

FRIDAY

December 24, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 20°-23° TOMORROW 48°-50°

Santa's coming!

In a statement released Friday afternoon, worldwide toy disburser Santa Claus said Big Spring children should definitely plan to be in bed early Christmas Eve.

"I'm starting at the International Dateline, of course," said the red-clad sleigh driver. "I'll do each time zone in about an hour, and then head west."

Claus said he'll start work in the Central time zone, which includes Big Spring, at about 10 p.m. and finish up around 11 p.m. before heading on to the Mountain Time zone.

An accident earlier this week at Claus' North Pole workshop will have the elves working late into the evening Christmas Eve, which means Santa may have to make some special trips home to pick up toys as they become ready.

"If you haven't gotten your stocking filled by 11, don't worry," said Claus. "That doesn't necessarily mean you're on the 'naughty' list. Just be sure to be asleep before I get there."

HERALD ONLINE POLL

An overwhelming percentage of the Herald's online readers who responded to our poll question, "Should the city be charging \$5 per day gate fee at the landfill?" voted no this past week. Seventy percent of the 94 voters responded negatively. Twenty-seven percent said yes and 3 percent said they didn't care. This week's poll question is a familiar one: Did you spend more or less than you expected for Christmas gifts this season?

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

County unemployment rate remains steady

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The unemployment rate in Howard County remained a steady 3.3 percent in October and is expected to drop even further as the holiday season provides jobs for many area students and seasonal workers.

"Unemployment rates in the area are expected to drop as seasonal workers, students and other individuals enter holiday employment," said Mary Gregg, assistant area manager for the Big Spring Workforce Network.

October's 3.3 percent rate is a rather sharp contrast to the 4.5 percent rate posted one

"We continue to provide on-going job search and work readiness workshops for anyone that would like to improve their job search techniques."

—Mary Gregg, Workforce Network assistant manager

year earlier in October of 2003. According to Gregg, the civilian labor force grew in Howard County between September and October, rising from 13,725 to 13,748.

The number of employed people in the county rose from 13,274 to 13,296 in October,

down more than 100 employees from the 13,414 posted in October of 2003.

The number of unemployed people in Howard County stayed nearly the same between September and October, rising slightly from 451 people to 452 people, still down considerably from the 636 unemployed workers recorded in October 2003.

As 2004 begins to wind down, Gregg said her office is looking toward the upcoming tax season.

"On Jan. 14 a representative from TWC will be in our office at 9 a.m. to provide information on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit

See **JOBLESS**, Page 3A

Buckle up, bundle up

TxDOT officials encourage travelers to use caution

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Holiday travelers are warned to use caution when driving through most of the State during the next few days, according to information released by the Texas Department of Transportation.

An arctic cold front that moved into this area early Wednesday has sent temperatures plunging below the freezing mark.

In addition, between one and three inches of snow has fallen in many parts of West Texas, with more accumulation likely before Christmas Eve.

No major road closings or hazardous condition warnings were announced, but TxDOT officials urged motorists to use caution when driving throughout most of the state.

Drivers were warned to delay travel through the Panhandle area during the early morning hours Thursday and Friday. Additionally, they were cautioned to slow down when approaching bridges and overpasses.

Statewide, weather officials are predicting a 40 percent chance for more snowfall before Christmas Day. An additional one to three inches accumulation is likely in parts of West and North Central Texas.

Temperatures at or below freezing are expected as far south as San Antonio and Del Rio. Locally, highs are expected to be in the high 20s today, with a low of 18 predicted.

Conditions should improve beginning Christmas Day.

Temperatures are expected to rise above freezing Saturday. National Weather Service forecasters call for sunny skies and highs in the high 40s to low 50s, with westerly winds around 10 MPH. Christmas night should be clear, with a low around 26.

Clear to partly cloudy skies are expected through Wednesday.

For road conditions, call 800-452-9292

All I want for Christmas...



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

The jolly old elf from the North Pole discusses Christmas wishes with 8-year-old Kaitlyn Nichols at the Big Spring Mall Tuesday afternoon. Santa visited with children at the mall over the past few weekends and this week.

LAST MINUTE SHOPPING



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Burke's Outlet employee Jessica Fauver rings up some last minute Christmas items for Jimmy Hernandez and Irene Perez, who were among the masses of people that flocked to the Big Spring Mall Thursday to finish their holiday shopping.

Spring Tabernacle helps hundreds to have a more enjoyable Christmas

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

For the people at Spring Tabernacle, the old adage about it being better to give than receive is more than just a saying, especially during the holiday season.

Parishioners at the local church brought the adage to life for the 10th straight year earlier this month, distributing more than 1,000 Christmas presents to children of needy families.

A total of 275 children received four presents each during the Dec. 10

giveaway, said Mona Lou Tonn, wife of Spring Tabernacle Pastor Arnold Tonn.

The event was the culmination of what was essentially a year-long effort by church members.

"We've been working really hard (on this) for the last three months," Mrs. Tonn said. "Of course, we started collecting items right after Christmas last year ... People knew what we were doing and just dropped things off at the church. It's the most

"It's the most beautiful thing to see people who help people who are in need."

—Mona Lou Tonn

See **TOYS**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Harlan J. Hill



Harlan J. Hill, 84, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 20, 2004, at the VA Medical Center. Cremation will be under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. No services are planned at the request of the deceased.

He was born Aug. 20, 1920, in Ross and he lived in Texas all his life. He graduated from Waco High School in 1939, attended Baylor University and Texas A & M and served in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines from 1942 to 1945. He worked for Exxon Company 27 years from 1951 until his retirement in 1978. He lived in Big Spring for 32 years and previously lived in Monahans, Crane, Iraan and Lubbock.

He married Joyce Bright Taylor Jan. 6, 1961, in Crane.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Hill, of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Shauna and David Peterson of Lubbock and Keila and Brad Lance of Amarillo; two children by a previous marriage, Harlan J. Hill Jr. of Waco and Donna Kay Johnson of Dallas; two brothers, Cecil Leon Hill of Waco and Waldo V. Hill Jr. of Houston; and one grandson, Ian Peterson.

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

Paid obituary

Donna Jean Collins Barnes



Donna Jean Collins Barnes entered this life Nov. 11, 1932, received by her parents, Jack and Pauline Collins. Donna was an intelligent and active young lady, giving her parents and sister, Jackie, many fun memories in Odessa.

As a child, Donna loved to be with her mom so much that she ran away from school frequently to return home. Sadly, at age 9, Donna lost her mom to a fast-spreading infection. After a few years, her dad remarried Pear Scott, who willingly accepted the "ready-made family" and fulfilled the role as mother and wife.

During her years at Odessa High School, Donna participated in A Cappella Choir 1949 through 1950; Drill Squad Secretary in 1948; Halloween Queen in 1948; Runner-up for school beauty queen 1948 through 1950; and Shakespeare Club in 1949.

The Collins family grew to include other siblings, whose names are Bobby Jack, Nancy and William Tracy Collins. The family unit was always important to Donna and she started her own when she married Louis D. Barnes in January of 1956. They settled in Andrews to raise two children, Cynthia Jean and Joe Dan.

Donna was a first-class mother, wife, businesswoman, neighbor, friend, and dog lover — Dolly being the most recent loyal companion. Living in Andrews has meant participating in her church, truck business, 4H Club, Sheriff's Posse, school events, banking operations and having many gatherings in the home.

Her husband preceded her in death Oct. 30, 1993. She put her greatest effort into her family and home because she bore the most unconditional love available to mankind.

After her children were raised, Donna became a grandmother to seven grandchildren, who all know her as "Munner." These grandchildren — Daniel, Chrissie, Amanda, Joe Jerren, Ben, Jalee and John Tyler — will always remember the "special way" that their "Munner" treated them.

Donna loved the Savior Jesus Christ and had committed her life to His honor through her attribute of charity. She had many friends young and old and will be sorely missed by all.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh not evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth..." 1 Cor. 13: 4-8 King James version.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. today, Dec. 24, 2004, at the Andrews Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Rod Peacock and the Rev. Bob Zap officiating. Burial will follow in the Andrews West Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of McNett Funeral Home in Andrews. Memorials may be sent to Home Hospice House, 903 North Sam Houston, Odessa 79761.

Paid obituary

Weather

Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows near 20. Southwest winds near 10 mph.
Christmas day — Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs near 50. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Sunday night — Mostly clear. Lows near 30.
Monday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
Monday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Tuesday — Increasing clouds. Highs near 60.
Tuesday night — Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 30s.

Coronado Hills Apartments

1 Bedroom • \$350 • 2 Bedroom • \$450 • 3 Bedroom • \$550

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Big Spring, Texas 79720

Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking

& Washer - Dryer Conn.

2-3 Bedroom

"Remember...you deserve the best!"

Ralph Mendez



Ralph Mendez, Jr., 54, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Vigil services are 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born June 8, 1950, in Big Spring and was a veteran of the Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star and had worked for Elrod's furniture and Albert's Upholstery. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by his mother, Pat Mendez of San Angelo; two sons, Ralph Adrian Mendez of California and Leonard Patrick Mendez of Georgia; two sisters, Victoria Hernandez of California and Gina Marcello of Oregon; several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins, including his caregiver, Joe Albert Deanda Jr.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Mendez Sr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Edna Hopper

Edna Hopper, 92, of McKinney, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2004, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Royce Clay officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Oct. 17, 1912, in Honey Grove and had lived in Big Spring since 1924. She married Lemon Dean Hopper in 1934. He preceded her in death in 1959. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by two sons, Jimmy Hopper of Big Spring and Jack Hopper of Van Alstyne.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Earl Bagwell

Earl Bagwell, 80, of Fritch, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services were Dec. 22, 2004, in Brown's Chapel of the Fountains with Mary Ingram officiating. Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery in Borger.

He was born March 12, 1924, in Rochester. He was a World War II veteran and a retired employee of Natural Gas Pipeline.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Wilma Bagwell in 1981 and his second wife, Alta Bagwell April 2, 2004.

He is survived by his stepson, James Martin of Tonkawa, Okla.; his daughter, Tammy Price and husband, Jeff of Coahoma; stepdaughters, Mary Ingram and husband, Raymond of Borger and Wilma Dennis and husband, Bobby of Fritch; two brothers, W.K. Bagwell of Albuquerque, N.M., and Jack Bagwell of Dumas; a sister, Betty Rice of Texarkana; three grandchildren; and eight stepgrandchildren.

Arrangements were under the direction of Brown Funeral Directors in Borger.

Support groups

SATURDAY

□ Open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5-6 p.m.

TUESDAY

□ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Golliad.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center beginning in January. Call 263-8273 for more information.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• Christmas Eve. All city, county and federal offices are closed.

SATURDAY

• Christmas Day. All city, county and federal offices are closed.

MONDAY

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.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.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

Lottery

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery: 11-22-23-32. Bonus ball 16.

(eleven, twenty-two, twenty-three, thirty-two, Bonus sixteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$225,000

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery: 6-17-18-25-32

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

Police blotter

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

• ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 2600 block of Carlton.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

- in the 1500 block of Cherokee.

- in the 1900 block of Wasson.

• POSSESSION/TRANSPORTATION OF CHEMICALS WITH INTENT TO MANUFACTURE A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

• THEFT was reported in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2100 block of Neill Road.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of Hooser.

• BREAK IN was reported in the 2900 block of Collins.

Cordially Invite You to
Attend our Services

TRINITY BAPTIST

810 11TH PLACE 267-6344

Today, Jesus is recognized as the Figurehead of a Religion, a mere example. He is that, but He is infinitely more; He is salvation itself, He is the Gospel of God. HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

Randy Cotton
Pastor

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m.
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Heaven

I still hear the songs, I still see the lights,
I still feel your love on cold wintry nights,
I still share your hopes and all of your cares,
I'll even remind you to please say your prayers,
I just want to tell you, you still make me proud.
You stand head and shoulders above the crowd,
Keep trying each moment to stay in His Grace,
I came here before you to help set your place,
You don't have to be perfect all of the time,
He forgives you the slip if you continue to climb,
To my family and friends, please be thankful today,
I'm still close beside you in a new special way,
I love you all dearly, now don't shed a tear,
Cause I'm spending my Christmas with Jesus this year.

In loving memory of:
Patrick Ray Enfield
April 22, 1955 - September 28, 2003

Trial j
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By JUAN A. L

Associated Pr

HOUSTON — 24 hours after was deadlock jury convicted for their conviction's dead smuggling att

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Trial jury convicts two men in nation's deadly smuggling case

By JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Less than 24 hours after saying it was deadlocked, a federal jury convicted two men for their roles in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar had each faced 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants.

The jury on Thursday convicted Garcia-Tobar on 39 counts, including conspiracy and aiding in the transport of immigrants resulting in death. But he was acquitted on all 19 counts of hiding and harboring illegal immigrants.

Rodriguez, who faced the same charges, was convicted of 42 counts. He was acquitted on seven of the harboring counts and nine other transporting

counts.

Each man could face life in prison when sentenced on March 28.

"Clearly the jury has done its work," U.S. Attorney Michael Shelby said in a brief statement. "We will continue our efforts to finish the prosecution of this matter."

Mervyn Mosbacher, one of Garcia-Tobar's attorneys, said he "was disappointed in the verdict."

Jerome Godinich, one of Rodriguez's attorneys, said he will meet with his client to discuss various issues for a possible appeal.

Before releasing the jurors, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore asked them not to speak to the media because other trials in the case are pending. The jury of eight women and four men were secretly taken out a back way of the court-

house through a service elevator.

Prosecutors had accused the two men of being members of a smuggling ring that stuffed a hot, airless tractor-trailer with more than 70 illegal immigrants and tried to transport them from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston, after the immigrants began succumbing to the deadly temperatures inside. Seventeen immigrants were found dead in the trailer. Two died later.

Garcia-Tobar, 25, from Guatemala, was accused of helping transport them to loading sites and of helping recruit truckers to haul them. Rodriguez, 38, was accused of picking up several immigrants.



Courtesy photo

Big Spring police responded to reports about 7 p.m. Wednesday that a pickup had crashed into a plate glass window on the south side of Tire Time, 511 S. Gregg St. Laura Hughes, owner of the business with her husband Mike, was able to take this photo before a wrecker removed the pickup from the building. She said reports indicated an eastbound vehicle ran a stop sign at Seventh and Gregg, striking the northbound pickup, which caused it to plow into the building, narrowly avoiding a stop sign and street sign.

TOYS

Continued from Page 1A

beautiful thing to see people who help people who are in need."

Church members kept themselves busy for the past few months cleaning and repairing donated items. Their efforts received a large boost when the VA Medical Center provided a large donation of food and clothing, she said, adding that a majority of the

donated items came from non-members.

"Big Spring is blessed with wonderful people," Tonn said.

The giveaway took five hours to complete, but people seemed to take the wait in stride. Church members were available to any of those who needed ministering.

Recipients did not need to pre-qualify.

"We feel like they wouldn't be there if they didn't have a need," Tonn said.

JOBLESS

Continued from Page 1A

that is available to Texas employers," said Gregg. "The session will last approximately one hour and will be very beneficial to anyone hiring new staff."

"Materials and forms will be available to everyone attending. You can call 263-8373 and speak to a business representative to reserve a spot for your

organization."

Despite a low unemployment rate, Gregg said the local Workforce Network office is still eager to help anyone looking for work.

"We continue to provide on-going job search and work readiness workshops for anyone that would like to improve their job search techniques," said Gregg. "If anyone wants to attend a workshop, contact Carla Gross or Adrian Calvio at 263-8373, or come into the office at 310 Owens."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Edna Hopper, 92, died Tuesday.

Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 4:00 until 6:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ralph Mendez, Jr., 54, died Wednesday. Vigil Services will be at 4:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

RITZ

401 S. Main 263-7480
Movie Hot Line: 263-2479
For Showtimes For Friday

Admission Adults: \$6.00
Child, Senior & Matinee: \$4.00

**FOR
MOVIE SHOWTIMES
CALL 263-2479
OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
www.ritzbigspring.com**

Naughty kids lose gifts to eBay

HOUSTON (AP) — The father of three children went from playing Santa Claus to playing the Grinch after he determined his children were being naughty instead of nice, and taught them a lesson on by auctioning their presents on eBay.

And they'd better watch out — the tree may come down, too.

A Pasadena information technology specialist decided to auction the presents because the youngsters, ages 9, 11, and 15, had misbehaved.

"One thing we teach around this house," said the man, who asked the Houston Chronicle not to reveal his name, "is that good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people."

ple."

"BAD CHILDREN get no Nintendo DS. Santa will skip our house this year," the man announced in his eBay posting to sell three DS systems with PictoChat and Metroid. Also offered were three games for use with the system. "No kidding. Three undeserving boys have crossed the line. Tonight we sat down and showed them what they WILL NOT get for Christmas this year. I'll be taking the tree down tomorrow."

Thursday night, the auction wound down with bidding at \$465.01 — below the price the man had set.

"If you don't buy them, we'll return them to the store," the man reported

on the site.

The man refused to divulge his reserve price, saying late Thursday that he would probably list the items again.

"These are normally really good kids," he said. But in a single day, he added, the boys fought one another, used vulgar language and gestured obscenely.

The man blamed at least part of the family discord on being lax.

"It seems like we'd say what we were going to do, then bend and back off a little," the 41-year-old father said. "We'd ground them for a week, but they'd really be grounded for three days; we'd take away video games, but they would still watch television."

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

BEALLS

After-Christmas Sale & Clearance

Save 50% & More

65% Off ALL SWEATERS FOR HIM After EXTRA 30% OFF red-tickets. Orig. 24.00-40.00, then 11.97-19.97, SALE 8.39-13.99.	BONUS COUPON VALID DECEMBER 26-28 Extra 25% Off ANY SINGLE CLEARANCE ITEM Must relinquish coupon at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other coupons or private savings offers. Not valid on gift cards or previous purchases.  BEALLS	BONUS COUPON VALID DECEMBER 26-28 Extra 25% Off ANY SINGLE CLEARANCE ITEM Must relinquish coupon at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other coupons or private savings offers. Not valid on gift cards or previous purchases.  BEALLS	50% Off MISSES FALL SWEATERS Chenille, acrylic and cotton in solids, stripes, more. Orig. 34.00-48.00, SALE 16.98-23.98.
50% Off MEN'S WINDWEAR & WARM-UPS By Sun River Sport. Separates, sets in nylon. Orig. 18.00-60.00, SALE 8.98-29.98.			50% Off MISSES NYLON JOG SETS After EXTRA 30% OFF. By Rebecca Malone. Orig. 40.00, then 27.99, SALE 19.59.
50% Off OUTERWEAR FOR HER & HIM After EXTRA 33% OFF. Orig. 40.00-180.00, then 29.99-134.99, SALE 19.80-89.10.			50% Off JUNIORS FAMOUS MAKER Sweaters, logo tees, knit tops, jeans, more. Orig. 22.00-68.00, SALE 10.98-33.98.
50% Off ALL KIDS OUTERWEAR Assorted faux suede, denim, microfiber, fleece, more. Orig. 16.00-70.00, SALE 7.98-34.98.			50% Off ENTIRE STOCK* FINE JEWELRY Gold and sterling silver earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets, more. *Excludes clearance.
70% Off ALL HOLIDAY HOME ACCENTS Nativities, water globes, ceramics and more. Orig. 10.00-60.00, SALE 2.97-17.97.			50% Off LADIES FASHION BOOTS From Markon, Skechers and more. Reg. 44.00-99.00, SALE 22.00-49.50.

Total savings off original prices. Just a sample of the savings you will find. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Entire stocks only where indicated. Selection may vary by store.



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BEALL HOURS:

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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.

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

• The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale and Dr. Keith Graumann for "Messiah." What a wonderful performance.

• Dr. Bill Kingston, not for his announced retirement as Colorado Independent School District superintendent, but for the five-plus years he gave to the district and the Howard County community.

• Outgoing Moore Development for Big Spring board members Duane Thomas and Terry Hansen, for their hard work, and new members Raul Marquez, Richard Steel and Joyce Crooker.

• Howard County Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Year Mark Hill and Civilian of the Year Jennifer Burger.

• Coahoma Elementary School students, teachers and administrators who put on a "Polar Express Drive-Through." It was fun and we hope it will become an annual event.

• Big Spring Police Department 2004 awards: Officer Scott Knight for his Letter of Commendation; Cpl. Brian Gordon, Officer of the Year; Sgt. Tony Everett, Supervisor of the Year; Ann Reed, Civilian of the Year; and Lt. Robert Fitzgibbons, the Jerry G. Edwards Award for Professionalism.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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@crcom.net.
- 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

'Twas about time for Christmas

Note: Bill McClellan is asleep at his desk this Christmas Eve. Rather than disturb him, we are publishing one of his Christmas columns that is as old as St. Nick himself.

It was about time for Christmas, and all through the house
A creature was stirring, but it wasn't a mouse;
I knew right away it was my wife's little pup,
She thought we were sleeping, and so she was up.
The dog was a gift; it was coercion, really,
A woman can pout, 'til a man gets downright silly.
And now the wife was snoozing; she was really sacked out.
She wouldn't have awoke from less than a shout.
Yes, her in her nightgown, I in my BVDs,
We had finally settled down to catch some Zs;
When off in the kitchen there arose such a clatter,
I rolled from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away down the hall, my head in a muddle,
I reached the kitchen...and stepped in a puddle.
The glow from a nightlight illuminated the room,
So how come I stumbled over the broom?
I fell in a sprawl, my legs were not stable.



BILL
McCLELLAN

On the way down, my nose hit the table.
My head was a spinnin' and when I came to rest
Four miniature dog feet stood on my chest.
With a lick and a bark, she bounded away,
Into the living room, she ran to play.
More rapid than mice, that rat terrier ran,
Me on the follow, rolled newspaper in hand.
"Stop, Skeeter! Stop, Dog! Stop, Pup!
Halt, Pooch! Halt, Girl! Oh, come here, you mutt!
"Get off the new couch! Now let go of that curtain!
Ohhh...If I ever catch you, you're gonna be hurtin'"
As winds of a Texas tornado do fly,
She spun round the room, down low and up high.
Then up on the countertop, that puppy went
She stopped for a second. I thought she was spent.
I make a quick lunge, she ducked me and then
Yawned when I dove through the flour bin.
As I drew out my head and was turning around,
She made for the presents, in a single bound.
I was covered with flour, from my head to my toes,
My robe in tatters, and blood on my nose.
A bag full of toys, she grabbed with glee;
I nabbed her, I thought, but instead got the tree.

The ornaments, they broke, as they began to fall;
The lights, how they fizzled, and that is not all.
When I reached for the plug, to turn the bulbs out,
What flowed through my body, but electricity, so stout!
As smoke encircled my head like a wreath,
That dog held my big toe, tight in her teeth.
"Skeeter," I moaned, "I give up. Oh, Skeet, I give in."
So she bit my swollen nose, and nipped at my chin.
She spoke not a word, but went back to work,
Down came the stockings; it took just a jerk.
Then up from the hall, came the sound of feet,
Mamma, it seemed was awake from her sleep.
"Now you'll get it pup," I announced with glee.
Then Skeeter walked over and put her little head on my knee.
She looked up at my wife - so innocent - and at me, so, so sad.
And it didn't take long, to know I'd been had.
Then came the wife's voice, so strong and so clear,
"Bill, you leave that puppy alone! You hear!"
And I exclaimed to myself, as they walked out with a strut,
"Don't leave any gifts, Santa; just PICK UP THE MUTT!"

Bill McClellan is news editor of the Herald. He can be reached at 263-7331, ext. 235 or newsdesk@crcom.net.

ADDRESSES

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Washington, D.C.

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Big Spring, 79720

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HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.

BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

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GREG BIDDISON — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.

W.A. "WOODY" JUMPER — Home: 263-0782; Work (BSSH): 267-8216.

STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.

JOANN STAULCUP — Home: 263-4980.

GLORIA McDONALD — Home: 263-4835.

JOANN KNOX — Home: 816-9083; Work (BSISD): 264-3635.

Inside report: Neocons vs. Rumsfeld

In the bowels of the Pentagon, the colleagues and subordinates of Donald Rumsfeld were not upset by Republican senators who were sniping at him. Instead, they complained bitterly about a call for his removal by a private citizen with no political leadership position: William Kristol, editor of The Weekly Standard. His position was, in effect, a declaration of war by the neoconservatives against the secretary of defense.



ROBERT
NOVAK

The capital's feeding frenzy over Rumsfeld's fate did not begin until Kristol's Dec. 12 op-ed column in The Washington Post. While critical senators did not get to the point of demanding Rumsfeld's removal, Kristol did. He said the troops in Iraq "deserve a better defense secretary than the one we have." A firm declaration by a prominent Republican activist turned journalist who is the clarion of neoconservatism counts for more than equivocation by U.S. senators.

Rumsfeld's civilian colleagues at the Pentagon are furious because they consider Kristol a manipulative political operative, critiquing the war in Iraq after years of promoting it. But his criticism has a broader base. Kristol long has called for big-government conservatism, which on the international sphere involves proactively pursuing democracy around the world. He and the other neocons do not want to be blamed for what has become a very unpopular venture in Iraq. Thus, it is important to

get the word out now that the war in Iraq has gone awry because of the way Rumsfeld fought it.

Rumsfeld is often bracketed with the neocons, but that is incorrect. In a long political career that dates back to his election to Congress in 1962, he has not even been associated with the traditional conservative movement. In the run-up to the attack on Iraq, he was not aggressively pressing intervention by force of arms, but instead was shaping a military response to fit President Bush's command.

Rumsfeld did name Richard Perle, one of the foremost neocon voices calling for a change of regime in Baghdad, as chairman of the part-time Defense Policy Board. Also named to the board was Kenneth Adelman, an old friend of Rumsfeld's who is identified as a neocon. Adelman gained notoriety by promising that the conquest of Iraq would be a "cake-walk." Indeed, rejoicing over the quick rout of Saddam Hussein's army, Adelman wrote that cake-walk — a word always rejected by Rumsfeld — turned out to be a correct description.

With the bloody occupation of Iraq underway, Adelman's demeanor changed in his frequent appearances on CNN's "Crossfire" (where I often was a co-host). His mood became more subdued. The garish, oversized American flag necktie that Adelman wore as he urged war on Iraq was retired, as he somberly began to criticize (while never mentioning Rumsfeld by name).

On April 30 of this year, Adelman said a "miscalculation" had been made in war planning because the operation in Iraq "has gone worse than we expected a

year ago." On June 28, he said "there were failures," adding that the purge of Baath Party members and "the dismissal of the army was something that we could have done a lot better." On Nov. 8, he said failure to clean insurgents out of Fallujah was "a bad decision."

Unlike Adelman, Kristol pinned defects in war-fighting tactics directly on Rumsfeld. In a Weekly Standard essay of Nov. 17, 2003 (written with his frequent collaborator, Robert Kagan), Kristol assailed Rumsfeld for sending insufficient troops to Iraq. "Rumsfeld remains dogmatically committed to a smaller force," he wrote.

Thus, the neocon message is that the war was no mistake but has been badly conducted. While Adelman does not blame his friend Rumsfeld, the accountability of the secretary of defense is implicit. Kristol's call for Rumsfeld's dismissal removes culpability for those who beat the drums to go to war.

Getting rid of Rumsfeld does not answer agonizing questions. Was the change of regime in Baghdad worth going to war? Could Saddam Hussein have been removed from power by other means? Is the use of U.S. military power to topple undemocratic regimes good policy?

There are no clear answers. To say simply that all would be well in Iraq, save for Don Rumsfeld, only begs these questions.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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A I

Joy to the
the Lord
Let earth
her King!

"Hark the he
angels sing, gl
newborn King
"O come let
Him, Christ th
(from "O Com
Faithful").

"Peace on
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A Pastor's Message

Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!
Let earth receive
her King!

"Hark the herald
angels sing, glory to the
newborn King."

"O come let us adore
Him, Christ the Lord"
(from "O Come, All Ye
Faithful").

"Peace on the earth,
goodwill to men, from
heaven's all gracious
King" (from "It Came
Upon a Midnight
Clear").

The words above are from some of the most recognizable Christmas songs. I would even dare say that they are representative of many people's favorite Christmas songs because they remind them of the reason for the season.

However, I wonder how many ever give much thought to the true significance of the words. Our hearts are warmed when the songs turn our minds to that familiar scene of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

But that One who was born nearly 2,000 years ago during the reign of the Roman Caesar Augustus did not remain a baby in swaddling clothes.

He is the Son of God who "bore our sins in

His body on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24). We rejoice that Jesus is our Savior because we all desperately need One.

But Jesus is more than the Savior. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. The Book of Revelation describes in vividly metaphorical language the spiritual war that forces of the world wage against God and the Lamb (Jesus Christ).

"These will wage war against the lamb, and the lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14).

No matter how many world empires rise and fall throughout history, Jesus is the lord over them all. He will prove victorious in the end.

But Jesus is not just Lord of lords and King of kings. He also wants nothing less than to be Lord of our lives. And He asks this most poignant question: "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord', and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

When we sing the traditional songs of Christmas, isn't that exactly what we call Jesus? We call Him Lord. Now, are you willing to honor him as Lord? Are you willing to do the things that He says?

Will you make Him who died for your sins also to be the Lord of your life?

Russ Mullins is minister of Coahoma Church of Christ



THE REV.
RUSS
MULLINS

Club News

Capt. Elisha Mack Daughter's of the American Revolution

The Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter, NSDAR held its Christmas party Dec. 11 in the home of Sue Ann Damron, whose Christmas tree, wreaths, Santa and snowmen collections and garlands were all patriotic.

Charlene Ragan, Carole Lawson and Dottie Britton were co-hostesses. Janie Harrison was a guest.

The program topic was the Washington Memorial National Carillon, located in the Valley Forge National Park.

Dedicated April 18, 1953,

it ranks as one of the world's largest carillons. It has 58 bells that weigh 26 tons.

The largest bell weighs 8,000 pounds and the smallest bell weighs just 13.5 pounds.

An extensive restoration program is now underway and the NSDAR is one of the main contributors to the project.

After the program, carillon music was played and members enjoyed refreshments served from patriotic dishes.

Members exchanged gifts with a Chinese auction.

The annual business meeting is Jan. 8 at the

Big Spring Country Club.

VICA Officers elected

Big Spring Independent School District business trade classes elected officers for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America recently.

Serving for the VICA Skills USA competition are Steven Heffington, president; Talbott Moore, vice president; Lana Breckenridge, secretary; Paden Black, treasurer; Donnie Karavotis and Dexter Straughter, parliamentarians; Patrick Swinney and Jordan Rice, reporters; and Jonathan Woodson, sergeant at arms.

Other members include

Lawrence Burlseon, Joshua Olivias, Brent Holsenbeck, Joe Rictor and Paul Wylie.

Senior Citizen's Center

There will be a Senior Citizens New Year's Eve Dance Dec. 31 at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center.

Monroe Casey's "Prowlers" will be playing from 8:30 p.m. until midnight. There will be free party favors and blackeyed peas and cornbread will be served.

Tickets are \$10 per person of \$15 for two people. All senior citizens are invited. There will be no alcohol and no smoking.

Joshua Mireles, Jr.
Born: March 6, 2004



Merry 1st Christmas
to our baby boy!
We hope that Christmas
number one is filled with
lots of fun.
Love Mommy and Daddy

Kaden Molina
Born: Feb. 14, 2004



Merry Christmas
To The Best
Present Ever!

Daddy & Mommy

Angelica Rose Cervantes
Born: April 30, 2004



You Made Christmas
Special This Year!

Love You

Eric James Freshour
Born: Jan. 20, 2004



Merry Christmas Eric!!
You are our gift from
God.

Love, Mom, Dad, Cody,
Iris, Papa, Gran
& Aunt Carolyn

Kolby Austin Denton
Born: June 25, 2004



We Love You So
Berry Much!

The Whole Bunch



Merry Christmas
Tucker Layne Thixton
We Love You,

Grandpa and Nana



Mary Christmas

Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by remembering that God's son was born to Mary. Such a marvellous gift Mary held in her arms and that we hold in our hearts. Mary Christmas. Merry Christmas.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve Service
10:30 PM December 24

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<http://www.stmarysbst.org/>

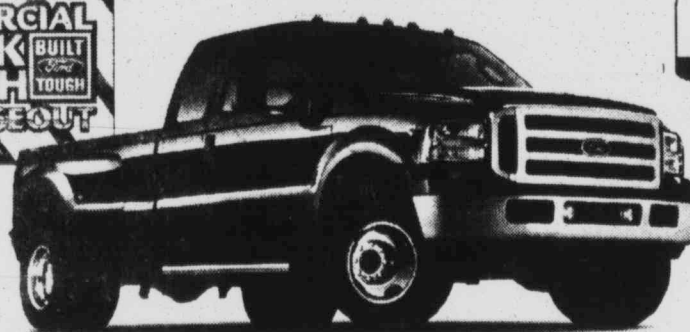
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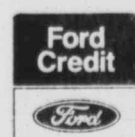
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Church News

First United Methodist Church

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is Friday at 6 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Dave Ring's message is titled "Hope Comes Home." The scripture text is Luke 2:1-21.

Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Ring's sermon is "Hope for the Future." The scripture text is 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m.

The church offices will reopen Tuesday.

The Senior Adult Ministry will celebrate the new year with their annual brunch Jan. 1 at 9 a.m. in Garrett Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

A special video seminar titled "Conquering Debt, God's Way" by the Bruce Ammons Ministries will be Jan. 15 and Jan. 22. The deadline to register for the seminar is Dec. 28. The seminar is free; however, workbooks cost \$12.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

There is a night watch service from 8 p.m. until midnight Dec. 31. The Rev. Jimmy Williams from Arlington will be the speaker. Afterwards, there will be a blackeye pea and cornbread fellowship. Then there will be

singing and prayer, ringing the new year in.

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Services Sunday are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek services are Wednesday at 7 p.m. For more information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

East Fourth Street Baptist Church has a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. today.

Other opportunities for Christian growth and service this week include 9:45 a.m. Sunday school; 11 a.m. morning worship — Christmas AD; there will be no evening services Sunday; Bible study and prayer meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The church is located at 401 E. Fourth St. (432) 267-2291. Call for more information.

Christ Community Church

"Because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9.

Christ Community Church meets at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, with a Spanish service at 6 p.m. each Sunday. Additionally, there is an active youth program each Wednesday evening. Bible study groups meeting in members' homes each weekday night.

This teaching congrega-

tion welcomes all. The church is located at 1108 Birdwell, across from the Howard college administration office.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Wednesday noon ladies Bible study group will begin a new study Jan. 12. If you are interested in getting to know Jesus more intimately, please join the study group's reading and discussion of "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. For more information or to enroll in the class, call the church office at 267-7163.

Big Spring ... a great home town, St. Paul ... a great home church!

Calvary Baptist Church

Calvary Baptist Church welcomes all those who are looking for a place to worship. Calvary Baptist Church is located at 1200 W. Fourth Street. Preaching services are at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday Bible Study is at 5 p.m.

Cornerstone Church

A 10-year anniversary and New Year's Eve celebration is Dec. 31 at the church. Cornerstone Church began in the Rev. Craig and Cherise Felty's home Jan. 1, 1994. All members and the public are invited to attend.

Church members have coupon books with \$125

worth of offers from local merchants available for \$5, with all proceeds going to the church building fund. Contact 816-3082 for more information.

Cornerstone Church, a Morning Star International Church, invites children entering kindergarten through fourth grade to a new fall

program, "Looking At the Pieces," at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, featuring different stories of the Old Testament. A new Sunday school class for preschoolers continues with the story of Noah's Ark.

Cornerstone, located at the corner of 12th and Owens streets, offers a family atmosphere of

praise and worship. Morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday worship is at 7 p.m. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool. Call Pastor Craig or Cherise Felty at 263-3072 with any questions.

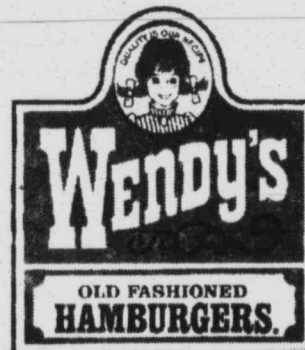
See CHURCH NEWS Page 8A

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



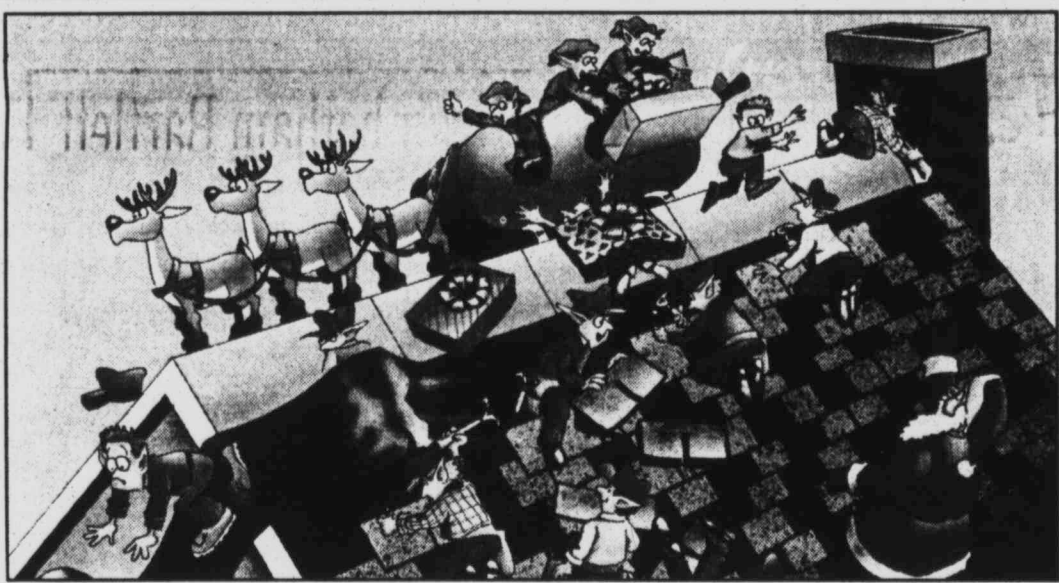
We're filled with warm wishes and lots of good cheer
For all the kind people we've served this past year.

Thanks, friends!



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We're proud to be part of this community and wish you all a very merry holiday season.

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Merry Christmas!

Although everyone
is getting ready
to celebrate for the
best holiday season
ever, we'd like to
stop and express
our deepest
concern to each and
every one of you.
If you are going to
celebrate
by drinking, please
don't drive.

Being with family
and friends for
the next years to
come is the most
important part
of this time!!

**Have A
Safe Holiday
Season!!**

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Church News

Continued From Page 6A

Friends Of Unity

Members will participate in the annual World Healing Day Dec. 31.

Millions of believers around the world concentrate on one hour of prayer and meditation for greater peace.

First Church of God

The annual Christmas Eve Service is 6 p.m. today. This is a special service of music and scripture.

The public is invited to attend and listen to a half hour of the Christmas story as told in the Bible.

The church is located at 2009 Main St.

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:12-13.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matt Miles, minister, will speak on scripture taken from Matthew 2:12-23 Sunday.

Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take 10 starts at 10:35 a.m.

Opportunities for the week include Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. today.

This will be a candlelight service and communion will be held. Choir practice is Wednesday.

Please join us for any of the previously mentioned opportunities. Everyone is always welcome at First Presbyterian church, located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth streets.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's will once more have a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service.

The service will begin with a special time of lessons and carols, and will include the Holy Communion. It begins at 10:30 p.m. today.

A variety of special music is planned. Everyone is invited.

For more information, contact the Rev. James Liggett, Rector of St. Mary's. The office phone is 267-8201.

Baptist Temple

A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service is set for today. There will be only one service at 10 a.m. Sunday. There will be no Sunday school that day or evening service. There will not be a Wednesday night service.

There is a pot-luck, covered-dish meal at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

After the meal the Billy Graham movie, "A Vow to Cherish," will be shown. Then the New Year's Eve gathering concludes in the fellowship hall for board games and dominos.

Christmas gifts

Courtesy photo
Twenty-five children received Christmas presents at a party hosted by the Masonic Staked Plains Lodge No. 598. Each child received two presents and their families received a box of food for the holidays. Max Webb, director of the Northside Community Center, working with Melinda Hernandez, director of West Side Community Day Care Center, assisted lodge members with selection of the children to receive the gifts.



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IN BRIEF

Varitek re-signs

World Champion

NEW YORK — Jason Varitek, a Red Sox and Eckstein agree deal with the Cardinals, com a game of r chairs among stops.

Varitek agree \$40 million, fo contract with World Series on Red Sox, a d is to be an Friday, a lawy knowledge of t tations said o tion of anonym

Cut loose Anaheim. N Eckstein agree \$10.25 million year contract v NL ch Cardinals.

Boston star shortstop swit luring Edgar from St. Anaheim then Monday to a d Orlando Cabre helped the F sweep St. Lou World Series.

Also, Galarraga agr minor league with the Ne Mets. The 43 first baseman, come back tw non-Hodgkin's phoma, nee home run to re

Two other de finalized: the \$55 million, contract with e. D. Dr. Boston's \$1.5 one-year ag with righ Wade Miller, let go by Hous er this week.

Atlanta's Vic

NFL's richest

FLOWERY B Ga. — Mich became the player in t signing a 10-y million contra sion with Atl guarantees NFL-record \$ in bonuses.

Vick's cont passes the \$9 deal Indianapolis terback

Manning si March — Manning's co for seven Manning wa

ted \$34.5 m bonuses.

The No. draft pick in has a 24-12 record.

Shaq contin

get best of

SACRAM Calif. (AP) Jones hit a with 23.4 sec and Shaquil blocked Mik layup attem closing se Miami's 109-ry over Sacramento Jones' dra and O'Neal capped an i late rally in final warm Shaq's retu Angeles to Bryant and Saturday.

O'Neal had and 10 reb missed two f with 10.9 se but block drive to the about 2 s play.

Sports

BIG
SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Friday, December 24, 2004

IN BRIEF

Varitek re-signs with World Champions

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Varitek decided to stay with the Boston Red Sox and David Eckstein agreed to a deal with the St. Louis Cardinals, completing a game of musical chairs among shortstops.

Varitek agreed to a \$40 million, four-year contract with the World Series champion Red Sox, a deal that is to be announced Friday, a lawyer with knowledge of the negotiations said on condition of anonymity.

Cut loose by Anaheim Monday, Eckstein agreed to a \$10.25 million, three-year contract with the NL champion Cardinals.

Boston started the shortstop switches by luring Edgar Renteria from St. Louis. Anaheim then agreed Monday to a deal with Orlando Cabrera, who helped the Red Sox sweep St. Louis in the World Series.

Also, Andres Galarraga agreed to a minor league contract with the New York Mets. The 43-year-old first baseman, who has come back twice from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, needs one home run to reach 400.

Two other deals were finalized: the Dodgers' \$55 million, five-year contract with outfielder J.D. Drew and Boston's \$15 million, one-year agreement with right-hander Wade Miller, who was let go by Houston earlier this week.

Atlanta's Vick signs NFL's richest deal

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Michael Vick became the richest player in the NFL, signing a 10-year, \$130 million contract extension with Atlanta that guarantees him an NFL-record \$37 million in bonuses.

Vick's contract surpasses the \$98 million deal Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning signed in March — although Manning's contract is for seven years. Manning was guaranteed \$34.5 million in bonuses.

The No. 1 overall draft pick in 2001, Vick has a 24-12-1 career record.

Shaq continues to get best of Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Damon Jones hit a 3-pointer with 23.4 seconds left, and Shaquille O'Neal blocked Mike Bibby's layup attempt in the closing seconds of Miami's 109-107 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Jones' dramatic shot and O'Neal's defense capped an impressive late rally in Miami's final warmup before Shaq's return to Los Angeles to face Kobe Bryant and the Lakers Saturday.

O'Neal had 25 points and 10 rebounds. He missed two free throws with 10.9 seconds left, but blocked Bibby's drive to the hoop with about 2 seconds to play.

PUTTING FAMILY FIRST Big Spring coach resigns

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Big Spring High School is now in search of a new head volleyball coach after Revis Daggett resigned from her coaching and teaching position earlier this week, said the former-coach.

Daggett wants to spend more time with her four-year-old son Cole and saw an opportunity which was too good to turn down.

"I just felt like I couldn't be the mom I wanted to be with the lifestyle that is a part of coaching," she said. "It took too much time during nights and weekends."

Daggett's new job does not deal with teaching or coaching as she accepted a position at Lajintas Resort as the Executive Assistant to President Daniel Hostettler. The resort is located in Lajintas near the Big Bend area. It is about one and a half hours south of Alpine. The Lajintas Resort is a big-name resort often called the Palm Springs of Texas

and is visited frequently by actor Tommy Lee Jones.

"I am excited about the job because it will be very challenging and exciting," said Daggett. "It's an incredible place and I just couldn't pass it up."

Daggett was recruited by her family as two sisters live in the area and her parents could possibly be moving there soon, as well.

"I moved closer to two sisters, but leave one behind in Big Spring," she added.

Daggett's sister, Tanya Nolen, served as an assistant to her this past year and is also a junior varsity girls basketball coach.

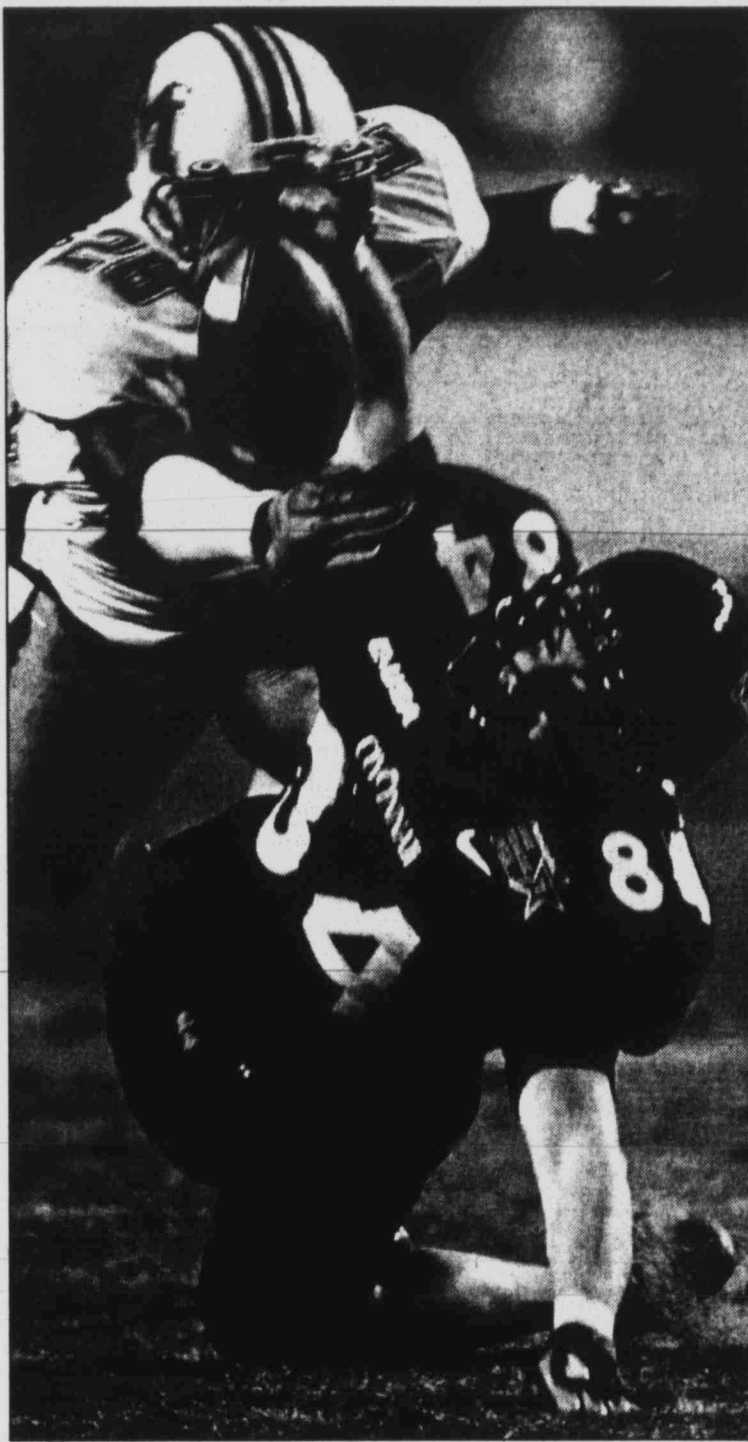
Daggett contemplated the leave when this year's volleyball season ended, but said the idea first surfaced when Cole was born in September of 2000.

She leaves behind 13 years of coaching experience. She coached 10 of those years at the college level. She coached at Oral Roberts for six years and took that team to the elite eight of the NCAA Tournament before becoming an assistant at Oregon for one year. She then coached at UTEP for

See DAGGETT, Page 2B



DAGGETT



KRT photo/Brad Loper, Dallas Morning News
Cincinnati receiver Bill Poland can't quite come up with a catch against Marshall defensive back Chris Royal in the first half of the Fort Worth Bowl in Fort Worth Thursday. Cincinnati defeated Marshall, 32-14.

Bearcats take out Marshall in F.W.

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH — Gino Guidugli made sure Cincinnati finished with a victory, no matter how much it hurt every time he took a snap or threw the ball.

With his throwing hand still swollen from broken bones that forced him to miss the Bearcats' miserable regular-season finale, Guidugli threw for 231 yards and two touchdowns in a 32-14 victory over Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl on Thursday night.

Cincinnati's first bowl win since 1997 came a year to the day after former Ohio State defensive coordinator Mark Dantonio became the team's coach.

After a slow start that included an interception Willie Smith returned for a touchdown, Guidugli completed 10 straight passes and 14 of 16 with both his touchdowns in the second quarter. That put the Bearcats (7-5) ahead to stay.

Bowl Game Preview: Part Two New Year's Day should bring good football

Yesterday's article talked about the early bowl matchups. Now, let's get to the big boys of college football with the bowl predictions and previews of games on News Year's Eve and after.



TROY HYDE

Remember, these are my opinions and things are very debatable. So feel free to do so.

Music City Bowl, Dec. 31: Alabama vs. Minnesota

This game features two non-deserving 6-5 football teams, but since I have to pick I like Minnesota's running game in this one. Laurence Maroney and Marion Barber III should have good days. Alabama had a tough schedule but didn't beat a good team. The Gophers started 5-0 before tumbling. They nearly won at Michigan and came a missed field goal away from beating its biggest rival, Iowa.

Winner: Minnesota
Sun Bowl, Dec. 31: No. 21 Arizona State vs. Purdue

Both of these teams began the season on fire, winning their first five games, and then reality sank in. The Boilermakers got hurt by Kyle Orton's injury and the Sun Devils wasted themselves in a blowout win over Iowa. Arizona State will probably play this game without star quarterback Andrew Walter and Orton should return, which gives the advantage to unranked Purdue.

Winner: Purdue
Liberty Bowl, Dec. 31: No. 10 Boise State vs. No. 8 Louisville

This game could be the most exciting game of them all as both Boise

State and Louisville have potent offensive attacks. Boise State is undefeated at 11-0 as they got big wins this year against Oregon State, UTEP and BYU. Louisville is 10-1 and its only loss came against Miami of Florida, which the Cardinals lost by three points after leading most of the game.

Winner: Louisville
Peach Bowl, Dec. 31: No. 14 Miami vs. No. 20 Florida

It is not common to see all of the powerhouse schools from Florida out of the top-10, but that is the case this year. The Hurricanes won their first six games before eventually losing to UNC, Clemson and Virginia Tech. Three of Florida's four losses came against Georgia, Tennessee and LSU. Both teams defeated rival Florida State this year, as well.

Winner: Miami of Florida
Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1: No. 15 Tennessee vs. No. 22 Texas A&M

Tennessee is 9-3 with two of its losses coming against undefeated Auburn. The Volunteers are undefeated on the road this year, which bodes well in bowl games. The Aggies should be in the top-15 next year, but should run into problems with their powerful SEC opponent. Coach Fran has done a great job though.

Winner: Tennessee
Outback Bowl, Jan. 1: No. 8 Georgia vs. No. 16 Wisconsin

Wisconsin was well on its way to the Rose Bowl after winning their first nine games of the season. The Badgers, however ran into problems on the road against Michigan State and Iowa in back-to-back games to close out the year. Georgia is in the top-10 for a reason and should be able to score points against the Badgers. Georgia's only

losses came against Tennessee and Auburn. Wisconsin is led by Erasmus James, while Georgia is led defensively by David Pollack.

Winner: Georgia
Gator Bowl, Jan. 1: No. 17 Florida State vs. West Virginia

West Virginia came into the season highly overrated, but started the year with four straight wins. All three of its losses were to good teams. Florida State is not even the best team in Florida anymore and if Chris Rix starts they may as well pack it in. I am calling for the upset here.

Winner: West Virginia
Capital One Bowl, Jan. 1: No. 11 Iowa vs. No. 12 LSU

This game is one of the most evenly matched games on the schedule as the winner will most likely earn a spot in the top-10 when the final rankings come out. The defending champion Tigers are 9-2, but their two losses came at Georgia and at home against Auburn by one point. The Hawks have won seven straight games after losing two in a row early in the year. The defenses feature NFL caliber defensive ends in Marcus Spears (LSU) and Matt Roth (Iowa). It will be close, but Iowa's defense and Drew Tate's pocket presence leads the Hawks to the win.

Winner: Iowa
Rose Bowl, Jan. 1: No. 5 Texas vs. No. 12 Michigan

This game features two of the best offensive players in the nation with Cedric Benson and Braylon Edwards. The BCS controversy that has haunted the Longhorns won't hurt them, but head coach Mack Brown will. Michigan lost this game to USC last year and won't want to lose two straight. Plus, Texas hasn't been good in recent

bowl games.

Winner: Michigan
Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 1: No. 20 Pittsburgh vs. No. 6 Utah

The BCS system failed once again as it allows a team with three losses in. Utah is the cinderella story of the year, but won't get to flex its muscles in this game because the competition is weak. I was hoping Utah could prove themselves against a powerhouse, but that won't be the case as this game might not be close.

Winner: Utah
Sugar Bowl, Jan. 3: No. 3 Auburn vs. No. 9 Virginia Tech

Auburn should be playing for the national championship and will prove it on this Monday. The Tigers went undefeated and played in the tough SEC, but is the odd team out in the crazy BCS. Virginia Tech finished the season strong with a win over Miami of Florida in the ACC Championship, but seems to be overmatched in this one.

Winner: Auburn
Orange Bowl, Jan. 4: No. 1 USC vs. No. 2 Oklahoma

This game has all the makings to be great. It features four of the five Heisman Trophy finalists in winner Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush from USC and Jason White and Adrian Peterson from OU. An Oklahoma defensive end called out the Trojans offense earlier this week and that was not a good idea in my opinion. Oklahoma was vulnerable at the end of last season and will have a hard time again this year. It will be close, but the Trojans win on a Bush punt return.

Winner: USC

Sports Editor Troy Hyde can be reached at 263-7331 ext. 237 or at sports@bigspringherald.com.

S.A. wins battle of Western powers

By T.A. BADGER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Manu Ginobili scored 22 points, and the San Antonio Spurs held Kevin Garnett to just one second-half basket in their 96-82 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday night.

The Spurs, who trailed by double digits in the first half, made 11 of their 18 shots in the fourth quarter to break open a tie game. Minnesota, which shot 53 percent in the first half, made only three of 14 shots in the period.

Tim Duncan added 19 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio, and Tony Parker also scored 19 points.

Wally Szczerbiak had 22 for Minnesota, which dropped its fourth straight road game.

Garnett scored 15 points on 4-for-16 shooting and had 10 rebounds, while Troy Hudson added 14 points. Michael Olowokandi had 12 rebounds.

Trailing by eight at halftime, the Spurs began the third quarter with a 12-2 run — capped by a putback by Robert Horry that gave San Antonio a 55-53 lead with 7:20 left.

The Spurs held the Timberwolves to 32 percent shooting and forced five turnovers in the period.

Rasho Nesterovic, scoreless in five attempts in the first half, made three straight shots and had three blocks in the second half.

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DAGGETT

Continued from Page 1B

three years and was named coach of the year in the WAC in 2000. She also coached one year at Grace Fellowship Christian School in Tulsa before spending two years at Big Spring, where she took the Lady Steers to the postseason each season.

Daggett's husband Lea is also a coach at Big Spring. He will be the head coach of the Big Spring softball team this year before moving to Lajitas permanently at season's end. Revis said Lea is looking forward to the softball season. She added that he has options for work in Lajitas, but coaching is not in his short term plans.

Coach Revis does not know who will take over the position, but said she will make calls to coaching associates to help in the process.

"The most difficult part of this decision is letting go of such incredible kids," Coach Revis said. "There's never really a good way to get out of coaching though."

"Cole is growing way too fast for me to want to miss it. I can't continue to put him and the rest of my family second."

Big Spring Assistant Superintendent Ray Villarreal stopped by the Daggett's home to personally wish them good luck. He even helped the family pack.

"That meant a lot to me," said Coach Revis. "Big Spring has just great people."

Rockets ship Lue to Hawks for Barry

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Hoping to find the consistent outside shooter they've been sorely lacking, the Houston Rockets acquired veteran guard Jon Barry in a trade with the Atlanta Hawks Thursday.

The Rockets sent the Hawks reserve guard Tyronn Lue, acquired in the blockbuster summer trade with Orlando that fetched Tracy McGrady.

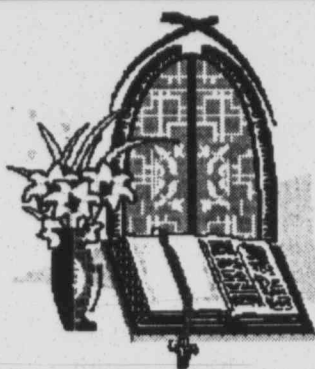
"This was a move we felt we needed to make," Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson said. "We needed to get an established shooter and Jon has made a career out of making shots everywhere he has played."

A 13-year veteran, Barry has averaged 5.7 points, 2.2 assists and 1.8 rebounds a game with Milwaukee, Golden State, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Detroit, Denver and two stints with Atlanta.

Barry has shot 43 percent from the field in his career.

In 16 games with the Hawks this season, Barry has averaged 5.2 points and 1.8 assists in 17.2 minutes.

In 21 games with Houston, Lue averaged 6.0 points and 2.8 assists in 22.8 minutes.



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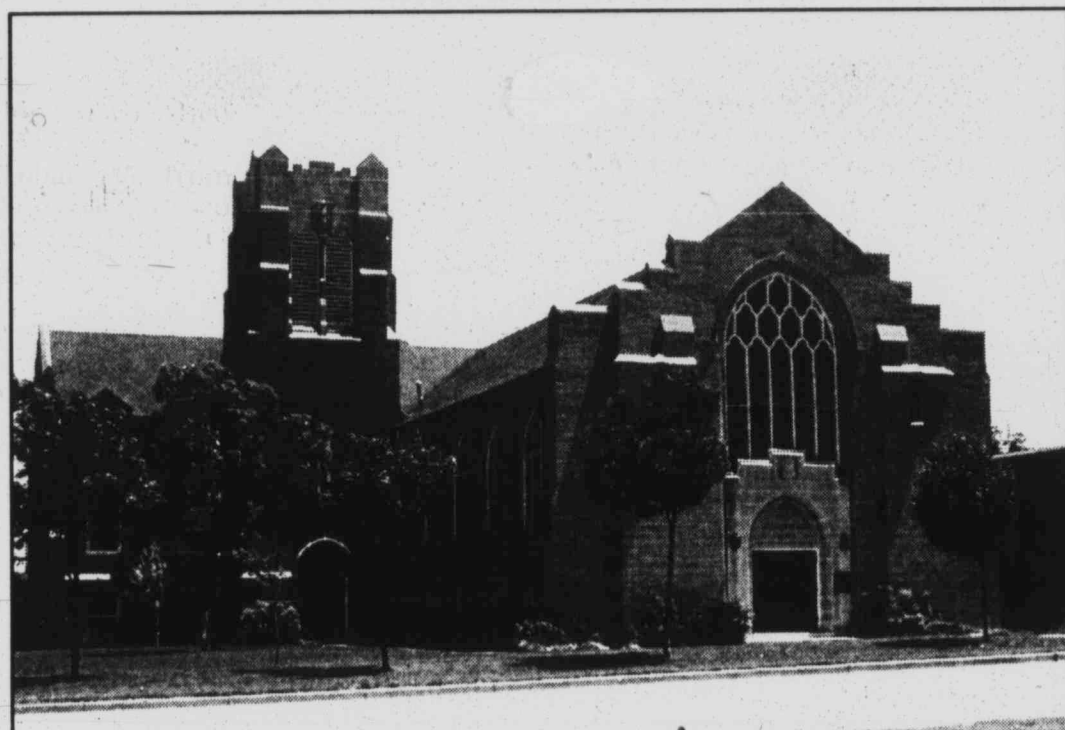
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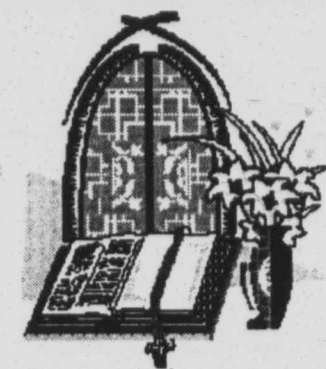
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1903 GREGG St. for rent. Great office or retail space. \$375/month plus deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

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SALE/LEASE: 7906 South Service Road (Sand Springs). 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A on 13 acres. \$37,800.00 or \$450.00 a month. Call (325)695-6100 after 6:00 p.m.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the stars, not a planet is stirring, except of course Mars, who happens to be packing his bags and heading for the adventureland of Sagittarius. It's a real "ho-ho-ho" of a transit for aggressive Mars, emphasizing the need for excitement, novelty and human connection.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The bustle and clamor of the season have provided distraction in recent days, but now,

you're clear and centered with your heart in the right place. Your best creations are made expressly with lots of love for one special person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If done your way, the holiday is bright. Be specific and repetitive with all information you'd like your guests to know. If not, you'll be receiving company at all odd hours, and the events unfold in a haphazard manner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have a way of adhering to formality in the most casual and elegant manner! A little of the old mixed in with the new is your recipe for a holiday that makes everyone feel included.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This is a red-letter day, especially if there's a gathering at your place. Family and friends behave just how you thought they would, but you have a few unexpected surprises planned to jump-start the celebratory energy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The anticipation of a holiday is for you even better than the holiday itself — and that's why you love night-before revelry. Evening rituals come together nicely. Your big-hearted extravagance is the talk of the party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your whole being swells with philanthropic energy and good will. Though home and hearth are where kindness begins, they are not where it ends. You're fulfilled when you get out and share with the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your senses are turned

on and tuned in to the natural offerings of the season — tangerines and walnuts, the smell of burning logs and bite of cold air. Your job is to help others appreciate things as completely as you do!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your mission is one of outreach. Through the phone and the Internet, you spread your spirited mood to the corners of the globe — or at least the country. Don't hold back! Be mushy! Loved ones long to hear it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You turn even the simplest of tasks — like wrapping a present — into a holiday extravaganza. Why not involve as many elements and people as you possibly can? The more the merrier, right?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your kindness is legendary. You should know that loved ones have expectations of you based on what you've done in the past. Honor your own traditions. It feels like coming home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like to keep things loose because, to you, overplanning makes proceedings forced and stiff. Be the one to instigate an impromptu game. You'll fill your house with laughter and warm feelings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your individuality is marvelous. You're celebrating in your own quirky way. A procession of interesting twists and turns in the plot today makes it impossible to do things other people's way anyhow!

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I've never written before, but after reading your response to "President of an Assisted Health Care Service in Kansas" in the Wisconsin State Journal, I felt the need. He said handicapped parking spaces should be used only by those in wheelchairs. Thank you for your response to this compassionate person.

My 80-year-old mother is probably one of those people he complained about. Mom has a collapsed lung, has had back surgery and is prone to blood clots forming in her one good lung. This makes breathing very difficult at times. Yet if you look at her, she seems fine. It's only when you watch closely that you realize she stops every hundred feet or so to catch her breath. There are days she can barely walk across the living room without stopping to rest.

Sure, the system gets abused, but let's have a little compassion. You never know what problems might be hidden from view. — Madison, Wis.

Dear Madison: That writer said we could print his name, but we thought that might not be such a good idea. Read on for more reasons why:

From Arizona: My wonderful daughter-in-law has MS. She usually has no trouble walking, but at times she gets a tingling in her legs that tells her she only has a few minutes to find a place to rest. I'd like to kick that Kansas Health Care manager right where he won't need a wheelchair, but will have trouble walking.

Southwest Florida: I'm handicapped but do not require a wheelchair because I can walk short

Those handicapped spaces make a huge difference to me.

Mississippi: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. As a nurse, I know of so many people who, like you said, need every ounce of energy just to breathe. My mother, while not in a wheelchair, is considered handicapped because of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. She needs that handicapped spot.

Ferndale, Calif.: My best friend has rheumatoid arthritis, and every step he takes is painful. Another friend had major surgery and breathes through a tracheotomy. How could anyone object to shortening the distance between car and building for these people? I find it appalling that a healthy person would begrudge the slightest favor to those unfortunate enough to need handicapped parking.

Tempe, Ariz.: There should be more handicapped parking, not less. We have over 20 casinos throughout this state, and every one of them has a huge parking lot dedicated to handicapped parking with double-width stalls. Most include an attendant who comes out and helps lift wheelchairs and provide assistance. No wonder so many handicapped people spend time at casinos.

Kansas: I used to wonder about people who parked in handicapped spots and looked as healthy as I did. My significant other just got his handicapped sticker. At the age of 45, he is a victim of MS. Most days he can hardly get out of bed, let alone get around town. On his good days, he can do a little shopping, but to see him get out of the car, you wouldn't guess he was sick.

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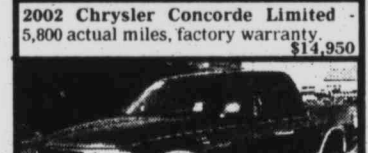
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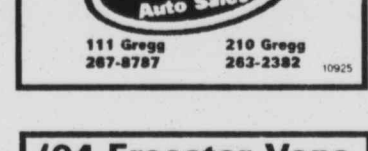
2002 Ford Lariat Supercrew - 42K mint. \$19,950



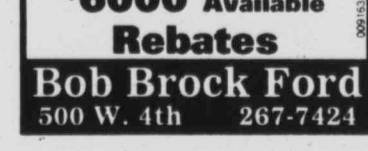
2000 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Quad Chairs. Nice. \$13,950



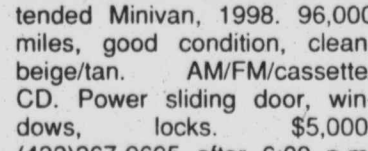
2004 Freestar Van - \$6,000 Available



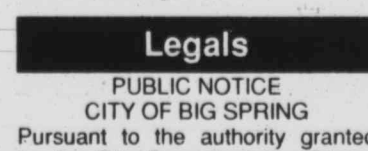
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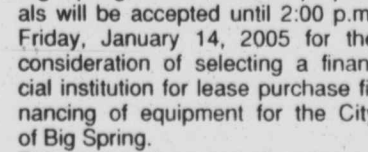
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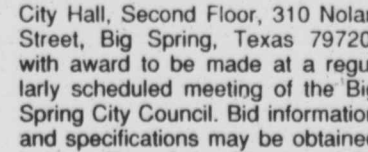
2004 Freestar Van - \$6,000 Available



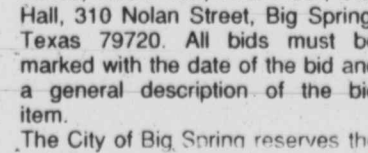
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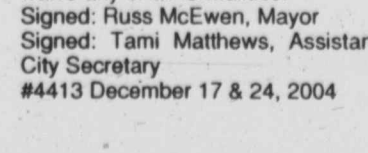
2004 Freestar Van - \$6,000 Available



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Energen Resources Corporation, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation has an immediate opening for a Lease Operator at its WestBrook, Texas office. Responsibilities include:

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- Conducting and directing the on-lease activities of contractors
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- Relief pump and work periodically with company roustabout crew

The qualified applicant will have 1-3 year's production experience with a broad knowledge of all types of production equipment. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

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Midland, Texas 79705
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Fax #: (432) 686-8742
An Equal Opportunity Employer

FRIDAY

DEC. 24

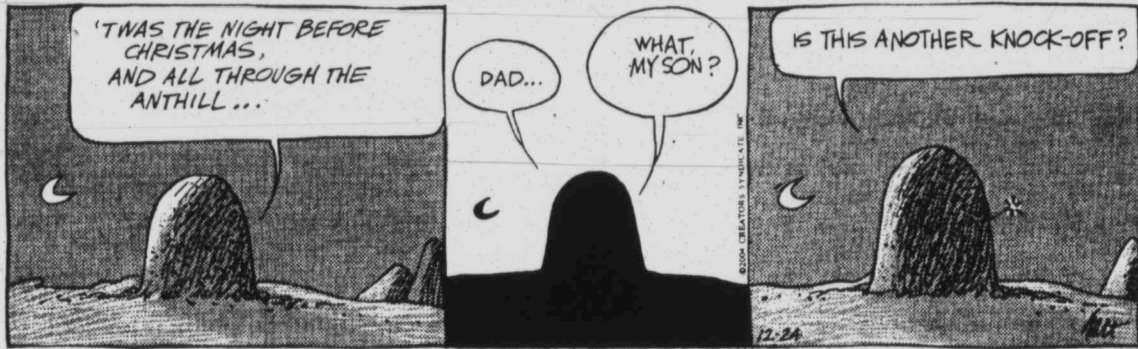
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (24)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (30)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
6 :PM	News (CC)	News	Movie: Jesus, el Nino Dios	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News	Movie: Un Quijote Sin Mancha	News	Raymond	Nueva Vida	News-Lehrer	World Biker		Twice (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Episode	Sister, Sister	NFL Live	College	
7 :PM	Funnies Home	Funnies Home		The	Joan of	Movie: A	Movie: A	Update/Israel	Great	Monster House	Movie: Miracle			Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	104	Movie: 'Twas the Night	Movie: 3	Sheraton	Movie: The
8 :PM	Movie: I'll Be Home for	Movie: I'll Be Home for		Rocky and Bullwinkle	JAG (CC)	Movie: El Barrendero	Carol: The Musical (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Mormon Tabernacle Choir	Monster Garage (CC)			Movie: Diamonds Are Forever (CC)					Hawaii vs. Alabama	(CC)
9 :PM	Christmas (DVS)	Christmas (DVS)	La Escuela en Noche Buena	Malcolm-Mid. 70s Show	48 Hours Mystery (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Manv'n Hamish's	American Chopper	Movie: Miracle on 34th Street				Club Comic View	Lizzie McGuire Sister, Sister	Movie: 3	Birmingham SportsCenter	15 Movie: Days of
10 :PM	Family First	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	Story (CC) (DVS)	The Hour of Healing	Shining Bright: The Crane	Monster House (CC)			Movie: I Am Sam	Nightly News	Braceface Boy World	NFL Live	Outside-Lines	Thunder (CC)
11 :PM	First Methodist Christmas	Candlelight Christmas	Misa del Gallo del Papa	Becker (CC)	Service To Be	of Nazareth	Announced Christmas Eve at St. Peter's Basilica	Movie: A Christmas (DVS)	CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Monster Garage (CC)	Movie: Miracle on 34th Street	Movie: Never Say Never Again (CC)		Christmas Memories	Proud Family That's Raven	NFL Live	SportsCenter	Heavenly Creatures
12 :AM	Christmas Eve St. Philip	Extra (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel	Spin City	Announced The Insider	Movie: Un			Update/Israel Michael Decker		American Chopper				Club Comic View	Kim Possible Lizzie McGuire	Wtr. X-Games	SportsCenter	45 Movie:

DENNIS THE MENACE



OL' RUFF DOESN'T NEED A NAME TAG ON HIS GIFT. HE'S ALREADY SNIFFED IT OUT.

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



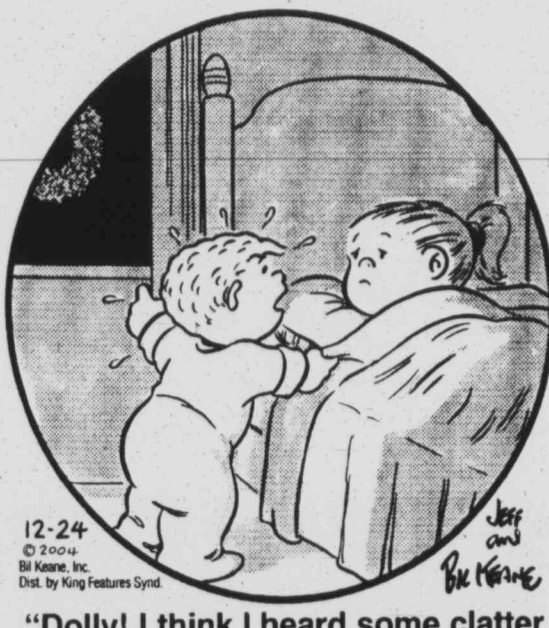
SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Dolly! I think I heard some clatter out on the lawn!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2004. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

On this date: In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama, who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India, died in Cochin, India.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroy-

ing about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halevy's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In 1943, President Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation "Overlord."

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC TV.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds, one second for each day of captivity.

In 2002, Laci Peterson was

reported missing from her Modesto, Calif., home, by her husband, Scott, who was later convicted of murdering her and their unborn son.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 84. Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 64. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 60. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 59. Actor Grand L. Bush is 49. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 49. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 48. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 47. Designer Kate Spade is 42. Rock singer

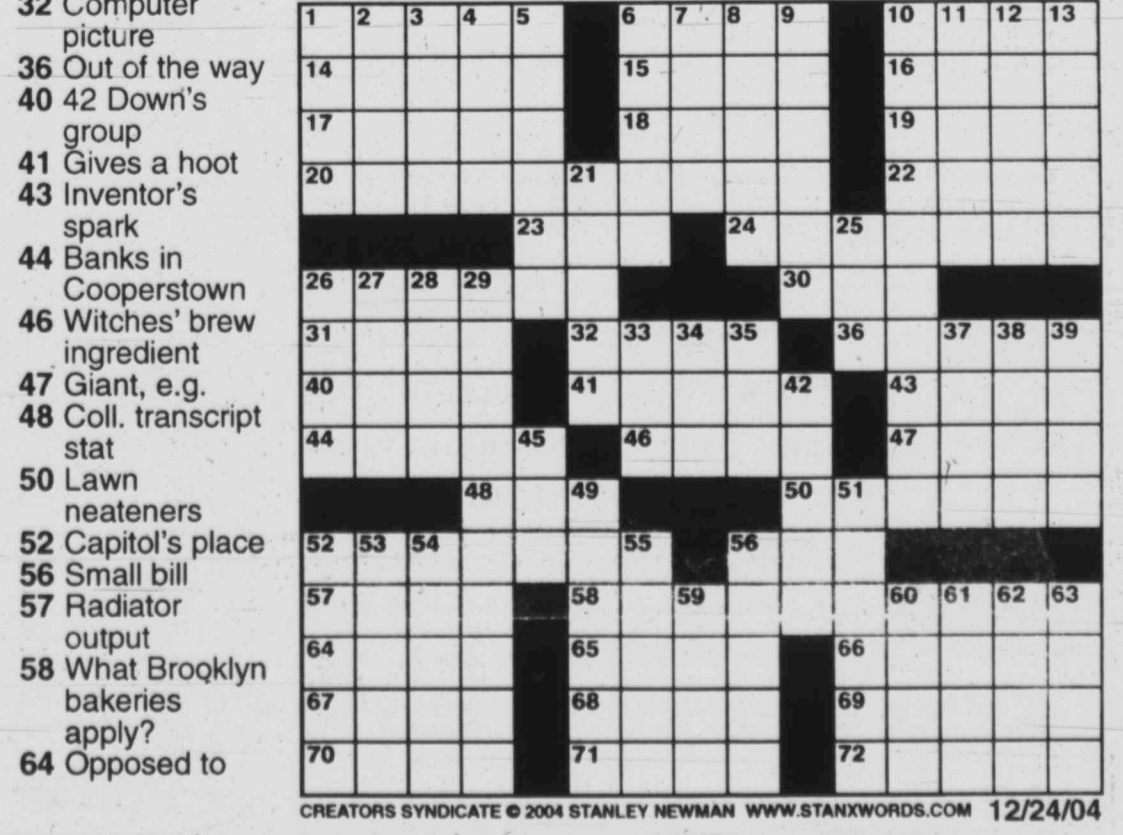
Answer to previous puzzle

T	O	L	E	T	Q	U	A	S	H	J	E	T
I	M	A	G	E	T	R	I	T	E	A	X	E
R	A	N	G	E	F	I	N	D	E	R	W	I
E	N	D	N	A	P	S	O	U	S	T	S	
H	E	A	D	D	A	I	S					
F	O	R	G	E	N	E	S	N	A	M	E	
O	L	L	I	E	P	A	S	S	E	U	L	M
W	I	D	E	B	E	N	I	N	A	S	E	A
N	N	E	C	O	R	A	L	A	L	I	C	E
G	R	I	L	L	A	S	U	S	P	E	C	T
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D	O	Z	E	N	B	A	B	A	T	W	A	
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P	L	Y			S	A	D	I	E	L	A	D

Newsday Crossword

BROOKLYNESE by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Reduce to confetti
 - 6 Woeful fellow
 - 10 Avant-garde artist
 - 14 Throw with effort
 - 15 Llama land
 - 16 Blissful state
 - 17 Synthetic fiber
 - 18 Diabolical
 - 19 Story line
 - 20 What Brooklyn tech schools do?
 - 22 Lacoste of tennis
 - 23 "to worry!"
 - 24 Colin Powell, once
 - 26 Be patient
 - 30 Moines, IA
 - 31 Garfield pooch
 - 32 Computer picture
 - 36 Out of the way
 - 40 42 Down's group
 - 41 Gives a hoot
 - 43 Inventor's spark
 - 44 Banks in Cooperstown
 - 46 Witches' brew ingredient
 - 47 Giant, e.g.
 - 48 Coll. transcript stat
 - 50 Lawn neateners
 - 52 Capitol's place
 - 56 Small bill
 - 57 Radiator output
 - 58 What Brooklyn bakeries apply?
 - 64 Opposed to
- 65 Fridge foray
- 66 Barbecue spot
- 67 St. Paul's architect
- 68 Castaway's home
- 69 Speechify
- 70 Perform a tune
- 71 -do-well
- 72 Narratives
- DOWN
- 1 Roe source
 - 2 Roll-call answer
 - 3 Talk wildly
 - 4 "Did you _?"
 - 5 Eleanor Roosevelt in-law
 - 6 Shelled out
 - 7 Strauss of jeans
 - 8 Gasket
 - 9 Stuck out
 - 10 What Brooklyn dry cleaners do?
 - 11 Psychiatrist Alfred
 - 12 Hotelier Helmsley
 - 13 Microchip maker
 - 21 Column type
 - 25 PBS supporter
 - 26 Theological virtue
 - 27 Garlic quality
 - 28 MGM mascot
 - 29 What illuminates Brooklyn stages?
 - 33 Beans holder
 - 34 Mine yield
 - 35 Just out
 - 37 Goofing off
 - 38 Caribou, e.g.
 - 39 Corn units
 - 42 Shorthand pro
 - 45 Prefix for center
 - 49 Second man on the moon
 - 51 Iron-fisted one
 - 52 Melts down
 - 53 Painter
 - 54 Devoiced
 - 55 Renter's paper
 - 56 Judge's demand
 - 59 PC document
 - 60 Mitchell mansion
 - 61 Slanted type: Abbr.
 - 62 Evening, in ads
 - 63 Takes a turn



DEC
24
2004

Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGEYS

New toy

A study conducted by Debbie Crews, an LPGA member with a Ph.D. in psychology, explains why players like to switch putters so much. Crews studied 10 women pros, recording their brain waves, and found that brain activity went up in 26 out of 32 measures when the subjects used a new putter. In short, the brain gets excited when it has a new toy to play with.

But while changing putters is a good strategy for breaking old, dysfunctional patterns, Crews warns that the effect is short lived. In her test, the results were always better on the first 10 putts than on the next 10.

Tough walk

Here's one course even Arnie won't want to walk — the Nullarbor Links. The holes aren't that long, but it's a trek from the green to the next tee. The proposed golf course along the Nullarbor section of the Eyre Highway, one of the sparsest tracts in Australia, will be 868 miles long. The idea is to encourage tourism, so each hole will be built in a separate town near a gas station. The thought is that travelers will play a hole, fill up on gas and then drive to the next gas station to play the next hole.

This guy was good

PGA Professional Chandler Harper died last month at the age of 90. As a kid, I watched Sam Snead play in the third round of the 1968 Seniors PGA Championship at the old PGA National Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (now known as BallenIsles), and came away very impressed by Harper. He shot 64 that day and won the tournament the next day, totaling a nine-under 279 and beating Snead, who finished second, by four strokes.

Harper hit 12 of the 18 greens with fairway woods in that third round. The PGA East Course, considered a "monster" at the time, was a tad over 7,000 yards long — and Harper was 54 years old. In those days, there were no tour players, senior or otherwise, averaging 295 yards per drive as Tom Purtzer did this year on the Champions Tour, so the shots Harper landed were all well over 200 yards, and there were no 5- or 7-woods then, either!

The catchphrase the PGA Tour uses today to describe the pros is "these guys are good," but so were those guys; in fact, they were really good.

ASK THE PRO

Q: I'm a beginner and I think I am doing pretty well, but I'm getting a lot of conflicting advice. Every time I play, the people I'm playing with are constantly telling me something new. I'm especially confused about the stance.

I took one lesson from a pro and he told me to bend from my hips and not from my waist, so I'll keep my weight off my toes, but this stance "feels funny." Other people want me to "stand tall" and to reach the ball by bending my knees a lot. Which is correct? — **Angie D., from the Philippines**

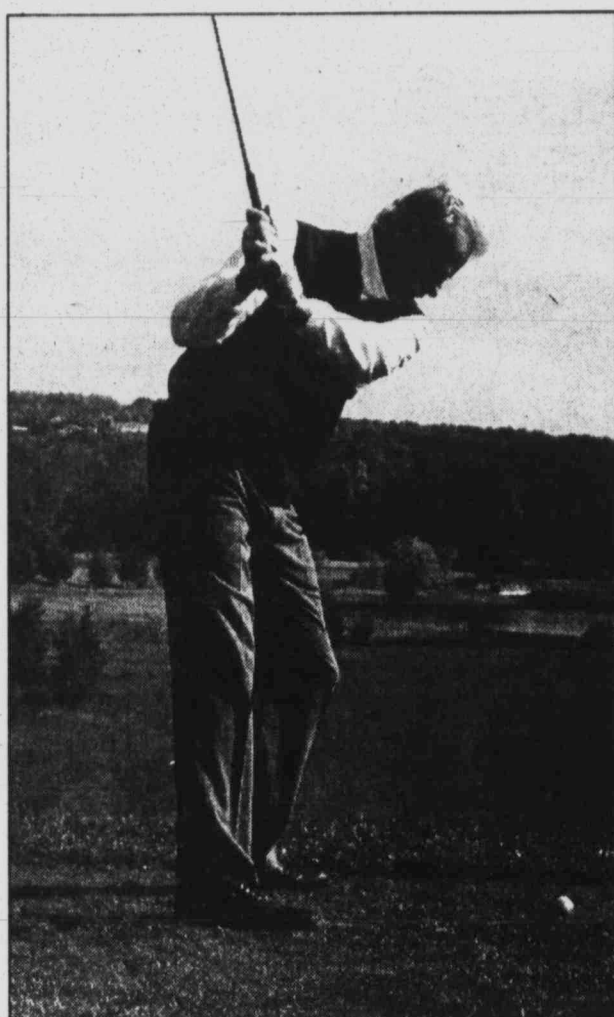
A: Not surprisingly, I'm siding with your teacher on this one. Your weight will be incorrectly under you if you stand tall and drop to the ball with excessive bending of your knees.

One reason you may feel funny in the proper golf posture is what I call "impolite posture." A complete explanation of this is in my book "Play Better Golf for Women," but here's a summary:

Even though good golf requires that you bend from the hips, resulting in a protruding tail end, many women are reluctant to do so for reasons of comportment. Rest assured that on the golf course, this posture is accepted as the norm.

Remember that you have to bend to the ball because it's on the ground. If you bend only from your waist, your weight moves to your toes and you'll lose balance as you swing. Bending from the hips creates a counter balance: The weight of your upper body bent forward is balanced by the weight of your lower body stuck out behind you.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



I have already shifted my weight into my left hip socket from the right hip socket while keeping my shoulders back so that the club drops into the "slot."



Players with BPD remain frozen behind the ball, and they fail to release their right side as I have here. Notice how my right knee has rotated toward the target.

GPD: Good player's disease

Staying behind the ball too long through impact is a swing flaw that can be fixed

Let's hope that "good player's disease" (GPD) is not the closest you ever come to being a good player.

Golfers of all performance levels can have good player's disease. Its cause is not found among the usual suspects, such as hitting from the top or sliding ahead of the ball. These are faults the good player has already pruned from his or her swing. GPD comes from too much of a good thing, in this case, staying behind the ball too long.

If you stay behind the ball too long through impact, your knees slide laterally, parallel to the target line, for too great a distance. The result is that you either drag the club into the ball with the club face open (resulting in a block to the right), or wrap the club around your body, closing the club face (resulting in a severe hook to the left).

Players with GPD start their

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Conn. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.

downswings correctly, matching the position I'm demonstrating in the first photo (above, left). Here I have already shifted my weight into my left hip socket from the right hip socket (where it was at the top of the backswing) while keeping my shoulders back so that the club drops into the "slot."

Players with GPD, though, remain frozen behind the ball, and they fail to release their right side

as I have in the second photo. Notice how my right knee has rotated toward the target in this photo.

The right knee kick is the key, and making it part of my release sequence opens my left hip to the target, allowing me to release my arms and hands squarely through the impact area. That my club is "on plane" is clearly evidenced by the fact that an imaginary line drawn through the grip end of my club is parallel with the target line.

To help my students get the feel of the right knee kick, I have them do the Gary Player drill. Player often steps through the shot after impact — he hits the shot and is immediately walking toward the target, right leg over the left. The only way to do this is to feel yourself kicking your right knee toward the target as part of your release sequence.



KITE

Kite sets sights (again) on PGA Tour

By KEVIN ROBBINS
Cox News Service

Austin, Texas
Tom Kite plans to rejoin the PGA Tour in a month, becoming the oldest exempt player in tour history. A newly elected member of

the World Golf Hall of Fame, Kite, 55, is taking a one-time exemption available to players who rank among the top 50 on the PGA Tour money list, which does not include earnings from the Champions Tour. Kite ranks 44th on that list, with more than \$10.9 million. "I just want to have some fun

with it," said Kite, who won 19 events on the PGA Tour before joining the over-50 Champions Tour in 2000.

"I've played golf for 50 years. I've played professional golf for over 30 years. This is, in my mind, like being a rookie again," he said.

TEEING OFF

Steer clear of trouble with change in grip pressure

If you have difficulty avoiding trouble when it lines one side of the fairway, a simple remedy is to change your grip pressure so your ball will spin away from the trouble.

Trouble on the Left

When trouble looms on the left, tighten your hold on the club in both hands. Aim down the middle and expect your ball to fade softly toward the safety of the right side.

On a scale of 1 to 5, if your normal pressure is a 3, ratchet your fade pressure up to a 4. The increased firmness in your hands discourages wrist action (cocking/uncocking), and the more stiff-wristed your swing, the more likely you are to produce a fade.

Trouble on the Right

When there's trouble on the right, gear back to a 2 on your grip pressure index. This activates your wrists, giving them the flexibility to work the club face into a slightly closed position through the hitting zone, resulting in a draw that moves away from the trouble.

Turn Defense Into Offense

This simple way to fade and draw the ball isn't just a defensive weapon; it can be used aggressively to attack pins tucked behind bunkers and water hazards. Rather than aiming straight at the flag and running the risk of landing in trouble with a pull or a push, aim at the center of the green and either firm up or relax your hand pressure, depending on the location of the flag.

If your shot shape is correct, you'll knock it close. If you hit it straight, you'll be in the middle of the green, and if you pull it, the worst you'll have is a lag putt from the other side of the green.

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

476

Distance in yards of the longest drive of the year on the PGA Tour in 2004. Davis Love hit it at the Las Vegas stop.



LOVE

Granted, the air is less dense in Nevada, but a few yards short of 500 would be good even on the moon.

45,142,737

The number of dollars Tiger Woods has earned on the PGA Tour. He is No. 1 in career earnings, \$8,382,648 ahead of Vijay Singh, who is second. Tiger also leads in consecutive tour cuts made with 133, the most in tour history and counting. Vijay again is second with 24.

14

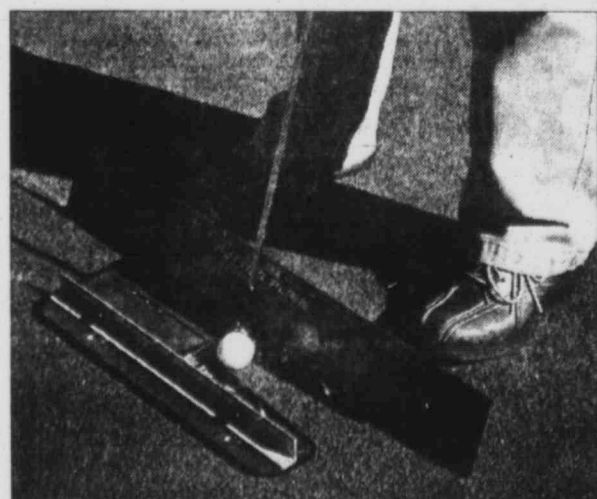
The number of PGA Tour individual categories in which Vijay Singh finished No. 1 in 2004. They are: Money Leader, World Ranking, World Money List, Top 10 Finishes, Birdies per Round, Par 4 Birdie Leader, Scoring Average, Scoring Average (Actual), Scoring Average Before Cut, Tour Par Breakers, Tour Championship Points, Fall Finish Standings, Par 4 Performance (-51) and Par 5 Performance (-194). It is true that some of these categories are somewhat redundant (for example, if you are the birdie leader on par 4s, there is a very good chance you will also be No. 1 in Par 4 Performance), but it is still one heck of a year!

DON'T MISS IT

Straight and narrow

There's a putting training aid that helps you do all the things great putters do. Don't miss the Eyleine Putting Plane Rail. It will position your eyes over the ball and the target line, align the ball to your target, square your putter face to the target, bring the putter straight back and straight through, keep your shoulders square to the target line and help you accelerate through the stroke. And all for just under \$30.

To find out more or to place an order, go to www.eyleinegolf.com.



Eyleine Putting Plane Rail

THE GOLF DOCTOR

More patience than a doctor

To be a good golfer, you must first be a good learner, and good learners understand that it takes time to translate new learning into performance.

First you learn how to do something — for example, grip the club. Then you practice it until you can do it automatically. Once it's automatic, you own it and you're ready for the next piece of learning.

Tiger Woods is an example of a good learner. When he arrived on the tour his swing was long and loose, and even though he was successful, he knew he would be a better player if he changed his swing.

Working with Butch Harmon,

Woods spent almost 10 months before the changes kicked in, but when they did, Woods left the field so far behind that everyone figured no one would ever catch him.

But there are a lot of good learners in the world of golf, and they did catch him, so he spent most of 2004 learning another new swing, one that he is convinced will take him to a higher level. Even though his performance suffered initially, his patience is once again paying off as he ended this season with back-to-back wins.

To learn golf you have to have both patience and faith. First the faith that the changes you're making are worthwhile, and then the patience to let the

process run its course.

It's impossible to learn golf if you use an unrealistic time frame by which to measure the process. Learning any motor skill has an incubation period. Think of how long it takes to teach a child how to tie a shoe, and as motor skills go, shoe-tying is an uncomplicated one.

Students with unrealistic time frames create a barrier to learning that they cannot breach. Don't be guilty of wanting instant success. You can't do something the "wrong way" for 20 years but allow the "right way" only 20 minutes before you declare it doesn't work. Remember, most people quit just before something good happens to them.