 2006.

DENNIS THE MENACE



*FIRST, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU FORGOT ON LAST YEAR'S LIST."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"He's listening to Christmas carols."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2006. There are 12 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 19, 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings. In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States.

Alvin Lee (Ten Years After) is 62. Actress Elaine Joyce is 61. Singer John McEuen is 61. Singer Janie Fricke is 59. Actor Mike Lookinland is 46. Actress Jennifer Beals is 43.

Newsday Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a 'This Date In History' sidebar.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'RICK SPRING', 'VOLUME', 'Local North Ily m Imat', 'M Say re-e', 'By TH Staff V Big Direct firmec recall the ma', 'R e It's for bu', 'By TH Staff V If th more mery son it' as t Salvat up its Progra Disti and Christ ing ev cles to low-in makes to a', 'INI Class! Featur Obitus Opinio Sports To re Please a.m. t if you 263-7: noon