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BIG SPRING

HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 22

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



INSIDE

Baltimore
hands Farve
worst loss
of Packer
QB's career

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Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Paula Laffier selects toys to be placed into individual bags for the Salvation Army Angel Tree distribution today.

Toys distributed today

Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps hundreds

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Features Editor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Especially for the 132 families adopted through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.

"This year we had fewer families but the number of children in each

family was way up from years past. Most families averaged six kids or more," said Capt. Linda Keeney.

Distribution for the presents was today, beginning at 9 a.m., and Salvation Army workers and volunteers prepared packages all day Monday.

"We're here until it's done; we

make sure every child is taken care of whether we received their Angel presents or not," she said.

In fact, a stack of sacks on a work table at the distribution center represented a number of children whose Angel presents were not returned. And Keeney said two

See TOYS, Page 3A

Flower power?

Moore Development funds help place metal poinsettias around city

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Could Big Spring become the poinsettia capital of Texas?

Certainly, if you're talking about flowers made from metal, wire and lights.

Metal "flowers" took center stage at the Monday evening meeting of the Moore Development for Big Spring board of directors, as the economic development firm looked at what it has accomplished through the High School Manufacturing Program at Big Spring High School.

Kent Sharp, executive director for Moore Development, said the joint venture with the high school began with a simple question: How could Moore Development help with the annual Festival of Lights and stay within its legal means?

"We were looking at our goals and strategies and

"We asked ourselves how we could cultivate some of the youth into manufacturing, and this seemed like an excellent way to do that."



Sharp

how we could help some 4-B projects," said Sharp. "This was about a month before the Festival of Lights was set to begin. One idea basically started happening right after another, and we knew we couldn't spend 4-A dollars for a retail project, which would be 4-B, but we can spend money on manufacturing.

"The high school students need a product to manufacture, so could they manufacture the

See FUNDS, Page 3A

Arts center 60 percent complete, college's board of trustees told

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard College trustees toured the school's new Visual and Performing Arts Center during their Monday afternoon meeting, getting a firsthand look at the facility, which is still under construction.

Phil Furqueron, architect in charge of the construction, guided trustees through the facility, which is expected to be completed during the spring. "I'd say they are about 60 percent complete on the project," said Furqueron. "They have all the structural block and steel up and they are roofing right now. Of course, once they get a roof on they can really go to work inside putting up finishes and things like that. We're anticipating being through about the middle of April."

Furqueron said a lot of planning went into the design of the build-

ing, which utilizes some space-sharing techniques to maximize efficiency.

"It's kind of unique in it has a formal sitting space and the studio theater, which is sometimes referred to as the black box," said Furqueron. "What we're doing is using the black box to serve as the tower behind the stage. So instead of building three really large spaces, we're building two and one of them will actually do double duty. So we're getting a lot of efficiency out of the building."

"At most other performing arts centers, the studio theater is almost built as an afterthought, but in reality, that's the space they use the most — as much as 80 percent of the time. So we designed the building around the studio theater and try to make that the focal point because that's where the most activity is going to be."

Furqueron said inclement weather has had an effect on the progress

of the construction, but expects things to be up and running in April.

"We've had some weather days," said Furqueron. "We've lost some time to weather. In the contract if it's too bad to work, we extend the contractor's time by one day for each weather day, so it's had some impact. I think we're looking at two to three weeks of weather days, so it's not a huge impact, but it does have an effect on the schedule."

Following the tour, trustees heard a report from Howard County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom, who has been working with the college to look at possible election options for 2006.

"We've been looking at two different options," Bloom told trustees. "First, a joint election would allow the college to share the costs of the election with other entities. Because of the governmental lines,

See COLLEGE, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Phil Furqueron, the architect in charge of the construction of the new Visual and Performing Arts Center at Howard College, explains how a portion of the building will be used during a walk-through with college trustees Monday afternoon.

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LOTTERY TICKET FOUND

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas man who lost a winning lottery ticket and found it five days later got a \$25,000 check from the Texas Lottery Monday, just in time for some last-minute Christmas shopping.

Lottery spokesman Bobby Heith said Mike Sargent, a 51-year-old AT&T facilities specialist from Alvarado, signed paperwork and picked up the check Monday morning, one month after he turned it in to a lottery claims center.

The lottery had to run forensic tests on the scratch-off ticket because Sargent's signature had been partially scratched off. The investigation was completed Friday, Heith said.

5 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT



INFLATION TUMBLES

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation at the wholesale level fell in November by the largest amount in 2 1/2 years, reflecting big declines in gasoline and other energy products. The declines were expected to be short-lived, however, given that energy prices are on the rise again.

The Labor Department reported today that wholesale prices dropped by 0.7 percent last month, the biggest decline since a 1.5 percent plunge in April 2003. The drop reflected a sizable 4 percent fall in energy prices, which came after four months of sizable gains related to higher global oil prices and hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Obituaries

Edith Irene Springer



Edith Irene Springer, longtime resident of Lenorah in Martin County and later, during retirement, resident of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 19, 2005, in a New Braunfels nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, 2005, at the First Baptist Church Chapel, Big Spring with the Rev. Leandro Gonzales Jr., pastor of Lenorah Baptist Church and the Rev. J. B. Shewmake, Baptist minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born March 23, 1915, on a ranch in Kent County and married Grover Marlin Springer June 6, 1936. Grover preceded her in death March 5, 1999, after celebrating almost 63 years of marriage.

Mrs. Springer was a graduate of Big Spring High School and a graduate of Texas Tech with a major in government and minors in history and English. In 1977, Irene retired after 26 years of teaching school in the Tarzan and Lenorah rural schools and later in the Grady school system.

Since her retirement, she remained very active in Retired Teachers Organization, Stanton Study Club, Martin County Historical Commission and Permain Basin Historical Commission. She and her husband, Grover, were long-time members of Lenorah Baptist Church (1936 to 1998) and then became members of First Baptist Church of Big Spring when they moved there in 1998.

Survivors include two sons, Marlin David Springer of Spring Branch and Stephen McKay Springer of Salado; one sister, Hallie Sale of Midland; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two sons, Patrick Johnson Springer in December 1992 and Michael Jackson Springer in May 2005. The family requests memorials be made to the Martin County Historical Museum, P.O. Box 929, Stanton 79782.

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

Bobby D. Hull

Bobby D. Hull, 52, of Stanton went to be with his Lord, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2005. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, at the Downtown Church Of Christ in Stanton with Van Pendergrass, minister, officiating.

The family will receive friends and relatives from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Bobby was born Dec. 20, 1952, in Stanton. He attended Stanton schools and graduated in 1971, then attended Angelo State University. He married Susie Mehaffey June 22, 1973.

Bobby farmed cotton and hauled freight, cotton bales and oilfield pipe. Then he worked at the Sales Ranch Plant for West Texas Gas Inc., as a field operator for 21 years.

He is a member of the Downtown Church Of Christ, where he has served as deacon for five years. He has also served as president of the Martin County Fair Association, Old Settlers Association, Evening Lions Club and Stanton Buffalo Booster Club.

One of his fondest memories was watching his sons play for the 1997 2A Football State Championship at Texas Stadium on his birthday. Bobby had a beautiful voice and loved to sing.

He is survived by his wife, Susie of Stanton; two sons and daughters-in-law, Brett and Becky Hull and Kenneth and Amber Hull, all of Lubbock; one granddaughter, Kimberley Hull of Midland; his mother, Juanita Hull of Stanton; one brother, Homer Lee and wife, Doris Hull of Stanton; two sisters, Dorothy and husband, Kimmie Long of Big Spring and Loveta and husband, Ray Pope of Pampa.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill Hull in 1989.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Watkins, Dr. Corwin, Dr. Subbaraman, Dr. Tevini, the nurses and staff of the Allison Cancer Center and Midland Memorial Hospital for their compassionate care.

The family suggests memorials made to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79702 in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

John Mark Sanders

John Mark Sanders, 50, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 19, 2005, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Robert Nichols

Robert Nichols, 75, of Knott died Monday, Dec. 19, 2005, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support groups

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- **DUTCH BARR**, 33, of Coahoma, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **RAUL MARTINEZ**, 48, of 1510 Oriole, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- **ERICA CERVANTES**, 19, of Odessa, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.
- **VANESSA ALVAREZ**, 18, of 616 Caylor, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant.
- **PAUL MORENO JR.**, 23, of 538 Westover Road Apt. 250, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 200 block of 12th Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 300 block of Gregg Street.
- **FORGERY** was reported in the 1200 block of Sycamore.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 800 block of Willia.

Sheriff's report

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

- **KRISTIN RENE HAWKINS**, 24, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **LESLIE LOUMENDY FUENTES**, 34, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **KELLY R. WINGO ANDERSON**, 37, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone.
- **ANGELA CELESTE DUGGER**, 28, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of theft by check.

Fire/EMS

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

- **RUBBISH FIRE** was reported in the 1100 block of Northwest 10th Street.

• **JOHN MOSELEY, BIG SPRING HERALD MANAGING EDITOR AND LONGTIME COMMUNITY SUPPORTER**, is in critical need of life-saving treatment insurance will not provide. A fund has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union, account no. 926151. For more information, call Marsha at 263-7331.

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

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **THE HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD** seeks Christmas help for the 69 children in foster care. To 'adopt' a child or family for the holidays, contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or 268-4550.

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

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

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law,

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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with a meeting to follow at 1st and Goliad streets. All Masons are welcome to attend.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- **FRIDAY**
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Take Note

divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Light and variable winds.

Wednesday—Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs around 60. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. South winds around 10 mph.

Thursday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-19-21-24-31.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

...

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-10-21-30. Bonus Ball: 21.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$300,000.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-2-9

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Priest accused of groping teen during "King Kong"

MARBLE FALLS (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest accused of groping a 16-year-old boy at a movie theater during a showing of "King Kong" has been charged with indecency with a child by sexual contact.

Father Paul M. Clogan, 74, was arrested Friday as he left the theater, Marble Falls police Capt. F.T. Goodwin said in Monday's online edition of the *Austin American-Statesman*. Clogan was free on bond Monday.

Clogan sat next to the teen in the theater, even though other seats were available, Goodwin said. The boy, who did not know Clogan, told investigators the priest groped him about an hour after the movie started.

Clogan lived in Marble Falls and was serving at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Horseshoe Bay. He has been removed from active ministry until the case is resolved, Austin Bishop Gregory Aymond said.

DeLay charges likely caught up in appeals process for months

AUSTIN (AP) — Rep. Tom DeLay won't get a trial in his criminal case until appeals in the case are resolved, a process that starts this week and typically takes a minimum of five months, usually more, to complete.

That wouldn't be soon enough for DeLay to reclaim his position as House majority leader, but defense attorneys are asking the court to speed up the process for the high powered politician.

Prosecutors who brought money laundering and conspiracy charges against DeLay and two of his associates have appealed a judge's partial dismissal of the criminal charges. DeLay's attorneys asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to condense their normal procedure and shorten filing periods from 20 days each to five days each. The court has not issued a decision on that request.

With 10 days left in the year, DeLay attorney Dick DeGuerin optimistically said the appeal could be complete before the end of the year.

Yates to move from prison to state mental hospital

RUSK (AP) — Andrea Yates, the Houston mother who drowned her five children in the family's bathtub, will soon move from an East Texas prison to a state mental hospital as she awaits a new capital murder trial.

Yates' two murder convictions were overturned by an appeals court earlier this year because of false expert testimony at her 2002 trial. Yates' case was returned to a Harris County court last week, and a judge Monday set an initial hearing for Jan. 9.

Prosecutor Joe Owmsby said Monday that Yates will be moved to the Rusk State Hospital, less than a half-mile away from the Skyview prison, a psychiatric unit where she's been jailed for nearly three years.

The Harris County Sheriff's Department, which is responsible for transporting Yates to the hospital and to future court appearances, is awaiting court documents before transferring Yates, spokesman Lt. John Martin. He said security concerns prohibited him from saying when Yates would be moved.

Yates' attorney, George Parnham, who has worked for months to get Yates into a state mental hospital, said he visited Yates twice last week to help prepare her for the move. While he wouldn't provide details on those discussions, Parnham said Yates is scared about the transition.

"All parties agree that she was and is mentally ill, and she needs the expert assistance," Parnham said.

Woman suing Crowley school district

PLANO (AP) — A woman who was told she couldn't hand out religious materials on a sidewalk in front of a high school sued the Crowley Independent School District Monday.

"Crowley ISD, despite being warned several times through attempts to resolve this, continues to bow its neck in the face of clear constitutional law and the freedom of speech and religion," said Tom Brandon, one of Janice Colston's lawyers.

The lawsuit was filed in state court in Tarrant County by Plano-based Liberty Legal Institute, a religious-rights group.

Colston, 65, of Fort Worth, said she was outside Crowley High School when the assistant principal ordered her to dispense Christian pamphlets at the end of the block, not in front of the school.

School officials said it was a safety concern because students board buses in that location.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

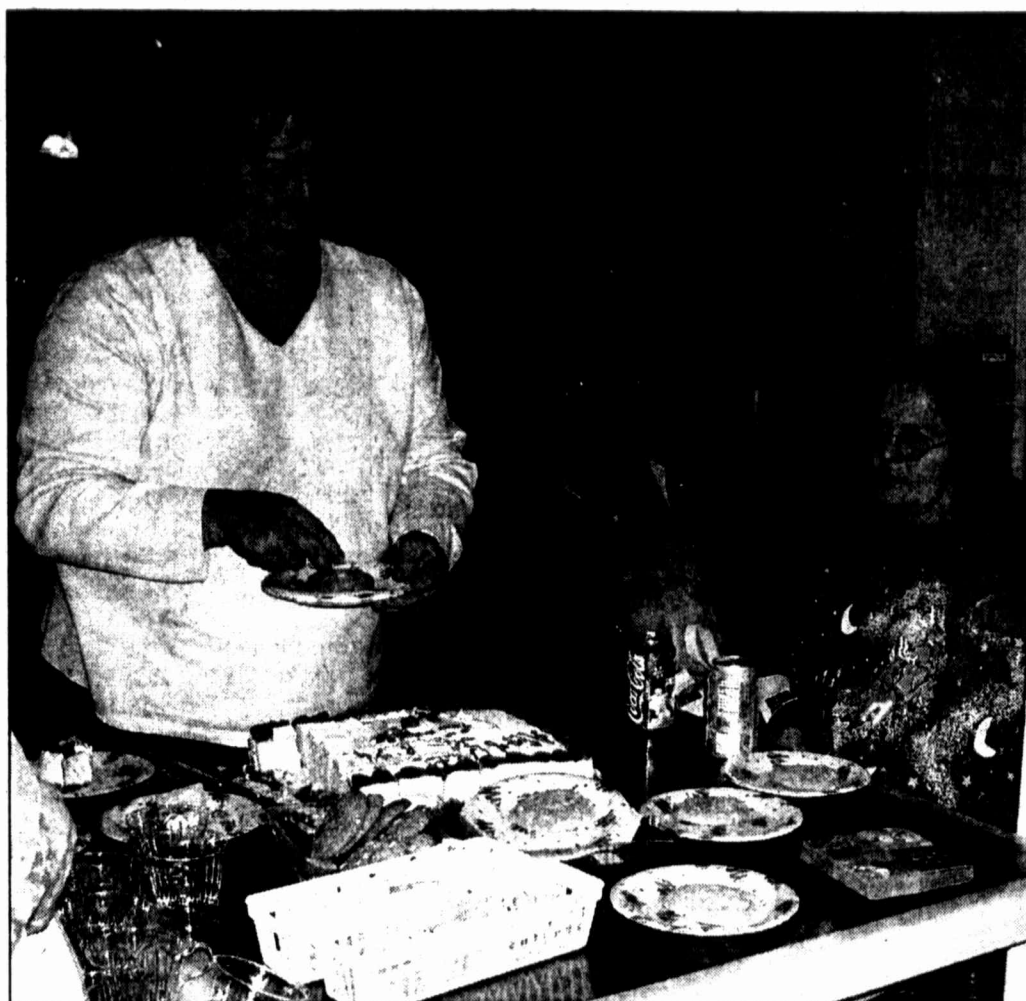
the school districts — Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma — would be the easiest for the college to join with. We're still looking at the city of Big Spring to see if that's even possible at this point. This option cuts down on the cost of programming and poll workers because it combines ballots.

"The other option would be for the college to contract with the county to hold the election. The election would still be held separate from the other agencies; the county just wouldn't have to worry about supplying

the equipment or poll workers. It wouldn't change to number of polling places, either."

Trustees agreed to consider the information and make a decision on the matter in January.

HOME HOSPICE



Tami Orren, director of Home Hospice in Odessa, serves cake, cookies and tea Monday to residents at Mountain View Lodge, including Mary Jackson, right, and her mother, Bonnie King, during a Christmas Tea in the nursing home dining room. "A Cup of Christmas Tea" was read to those attending as part of the event. Christmas Teas were provided to all area nursing homes in Howard County during December as a holiday celebration.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Iran's president bans Western music on radio and television

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has banned all Western music from Iran's state radio and TV stations — an eerie reminder of the 1979 Islamic revolution when popular music was outlawed as "un-Islamic" under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Today, though, the sounds of hip-hop can be heard blaring from car radios in Tehran's streets, and Eric Clapton's "Rush" and the Eagles' "Hotel California" regularly accompany Iranian broadcasts.

No more — the official IRAN Persian daily reported Monday that Ahmadinejad, as head of the Supreme Cultural Revolutionary Council, ordered the enactment of an October ruling by the council to ban all Western music, including classical music, on

state broadcast outlets.

"Blocking indecent and Western music from the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting is required," according to a statement on the council's official Web site.

The Iranian guitarist Babak Riahipour lamented what he called a "terrible" decision. "The decision shows a lack of knowledge and experience," he said.

Music was outlawed by Khomeini soon after the 1979 revolution; Khomeini claimed it was "intoxicating." Many musicians went abroad and built an Iranian music industry in Los Angeles.

As revolutionary fervor started to fade, some light classical music was allowed on Iranian radio and television; some public concerts reappeared in the late 1980s. Since his death, pop music has been creeping into Iranian shops.

TOYS

Continued from Page 1A

Senior Angels were adopted but the presents were not returned.

"We still had several Angels on trees Saturday, but at the last minute a gentleman came in and gave us a cash donation. He said he didn't want to do the shopping but wanted to help with the Angel program, so we took the money and finished shopping for the remaining Angels," she said.

She estimated more than 450 children were part of the Angel Tree program this year.

And once the gift distribution is complete, the Salvation Army's Christmas programs continue, with a special Christmas Eve luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at the

corps office, 811 W. Fifth.

"Normally we have Christmas Day dinner, but as Christmas is on a Sunday, we'll be having church service, so we've moved the annual dinner to noon Christmas Eve," Keeney said.

The meal is free to the public and includes ham, broccoli and rice casserole, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls and dessert.

Take-out is available for those unable to come to the office for the meal, but orders must be placed by Friday by calling Paula Lafler at 267-8239. These meals will be ready for pickup by 10 a.m.

"If someone wants to come to the office and get a dinner to go, that is also acceptable. We really plan the take-out for those who are shut-in or housebound, especially those on the Meals and Wheels

program which has stopped deliveries until Jan. 2," Keeney said.

Contact Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

FUNDS

Continued from Page 1A

poinsettias and we would fund the equipment, machinery and things of that nature? Of course we could because it's allowable. So if we helped the high school, they could manufacture the poinsettias which would help the Festival of Lights."

And while the idea may seem like a loophole at first, Sharp said the project also helps area students get a feel for the manufacturing process.

"High school students can get plenty of jobs working in retail, you see it all the time," said Sharp. "They can work at Bealls or Wendy's. However, most of them have never worked in a manufacturing setting. We asked ourselves how we could cultivate some of the youth into manufacturing, and this seemed like an excellent way to do that."

The most prominent of the metal poinsettias can be seen nightly, adorning the sides of the historic Settle Hotel, a sight Moore Board member Mike Nicklasch said he's heard comments about on several different occasions.

"I've had several people comment on the ones on the Settles," said Nicklasch during the meeting. "They've really had an effect."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Emmalicia and Esavella Olivas, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 3:00 PM Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Johnny Jones, 61, died Saturday. Graveside Services were at 10:30 AM Tuesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Inez J. Gonzales, 65, died Sunday. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Primera Iglesia Bautista with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Pizza Inn. Buffet 7 Days A Week

Lunch 11:00 - 2:00
Evening 5:00 - 9:00

1702 Gregg 263-1381

Christmas Holiday Hours



The Big Spring Herald office will be closed **Monday, December 26, 2005** in observance of the Christmas Holiday

CLASSIFIED WORD AD DEADLINES ARE ADJUSTED AS FOLLOWS:

- Deadline for Friday's paper, Thursday 12:00 noon.
- Deadline for Sunday's paper, Thursday 3:00 p.m.
- Deadline for Monday's paper, Friday 12:00 noon

RETAIL & CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINES ARE ADJUSTED AS FOLLOWS:

- Deadline for Friday's paper, 12:00 noon Tuesday
- Deadline for Sunday's paper, 3:00 p.m. Tuesday
- Deadline for Monday's paper, 3:00 p.m. Thursday

Family Medical Center Spotlight

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Big Spring Banking
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Open Fri., 12/23 & Closed Mon., 12/26

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

Pause to remember our troops

As we approach Christmas, most of us will be surrounded by family and friends, caroling, gaiety and wonderful food. For a few days, or a few hours at least, we'll laugh and sing and let the world around us fade.

This holiday season, our anticipation has been further increased with the return of the Texas National Guard 56th Brigade, 36th Infantry Division "T-Patchers" — including the Big Spring detachment, Detachment 1, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry. They arrived in Waco Dec. 10 after serving many hard months in Iraq.

The joys of having those men and women back home in the arms of loved ones cannot be measured. For those families, that truly has to be the best Christmas present ever.

It's sad however, that many of our fellow Americans won't be able to share in those joys this Christmas. They are still serving in the military in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries where actions are hostile and any moments of peace are fleeting ones.

We've done our best through packages and occasional e-mails or phone calls to let them know how much we miss them. All we can do now is keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

As we prepare for this most wonderful of seasons, let's never forget that as we are celebrating, there are those under constant fire. Soldiers who are fighting for a better way of life and for freedom. Whether or not you support the war in Iraq, whether you believe it is a just cause or an injustice, we all need to support our men and women as long as they are over there.

So as you lift that glass of eggnog for a family toast this Christmas, take a moment to say a word of thanks for our brave brothers and sisters overseas. Then raise your glass once more — a little higher and a little longer this time — to our troops! May they make it home safely and with Godspeed.

How To CONTACT Us

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Ray

May all of our projects, Lord, include You.

Amen

Let's not take 'Kong' too seriously

I "King Kong" racist? Lots of people say it is. And, if it is, why does the film keep getting remade? What does it say about us if the new "Kong" is a huge hit?

Any movie that features white people sailing off to the Third World to capture a giant ape and carry it back to the West for exploitation is going to be seen as a metaphor for colonialism and racism. That was true for the original in 1933 and for the two remakes: the campy one in 1976, and the latest, directed by Peter Jackson. (In addition, a "Kong" wannabe, "Mighty Joe Young," has been made twice.) Movie reviewer David Edelstein, writing in Slate.com, notes the "implicit racism of 'King Kong' — the implication that Kong stands for the black man brought in chains from a dark island (full of murderous primitive pagans) and with a penchant for skinny white blondes." Indeed, a Google search using the words "King Kong-racism" yielded 490,000 hits.

Comparing the new film with the original, *The Washington Post's* Stephen Hunter observed, "It remains a parable of exploitation, cultural self-importance, the arrogance of the West, all issues that were obvious in the original but unexamined; they remain unexamined here, if more vivid." And by more vivid, Hunter might



JAMES P. PINKERTON

be referring to the natives of mythical Skull Island, where Kong is discovered.

Director Jackson took people of Melanesian stock — the dark-skinned peoples who are indigenous to much of the South Pacific, including Jackson's own country New Zealand — and made them up to look and act like monsters, more zombie-ish than human. Indeed, one is moved to compare these human devils to the ogre-ish Orcs from Jackson's mega-Oscar "Lord of the Rings" films. The bad guys are dark, hideous and undifferentiated evil.

One might note that the original source material for both films dates from the same period: "Kong" in '33, J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" four years later. Both works are ultimately meditations on the West and Western uniqueness. Which is to say, what's the role for white Europe — and for its ethnic offshoot, North America — in a world that is mostly non-white?

Some would label such sentiments as racist, but others would note that every ethnicity naturally feels a special affection for its own kind.

Yet, in the West, outright invocations of white nationalism, such as the 1915 film "Birth of a Nation," were politically unacceptable, even in the '30s, and so the same race-conscious sentiments were encrypted into allegory — in print or on celluloid.

The new "Kong" drills home its race consciousness by making repeated references to Joseph Conrad's 1899 novel, "Heart of

Darkness," which denigrates both the colonizing whites and colonized blacks.

In the novel's climax, the once-idealistic character Kurtz writes of Africans, "Exterminate all the brutes!" Conrad presents Kurtz as crazy, but Africa is presented as a crazy-making place.

The new Kong is, as always, a noble beast with a tender side. But, at the same time, his killing is presented as a cruel necessity. And at the end of the film, the white people — love interests Naomi Watts and Adrien Brody — are brought closer together, thanks to their brush with the big ape.

But if the movie is so loaded with race-charged imagery, why isn't it being protested?

Why aren't we seeing pickets and boycotts?

Perhaps it's because today, as people look around the world, they see that most political strife is, in fact, ethnic strife.

Folks like to say that "diversity is our strength," and they resolve to fight racism, but every day's news reminds us that ethnic conflict lurks in the human heart.

That's a gloomy reality that "Kong" captures, in its crypto fashion, and so there's no point in getting worked up over it.

Indeed, since the film is entertaining — like the similarly themed, much honored and extremely popular "Rings" movies of a few years back — one might as well go see this one, too.

James P. Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

Kidnapped and beaten, by Americans

The U.S. policy of "extraordinary rendition" has a human face, and it is mine.

I am still recovering from an experience that was completely beyond the pale, outside the bounds of any legal framework and unacceptable in any civilized society. Because I believe in the American system of justice, I sued George Tenet, the former CIA director, last week. What happened to me should never be allowed to happen again.

I was born in Kuwait and raised in Lebanon. In 1985, when Lebanon was being torn apart by civil war, I fled to Germany in search of a better life. There I became a citizen and started my own family. I have five children.

On Dec. 31, 2003, I took a bus from Germany to Macedonia. When we arrived, my nightmare began. Macedonian agents confiscated my passport and detained me for 23 days. I was not allowed to contact anyone, including my wife.

At the end of that time, I was forced to record a video saying I had been treated well. Then I was handcuffed, blindfolded and taken to a building where I was severely beaten. My clothes were sliced from my body with a knife or scissors, and my underwear was forcibly removed. I was thrown to the floor, my hands pulled behind me, a boot placed on my back. I was humiliated.

Eventually my blindfold was removed, and I saw men dressed in black, wearing black ski masks. I did not know their nationality. I was put in a diaper, a belt with chains to my wrists and ankles, earmuffs, eye pads, a blindfold and a hood. I was thrown into a plane, and my legs and arms were spread-eagled and secured to the floor. I felt two injections and became nearly unconscious. I felt the plane take off, land and take off. I learned later that I had been taken to Afghanistan.

There, I was beaten again and left in a small, dirty, cold concrete cell. I was extremely thirsty, but there was only a bottle of putrid water in the cell. I was refused fresh water.

That first night I was taken to an interrogation room where I saw men dressed in black clothing and ski masks as before. They stripped and photographed me, and took blood and urine samples. I was returned to the cell, where I would remain in solitary confinement for more than four months.

was now in a country with no laws, and did I understand what that meant?

They asked me many times whether I knew the men who were responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, if I had traveled to Afghanistan to train in camps and if I associated with certain people in my town of Ulm, Germany. I told the truth: that I had no connection to any terrorists, had never been in Afghanistan and had never been involved in any extremism. I asked repeatedly to meet with a representative of the German government, or a lawyer, or to be brought before a court. Always, my requests were ignored.

In desperation, I began a hunger strike. After 27 days without food, I was taken to meet with two Americans — the prison director and another man, referred to as "the Boss." I pleaded with them to release me or bring me before a court, but the prison director replied that he could not release me without permission from Washington. He also said that he believed I should not be detained in the prison.

After 37 days without food, I was dragged to the interrogation room, where a feeding tube was forced through my nose into my stomach. I became extremely ill, suffering the worst pain of my life.

After three months, I was taken to meet an American who said he had traveled from Washington, D.C., and who promised I would soon be released. I was also visited by a German-speaking man who explained that I would be allowed to return home but warned that I was never to mention what had happened because the Americans were determined to keep the affair a secret.

On May 28, 2004, almost five months after I was first kidnapped, I was blindfolded, handcuffed and chained to an airplane seat. I was told we would land in a country other than Germany, because the Americans did not want to leave traces of their involvement, but that I would eventually get to Germany.

After we landed I was driven into the mountains, still blindfolded. My captors removed my handcuffs and blindfold and told me to walk down a dark, deserted path and not to look back. I was afraid

"I pleaded with them to release me or bring me before a court, but the prison director replied that he could not release me without permission from Washington."

to the airport, where I bought a ticket home (my wallet had been returned to me).

Only after the plane took off did I believe I was actually going home. I had long hair, a beard and had lost 60 pounds. My wife and children had gone to Lebanon, believing I had abandoned them. Thankfully, now we are together again in Germany.

I still do not know why this happened to me. I have been told that the American secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, confirmed in a meeting with the German chancellor that my case was a "mistake" — and that American officials later denied that she said this. I was not present at this meeting. No one from the American government has ever contacted me or offered me any explanation or apology for the pain they caused me.

Secretary Rice has stated publicly, during a discussion of my case, that "any policy will sometimes result in errors." But that is exactly why extraordinary rendition is so dangerous. As my interrogators made clear when they told me I was being held in a country with no laws, the very purpose of extraordinary rendition is to deny a person the protection of the law.

I begged my captors many times to bring me before a court, where I could explain to a judge that a mistake had been made. Every time, they refused. In this way, a "mistake" that could have been quickly corrected led to several months of cruel treatment and meaningless suffering, for me and my entire family.

My captors would not bring me to court, so last week I brought them to court. Helped by the American Civil Liberties Union, I sued the U.S. government because I believe what happened to me was illegal and should not be done to others.

And I believe the American people, when they hear my story, will agree.

German citizen born in Albania, was a car salesman before he was detained in December 2003.

SALVATION ARMY SACKING TOYS FOR SANTA



Capt. Linda Keeney, left and Paula Lafler prepare the presents purchased by the emergency room nurses at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for the Salvation Army Angel Tree distribution today.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

A GIFT FOR THE ANGELS

Wal-Mart Super Center co-manager Nick Tumblin, left and manager Riley Granados presented a \$1,000 check to the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, accepted by Capt. Russ Keeney. Also pictured is Wal-Mart assistant manager Becky Thomas.

Herald's features holiday deadlines set

For the New Year holiday, all articles to be published in the weekend edition of the Herald Dec. 31-Jan. 1 are due in the newspaper office by 5 p.m. Monday. The deadline for all submissions for the life! section is changed from noon Wednesday to 5 p.m. Monday to allow for an early press run. This also includes all wedding, engagement anniversary, birth and quinceañera announcements, as well as Who's Who with photos. This also includes all Church and Club news that publishes Dec. 30. For more information, call 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com

life! policies and publication deadlines

The Big Spring Herald accepts submissions from all area churches and clubs for publication in the Friday edition. Church News should be concise and may not be written in first person. The goal of Church News and is to inform the public about upcoming church events and opportunities. All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number. Club News is published to inform the public about meeting times and locations as well as officers and activities. All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number. Photos are accepted.

Wedding, anniversary and engagement announcements with photos are published within three months of the event in the Big Spring Herald's weekend edition at no charge. Birth announcements, Who's Who and In the Military, with or without photos are also published free of charge.

All photos submitted must be of good quality for reproduction purposes. All articles are edited for style and content and must contain a connection to Big Spring and Howard County.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to life@bigspringherald.com.

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Birding

Interstate 20 was a very hard landing strip, which a common loon mistook for the sheen of a lake as evening approached.

Once on land, the bird was helpless. Unable to take flight again without a watery surface, the loon could not even walk without great difficulty.

A passing motorist noticed the bird and took it to a veterinarian. With no visible injuries, the bird was a mystery to those who did not realize that loons spend most of their lives on waters of northern lakes and southern climes. Except for migration and nesting, loons depend on these bodies of water to exist.



Common loon

Loons' exceptional physique, with legs located toward the back of their bodies, enables them to dive, swim and find their food, namely fish. Their usual underwater dives last 10-60 seconds.

Threatened or stressed, loons can stay submerged for close to three minutes. Those same legs and webbed feet, however, do not enable the bird to walk or run on land.

Only with some effort can they climb into the nests they build at the water's edge. To become airborne again, loons must first stand on the water's surface with a downward thrust of their feet and the beating of powerful wings.

Once upright, they immediately begin to flap their wings and many run up to a quarter of a mile to gain the forward speed needed to attain flight. Observing this is to experience one of the wonders of nature.

The most notable characteristics of loons is their melodious call or yodeling. On a still cool evening, the haunting sounds touches the soul of anyone fortunate enough to hear it.

Another gift of nature to this bird is its ability to change from its colorful breeding plumage to its winter appearance, which seems drab in comparison, but offers protection as it wends its way to warmer climates.

Since Big Spring and Howard County are in the direct path of the central flyway, we have an opportunity each fall, especially in October and November, to observe these birds, which are often called ember geese, because of their ash gray coloring and size.

To place this loon once again on a lake and watch him dive, surface and get his bearings was the highlight of an autumn day.

Bebe McCasland is a licensed federal- and state-wildlife rehabilitator.



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HENRY BACKES

Officials probe for cause of fatal seaplane crash

By JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Investigators hoped to haul up the fuselage of a sunken seaplane to find why it broke apart and plunged into the ocean just off Miami Beach with 20 people on board, including three infants.

The initial investigation will focus on locating the plane's cockpit voice recorder and on examining maintenance logs and operations records, officials said.

"We are going to be looking for everything. Nothing is off the table," Acting National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Mark Rosenker said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show."

Within minutes of the crash Monday, rescue workers, boaters and surfers converged on the oil-slicked crash scene. Nineteen bodies were recovered and divers suspended efforts to find the final body late Monday.

"The possibility of anyone surviving is not very likely, but we can't confirm 20 people have died until we locate that 20th person," said Coast Guard

Petty Officer Ryan Doss.

Two crew and 18 passengers were on the flight to Bimini in the Bahamas. Many of the victims were returning home to the 7-mile long island after Christmas shopping jaunts.

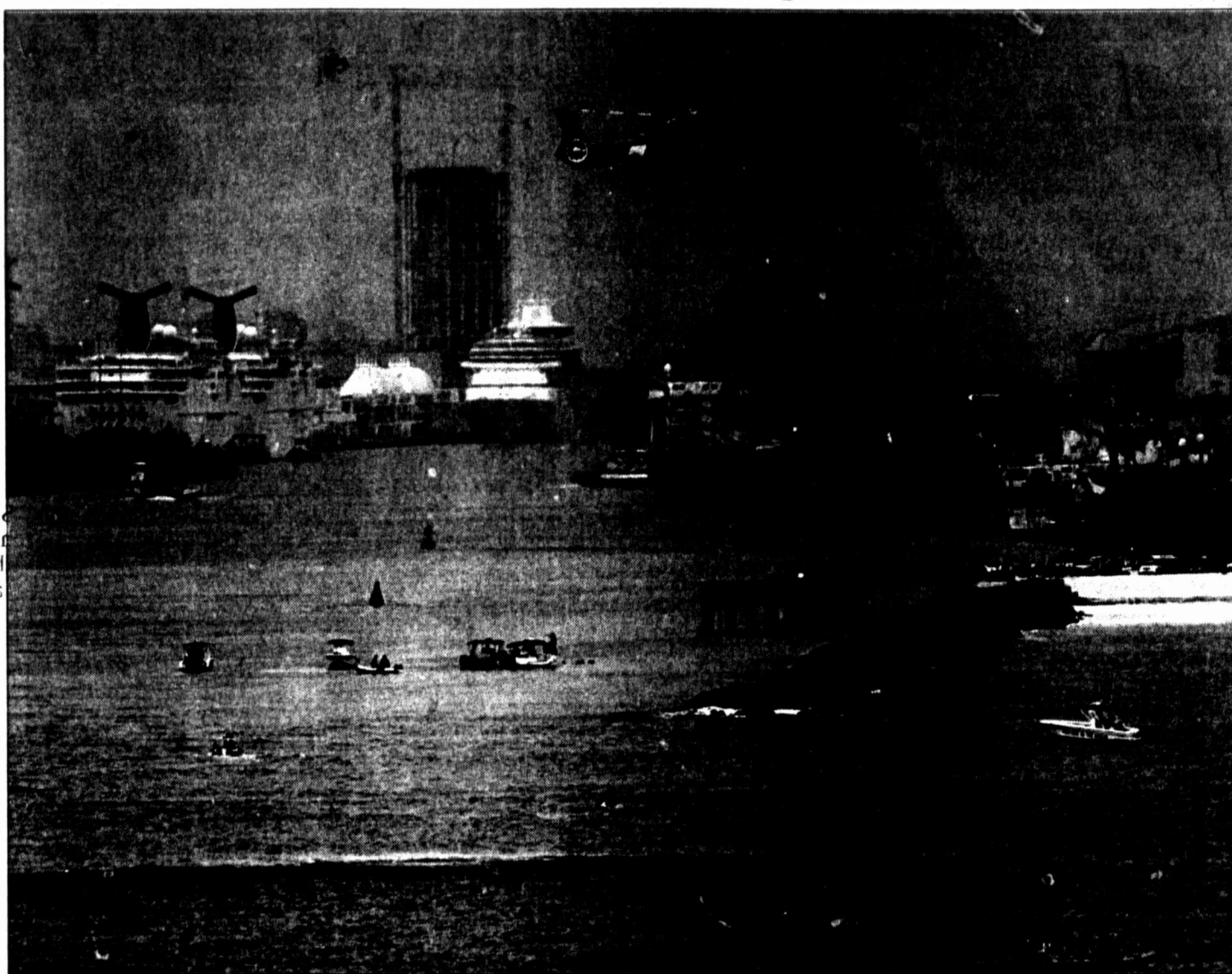
Maurice D'Giovanni, 42, one of the throngs of surfers at the beach, said he heard a distinct "Boom!" before a wing fell off and the plane, black plumes of flame trailing it, tumbled into the water.

"It exploded in the air, and one of the wings flew out of there," D'Giovanni said.

"The other part of the plane was on fire and it just went straight down, like a mosquito."

The Chalk's Ocean Airways plane — a twin-engine Grumman G-73T Turbine Mallard built in 1947 — was operating under visual flight rules.

Coast Guard spokesman Dana Warr also saw the plane take off and then heard the crash from an island in a channel known as Government Cut that cruise ships and beachers take past South Beach into the Port of Miami.



Rescue crews search Government Cut along the jetty at the south end of Miami Beach, Fla., Monday. A Chalk's Ocean Airways seaplane crashed into the water.

KRT photo/Chuck Fadely, Miami Herald

Transit union calls strike in NYC, threatening chaos during rush hour

By DESMOND BUTLER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Subways and buses ground to a halt Tuesday morning as transit workers walked off the job at the height of the holiday shopping and tourist season, forcing millions of riders to find new ways to get around.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who had said the strike would cost the city as much as \$400 million a day, joined the throngs of people crossing the Brooklyn Bridge in the freezing cold as he walked from a

Brooklyn emergency headquarters to City Hall. Other New Yorkers car-pooled or rode bicycles.

"I think they all should get fired," said Eddie Goncalves, a doorman trying to get home after his overnight shift. He said he expected to spend an extra \$30 per day in cab and train fares.

It is New York's first citywide transit walkout since an 11-day strike in 1980, and officials said they would seek quick court action, which could include stiff fines. Pay raises and pension and health benefits for

new hires are main sticking points.

Authorities began locking turnstiles and shuttering subway entrances shortly after the Transport Workers Union ordered the strike. The bases and subways, the nation's largest transit system, serve 7 million riders a day.

At one subway booth, a handwritten sign read, "Strike in Effect. Station Closed. Happy Holidays!!!!" At Penn Station, an announcement over the loudspeaker told people to "please exit the subway system."

Huge lines formed at ticket booths for the commuter railroads that stayed in operation, and Manhattan-bound traffic backed up at many bridges and tunnels as police turned away cars with fewer than four people. All the while, transit workers took to the picket lines with signs that read "We Move NY. Respect Us!"

Commuters, scrounging for ways to get to work, lined up for cabs and gathered in clusters on designated spots throughout the city for company vans and buses to shuttle them to their offices.

"There were hundreds of people waiting for cabs, pulling doors left and right," said taxi driver Angel Aponte, who left his meter off and charged \$10 per person.

Bloomberg has said the strike would be particularly harsh taking place during the holidays, predicting it would freeze traffic into "gridlock that will tie the record for all gridlocks."

He began putting into effect a sweeping emergency plan, including the requirement that cars coming into Manhattan below 96th Street have at least four occupants.

Cheney rushing home; might be needed to break tie on budget cuts

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A Senate vote on a deficit-reduction bill looks to be so tight that Vice President Dick Cheney was rushing home from an overseas diplomatic mission to be the tiebreaker for saving one of the Bush administration's top priorities.

The showdown vote loomed on the bill, which would cut some federal benefits and trim budget deficits by \$40 billion through the end of the decade.

Cheney was in Pakistan Tuesday to check on U.S. aid to victims of an October earthquake that killed as estimated 75,000 people. He also met with President Pervez Musharraf.

The budget vote is expected to be a close one — last month the bill squeaked through the Senate in a 52-47 tally. Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson was one of two Democrats to vote for the bill then, and is considered a swing vote this week.

Now that the bill is returning from House-Senate negotiations with stiffer cuts to the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled than the milder Senate-passed version, Nelson is weighing a "nay" vote. He scheduled an announcement for Tuesday.

"They're flying Cheney back," said Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah.

Cheney spokesman Steve Schmidt told reporters traveling with Cheney in Pakistan that the vice president was "returning to Washington to be on hand in the Senate to fulfill his constitutional duties as president of the Senate and cast tie-breaking votes, if necessary."

Presiding over the Senate is among Cheney's constitutional duties, although vice presidents historically have not routinely attended such sessions. Cheney's change in plans meant that he would have to forego visits to both Saudi Arabia and Egypt on this trip.

Senate Republicans were also waging a Christmas week battle with Democrats

and GOP moderates over allowing oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, attached the drilling plan to a wartime Pentagon spending bill that also included \$29 billion in new aid for Gulf Coast hurricane victims and as well as new money for border security and winter heating subsidies in an attempt to crack a threatened filibuster. Both the defense and budget bills were passed by the House on Monday before it adjourned for the year.

The partisan fighting over the budget seemed to outweigh the measure's likely impact. The \$40 billion in deficit savings blends \$10 billion in new revenues from anticipated auctions of television airwaves to wireless companies with fairly small cuts to benefit programs like Medicare, Medicaid and student loan subsidies.

"I see very little sacrifice," Urban Institute President Robert Reischauer said. "The amount that really affects people is very small, and the amount that affects middle-class voting people is even smaller."

The budget vote could occur as early as Tuesday, but Wednesday or Thursday was considered more likely.

The Senate treaded water all day Monday after the House passed a flurry of legislation in the pre-dawn hours. An increasing crankiness over being in session just days before Christmas set in and senators worried about being able to catch flights home.

Opinions varied on whether Stevens, the powerful patron of the Arctic refuge drilling plan, would prevail in overcoming a filibuster threatened by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and others.

Overall, the deficit reduction bill claimed savings of \$39.7 billion over five years. That's just 2.5 percent of the \$1.6 trillion in total red ink that congressional officials estimate will pile up during the same period.

NEW TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Young People Lead Nation Buying HiFi-Tech Device

Remember LIFE cereal's "Let Mikey Try It?" The kid did, and so did we.

It should be no surprise that young people buy cool things first, then the rest of us follow. The new VW Beetle, Starbucks, Dr. Bronner's, BlackBerry, and iPod are examples of remarkable products that were first discovered by youthful thinkers before the majority of the world finally caught on.

So what's next? Well, it's a tiny computer called HearStic, and it's being snapped-up by

the forty-something crowd like proverbial hot-cakes.

HearStic, which is manufactured by Minnesota-based Audibel, digitally enhances conversations in noisy situations using a tiny on-board computer chip. And interestingly enough, their popularity has spread quickly—not by what they look like, because they are practically impossible to see when being worn—but by good reviews, word of mouth and a remarkable hi-fi sound. HearStic markets itself with very little

effort because it solves a really big problem in an innovatively cool way: namely, it corrects high-frequency hearing loss without plugging up the ear canal. It lets natural sounds just pass through the ear canal unamplified and gives a hi-fidelity boost only to soft speech sounds. The silicon brain of the HearStic is about the size of a paper clip and is worn in the crease just behind the ear. Digitally-processed sound is transmitted into the ear canal through a fiber-optic-sized tube, which is



Digital sound is transmitted into the ear canal by a tiny fiber-optic size tube. The computer the size of a paper clip is worn hidden behind the ear.

unnoticeable. HearStic is available from Livingston Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers, 211 Johnson Street in Big Spring, 267-7052

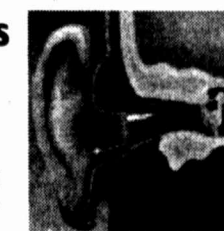
Local Technology Expert Says Device Popularity is Justified



Kay Potter, B.S. M.S., Licensed Dispenser

"In the practice of hearing correction, eight out of 10 patients I see are 60 and older, and are usually referred to me by their doctor," said Kay Potter of Livingston Hearing Centers. "Recently, though, a new user started showing up. A 40- through 50-year-old, well educated buyer who is savvy to electronics and who already

knows what they want... and they want HearStic." HearStic is a miniature sound computer that gives a high-fidelity sound boost to the quiet sounds in conversation, and is unnoticeable when being worn. Background noise is not amplified at all but is allowed to pass naturally through the breathable ear bud. This keeps the wearer from having a "stopped-up" feeling which happens with hearing aids. And the fact that this Hi-Fi system really works has made its popularity spread by simple word-of-mouth," said Potter.



Conventional hearing aids can "plug up" the ear canal creating a "barrel effect" to the wearer.



HearStic uses a vented ear bud, which allows natural sounds to pass through without amplification.

The cool little devices are available at Livingston Hearing Centers.

"I am recommending these for anyone who wants to hear better, regardless of their age," says Potter. "You'll hear better, I guarantee it, or your money back."

"Because of the popularity of HearStic, we have made them available at all of our locations," said Potter.

"Please feel free to call and set up a time for a free demonstration. You will be delighted."



Attention Hearing Aid Wearers...

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Page 1B
Tuesday, December 20, 2005

IN BRIEF

Sidewinders set date for YMCA Christmas show

The public is invited to attend the Sidewinders Gymnastics Christmas show at the YMCA Thursday, beginning at 5 p.m.

The show will go until around 7:30 p.m. and refreshments and pictures will be sold.

The show will be put on by members of the Sidewinders team and students in the YMCA class. The participants will perform routines on the floor, bars, beam and vault.

For more information, contact 267-8234.

Washburn signs four-year deal with Seattle Mariners

SEATTLE (AP) — Jarrod Washburn agreed to a \$37.5 million, four-year deal with the Seattle Mariners, leaving the AL West champion Los Angeles Angels for a team coming off consecutive last-place finishes.

The left-hander went 8-8 with a 3.20 ERA in 29 starts for Los Angeles last season. He is 75-57 with a 3.93 ERA during his eight-year career, all with the Angels.

His best season came when he went 18-6 during the Angels' 2002 run to the World Series championship.

White Sox catcher has home for three more seasons

CHICAGO (AP) — Catcher A.J. Pierzynski and the Chicago White Sox agreed to a three-year, \$15 million contract and avoided arbitration.

Signed by Chicago after spending a year in San Francisco, Pierzynski helped the White Sox win their first World Series since 1917 last season. He committed one error — none over the final 119 games — and batted .257 with a career-high 18 home runs and 56 RBIs.

Gretzky takes leave after mother's death

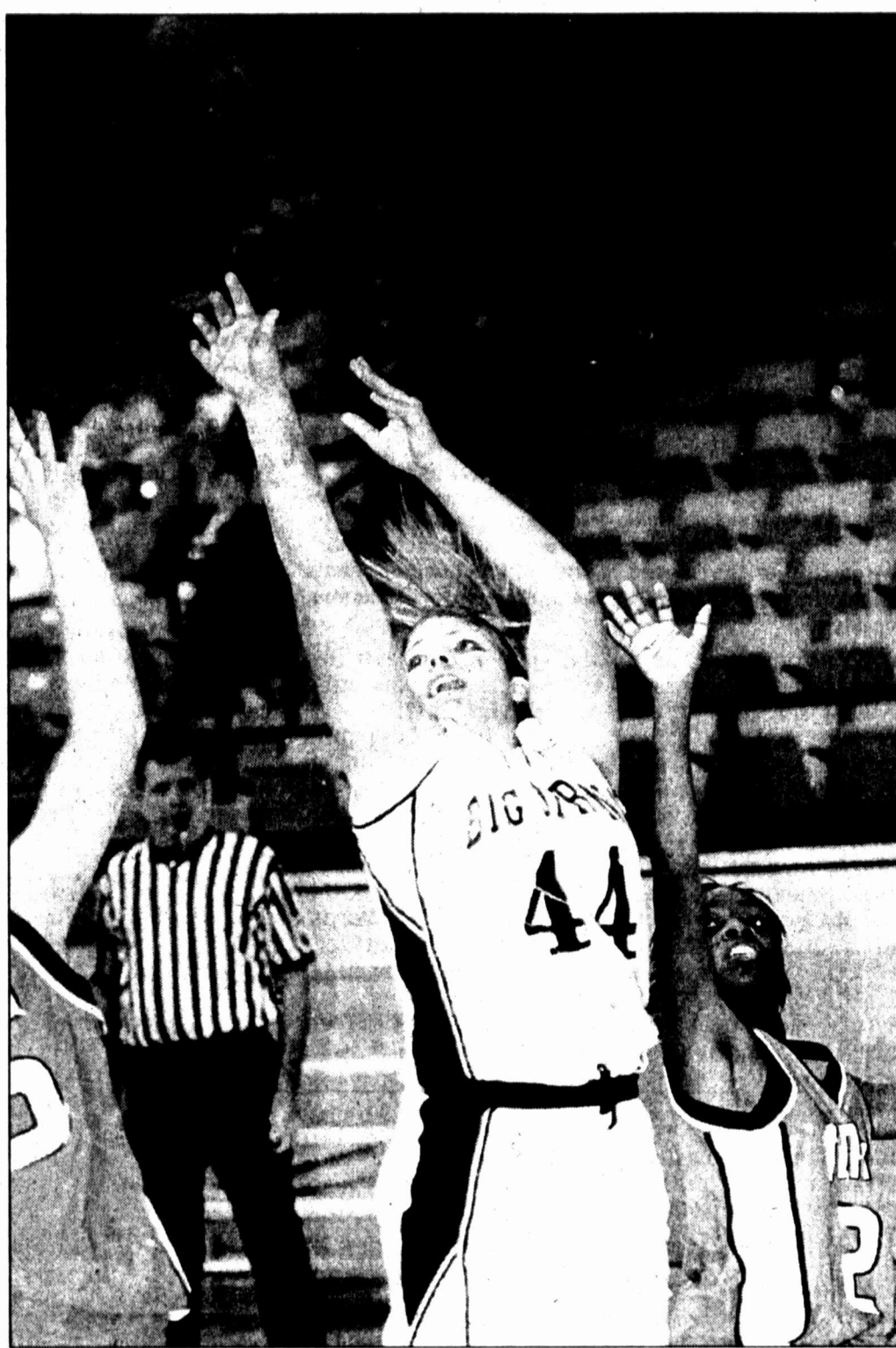
TORONTO (AP) — Phyllis Gretzky, the mother of hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky, has died, the Phoenix Coyotes said. She was 64.

She was diagnosed with lung cancer late in 2004 and died two nights after her son took an indefinite leave of absence as coach of the Coyotes to return home to Ontario to be with her.

Yao Ming to miss several games due to toe injury

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston center Yao Ming is expected to miss several games after undergoing surgery on his infected left big toe.

The 7-foot-6 Yao, who is averaging 19.9 points and nine rebounds, missed the Rockets' game against the Lakers Sunday.



Big Spring junior Brena Phernetton attempts a shot in the lane during the Lady Steers' win against Monahans earlier this season at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Big Spring lost to Snyder at the Steer Gym Monday night. It will resume action Dec. 28-30 at a tournament in Abilene. The Lady Steers host Amarillo Palo Duro Jan. 3, before starting District 4-4A play Jan. 6 at home against Lake View.

Davis leads Celtics past Golden State

• NBA Capsules

BOSTON (AP) — Ricky Davis scored 21 points and added seven assists Monday night, and the Boston Celtics recovered from their worst loss of the season by beating the Golden State Warriors 109-98.

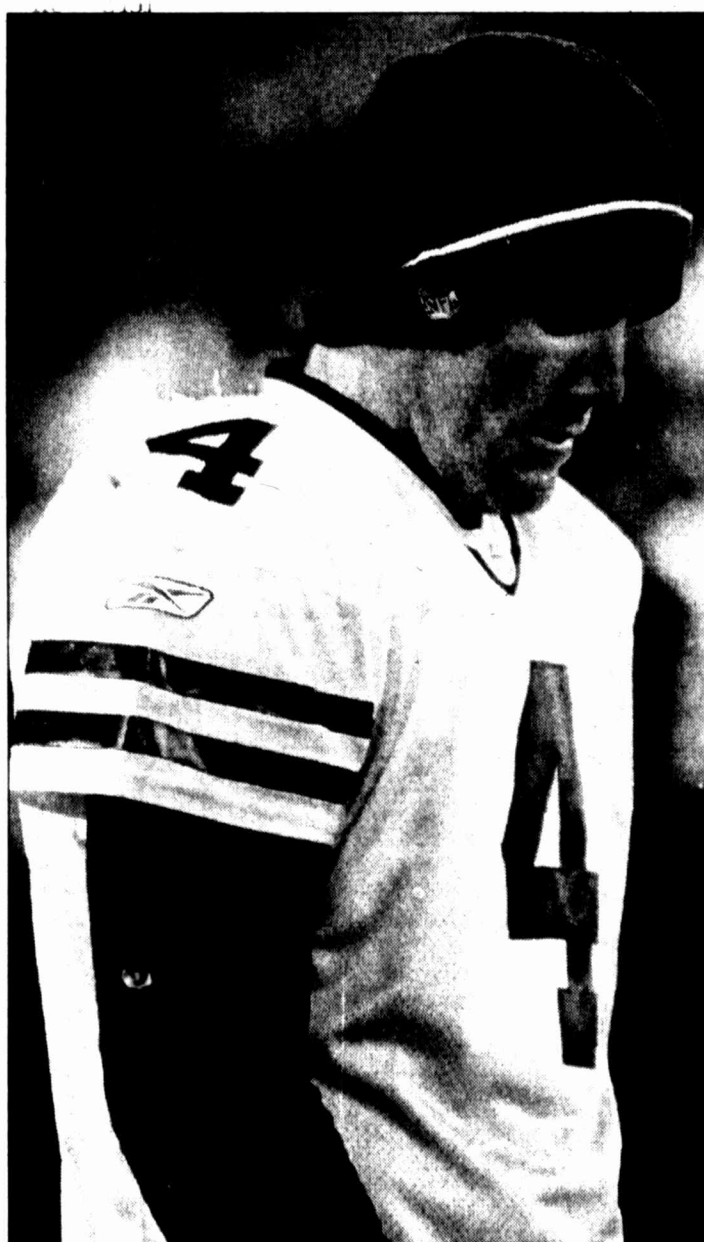
Paul Pierce added 19 points and nine rebounds for Boston, which had lost four of its previous five games, including a 32-point loss to the Chicago Bulls on Saturday. Marcus Banks scored 16 points in his first start of the season because point guard Delonte West was scratched with dizziness.

Troy Murphy had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who have lost five of their last seven. Murphy scored 10 of them in a 20-8 run in the third period that turned an 11-point Celtics lead into a one-point lead for Golden State.

Pistons 106, Grizzlies 104, 2OT
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Chauncey Billups scored 30 points, including a 15-footer with 0.3 seconds left in the second overtime, as Detroit beat Memphis.

Billups took the inbound pass from Tayshaun Prince, dribbled to the left side of the key and hit the shot to send the Pistons to their fourth straight win.

Pau Gasol, who led the Grizzlies with 32 points and 14 rebounds, scored in the final seconds of regulation and the first overtime to force the extra periods.



KRT photo, Steve Deslich, Knight-Ridder Tribune
Green Bay Packers' quarterback Brett Favre (4) hangs his head while on the sidelines during the third quarter during the Packers' loss to the Baltimore Ravens at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Md., Monday.

USC's Bush grabs another big award

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK — Reggie Bush loves roller coasters — and it makes perfect sense. Both bring thrills with breathtaking bursts of zigzag speed.

"I guess that's kind of how I am on the field, all those twists and turns and stuff like that," Southern California's human thrill ride said.

The most exciting player in college football also became the best player in 2005, and now Bush can add The Associated Press Player of the Year award to the haul of hardware he's accumulated.

The voting went like it did in the Heisman Trophy balloting: The running back blew away the field. He received 59 votes from a panel of 65 media members.

Texas quarterback Vince Young received five votes and Georgia quarterback D.J. Shockley got the other.

Bush and the top-ranked Trojans will play Young and No. 2 Texas in the Rose Bowl for the national championships.

Bush has also won the Walter Camp player of the year award, the Doak Walker Award as the best running back in the coun-

try and was a unanimous AP first-team All-American.

For the third straight season, the AP player of the year and Heisman winner are the same. USC quarterback Matt Leinart won both last season, and Jason White of Oklahoma did it the year before.

Bush breaks a string of five straight quarterbacks to win the award and is the first running back to be AP Player of the Year since 1999, when Ron Dayne of Wisconsin did it.

Ricky Williams of Texas won the first AP Player of the Year award in 1998.

Bush, a 200-pound package of fast-twitch muscles, put to rest any doubt that he could be an every-down back this year — more than just an elusive change-of-pace runner and explosive kick returner.

He added a solid five pounds to his 6-foot frame and got a taste of how one of the best in the business prepares when he worked out with San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson during the summer.

The two have known each other since Bush was a senior at Helix High School, just outside San Diego. They finally managed to coordinate a training session and Tomlinson left Bush wiped out.

"I think he's the best

See BUSH, Page 2B

Ravens hand Favre worst loss of career

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer
BALTIMORE — Brett Favre was supposed to be the main attraction. Kyle Boller and the Baltimore Ravens stole the show.

Boller put on a dazzling performance Monday night, outplaying Favre while leading the Ravens to a 48-3 rout of the Green Bay Packers.

Boller completed 19 of 27 passes for 253 yards and three touchdowns, and Favre was 14-for-29 for 144 yards and two interceptions. It all added up to the most lopsided game in the history of ABC "Monday Night Football" and the Packers' worst loss since a 61-7 defeat at Chicago in 1980.

"We just fell in a hole. Not just Brett, but all around, we struggled," Green Bay receiver Donald Driver said. "It was a shame that we played on Monday Night Football like this. Usually, we have a show, but the Baltimore Ravens were the show and we were just there."

Soon before he took a

seat with 8 minutes to go, Boller made a point of thanking each of his offensive linemen for helping him avoid being sacked even once.

"It was a really good win," Boller said. "My teammates, my guys, they allowed me to do that."

Favre, meanwhile, struggled from the outset in his final appearance on ABC's "Monday Night Football." The 15-year veteran has enjoyed many memorable moments on Monday night, but this was one he would prefer to forget.

After going a third straight start without a touchdown pass for the first time in his career, Favre was replaced by Aaron Rodgers late in the third quarter.

"I thought it was time to take him out," Packers coach Mike Sherman said. "The game was getting out of hand, and it was an opportunity to take a look at the young quarterback."

Favre's two interceptions gave him a career-high 24 for the season.

See MNF, Page 2B

Duke remains No. 1, Texas slips after big loss

By JIM O'CONNELL

AP Basketball Writer

Only UCLA has had a better run than Duke in The Associated Press college basketball poll.

The Blue Devils were No. 1 for the seventh straight week on Monday. That extended their streak of consecutive poll appearances to 173 — second only to UCLA's run of 221 from 1963 to 1980.

• Men's AP Poll

While Duke extended its streak — which includes preseason rankings — Arizona's regular-season run ended. The Wildcats dropped out of the Top 25 after being ranked in 312 polls.

The Wildcats (5-3) had been ranked in every poll since the start of the 1987-88 season except for the

preseason polls in 1995 and 2002. Arizona was in 329 of 331 polls in that span, including 28 weeks at No. 1.

"Obviously we're disappointed," Wildcats coach Lute Olson said. "We feel like we've played a tough schedule to this point, and we'll just have to work on starting another streak."

The Wildcats' losses

were to No. 2 Connecticut and No. 10 Michigan State in the EA Sports Maui Invitational and at Houston.

Arizona, which won at Utah 73-43 in its only game last week, beat Sam Houston State 87-51 on Monday night in the opening round of the Wildcats' Fiesta Bowl

See POLL, Page 2B

MNF

Continued from Page 1B

One of them was made by Deion Sanders, the 53rd of his career.

Favre refused to talk to the media afterward.

"It just seemed like he was throwing balls up in the air, which is not typical of him," Ravens cornerback Chris McAlister said.

Sherman couldn't think of a worse way to spend the latter part of his birthday.

"It's bad enough being 51 years old, and you put this on top of it, and it's pretty bad," he said. "It was tough to watch. We didn't execute any phase of our game."

It was the low point of an awful season for the Packers (3-11), who trailed 24-3 at halftime and 34-3 after three quarters.

A 35-yard fumble return by Adalius Thomas with 17 seconds left enabled the Ravens (5-9) to set a franchise record for points. But the victory did little to salvage a season that long ago went sour.

"This is what we were hoping for from the beginning," offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden said. "Better late than never, I guess."

Green Bay played the

final three quarters without running back Samkon Gado, who left with a sprained knee ligament after gaining 45 yards on six carries.

Todd Heap caught nine passes for 110 yards and two touchdowns. The fifth-year tight end has 2,841 career yards receiving, breaking the team mark held by Qadry Ismail.

"That was the most fun I've had this season," Heap said. "Kyle and I said before the game, 'Let's just go out and have fun tonight.' And we did. It shows what we're capable of doing."

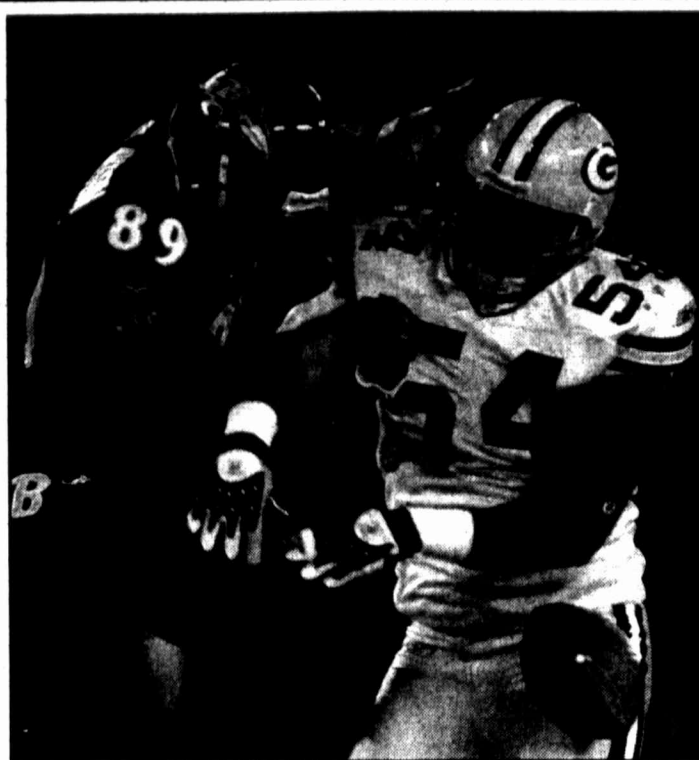
Jamal Lewis ran for 105 yards and a touchdown for the Ravens, who are 5-2 at home and winless on the road.

Boller was 14-of-18 in the first half, then added a 27-yard touchdown pass to Heap on the Ravens' first possession of the third quarter leaving Favre with no chance of pulling off one of his patented comebacks.

Instead, Favre lasted only two more series before calling it a night.

Not long after that, many in the crowd of 70,604 — the largest to watch an NFL game in Baltimore — began filing out.

After the Packers went three-and-out on the game's opening series,



KRT photo/George Bridges, Knight-Ridder Tribune
Green Bay Packer linebacker Roy Manning (54) breaks up a pass intended for Baltimore Ravens' wide receiver Mark Clayton (89) in the second quarter of the Packers' game against the Ravens at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Md., Monday.

B.J. Sams returned a punt 49 yards to the Green Bay 18. That set up a 2-yard scoring pass from Boller to Heap, the second time this season Baltimore scored a touchdown on its first drive.

The Ravens made it 14-0 on their next possession. A 17-yard run by Lewis and a 22-yard pass to Derrick Mason set up an 11-yard touchdown run by rookie wide receiver Mark Clayton, who took

the snap in shotgun formation and sprinted around right end.

It was the most points the Ravens scored in the opening quarter this season, and more points than they scored in seven of their previous 13 games.

Ahmad Carroll took the ensuring kickoff 57 yards, setting up a 27-yard field goal by Ryan Longwell.

That, as it turned out, was the extent of Green Bay's offense.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1B

running back right now and I just wanted to get a chance to work out with him, see what it takes to be that guy and get to the level he's at," Bush said in a recent phone interview. "Whatever you think is the most you can work out, double that."

Bush closed the season with two spectacular games, slashing and swerving his way to 554 yards rushing in wins over Fresno State and UCLA.

His stop-in-mid-sprint-and-cut-across-the-field TD run against the Bulldogs was the ultimate showstopper in a Heisman-clinching performance. Bush put up 513 all-purpose yards in a 50-42 victory.

For the season, he has 1,658 yards rushing with an 8.9-yard average per carry.

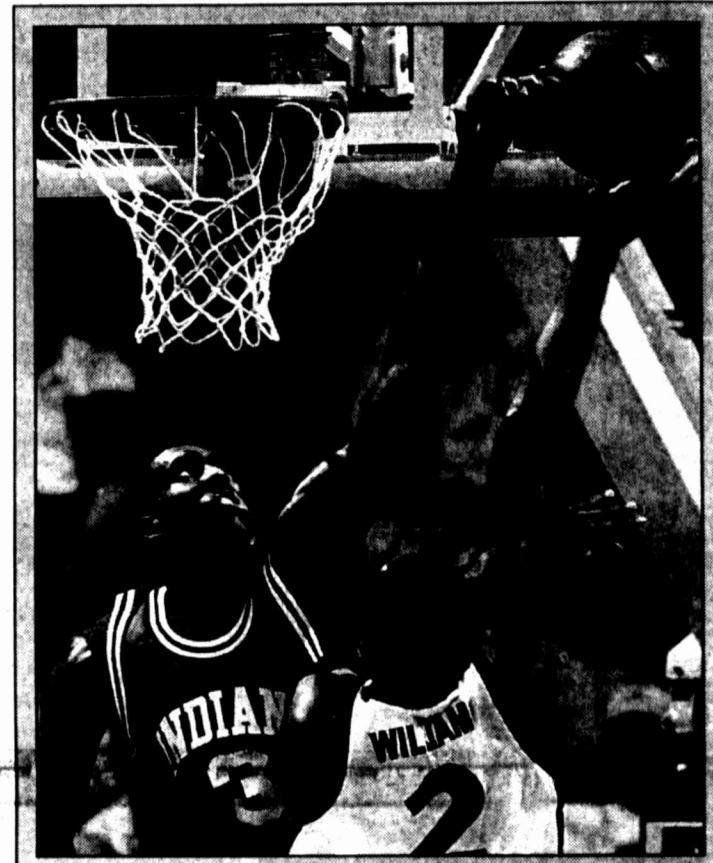
Only lopsided victories and USC's all-star cast kept Bush's numbers down. The Trojans'

record-setting offense became the first in NCAA history to have a 3,000-yard passer (Matt Leinart), two 1,000-yard rushers (Bush and LenDale White), and a 1,000-yard receiver (Dwayne Jarrett).

Bush acknowledges that sharing the spotlight — and the football — hasn't always been easy, even as USC racked up 37 wins in 38 games and two national championships during his career.

"Even though we're winning, there's a lot of stuff behind the scenes," he said. "I think at times it might have been a little frustrating just wanting to be that guy, the main guy. But we've learned to adjust to it. I think that was mainly a problem early in my career here, just trying to adjust to not being the guy."

Now the question is, will Bush hang around for another season at USC. He appears to be a lock to go No. 1 in the NFL draft, maybe to play with former high school teammate Alex Smith in San Francisco.



KRT photo/Chris Kenna, Charlotte Observer
D.J. White (3) of Indiana blocks a shot by Courtney Williams during second half action. Indiana defeated Charlotte, 71-54, at Henton Arena in Charlotte, N.C., Monday.

POLL

Continued from Page 1B

Classic.

Tennessee and Ohio State moved into the rankings for the first time this season, while Louisville and Texas dropped seven and nine places, respectively.

Duke (10-0), which beat Valparaiso 104-77 in its only game last week, received 66 first-place votes and 1,793 points from the national media panel. Connecticut (8-0) and Villanova (7-0) held second and third, receiving five and one No. 1 votes, respectively.

Memphis moved up one spot to replace Louisville at No. 4, and Florida jumped from seventh to fifth, passing Texas.

Louisville (6-1) lost 73-61 to Kentucky on Saturday and dropped to 11th, while the Longhorns (8-2) were beaten 95-78 by Tennessee in their first game since the 97-66 loss to Duke.

Texas dropped from second to sixth after the first loss and to 15th after the second.

Illinois moved from ninth to No. 6 and was followed by Oklahoma, Gonzaga, Washington and Michigan State.

Following Louisville were UCLA, George

Washington, Boston College, Texas, Maryland, North Carolina, Indiana, Kentucky and Nevada.

The last five ranked teams were North Carolina State, Wake Forest, Tennessee, Ohio State and Iowa.

Duke's run started with the preseason poll in 1996-97 and is one week longer than North Carolina's streak from the preseason voting of 1990-91 through Jan. 17, 2000. UCLA's record run went from the preseason poll of 1966-67 through Jan. 8, 1980. The AP started its poll in the 1948-49 season.

Kentucky has the second-longest current streak at 86 polls, a run

that started on Feb. 12, 2001.

Tennessee (6-0) is ranked for the first time since late in the 2000-01 season. The Volunteers' victory at Texas certainly garnered national attention.

The Buckeyes were kept out of the postseason in 2004-05 by a self-imposed ban over violations the school said were committed by former coach Jim O'Brien.

Houston (4-2), which lost to South Alabama 66-62 Saturday, dropped out from 25th. The Cougars were ranked for just one week, the same span they were in the poll last, in January 1993.



A CITY FULL OF SAD PEOPLE

(A Christmas Tale)

This is a story about a city that had no happy people. It was a very sad city. No one walked around with a smile on their face. No one petted the cute puppy who lived on the corner.



No one spoke softly to the little kittens playing in the cardboard box beside their mother. Oh, it was a very unhappy city! It had always been that way in this city. But that was about to change, forever!

Little Molly came to that city one bleak, cold winter day. She was an orphan who had never known her parents. She never had pretty clothes to wear. She never had warm shoes for those cold times. But she had something that no one else in the sad city had. It was all that she had, but she

gave it away freely. It was a smile!

You know that when someone smiles at you, you just have to smile right back. The first person that Little Molly met when she came to sad city was the grocery store owner. When she walked up to him and asked what the price was for an apple, the grocer saw that she didn't have enough money to pay for it. But, she smiled and walked away! "Wait a minute," the grocer shouted, "I think you do have enough money for this apple!" And as he handed Little Molly that apple, he wondered why he did that! He didn't know it, but that smile made him different! Why, he almost smiled back!

Then Little Molly went to the restaurant to try to find something to eat. The man in the restaurant asked her what she wanted and she said that she hadn't eaten all day, except for an apple. The man said that that food in his restaurant would cost a lot of money and Little Molly saw that she didn't have enough, so she smiled

and turned around to leave when the man cried, "Wait, if you will clean the tables afterward, I will give you all you can eat tonight!" "Why did I say that?" the man thought. It was that smile!



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After she had eaten and gotten her tummy full, and cleaned the tables, Little Molly went to the hotel to see if she could find a place to sleep for the night. The hotel clerk said to Molly, "The rooms cost a lot of money, do you have enough?" "No," said Little Molly. Then she smiled and turned to walk back outside into the cold, dark night. "I have one room that you can use tonight if you will make up the bed tomorrow!" The old hotel clerk did not know what made him say that! Maybe it was that smile!

Little Molly woke up that

next day with her tummy still full and a good night's rest and she felt really good. It made her smile even more precious. Then she went on her way!

That same morning, the grocer met the man from the



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restaurant on the street and they gave each other a big smile. "What is happening to us," they thought. Whatever it was, they sure liked it because it made them feel much better. Then they both met the hotel clerk on his way to work. All three of them smiled at each other and each one felt much better. "Why are we smiling?" they asked each other. It must be the little girl named Molly that was here yesterday. She has made us all smile. And we like it! Pretty soon the whole town was smiling. It is now a much better town than it was before, and all because of Little Molly and her smile.

It was getting close to Christmas now, and all of the people in sad city wanted to

find Little Molly and help her. Because she had helped them in a way that money could not buy. They wanted to give her presents and a new pair of shoes and a new coat and a home to live in. But Little Molly could not be found. It seemed that she had disappeared. They wanted to change the name of their city to Mollyville. And oh, she would have liked that!

Christmas was getting closer



and closer and still no Molly. Finally the day came, Christmas Eve! All of the people in Mollyville were getting sad again because they could not find Molly anywhere. They couldn't eat, they couldn't sleep and they did not know what they were going to do without Molly.

So, they all gathered together to do something they had

never done before. They all started singing Christmas Carols. All of the time they were singing, each one was thinking of Little Molly and her smile. What a difference one little girl had made.

Then they heard it! The sound of reindeer on rooftops! That jolly old "HO, HO, HO". They couldn't believe it, for they had stayed up so late worrying about Little Molly, that they had caught Santa bringing gifts to all of the boys and girls in Mollyville. They got more gifts than ever because they were all smiling and friendly now and Santa loved that! And so did that little girl riding in Santa's sleigh. She smiled so beautifully as she was tossing those gifts down the chimneys! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



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Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel.
All type of repairs!
Work Guaranteed.
Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and
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AAA Mini-Storage
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For All Your Storage Needs
Large Or Small, We Store It All!!
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Holiday Specials
Tree Removal Specialist.
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(432) 238-6770, cell.

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LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING
More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.
Call Lupe
432-267-8317
432-268-8406

Help Wanted

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

WAREHOUSE/ PLANT WORKERS NEEDED BIG SPRING AREA
Immediate openings for long term employment. Requirements are: experience working in a warehouse or a plant environment. Some forklift experience helpful. Positions are for cotton seed plant located in Big Spring. Contact Kelly Services of Midland at (432)689-9801. Never an applicant fee. Equal Opportunity Employer

Items for Sale

BUY ONE! Get One Free!
Tin Punched Hand Painted Nite-Lites. Also Pat's Denim Jackets for \$50. 1606 East 3rd. 8:00-5:00. (432)267-7165.

FIREWOOD: Oak Firewood delivered and stacked for \$275.00 a full cord, 1/2 cord \$150.00. Call James (325)648-2818, leave message.

Items for Sale

HOLIDAY CLEARANCE SALE
Save 25% thru Dec. 24th. Shop by Dec. 6th. save an additional 5%. Hurry in While Supplies Last! Traci Ryan Independent Beauty Consultant (432)264-1124.

Nix FRESH SHELLED Pecans.
Can pick up at Buffalo County Fina, Ezell Key Feed, Medicine Shop & Big Spring Farm. Call (432)267-1180 after 5:00 p.m.

Jobs Wanted

CDL AB License. Experience in Heavy Hauling and Fork Lift. 12 Years Experience. Call (432)270-3450.

Miscellaneous

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

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

Miscellaneous

HOLIDAY SPECIAL HP and Compaq Brand New Computer Systems with Warranty and Local Face-to-Face Support. Starting as Low as \$399! Buy from Big Spring (432)466-0800.

On the Farm

2,000 COTTON Module Tarps. Contact: Oasis Gin, Inc. 1-888-410-9491.

Pets

BEAUTIFUL SNOW White (except for a mask) mixed breed puppies. Just weaned. \$100.00 each. I'll keep till Xmas. Call (432)267-8840.

CHRISTMAS PUPPIES, 12 weeks old. 3/4 Chihuahua, 1/4 Yorkie. \$50. each. Call (432)965-3423.

GREAT CHRISTMAS Gift! Dalmatian Puppies for sale, full blood, well marked. Call (432)457-2368.

Real Estate for Rent

Knollwood Heights Apartments

1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.
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Now Leasing!
Brand New
1, 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts
\$385 - \$520 monthly

New Appliances & Full Size Washer & Dryer in Apartments
On Site Maintenance
• Swimming Pool
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HUD Accepted



South Plains APARTMENTS

432-714-4840

Efficiency Apt. • \$175
One Bdr. • \$225
Two Bdr. • \$300
w/6 Mo. Lease
(\$300 Deposit)

• All utilities Except Electric Paid
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• On-Site Manager
• Laundry & Vending Facility
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1 Bedroom Apartments
Move-in 50% off
1st months rent

Coronado Hills Apartments
801 W. Marcy
Big Spring, Tx. 79720
(432)267-6500

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL. Dec. Free with Deposit Paid. Large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry A. All bills paid. \$400. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options
Such As **ALL BILLS PAID**
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
538 Westover 263-1252
Housing Assistance Accepted

Real Estate for Rent

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL. Dec. Free with Deposit Paid. 1504-B Wood. Large 2 bedroom Duplex. Newly remodeled. \$450. month, \$200. deposit. All bills paid. Call (432)264-6611.

1400 MT. VERNON. One bedroom, one bath. \$300. month, \$150. deposit. 2523 Dow. Three bedroom, one bath, CH/A. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

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

712 GOLIAD. 2 or 3 Bedroom. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$500. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

802 1/2 Nolan. 1 bedroom. \$400.00 All Bills. 2528 Fairchild 2 or 3 bedroom. \$350/\$450. 3/2 Trailer. 5600 South Service Road. Call (432)264-9907.

BUILDING for LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month + deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom - \$400. month
\$200. deposit.
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

SPECIAL DISCOUNT to qualified tenants on long term lease. 3202 Auburn (Moss Elementary School System), 3 bedroom, 1 bath, stove/refrigerator furnished, fenced yard, washer/dryer hookup. \$475.00 month. Lease to Own an Option. Call (432)270-5001.

SUNSET RIDGE APT.
Cable TV Free!
Playground
No Water Bill
Paragon Security
24 Hour Laundry
On-Site Mgr. & Maint
Family Friendly
2 BR \$285
1 BR \$185
Call Rhonda
(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

108 MERRICK Road. Cute 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath on one acre. Call (432)213-4460.

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

4.21 ACRES, Campeste Estates. \$5,000. cash or \$500. down and \$125. monthly for 60 months. Call (830)569-5101.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHS Mercury, the mischievous messenger, plays favorites. He gives Uranus the cold shoulder while flirting with Saturn. The overblown situations that qualify for news cause quite a hubbub. There's no shortage of examples of how to be bad. Yet in a strange way, we are inspired to live more disciplined and self-directed lives for their influence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Delight is your constant companion today. If you continue to take pleasure in the small things, you'll soon taste sweet success on a bigger level. Your association with a Pisces sure helps!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The stars cast you in the role of the hamster on the wheel. Simplify by eliminating extraneous activities from your schedule. Choose only three actions, and use your remaining time to relax and be in the present.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your reputation is one of your most precious possessions. With that in mind, keep your personal life separate from your business life. Let others supply the material for office gossip.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This is one of those rare days on which you are paid according to how original you are. It's no fun following the crowd. After all, there are already too many Elvis impersonators. You decide to be your own celebrity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The difference between work and play is love. When you approach what you are doing with great love, the feeling of resistance (or "work") melts

away. The involvement of a Gemini is key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Order something new and different from the menu of life. Fresh tastes, new friends and different scenery are all elements of an energized state of being.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A loved one who needs you is recalcitrant to ask for your help. Now is the time to use your intuition and tact to be of service. Do not be turned back by assurances that all is well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Shake things up to stay aware and alert. Leave the comfort zone! Give your Social Security number to a new Internet acquaintance. NO!!! I was just making sure that you're paying attention ... stay awake!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Patience is hard to come by now. Resist the impulse to finish quickly, and you'll get a surprisingly fabulous result for the project you've been struggling with. Savor each small advance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stress could push you toward excessive behavior. Take away the stress, and the tendency toward excess goes away, too. A new schedule, sport, activity or interest can also take you away from what is harming you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your attitude makes you beautiful. Your heartfelt smile will airbrush away any imperfections you see in the mirror, erasing years from your face. You appear to others as young as you feel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Ask your body, "how are you feeling?" and let it answer you. Any attempts at communication with your physical self will not only improve your health, but it will improve your life.

ASTROLOGICAL GIFT GUIDE: What do your loved ones want and need in the new year? **ARIES:** Sports equipment, ski-lift tickets, dance lessons, anything to do with physical activity, more hugs. **TAURUS:** High-end beauty products, spa treatments, luxury anything, kind words spoken softly. **GEMINI:** A new cell phone, high-speed Internet, any communication-related technology, thoughtful phone calls from you. **CANCER:** Beautiful and decorative home products, sheets, gorgeous stemware, vases, collectibles, drop-in visits throughout the year. **LEO:** Clothes, jewelry, fur, handbags, wallets, your best stories and jokes. **VIRGO:** Music, entertainment, tickets to shows, magazine subscriptions, reasons to laugh. **LIBRA:** Art items, gourmet food and drink, shoes, coats, invitations that require one to dress up. **SCORPIO:** TV-recording devices, candles, intimate apparel, a new mattress, the fulfillment of a special promise. **SAGITTARIUS:** Luggage, travel accessories, exotic spices, DVDs, opportunities to be silly. **CAPRICORN:** Money, precious stones, gold, frequent and heartfelt declarations of love. **AQUARIUS:** Software, games, anything automated, high tech or robotic, more togetherness. **PISCES:** Vehicles, vehicle accessories, bath salts, spiritual books, acknowledgement of their creativity.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Platinum pop diva Christina Aguilera is one spirited Sagittarian who never shies away from transformation. Newly married with an innovative new CD waiting to be released next year, Aguilera not only tackles change, but she embraces it with a vengeance. What this "girl wants" is more world domination, and I predict next year, she will get it.

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

Real Estate for Sale

803 ATLANTIC in Coahoma 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, large master bath, huge closets, breakfast bar and carport. Call (432)213-4460.

BY OWNER 1906 Morrison. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, dining room, CH/A, utility room, storage building, tile brick fence, circle drive. \$70,000.00. Call (432)466-2066.

OWNER FINANCE. 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-650-5900.

Vehicles

3 New 2004 Ford Freestar Vans
12,000 OFF MSRP

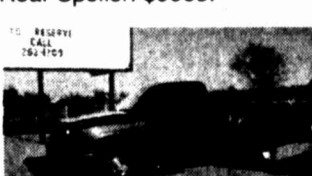
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7121



2002 Toyota Tacoma TRD Off Road Pre-Runner Ext. Cab. CD Player, Power Windows and Locks, Chrome Nerf Bars, Sliding Rear Window. \$15,995.



2000 Ford Mustang GT. 5 Speed, Blue, CD, Leather, Power Windows and Locks, Rear Spoiler. \$9995.



2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Shortbed. Metallic Blue, CD Player, Dual Climate Zone, Chrome Nerf Bars. 50K Miles! Sharp! \$13,500.

700 Auto Sales
2900 East FM 700
(East of Big Spring Mall)
Big Spring, Texas 79720
(432)267-3955 or 268-3251

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



TexSCAN Week of
December 18, 2005

ADOPTION

Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

PREGNANT? THINKING ADOPTION? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with loving families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7. One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-921-0565.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ALL CASH CANDY Route. Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. 1-888-625-5481, Multi Vend, LLC.

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DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT. Excellent pay and benefits for experienced drivers. O/O, solos, teams and graduate students. Bonuses available. Refrigerated now available. 1-888-MORE PAY (1-888-667-3729).

DRIVERS - OTR HOLIDAY Cash. Class "A" CDL. 1 year OTR. From start, get extra \$800 first 8 weeks. Then .03 cpm to \$4,000. Call FFE Transportation, 1-800-569-9232.

DRIVERS - OVERNITE TRANSPORTATION. a UPS Company, needs 53' T/T drivers. New pay package. DL-A w/hazmat required. Low cost benefits. call Donna at 1-877-786-6773.

DRIVERS! \$6,000 EXPERIENCED driver incentive bonus! Top pay and more home time. No experience? No problem - low cost CDL and 100% tuition reimbursement. 1-800-796-9888, www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com

O/O DRIVER - FFE. The F/S is higher here. \$1.11 average. \$2,000 sign-on. \$2,600 referral bonus. Base plate provided. No truck, no problem. Low payment with short lease. 1-800-569-9298.

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop

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NOW HIRING FOR Postal Positions. \$18.50-\$59.00+/hr. Full benefits/paid training and vacations. No experience necessary. 1-800-384-1775. Public Announcement Reference #5401.

MISCELLANEOUS

AIRLINE MECHANIC - Rapid training for high paying Aviation career. FAA predicts severe shortage. Financial aid if qualify - job placement assistance. Call AIM 1-888-349-5387.

EARN DEGREE ONLINE from home. Medical, Business, Paralegal, Computers. Job placement assistance. Computer & financial aid if qualify. 1-866-858-2121, www.onlinedidwater.com

REAL ESTATE

A BARGAIN - 75 Acres - \$34,900. Rolling hills, good brush, rock outcroppings. Trophy deer habitat. Good highway access. Easy terms. Perfect for hunting retreat. Texas Land & Ranches, 1-877-542-6642.

AFORDABLE HILL COUNTRY hunting property. Why lease when you can own? 1-800-876-9720. ranchenterprisesltd.com

BREWSTER COUNTY, 176+ acres at \$235 per acre, south of Sanderson, deep canyons and rough terrain, deer, quail, and javelina. Owner financed, 5% down. 1-830-885-4578.

NEW TO MARKET - 100 Acres - HUNTING RANCH. First chance to own hunting retreat. Big buck area, plus turkey, dove, quail and more. Very private with EZ highway access. \$44,900 w/financing. 1-866-899-5263.

STEEL BUILDINGS

ALL STEEL BUILDINGS! Up to 50% off. Engineered for Hurricane Coast. Ship factory direct for quick delivery. 24x30 up to 100x200. Call Metalcraft Buildings now! 1-800-499-6401 - Eddie.

BUILDING SALE! "Extended 3 weeks!" 20x26 now \$3340. 25x30 \$4790. 30x40 \$7340. 40x60 \$11,490. Factory Direct, 25 years. Many others. Ends/accessories optional. Pioneer, 1-800-668-5422.

STEEL BUILDINGS - FACTORY deals. Save \$\$\$ 40'x60' to 100'x200'. Example: 50'x100'x12' = \$3,600/sq.ft. 1-888-467-4443, www.rigidbuilding.com

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306 Newspapers, 1.1 Million Circulation
North Region Only \$175
102 Newspapers, 381,000 Circulation
South Region Only \$175
101 Newspapers, 462,000 Circulation
West Region Only \$175
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things, with a subscription to...

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3 Month
\$25.95

Call now to start a subscription in time for the holidays
(432) 263-7331
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE

TUESDAY

	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 (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI
6 PM	News (CC)	News	Plat de Oloro	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tormenta	News	Raymond	Booker	News-Laher	MythBusters	Classics	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	That's Raven	With Smith	Sonic Bowl	Movie: Dragonfly
7 PM	Ent. Tonight	News	Contra Venio y Mame	Bones (CC)	NCIS (CC)	El Cuerpo del Deseo	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Friends (CC)	UpdateIsrael	Nova (CC)	Mega	Movie: Holiday	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	BET.com	The Ultimate	Our Greatest	College	(CC)
8 PM	Heaven, Where	Heaven, Where	Alborada	House (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Corazon Part	Name Is Earl	Sex and City	Light of the	Frontline	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Uncle	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	The Ultimate	Present	NBA Coast-to-	New Orleans	Movie: Fairy
9 PM	We Got There	We Got There	Casos de la	My Wife-Kids	48 Hours	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	Daisy-America	at the Roxbury	Independent	MythBusters	15 Movie: A	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Comicview	American Drpn	Madden Nation	Arkansas State	Story
10 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	at the Roxbury	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	I Shouldn't Be	Carol	CSI: Crime	Cold Case	In Living Color	That's Raven	Madden Nation	Mississippi	Movie: Kiro II
11 PM	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Lettman	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night	15 Movie: As	Joe McGee	Sign Off	Mega	Movie: Holiday	CSI: Crime	Las Vegas	Jame Fox	Phi of Future	ESPN Holly	(CC)	Encounter
12 AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y	Becker (CC)	Show	Maia Celeste	Conan O'Brien	Gets (CC)	UpdateIsrael	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Holiday	Blind Date	Blind Date	The X-Files	Comicview	Lizzie McGuire	Movie: CodeBreakers	NBA Fastbreak	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU BETTER THAN THE TOOTH FAIRY OR THE EASTER BUNNY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...he hasta take his boots off and on at all those security checks."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



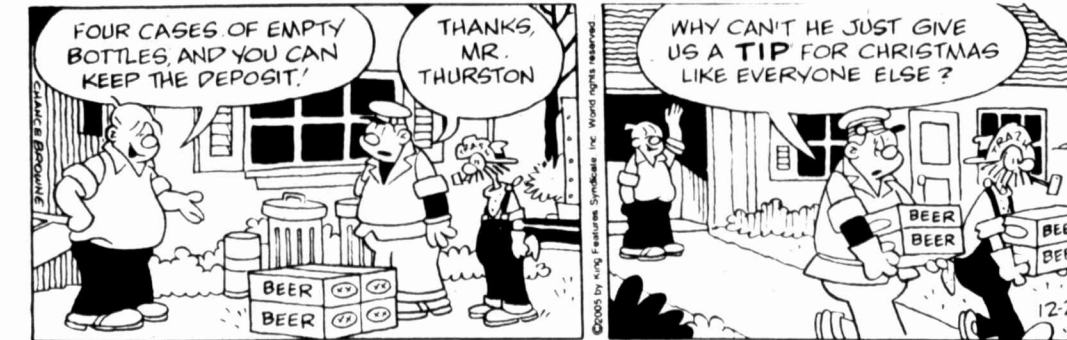
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2005. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

On this date: In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1879, Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1987, more than 3,000

people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of General Manuel Noriega.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples.

Five years ago: President-elect Bush named businessman Paul O'Neill to be his treasury secretary; Ann Veneman to be the first female secretary of agriculture; Mel Martinez to be secretary of housing and urban development; and Don Evans, secretary of commerce.

One year ago: In a sobering assessment of the Iraq war, President Bush acknowledged during a news conference that Americans' resolve had been shaken by grisly scenes of death and destruction, and he pointedly criticized the performance of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Audrey Totter is 88. Comedian Charlie Callas is 78. Actor John Hillerman is 73. Actor John Spencer is 59. Singer Alan Parsons is 56. Actor Michael Badalucco is 51. Actress Blanche Baker is 49. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 48. Rock singer-musician Mike Watts (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 48. Country singer Kris Tyler is 41. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 39. Singer JoJo is 15.

Thought for Today: "Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art. It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival." — C.S. Lewis, British author (1898-1963).

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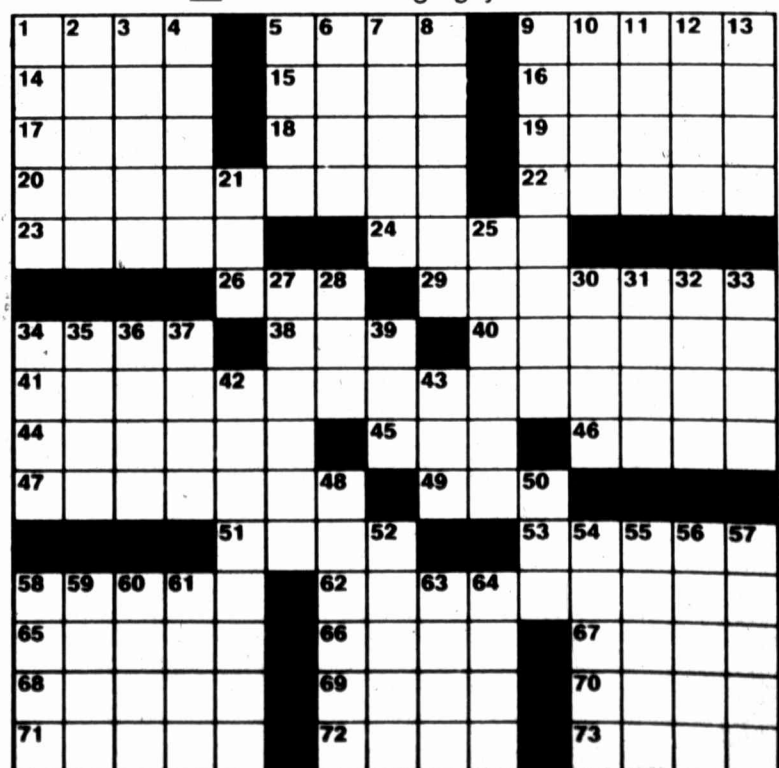
Answer to previous puzzle

TILE	LEAD	PESTO
ODOR	ODIE	AMTOD
TOURGUIDE	SCRAP	
OLD	LITER	SEEDS
NASH	SLEET	
SAHARA	SKIS	CAT
ARISE	PIN	HBO
FETA	CRANE	MOAN
ENG	HERN	CAUSE
RAH	HOSE	WATER
ADOPT	CALIN	
APRON	STARS	ORB
SEINE	TERMPAPER	
TODOS	ORAL	LANE
INERT	PITY	FLOW

Newsday Crossword CHRISTMAS EVE QUARTET by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman, www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- Rip up
 - Engineering school, for short
 - Strings on sneakers
 - Car-wheel connector
 - Angelic topper
 - Overact
 - Motel employee
 - Paperless exam
 - Ease up
 - BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, PERHAPS
 - FEMALE FOX
 - On a cruise
 - Silent performer
 - Jack Nicklaus org.
 - How accurate maps are drawn
 - Sound made by fingers
 - Train lines: Abbr.
 - Color of the spectrum
 - Theme of the puzzle
 - Phase
 - Make mad
 - Land measure
 - Plumber's rubber rings
 - Smart whip
 - Robert Frost work
 - Lariat
 - HALLEY'S, FOR ONE
 - VAUDEVILLE PERFORMER
 - Where you live
 - Constellation component
 - Crisscross pattern
 - 53 Across user
 - West Coast sch.
 - Lounge around
 - Adolescents
 - "That was close!"
 - Letters on a phone
 - City near St. Pete
 - Glorify
 - False name
 - Change colors again
 - Holier-than-
 - Legendary lawman Wyatt
 - Assert
 - "Wait a minute!"
 - Doesn't delete
 - Prefix meaning "both"
 - Persuade
 - Ending for kitchen
 - Noticed
 - Mushroom part
 - Entertainment-section listings
 - Small cave
 - Canine sound
 - Piano-piece postscript
 - Actor Baldwin
 - Nasty glance
 - Raison d'
 - Glitch
 - Rocket launching agcy.
 - Fuse units
 - Quick look
 - Lanka
 - Royal wands
 - Significant period
 - Establishes
 - State south of Tenn.
 - Fire starter
 - Saxon
 - Throw in the trash
 - Confiscate
 - Waiter's concern
 - Shopper's vehicle
 - Bassoon kin
 - Sulk
 - Biblical paradise
 - Ashen
 - Make a sketch



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Wacky Facts

■ The temperature on the plains surrounding the Arctic Ocean, known as the "Tundra," rarely rises above 45 degrees Fahrenheit. It is too cold for trees to grow there.
— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement."
— "The Chronicles of Narnia" author C.S. Lewis, via www.brainyquote.com.



The evil White Witch (Tilda Swinton) and Edmund Pevensie (Skandar Keynes).

Actor talks about what it's like to play Edmund

BY NANCY CHURNIN
The Dallas Morning News

It's not easy being Edmund in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Three of the four Pevensie siblings are brave, heroic and all-around noble in C.S. Lewis' classic Narnia series. But Edmund causes most of the problems by taking the side of the evil White Witch.

And, ultimately, he makes the biggest change when he repents.

We wanted to know how 14-year-old Skandar Keynes (pronounced CANES), right, feels about playing Edmund in the film, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." But we figured the best person to ask the questions would be someone who's tackled the part, too. Eric Kielczewski (pronounced kill-CHESS-key), 16, of Grand Prairie, Texas, played Edmund at Creative Arts Theatre & School in Arlington, Texas, in April. Skandar called us from his home in London to answer Eric's e-mailed questions.

First, however, we had to know how he felt when he got the role:

"I was on the bus going to school, and it was raining. They said they would call me on Thursday, and it was Friday, so I was down, not feeling too great. My phone rang, and they said, 'You've got the part!' They were yelling at me on the bus, 'Turn off your phone, boy!' so I said, 'Thanks! Bye!' I was cheering inside, though."

ERIC: What was the hardest part of developing the character of Edmund? For me it was making the live audience believe I had changed from evil to good (that and sustaining a British dialect).

The bad boy of NARNIA



PHOTOS COURTESY DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

SKANDAR: The emotional scenes were hard. I don't usually cry, and that was a challenging thing to do. But once I had done it, it was really rewarding. It is a great feeling doing something that challenges you.



Edmund's siblings, from left, Susan (Anna Popplewell), Peter (William Moseley) and Lucy (Georgie Henley).

ERIC: How did you film scenes with Aslan (the lion) since he was CGI (computer-generated imagery)?

SKANDAR: I only had one scene with Aslan where I'm nodding at him. I was really nodding at a rock. In scenes with the other kids, Andrew (Andrew Adamson, the director) and his assistants would act out Aslan's lines dressed up in green suits so they could be edited out.

ERIC: They say actors are cast because the director sees a part of them in the character. How are you like Edmund?

SKANDAR: I could not be denied my mischievous fun on set. Every day I would

sneak up behind our producer and stab him in the stomach. He would jump up and chase me yelling, "Skandar!" It was so funny. Also, I was brought in at the last minute. The others had known each other for a year and a half. I was on edge, I was nervous. That helped me with the character.

ERIC: Did everyone in the cast get along, especially the kids who played the four siblings?

SKANDAR: We had great fun. I remember Will (William Moseley plays Edmund's older brother, Peter) saying if one hadn't fit in with the group it would have been awful.

ERIC: How long did it take to shoot the film?

SKANDAR: Six months. We shot it while I was 12, and I turned 13 halfway through the shoot. I grew 6½ inches. They had to keep re-doing and re-doing my armor.

ERIC: How did your friends at school handle you being in the film?

SKANDAR: I've got one friend that's very excited, and every time we go anywhere and see this massive billboard of me, he'll say, "Skandar, look, there you are!" It's a blessing and a curse. I'm thinking of going to school at 2 in the morning so no one notices me.

In The News

Technology for the world's poor

Can a lime-green, wind-up machine improve educational opportunities for the world's poorest kids?

Nicholas Negroponte and his team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab think so. They have created a laptop computer that runs on electricity kids create themselves just by turning a bright yellow hand crank.

The machines will sell for just \$100 each. The average price of a laptop in the United States this fall was more than \$1,000! The low price will make the machines available to millions of kids around the world who would otherwise never have a computer.

DELIVERING EDUCATION

In developing nations, technology is not only expensive — it is usually outdated. The affordable computers could make a huge difference in the education of children in poor countries around the world. "Every single problem you can think of — poverty, peace, the environment — is solved with education or including education," Negroponte said.

"These robust, versatile machines will enable children to become more active in their own learning," said United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.



IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS

Nicknamed "the green machine," the laptop was introduced at the United Nation's World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia. More than 16,000 people from 176 countries attended the three-day summit to discuss ways of boosting technology for the world's poor and bringing the world closer together.

Mahmood Kahn of Pakistan said improving access to communication may also help improve global relationships. "We will use the Internet and other media to heal wounds, to remove misperceptions, to promote dialogue, to foster trust between diverse communities," Kahn said.

ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD

Negroponte has set up an organization called One Laptop Per Child to sell the laptops to governments of developing nations. He hopes that the first machines will be delivered in 2006. Brazil and Thailand are two countries that are especially eager to buy the new computers. More nations are expected to follow soon.

Negroponte said the goal is to have governments or other sponsors pay for the machines. But it will be the children who receive them, who will own them and who will start cranking away! — Jill Egan

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Laugh Lines

Why wouldn't the maid operate the computer?
She didn't do windows!

What's an astronaut's favorite key on the computer?
The space bar!

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