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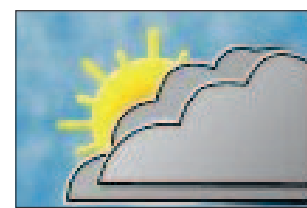
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 314

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FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 30, 2007


50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Parade excitement grows

PARADE FACTS

Time: 5:30 p.m. Saturday**Starting Point:** 24th and Gregg**Route:** North on Gregg to Sixth Street, east to Main Street and north to the courthouse.**Weather:** High 50s at parade time, dropping quickly after dark.**By JOHN A. MOSELEY**

Managing Editor

Everything is set ... almost. The Christmas season in Howard County will officially start at 5:30 p.m. Saturday when the 22nd annual *Big Spring Herald* Community Christmas Parade begins its traditional procession north on Gregg Street.

Though many local residents are well on their way to completing their Christmas shopping, there are those who say they really can't really get into the spirit of the season until the first Saturday in December, when Santa and Mrs. Claus make a special early appearance and join in the traditional parade.

Now the only question seems to be what the weather will be like Saturday evening.

Herald Publisher Ron Midkiff, admittedly anxious to experience his first Christmas parade since moving to Big Spring and taking over the newspaper's reins, said he's



HERALD file photo

Area youth participate in last year's Big Spring Herald Lighted Community Christmas Parade. This year's version gets under way at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

already certain about one thing — the newspaper's employees certainly tend to think in terms of the parade being the season's kickoff.

"It's really amazing how excited everyone here at the *Herald* is about this parade," he noted. "As a result, I've really been looking forward to this year's parade."

Midkiff noted that in a recent

meeting with members of the *Herald's* Readers' Advisory Board, several told him they believe it's probably the best holiday parade in West Texas. As such, the parade annually draws visitors from outside Howard County.

"It looks like this is going to be a great parade," Midkiff continued. "We know several businesses have had teams hard at

work planning their entries for some time. And there's not much question there are other community groups and individuals that have been doing the same.

"In fact, the closer we get to Saturday," he added, "the more the excitement builds."

This year's parade will be

See **PARADE**, Page 3A

WEEKEND

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Today

6 p.m., VA Medical Center Lighting of the Lights, 300 Veterans Blvd.

Saturday

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Canterbury Christmas Bazaar, 1700 Lancaster.

• 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will be at the Heritage Museum. Other activities include Dimples the Clown making balloon animals, a model railroad exhibit and the Christmas Tree Forest. Those who wish are invited for cookies and hot chocolate while viewing the Christmas parade from the patio.

• 2 p.m., Living Christmas Tree dress rehearsal, no ticket necessary, First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry.

• 5:30 p.m., Herald Lighted Community Christmas Parade.

• 8 p.m., Living Christmas Tree performance, free ticket necessary, First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry.

Sunday

• 8 p.m., Living Christmas Tree performance, free ticket necessary, First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry.

2007 HERALD LIGHTED COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE LINEUP

1. Big Spring Police Honor Guard
2. Grand Marshal
3. Big Spring High School Band, Choir
4. Big Spring Public Schools Cheerleaders
5. Forsan Junior High Cheerleaders
6. Forsan Buffaloes Football Team
7. Sixth Grade Goliad Dare Students
8. Big Spring Junior High Cheerleaders
9. Kentwood Elementary
10. Howard County 4-H
11. Caring Hearts
12. Woodforest National Bank
13. Big Spring Shrine Club Fire Brigade
14. Chico & Sons
15. Howard County Sheriff's Posse
16. H-E-B
17. StarTek
18. Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

19. Pow Wow Committee of Big Spring
20. Blue Knights of Texas XXVI
21. Open
22. Howard College
23. City of Big Spring
24. St. Joseph's Home Health
25. Western Container
26. Kayla Cervantes
27. Big Spring Red Hat Society
28. Chap Coker
29. Alicia Buzbee-Mounted
30. Clifford Hart Sr.
31. Jazzy's
32. CYG of Sacred Heart Church
33. Dance Gallery
34. Howard County
35. NAIRA Family
36. Parkplace/Parkview

37. Ivey Engineering
38. Raymond Stallings
39. Kokopelli's
40. Midway Baptist Church
41. Sonic Drive-In
42. Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Veterans Home
43. Mom & Pop's Tattoo Shop
44. Pat Gray Towing
45. Torbik Family
46. First Baptist Church Mother's Day Out
47. Alon USA
48. West Texas Centers MHMR
49. Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring
50. Hangar 25 Air Museum
51. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
52. Terry and Prissy Stanley
53. Santa and Mrs. Claus

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To reach us:

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Burglary spree suspects indicted by grand jury

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Three men accused of conducting a month-long burglary spree were among 18 defendants indicted by the Howard County Grand Jury Thursday morning.

Christopher Wade Clark, 21, and Steven Silletti, 17, both currently in Howard County Jail, and Robert Pearson, 20, 904 Nolan, were indicted in

connection with a string of burglaries that occurred earlier this year.

Clark was indicted on two counts of burglary of a habitation, one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle and seven counts of burglary of a building.

Silletti was hit with nine indictments — two for burglary of a habitation, one of UUV and the rest for burglary of a

See **GRAND JURY**, Page 2A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Friday, November 30, 2007

IN BRIEF

Big Spring High School schedules fall sports banquet

The Big Spring High School booster clubs have scheduled a fall sports banquet for Saturday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. in the high school's cafeteria.

Male and female athletes that participated in football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading will be recognized.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center.

Call Denise Carillo at 816-1685 with any questions.

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area sub-varsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

Crossroads region varsity sports weekly calendar

Here's a look at the upcoming Crossroads varsity sports schedule:

TODAY-SAT.

Big Spring girls basketball at Idalou Tournament.

Big Spring boys basketball at Andrews Tournament.

Coahoma boys and girls basketball hosting Coahoma Invitational Tournament.

Garden City boys and girls basketball hosting Garden City Tournament.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Garden City Tournament.

Grady boys and girls basketball at Garden City Tournament.

TUESDAY

Big Spring girls basketball at Midland High, 6:30 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.

DEC. 6-8

Big Spring boys basketball at Midland Tall City Oilman's Tournament held at South Oak Cliff.

Big Spring girls basketball at Clyde Tournament.

Coahoma boys basketball at Stanton's Hooptown Classic.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Borden County Tournament.

Grady boys and girls basketball at Water Valley Tournament.

DEC. 7

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Wellington at Idalou, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma teams start hot in Invitational

By **BRANDON HALLFORD**

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Basketball season in the Crossroads area moves into full swing this week as Coahoma High School hosts the 22nd annual Coahoma Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Bulldogettes kicked things off early with a 9 a.m. tip off against the Miles Lady Bulldogs.

Coach Chris Sumrall must have had the coffee pot working

overtime as his charges burst out of the gate to a 27-4 lead after one quarter of play before coasting to a 59-21 victory.

Christie Rich led the way, scoring 10, while the trio of Heather Sheppard, Kaysea Spiller and Alex Moore tallied eight apiece.

Andra Kerley was the top scorer for Miles with 10 points.

Sterling City 48, Lorenzo 39

The Sterling City Lady Eagles

used the strength of a 7-point scoring advantage in the second quarter to fashion a 48-39 victory over the Lorenzo Lady Hornets in the second game of the day.

Darcy Musick scored a game-high 19 for the Lady Eagles while her teammate Kersti Wright added 16. Myra Wheeler had 14 for the Lady Hornets.

Stanton 53, Sweetwater 46

Stanton's Adrian Carrasco

scored 15 as the Lady Buffaloes held off a late Sweetwater Lady Mustangs rally to win 53-46.

Ruby Salazar also hit double figures for the Lady Buffs with 10 while Rachel Fleckenstein scored eight. Bennie Smith had 14 in the loss for the Lady Mustangs.

Sterling City 52, Miles 43

The Lady Eagles led 17-9 after

See **INVITATIONAL**, Page 3B



Howard College's Denzel Barnes pushes the ball past a Midland College defender in the Hawks' 66-60 loss Thursday night at the Chaparral Center in Midland.

Hawks' rally falls short against Midland

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Herald Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Distractions surrounded Thursday night's basketball game between the Howard College Hawks and the Midland College Chaparrals.

With Midland celebrating its 2006-2007 National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship with a ring and banner ceremony before the game, the Chaparrals immediately placed pressure on themselves to defend their crown and prove why they were the third-ranked team in the nation heading into the night.

Early on, it appeared Midland was ready to prove itself, opening up with a 23-9 lead with 7:30 minutes left in the first half. However, the Hawks proved to be a pesky squad, unwilling to go down quietly.

Unfortunately for the Hawks, their offensive runs kept coming up short as the closest they'd get to Midland was three points in a 66-60 loss.

Neither team showed a lot of proficiency on offense with the Hawks shooting a mere 31.3 percent from the field compared to 35.6 percent for Midland. However, the Hawks were even worse at the 3-point line, making only one of their 15 3-point attempts.

"It was really an ugly game offensively for both teams," said Howard Head Coach Mark Adams. "They've got one of the best defenses in the league. We knew what we were going to face. They were just stronger down low and dominated the boards. We gave them far too many second chances, but that goes to show they're maturity."

"There's something to build on here," Adams continued.

"There's not many teams that are going to come in here and beat Midland on their home floor. It was encouraging to know that we could compete with them."

Howard trailed 60-57 with 31.8 seconds remaining in regulation after Denzel Barnes connected on one of two at the free throw line. However, with shot blocking specialist Cheick Kone, who finished the game with four blocks, fouled out for Howard, Midland again attacked the interior of the Hawks' defense Marcus Washington penetrated and extended the Chaps lead to five, 62-57, with 27.7 seconds remaining.

That's as close as Howard got as Midland made four free throws down the stretch to ice the game.

Howard's Sean Watson led all scorers with 24 points,

See **HAWKS**, Page 3B

Garden City, Buffs off to strong start

Herald Staff Report

GARDEN CITY — Garden City's Bearkat Booster Club Klassic tipped off Thursday with four boys teams — Garden City, Forsan, San Angelo Cornerstone and El Paso Jesus Chapel — and eight girls teams — Garden City, Forsan, Rankin, McCamey, San Angelo Cornerstone and El Paso Jesus Chapel — hitting the hardwood.

It was a pleasant start for both Garden City teams as each cruised to dominant victories over Jesus Chapel.

Forsan's boys look to be headed for a championship matchup with Garden City as they blitzed San Angelo Cornerstone and their coach picked up a monumental victory. The Buffs and Bearkats meet in the final game of the round robin tournament at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

On the girls' side, the competition is more fierce with Grady, Iraan and McCamey coming away with impressive victories.

Girls basketball

Garden City 63, Jesus Chapel 11

The Lady Bearkats never trailed as they opened up a 25-4 first period lead and extended the deficit to 37-6 by halftime.

Whitney Kellermeier scored six of her game-high 16 points in the opening stanza. Brittany Chudej was a consistent scoring threat throughout the game, finishing the game with 15 points. Also in double digits for Garden City was Morgan Schwartz with 10 points.

The Lady Bearkats shutout Jesus Chapel in the third period as they coasted to victory in the second half.

Jesus Chapel	4	2	0	5—11
Garden City	25	12	16	10—63

Jesus Chapel: Adams 5, Johnson 3, Hoefner 3.

Garden City: Whitney Kellermeier 16, Melissa Hirt 4, Amy Multer 6, Brittany Chudej 15, Lyza Lopez 4, Morgan Schwartz 10, Paige Niehues 8.

Boys basketball

Garden City 61, Jesus Chapel 26

Garden City's Bearkats were in full attack mode in the second period, outscoring Jesus Chapel 22-7 to pull away. Three Bearkats — Jake Schwartz (5), Eric Hirt (5) and Wade Jansa (6) — scored at least five points in the second stanza.

See **TOURNEY**, Page 3B

Lady Chaps hold off Howard women

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Herald Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Midland College's Lady Chaparrals provided what was probably the real challenge for the Howard Hawks women's basketball team in close to three weeks.

However, despite suffering a 64-60 loss to the 15th ranked Lady Chaps, Howard fans must be encouraged by the way the women fought back to almost pull off the upset.

Midland scored the first seven points in the second half after leading 30-25 at intermission. Eventually, the Lady Chaps' lead ballooned to a daunting 45-30 advantage with a little more than 16 minutes left in the game.

However, the Hawks slowly chipped away at the deficit and used a 9-2 run to pull within three points at 59-56 with 4 minutes left to play.

Unfortunately for Howard, Midland wisely used a timeout and scored

two quick baskets as a part of the adjustment, pushing the lead to 63-56. A Candace Lambert three trimmed the deficit back to four with 2:15 remaining, but that's as close as Howard would get.

"I thought we had this game in our grasps," said Howard Head Coach Earl Diddle. "I thought we'd come over here and play well. I just didn't have any idea that we would not do the things we needed to do to win the game. Midland is a good team, but we didn't execute very well. That might have been due to what Midland was doing, but we didn't guard certain things well that I thought we could handle. We fouled far too much and Midland got second chances on some shots when the game was in question."

Free throw shooting made a huge difference in

See **HC**, Page 3B



Howard College's Jostosha McDonald (right) sprints the ball up the court while a Midland College defender runs with her stride for stride. The Hawk women fell 64-60 at the Chaparral Center in Midland.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Obituaries

Bernarda Valencia



Bernarda Valencia, 75, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007, at her residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 20, 1932, in South Texas on the King Ranch. She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She had lived in Big Spring for more than 50 years.

She is survived six sons, Ray Valencia Sr., Oscar Valencia, Steven Valencia, Ernest "Neto" Valencia and Joe Rodriguez, all of Big Spring, and Sabino Valencia Jr. of Lubbock; seven daughters, Nellie Flores of Phoenix, Arizona, Lupe Yanez of Lamesa, Antonia Lara of San Antonio, Irene Garfias of Houston, Mary Elma Saldivar of Midland, Mary Elva Talamantez of Odessa and Alice Badillo of Arlington; five brothers; three sisters; and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sabino Valencia Sr.; four sons: Robert, Arthur, Adam and Alex; and three granddaughters.

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

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-18-25-33-35
Number matching five of five: none.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-5-8-22. Bonus Ball: 25.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Winning ticket sold in: Midland.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-5-2. Sum It Up: 8.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-4-9-0. Sum It Up: 18.

Take Note

• Angel Food ordes for December be taken today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 267-2203

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

• St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming an Odyssey Healthcare volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

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Police blotter

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

• **ERIC E. MCINTOSH**, 25, of 1506 Runnels, was arrested Thursday on a Parmer County warrant and a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **LARRY C. TWIN**, 46, transient, was arrested Thursday on a local citation.

• **HOLLEY D. JENNINGS**, 22, of 1101.5 Lancaster, was arrested Thursday on three local capias warrants and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **GERONIMO R. CALDERON**, 25, of 1701 Alabama, was arrested Thursday on two Howard County warrants and a charge of theft.

• **RUTHIE M. MURPHREE**, 38, of 6701 Midway Road, was arrested Thursday on a charge of theft with two or more convictions.

• **DENNIS DEAN BOLT**, 55, of 417 Edwards, was arrested Thursday on a charge of assault Class C/family violence.

• **SAMUEL C. SORRELLS**, 21, of 5700 Cedar Road Apt. 6, was arrested Friday on a local citation and a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ENRIQUE M. ALVAREZ JR.**, 45, of 1710 Benton, was arrested Friday on charges of evading arrest and resisting arrest.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1200 block of Sixth Street.
- in the 200 block of FM 700.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1100 block of Lancaster.

• **DEADLY CONDUCT - DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 700 block of Lorilla.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 900 block of Nolan.
- in the 1100 block of Lancaster.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.

• **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported:

- in the 2600 block of Carleton.
- in the 1100 block of Lancaster.

• **ARSON - INTENT TO START FIRE TO CAUSE RECKLESS DAMAGE** was reported in the 1100 block of Lancaster. No damage resulted from the fire, which BSPD officials said was the result of a photograph being burned on the residence's porch.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.

• **MISTY DAWN CLAYTON**, 26, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

• **FREDERICO GONZALES**, 33, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of no valid driver's license.

• **ADAM MAURICIO TORRES**, 34, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for assault.

• **CESAR ROSALES ACUNA**, 23, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.

• **EDELMIRA LUJAN**, 46, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

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

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 10000 block of Bluebonnet. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

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Support Groups

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.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

GRAND JURY

Continued from Page 1A

building.

Pearson faces a comparatively lighter load — he was indicted three times, all for burglary of a building.

Most of the indictments spring from a rash of burglaries that occurred in September and October of this year.

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said that the cases began falling into place fairly quickly.

"The three were caught under suspicious circumstances ... and as the investigation continued, evidence surfaced connecting them to other offenses," Wilkerson said. "I feel like that this was a very substantial operation."

Burglary of a habitation, the most severe of the charged offenses, is a second degree felony, carrying a possible sentence of between two and 20 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000. The other charges are all state jail felonies, punishable by between six months and two years in a state jail facility.

Others indicted by the grand jury Thursday included:

• Zachery Scott Lyon, 31, 2403 Runnels, driving while intoxicated with child passenger (state jail felony).

• David Jaquez Escovedo, 36, 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 102, sexual assault of a child (second degree felony).

• William Ryan Locke, 33, 400 S. Adams, Coahoma, possession of a

controlled substance (state jail felony).

• Joe Rudy Mendoza, 30, 1905 Eubanks, evading arrest (third degree felony).

• Gilbert Munoz, 21, 2603 Ent, possession of a controlled substance (third degree felony).

• Roman Ortega, 35, 704 Johnson, possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

• Steven Gordon Rogers, 55, 2607 Williams Rd., driving while intoxicated (second degree felony).

• Olga Barnhardt Rubio, 27, Snyder, debit card abuse and two counts of forgery (all state jail felonies).

• Alex Sanchez, 22, 1708 Young, criminal mischief (state jail felony).

• Darrell Scott Shultz, 24, 1002 N. Main Apt. 64, evading arrest (state jail felony).

• Leonard Shane Slaton, 41, 1 Glenwick Cove, unauthorized use of a vehicle (state jail felony).

• Steven Uribe, 32, 909 Runnels, evading arrest (state jail felony).

• Paul Viera Jr., 22, 1907 Main, theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000 (state jail felony).

• James Weldon Watson, 30, theft under \$1,500 with two or more previous convictions and two counts of forgery (all state jail felonies).

• Ray John-Manuel Zapata, 27, 914 E. Sixth, two counts forgery, credit card abuse and burglary of a building (all state jail felonies).

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

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Christmas Decor
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Woman charged with assault in Coahoma incident

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — A Coahoma woman was arrested Thursday after law enforcement officials say she intentionally rammed her pickup truck into another vehicle at a residence near S. Second Street.

Edelmira Lujan, 46, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and driving while license invalid after she allegedly rammed her pickup truck into the rear of a vehicle occupied by another Coahoma woman and her six-month-old child.

According to Mark Hall, chief deputy with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, the first call came in shortly after 5 p.m., and an already tough situation was made even worse when law enforcement officials couldn't understand the victim.

"When the call first came in, we thought the woman was saying her six-month-old had been struck by a car," said Hall. "However, once a deputy got on the scene, we discovered what had really happened."

"The woman and her daughter were in the back of the vehicle when Lujan rammed the rear of it with her pickup truck. She called for help from the back of the car, but because of the language barrier, she was very hard to understand."

Hall said Lujan, who was known to the victim at the time of the attack, was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon because of the attack with the vehicle.

"The Sheriff's Office is investigating the aggravated assault and the Department of Public Safety is doing the report on the crash," said Hall. "Both the mother and the child managed to make it out of the attack without any injuries."

Hall said the cause of the altercation between the victim and Lujan is still unclear, with the matter still under investigation.

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

PARADE

Continued from Page 1A

headed by Jan Hansen, executive director of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County and one of the co-chairs for the Pops in the Park Committee. She'll serve as grand marshal for the event.

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the entry selected as the winner of the Best of Show Award for the best interpretation of the theme "A Poinsettia Christmas."

The winner of the Mayor's Trophy for the best use of lighting will receive a \$75 prize, while the winner of the Grand Marshal's Award for best costuming will receive \$50.

Midkiff stressed that the Herald takes great pride in sponsoring each year's Community Christmas Parade and employees strive to make every procession just a little better

than that which came before.

"It's pretty obvious that the community takes as much interest in the parade each year as we do in sponsoring it," he noted. "The employees who've been here several years say the entries just get better and better."

This procession will have more than 49 registered entries, but even more unregistered participants are expected to join in the event.

In fact, Rick Nunez and Elizabeth Flores, the Herald's parade coordinators, say late entries will be added to the procession. All late comers are welcomed to get their entries decorated and show up to be included in the parade, but only registered entries will be judged for awards and plaques.

"This is the community's parade," Nunez noted. "So even if you weren't able to register an entry, but want to take part in the parade, we

encourage you go come join us in getting the Christmas season started with a lot of fun."

All parade participants are asked to make sure they do not block the driveways of homes in the process of lining up for the event and to make sure they clean up any litter created during last-minute preparations.

Participants will begin lining up for the procession at 4 p.m. The Big Spring High School Steer Marching Band will need to arrive at 5 p.m.

The Herald staff had hoped that the state champion Forsan High School Band would be able to participate as well, but due to scheduling conflicts, FHS Band Director Jim Rhodes said it would be impossible for his charges to participate.

The parade will start at the corner of East 24th and Gregg streets, moving northward on Gregg Street, take a right on Sixth Street, go all the way up to Main, take a

left on Main Street and disperse around the courthouse area.

"The parade route is pretty long, so there's ample opportunity for thousands of people to view the parade," Midkiff said. "And while they say you can never be sure what the weather is going to do here in West Texas, the forecast calls for a high temperature in the lower 70s Saturday. Still, once the sun sets we expect it to cool down pretty quickly. We're encouraging everyone to dress warmly, bring a Thermos of coffee or hot chocolate and head to your favorite spot along Gregg Street or downtown in plenty of time to get a good spot to watch the parade. We really do want everyone to enjoy this with us."

Managing Editor John A. Moseley can be contacted by calling 263-7331, ext. 230, or he can be e-mailed at editor@bigspringherald.com.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Phillip Manuel Lopez, 21, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Bernarda Valencia, 75, died Wednesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

James Woodall, 72, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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BAZAAR

Continued from Page 1A

season in style.

According to Mandy Davis, a leasing specialist with the Canterbury retirement center, the bazaar — which is set for 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday at Canterbury South, located at 1700 Lancaster — will be a one-stop shopping smorgasbord for anything to make a home festive for the holiday season.

"If you can think of it, it will most likely be here," said Davis with a laugh. "We have more than 20 vendors lined up to participate in the bazaar, so we're expecting a full house. We're fitting as many vendors into the

main building as we can fit.

"We have vendors who make the lighted glass blocks, wooden Christmas trees and snowmen, afghans, wreaths, Christmas center pieces — it's going to be a little bit of everything. Lots of variety."

Davis said the home's auxiliary group — which plans and holds various activities for the residents of Canterbury — will also have offerings of a rather tasty variety.

"The auxiliary group will be holding a bake sale during the bazaar," said Davis. "They will have all kinds of baked goods for sale, and the funds they raise will go toward various activities for the residents, including their annual

Christmas party."

Davis said copies of the now-famous Canterbury Cookbook will also be available.

"Many of the residents and staff have prepared of number of items from the cookbook, and I keep hearing about how good they are," said Davis. "The recipes came from residents and staff members, so it's a lot of great dishes."

For more information on the bazaar, call the Canterbury office at 263-1265.

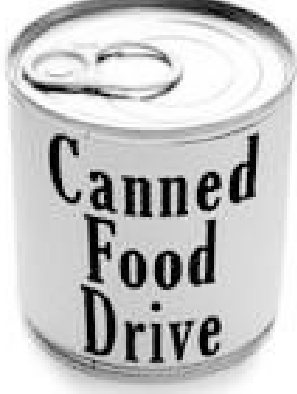
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Sat. 12:40 PM 4:10 PM 7:00 PM 10:10 PM
◆ ENCHANTED (PG) 4:20 PM 7:10 PM 9:50 PM
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EXTRA!

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

had,” first-year coach Wade Phillips said.

The Packers are still in great shape for at least the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye because their next three opponents have losing records. And the idea of starting Rodgers next week may no longer be as dreadful to fans who have wondered if he was a wasted draft pick.

In the most extended action of his career, he was 18-of-26 for 201 yards and a touchdown with no turnovers.

“I thought he played great,” Favre said. “He gave us a chance to win.”

Favre was 5-of-14 for 56 yards with two interceptions, one that looked like a punt and another on the play he was injured. At least two other heaves could have been picked off. The Packers’ only touchdown during his action came on a 62-yard run by Ryan Grant.

It’s a shame most of the country missed seeing this game because it sure was worthy of a bigger audience than the NFL Network can provide.

There were historic teams and star players, dramatic plays and bizarre ones — like T.O. juggling a potential back-

breaking touchdown, letting it turn into an interception that could have let Green Bay take the lead. And, of course, there was the Romo-Favre storyline, which got rolling when they smiled and laughed through a chat on the field about 1 1/2 hours before kickoff.

What did they say? “Exchanging recipes and stuff,” Romo said. “Guy talk. I don’t know. We just talked about hunting or something. I told him NFL Network was going to have a heart attack if I didn’t come over and say hi. They were running out of film waiting for it.”

Even the pregame coin toss was cool as Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman were honorary captains, joining Cowboys players dressed in throwback uniforms that ironically hark back to the days when Vince Lombardi and the Packers dominated Tom Landry’s early Dallas teams.

Green Bay got a field goal on its first drive, but wouldn’t lead again. The Cowboys were up 6-3, then turned it into 27-10 in the span of just eight offensive snaps.

Then Favre left and Dallas’ intensity went, too. The lead frittered to 27-24 and after Al Harris caught the interception

caused by Owens, the Packers were driving for a go-ahead touchdown. But Green Bay’s bid ended quickly, then Romo drove right back for a touchdown that made it 34-24.

Rodgers got a field goal, then the Packers needed a stop from their defense. But with Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila and cornerback Charles Woodson inactive with injuries, they couldn’t do it. Dallas got a clock-draining drive and field goal for a 10-point lead with 1:03 left — and with Favre nowhere in sight, having already headed to the locker room before the 2-minute warning.

Notes: Favre already considered Texas Stadium a miserable place, half-joking earlier this week that he was hoping “it would be gone before I got back there.” He’s 0-9 here. ... Dallas leads the regular-season series 11-10. ... Cowboys WR Miles Austin didn’t have a catch, but he drew pass interference penalties of 42 and 40 yards. ... Look for the shaggy-haired Rodgers to get a haircut soon. He vowed not to trim it until he threw a touchdown.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

including 12 in the first half that allowed the Hawks to keep within striking distance of Midland, and six rebounds. Barnes was the only other Hawk in double digits with 13 points and came down with six rebounds.

DeMarcus Richard and Devon Baker chipped in seven points apiece. Richard also had six boards.

Eddie Thompson led the

way for Midland with 15 points. Tyron Appleton and Darris Santee contributed 12 apiece. Midland outrebounded the Hawks 59-45.

Howard continues Western Junior College Athletic Conference play Monday with Odessa College paying a visit to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Tip time will be approximately 20 minutes following the Howard women’s game set to start at 5:30 p.m.

Adams said he feels good about Howard’s chances through the rest

of the conference season based on things he saw in the Midland contest, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

“Our defense is much better, but we’ve still got a long way to go,” Adams said. “There’s a lot of season left. It’s going to be all about who keeps getting better. It’s still early and we’ve got to keep reminding ourselves of that.”

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling him at 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

HC

Continued from Page 1B

the game as the Hawks converted just 13 of 28 attempts at the charity stripe. Midland was much better, making 17 of 32 attempts, but were able to make more trips to the line.

“We’re not a very good free throw shooting team and that came back and bit us tonight,” said Diddle. “We try not to foul, but we fouled them 23 times tonight. Give them a lot of credit. Midland has a lot of quickness on the perimeter and that gave us some problems.”

It was Midland’s pres-

ence in the paint that gave Howard the most trouble in the second half as both of the Lady Chaps featured post players registered double-doubles. Heissy Robledo chalked up 16 points and nabbed 12 rebounds while Tori Slusher had 14 points and 10 boards.

“They got loose on us down low,” Diddle said. “We’re a different team than them. They’re big inside. We’re smaller and try to use our quickness. They ran some good things to get us behind and buried us underneath the basket. We gave them 20-30 points.”

Monica Jones and Lambert led Howard with 15 points apiece. Lambert also had six rebounds and

led Howard with four assists. Jones pulled down seven boards. Rachel Dryver came off the bench to provide 12 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Howard plays its Western Junior College Athletic Conference home opener at 5:30 p.m. Monday with Odessa College paying a visit to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Howard men will play approximately 20 minutes after the completion of the women’s game.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

INVITATIONAL

Continued from Page 1B

the first quarter and maintained the advantage throughout winning 52-43 over the Lady Bulldogs.

Holly Hudson scored 12 for Miles in the loss while the duo of Musick and Wright again paced the Lady Eagles with 14 apiece.

Coahoma 60, Presidio 24

The final game of the day for the girls side found the host

Bulldogettes facing off against the Presidio Lady Blue Devils.

It was no contest as nine different Bulldogettes hit the score sheet with Lacey Sterling leading the charge with 19 while Rich added 16.

Miles 55, Pecos 46

On the boys’ side, the Miles Bulldogs opened the tourney with a 55-46 win over the Pecos Eagles.

Adrian Padilla had a game-high 21 for the Bulldogs with Bryan Munn added nine. Pecos was lead by Jesus Roberto Luna’s 15 with Paul Zubeldia

scoring 12.

Stanton 59, Sweetwater 45

The Stanton Buffaloes found themselves tied at 25 apiece going into the half with the Sweetwater Mustangs before using a second half rally to pull away for the 10-point victory.

Chase Pinkerton scored 20 and Garrett Fulton added 15 for Stanton while the Mustangs were led by Thomas Holsey’s 18.

Wall 57, Presidio 45

Wall’s Hawks found them-

selves holding a slim 36-29 advantage entering the final quarter of play before pulling away to claim the victory.

Caleb Ustry poured in a tourney high 27 for the Hawks while Logan Dodds added 14 in the win.

Edgar Ramirez had 16 for the Blue Devils.

Coahoma 84, Sterling City 31

In the final game of the day, it was the host Coahoma Bulldogs facing off against the Sterling City Eagles.

Coahoma wasted little time in showing who was the dominant

team, reeling off a 21-point run to open the game on their way to a 19-point advantage after one quarter of play.

Coahoma spread the wealth around as five different Bulldogs hit double figures led by Cody Sheppard’s 21. Matthew Tatum and Josh Paniagua each had 13. Logan Stone added 12 and Jovi Paniagua had 10.

The Bulldogs and Bulldogettes both take to the court in the final game of the day in their brackets Friday with the ladies scheduled to tip things off at 6:00 p.m. The boys are to follow at 7:30 p.m.

TOURNEY

Continued from Page 1B

Jansa added eight more in the fourth period on his way to a game high 17-point performance. Josh Colunga scored 11 of his 13 points in the final stanza. Schwartz, Hirt and Nick Sanchez finished with eight points apiece.

Jesus Chapel 6 7 2 11—26

Garden City 12 22 5 22—61

Jesus Chapel: Haynes 7, Braun 8, Hands 2, Robinson 2, Bob Ramirez 5, Wilson 2.

Garden City: Cole Schwartz 2, Jake Schwartz 8, Eric Hirt 8, Josh Colunga 13, Wade Jansa 17, Nick Sanchez 8, Brett Chudej 5.

Forsan 82, Cornerstone 43

Forsan’s Buffaloes were powered by Adam Bailey, Blake Grantham and Jeremy Robbins, who all posted double-doubles in the Buff’s decisive victory over San Angelo Cornerstone.

Bailey led all scorers with 33 points, including 15 in the first period as

the Buffs jumped out to a 26-10 lead after the opening stanza. Bailey also pulled down 15 boards.

Blake Grantham netted 14 points and had 12 rebounds and Jeremy Robbins added 10 points and 15 rebounds. Nathan Atkerson finished with 12 points and Alex Huckabee picked up 10 assists.

“We had everything working,” said Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald. “I really liked our tempo up and down the court and we did an excellent job of getting position on the boards.”

This victory marked a milestone for McDonald as he picked up the 300th win of his career.

Forsan 26 17 16 23—82

Cornerstone 7 9 18 9—43

Forsan: Cody Freitag 3, Clay 3, Jeremy Robbins 10, Adam Bailey 33, Cameron Parker 5, Alex Huckabee 4, Nathan Atkerson 12, Blake Grantham 14.

Cornerstone: Mathes 10, Hernandez 9, Kirkland 19, Smith 2.

Iraan 37, Forsan 26

Forsan’s Lady Buffaloes

pulled within seven by halftime after trailing by 11 at the end of the first period, but couldn’t ever close the gap enough.

Iraan six of eight free throws in the final stanza to secure the 11-point victory. Meanwhile, the Lady Buffs struggled to get to the charity stripe, attempting just four free throws in the entire game.

Sandi Golleher led the Lady Buffs with 10 points. Miranda Park and Faith Belew each added six as the Lady Buffs are still searching for their first win of the season.

Iraan 15 6 8 8—37

Forsan 4 10 8 4—26

Iraan: Stroup 5, Mendoza 2,

Perry 3, Carson 8, Hernandez 5, Peterson 12, Ybarra 2.

Forsan: Alyx Pappajohn 2, Tori Gauer 4, Miranda Park 6, Faith Belew 6, Sandi Golleher 10, Charlene Stanley 2.

Grady 66, Cornerstone 57

Grady’s Lady Wildcats used a dominant first half, including a 20-9 advantage in the opening stanza, as they cruised to a 9-point victory.

The Lady Wildcats used a balanced scoring attack with six players scoring at least eight points. Lauren Robinson led the way with 14 and Eva Dyck added 12. Kandace Schuelke and Kenzie Madison each had nine

points and Samantha Rodriguez and Linsey Chavez scoring eight apiece.

Cornerstone 9 13 14 21—57

Grady 20 18 14 14—66

Cornerstone: Sanchez 33,

McFadden 9, Bird 2, Smith 2,

McClinton 5, Cruz 6.

Grady: Eva Dyck 12, Linsey Chavez 8, Kandace Schuelke 9,

Meagan Blocker 2, Lauren Robinson 14, Samantha Rodriguez 8, Kenzie Madison 9, Rachel Romine 4.

McCamey 37, Rankin 33

Rankin and McCamey

tipped off the Bearkat Booster Club Klassic at 11 a.m. Thursday. McCamey trailed by two heading into the fourth period, but made eight of 12 free throws in the final stanza to come away with the victory.

McCamey 7 11 7 12—37

Rankin 10 10 7 6—33

McCamey: Bradford 5, Wiley 9, Gonzalez 2, Pequeno 3, Mesa 16, Reber 2.

Rankin: Anderson 2, Davis 12, Lindsey 6, Potter 4, Akin 3, Avalos 6.

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

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Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads a trump, South following suit. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ A
♥ A Q
♦ A K 9 8 6 4 3
♣ 7 6 2

EAST
♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ J 5
♦ Q J 10
♣ A K J 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the three of clubs. South wins with the ace and returns the jack to your king. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ K Q J 2
♥ A Q 9
♦ A K Q
♣ K Q 9

EAST
♠ 5 3
♥ J 7
♦ J 10 9 8 6 3
♣ 8 6 5

1. There are many ways to make the slam if the opposing cards are divided favorably — for example, by a successful heart or club finesse; by ruffing two of dummy’s spades in the hope of dropping the king; or by finding a singleton or doubleton queen of clubs.

However, to capitalize fully on all of these chances, you should play the hand in this order: Win the diamond, cash the ace of spades and cross to dummy with a trump. Ruff a spade, lead a club to the king and ruff

another spade. If the king of spades has not appeared, play a club to the ace and lead the queen of spades.

If South discards or follows low, you can assure the slam by discarding your last club. North wins with the king but is helpless. Whatever he returns, you are sure to acquire your 12th trick.

If South covers the queen of spades with the king, ruff and lead a club toward dummy’s J-3. If North follows suit, you are home; if he shows out, you still have the heart finesse to fall back on.

All told, your chance of making the slam by this series of plays is better than 95 percent.

2. Cash the A-K-Q of diamonds and then play the queen of hearts. This assures the contract regardless of how the opposing cards are divided. Thus, if the queen of hearts loses to the king, dummy’s jack of hearts becomes an entry that permits you to score six diamonds, two clubs and a heart for nine tricks.

If the defenders allow the queen of hearts to hold (in order to deny you an entry to dummy’s diamonds), you counter by shifting to the king of spades and forcing out the ace. This also yields nine tricks consisting of two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

Tomorrow: An unusual endplay.
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

- All of the churches, businesses, organizations and individuals who signed up for the Big Spring Herald Lighted Community Christmas Parade, set for 5:30 p.m. Saturday. We're looking forward to a great evening!

- Grady's Wildcats, who take on Rankin at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the Region I Six-Man championship game at Big Spring's Memorial Stadium. It's a "must see."

- Big Spring VA Medical Center for providing free flu shots for veterans Thursday.

- Coahoma residents, who — with some guidance from Howard College — have taken it upon themselves to spruce up their community. With the formation of a non-profit group, Coahoma Price Inc., and armed with a list of goals, it appears Coahoma is poised for the future.

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

TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

This is a letter to say thank you. Our mother passed away recently, and though it is never easy to say goodbye, there are people who make things a little easier.

To Dr. Coup, you took care of her a long time, and though she was unable to personally thank you, we do.

Renea Jones, without your caring and taking care of so many things above and beyond what was required, you were a blessing. The Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home is lucky

to have you.

Brian Michalez, you did a good job filling Brother Randy's shoes. The service was beautiful. We love you.

Bill Myers, as always, you take good care of us. You are a good friend and a great asset to Big Spring.

The beautiful flowers, your kind words, for those who said a prayer for the family, we thank you.

JAMES BUCHANAN
FOR THE FAMILY OF FAY
MOATES BUCHANAN
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LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May our words and body language carry Your message, Lord.

Amen

'Tis the season to gain pant sizes

The Brewer has always been a bit on the plump side. When I graduated High School back in 1985, I weighed 230 pounds. About 15 years later I weighed about 340. The height of my obese-related depression came when I spent big money for a digital scale and literally cracked the LCD when I stepped on it.

I have never really considered myself too fat until recently. I just figured I was about four feet too short. Stupid cigarettes stunted my growth before God delivered me from Marlboro Country.

It wasn't until the bad dreams started that I really wanted to lose weight. There's the one dream I got so fat they projected movies on the backside of my white pants. There's the other where the Post Office gave me my own zip code. Oh, it was terrible.

I do a lot of public speaking outside of my usual pulpit for Christian and non-Christian events.

Usually, it's people who have read the column or one of my books. There is typically an awkward moment where the invitee tries to hide his or her look of dis-

appointment over my face being made for radio. They all get over it.

The complete pinnacle of my fatness and what gives me my own wing in the fat peoples hall of shame, came last January. I sing and play guitar in a Christian southern rock band called Joshua Rising. (www.JoshuaRising.com) Our manager came over from England to introduce us to a famous music mogul and organizer of the biggest Christian music venue west of the Mississippi.

We flew out to San Jose California and met him at a restaurant on Monterey Bay. The gentlemen did agree to set us up with the three biggest agencies in the United States but he added, "Your fat, and fat people are not marketable." I began to choke on my scallop.

"You think so?" I asked sheepishly. "Do I really have to look like I am 16 and weigh 140 pounds?" He put his fork down, scanned my silhouette and said, "Frankly, if I paid money to see you, I would want my money back."

Well it's a good thing I'm saved because I instantly had visions of throwing him to the seals.

I have had some temporary success in dieting and diet plans from time to time but not any real long-term solutions. I weigh about 290 today and am on the downward

turn once again.

I say all of that to say this. If you struggle in your weight or really with any long-term issue, I recommend hope in the Lord. When you're a Christian, it just makes sense to hope for better things in any part of your life. I would love to wake up tomorrow and be miraculously thin but odds are its probably going to require God-given discipline and character to walk in that kind of amiracle.

That's the thing about true victorious living. Either your character gets you to the upgrade you are looking for, or it keeps you there once you've arrived. We are all looking for some kind of spiritual lottery to hit big for all of us but I believe God is looking for us not to loose what he wants to gives us.

So none of us get a "get-out-of-jail-free" card when it comes to having the character and discipline required for that next level. God help us all to get up from the table and drive past the red neon light at Krispy Kreme.

James 2:14 (Amplified Bible)
"What is the use (profit), my brethren, for anyone to profess to have faith if he has no [good] works [to show for it]? Can [such] faith save [his soul]?"

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. You can e-mail him at www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com.



Congress dawdling over Katrina

Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer parks seem to be providing the backdrop for growing mental health problems among Gulf Coast residents ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That is where suicide attempts are 79 times the national average. More than two years after the storm devastated the region, survivors continue to reel from the pain, thanks in part to the anxiety created by a sluggish recovery process.

"The mental toll of a lack of permanent housing is indescribably great," writes Joshua Norman of McClatchy Newspapers in a story from early October. "FEMA trailer parks are therefore the epicenter of any post-Katrina mental-health crisis."

The mental wear and tear is enough to drive the sanest person mad — let alone victims traumatized by the nation's worst and most expensive natural disaster in 70 years.

So, it should come as no surprise that the incidence of mental illness among these survivors has actually increased since 2005. Usually, most cases of mental illness caused by a traumatic event are resolved within two years of that event. Thanks to the slow state of recovery, the Katrina nightmare continues to haunt survivors even now.

Recently, Dr. Ron Kessler of Harvard Medical School testified

before a key congressional panel that one year after the disaster, he observed extraordinary resilience and optimism among the nearly 1,100 Katrina survivors he surveyed. Since then, that sense of hope has turned into resignation and despondency.

According to Kessler's study, the estimated incidence of serious mental illness rose to 14 percent among residents of storm-torn regions of the Gulf Coast, up from nearly 11 percent since the disaster struck. That of mood and anxiety disorders increased by a comparable rate to 33 percent and that of post-traumatic stress rose 50 percent. In New Orleans proper, rates of all types of mental disorders stayed steady.

"The numbers tell the story of the federal government's continuing failures for Hurricane Katrina survivors," states a recent "Seattle Post-Intelligencer" op-ed. "Could there be any clearer sign that we are failing a whole region of this country in a time of need?"

To add to Katrina victims' anxiety levels, efforts in the U.S. Senate to push through legislation designed to bring relief to Gulf Coast residents affected by Katrina appear to be facing opposition from a member of the Louisiana congressional delegation splitting hairs over public housing provisions.

Immediately after Katrina hit, the National Urban League issued a plan of action for the Gulf Coast known as "The Katrina Bill of Rights." Of these rights, the "Right to Return" stands as a cornerstone where we call upon Congress to "... guarantee to every

evacuee and every resident the right to return to their home." That, "every family should have the chance to come back to their hometown or neighborhood if they so choose."

Introduced last June by Sens. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.), the legislation, known as the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act, proposes important and needed steps forward as well as resources to make the "Right of Return" happen for thousands of lower-income families who need safe and affordable housing — whether as renters or homeowners — to reclaim their lives. It is currently awaiting Senate Banking Committee action. A comparable bill passed the House in March by a commanding margin.

In the words of the "Post-Intelligencer" editorial, "it would be easy to lay all of this on the Bush administration, especially since it has been trying to rewrite the Katrina history to escape most blame." But Congress is equally responsible for ensuring that Gulf Coast residents devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are not forgotten, given the outpouring of popular support for the victims following the disaster.

Marc H. Morial is president and CEO of The National Urban League. He served two distinguished four-year terms as Mayor of New Orleans from 1994 to 2002. During that time, he also served as President of the United States Conference of Mayors in 2001 and 2002.

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Saturday December 8th

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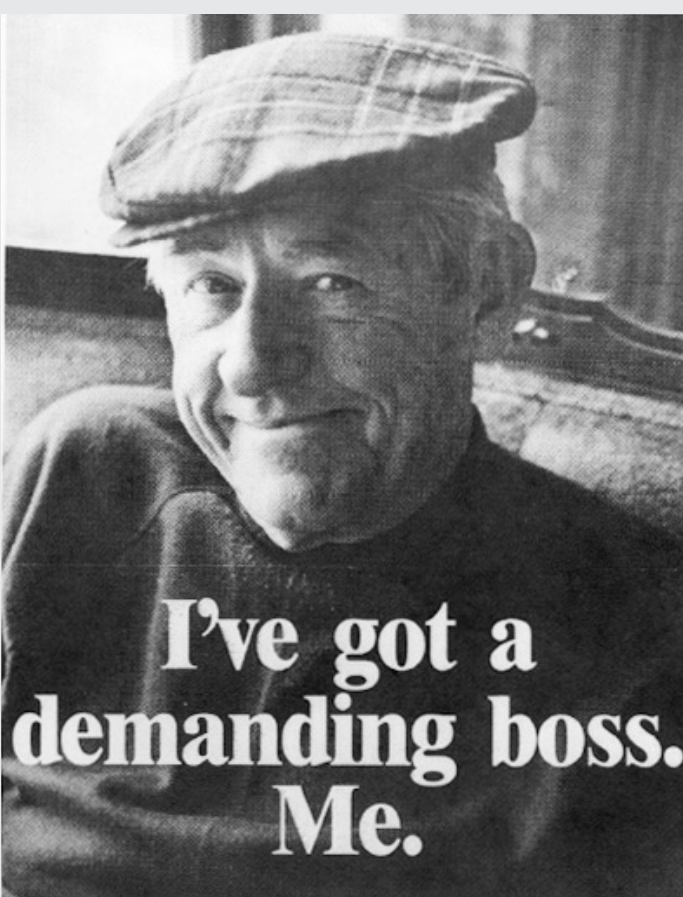
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9	8	1	6	3	2	7	4	5
5	4	2	8	1	9	6	7	3
7	3	9	5	2	6	1	8	4
8	1	6	3	4	7	5	2	9
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Saturn in Virgo means life has its ruts. Ruts often don't disappear;

it's by walking around the rut that we discover another way of being. As Saturn squares the sun today, Bob Marley offers some hard-to-come-by perspectives on this: "Life is one big road with lots of signs, so when you riding through the ruts, don't complicate your mind."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll meet new people. Turn up the charm. The first impression you make now will set the tone for a relationship for years to come. Tonight, a secret is revealed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Loved ones want to be with you through both pleasure and pain. Let them prove themselves to you. It's not too much to ask that others be present to what you are going through.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The economic boost you've been waiting for comes when you stop waiting. A Cancer helps you take action when you don't know what in the world to do next.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've worked hard lately and will be tempted to rest now. But don't. Push through. Stay active. A window of



HOLIDAY MATHIS

opportunity is about to open up. You're very close.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Help comes in many forms. Slow down, and take the time to appreciate what's going right in your life. A lot is, after all. Otherwise, you're likely to snap at and criticize the help you're offered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have beauty to offer the world — you're just not sure what role to use to express it. Will you be a supportive friend, a teacher or an artist? Likely, you'll be all three before the sun sets.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep it light and caring. When others get personal or resort to adolescent ways of dealing with others, you stand for maturity and grace. Growth happens in friendly environments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Familiarity brings you those comfort feelings you've craved all week. Relatives and old friends long to see you. Drop in on old friends. Make it easy for love to embrace you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're seldom, if ever, accused of being rigid. Yet, someone is having a difficult time finding a point of agreement with you. Consider that it might be time to compromise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It doesn't matter if you are wrong or right. It only matters that you believe. The enthusiasm of conviction is something sorely lacking

in a lot of people's lives. It's a wonderful feeling to stand in total faith.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's brainstorming time again. Take away the rules and the limits. Nothing kills a fine brainstorm faster than logic. Throw off the shackles of space and time, and let your imagination fly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You might notice someone trying hard to be like you. Wow, is that ever flattering. Flattering to the point of annoyance. Find compassion. Remember when it was you looking up to your icons.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You're given the opportunity to rub elbows with jet-setters, and you're sooo in. **TAURUS:** Your willingness to help others sets off a mysterious series of positive events you find out about later. **GEMINI:** Carry your lucky love charm. Someone's got the look of love, and he or she is looking right at you. **CANCER:** Populate your innermost circle with love, and your world expands. **LEO:** You do love in a big way — not because you're a show-off but because love always justifies generosity. **VIRGO:** Unexpected reciprocity is made more poignant when you let it into your heart. **LIBRA:** A travel destination is romantic, reflecting the beauty you are. **SCORPIO:** You've been settling for too little in

love. Begin asking for what you want. **SAGITTARIUS:**

Appreciate someone for who he or she is, not what that person has to offer, and you can't help but get what you want. **CAPRICORN:** Love melts hearts, dissolves boundaries and reassures you you're never alone. **AQUARIUS:** Step outside your comfort zone. A relationship that grows together stays together. **PISCES:** A partnership is transforming, and it just keeps getting better.

COUPLES OF THE WEEKEND: While the sun is in Sagittarius, single Sags wear an impatient look of love. Sagittarius envisions big plans for two, and wondering how to get there, he might consider consulting a lovely Libra. As the wedding planner of the zodiac, Libra takes the long view on love — matching date to mate, china pattern to wedding registry. Sweetly flirtatious, even the most casual Sag-Libra pairs go far.

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.

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

get together for meals. When discussing dinner plans with a friend last week, we decided to have dinner together and chose my restaurant.

After dinner, my friend simply left without offering to pay his share of the bill. This ended up costing me not only the food price and the loss of revenue from the dinner, but also the tip. This happens fairly often, and I guess people just presume the food and service is free since I am the owner.

How should I deal with this? Obviously, I do not want to end the social situations, but I am tired of always paying for dinner. This is especially difficult if there is liquor involved, because of the taxes. I could use some guidelines. My restaurant is my income, not a hobby for entertaining. — Perplexed in Foodland

Dear Perplexed: Your friends don't realize you have to pay for the food and drink served at a restaurant you own. The solution is quite simple. The next time you go out with friends, select a different restaurant. If they say they'd prefer yours, reply that eating in your own restaurant is like working overtime and it's much more pleasant for you to sample the other places around town. If they truly enjoy your company over the free ride, they will be more than happy to go elsewhere.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Aging with Dignity," who was upset by the rudeness of a former high school classmate about the baldness of her husband.

I, too, am a balding man in my early 50s and have received a few barbs from time to time about my thinning hair. I find a quick-witted response is most appropriate in these situations. My favorite is, "I guess I'm just receiving my halo early."

A little humor goes a long way. — Proud To Be a Skin Head in Indy

Dear Proud: Very cute. We agree that humor is often the best response when confronted with rudeness, intentional or otherwise.

Dear Annie: My parents will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary next year. Unfortunately, my Dad recently decided to confide in my wonderful husband about his sexual affairs. He told my husband not to tell me, but there was no way he could keep this a secret. I don't know why Dad would put him in such an awkward position.

Apparently, my father has been lying and cheating for many years, and once, while my parents were on vacation together, my mother caught him in the act. I am just sick over this. I always took comfort in the thought that my parents were a happily married couple. I respected and admired my father.

I feel betrayed, too. What, if anything, do I say about this to my parents? Remember, I'm not supposed to know. — In a Pickle

Dear Pickle: Since your mother is aware of Dad's infidelities, it isn't much of a secret. The only reason to keep quiet is to protect your father's trust in your husband's discretion, although we can't imagine you want

Dad confiding more secrets like this. We think Dad may have wanted you to know about his affairs, in which case, there is no harm in saying you've noticed that he and Mom seem to be growing more distant and you hope they will consider counseling.

Dear Annie: I recently took my mother to a local fair where we ran into an old friend of my brother's. My mother asked "Dick" if he was still at his job. Dick said "yes," and added, "I work with John" — my ex-husband.

I had not seen Dick in years. Why do people think they can just bring up the name of an ex and not think you will be startled or hurt? I still have feelings for my ex and am working through them, and Dick knows John and I are divorced. Can't people be more thoughtful?

I say, since Dick does not know my side of the story, he should refrain from mentioning my ex to me. Do you agree? — New England Heartache

Dear New England: When you run into someone you haven't seen in a while, it's not surprising if he mentions a person of mutual interest in an effort to make conversation. We don't believe Dick meant to hurt you, since he didn't know you would still find these references painful. He was unintentionally insensitive, but please try to forgive him.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Church News

First Presbyterian Church

The surprisingly heavy snow brought a few changes in last Sunday's service.

Worship Chairman Marj Carpenter filled in for CLP from Odessa Gregg Hagelstein, who was unable to get here to preach. In keeping with Christ the King Sunday, Marj drew on her experiences as former Moderator of the PCUSA to tell us that Christ still reigns in such places as China and North Korea. Her message was heard in person by 23 hardy souls, including 3-week old Kayla Hope Miracle, her sister Emma Grace and parents Ryan and Faith Miracle, and by the KBST radio audience.

The hanging of the greens, which was supposed to have been done Sunday afternoon, was begun by those attending and finished by the Presbyterian Women at their Tuesday afternoon meeting.

The Wednesday Bible study is at 5:17 p.m., the youth meeting is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and choir practice is at 6 p.m. Members who wish to help with installation of Christmas cards Saturday for the Festival of Lights

are asked to call Paschal Odom at 466-3630.

Sunday, the Advent season will be ushered in at 9:30 a.m. with a breakfast for everyone, and special activities for children and their parents. This will be followed by Sunday school. At the 11 a.m. worship and communion service, Sam Junkin, former president of Schreiner University, will preach. Edith Hardy, from Lubbock, will be the organist in the absence of Mike Mitchell.

Liturgist for December is Jamie Walker. Lighting the Advent Candle for this first Sunday of Advent are Joe Horton and Paschal Odom. The choir will present "Come, Come, Emmanuel," by Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo as the offertory anthem.

Lectionary for the day is Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

Coahoma United Methodist Church

Sunday, join us for our regular service. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:45 a.m. followed by worship services at 11 a.m. The children and youth of the church will be practicing the

Christmas program during Sunday school. Everyone is invited to join us as we worship in song and scripture.

Charge Conference for CUMC will begin at 1 p.m. at the church.

Wednesday, Mid-high youth (the "middies") will be meeting at 6 p.m. to practice their part of the Christmas program. The Senior High Youth will meet at 7 p.m. at the church to practice their portion of the Christmas program.

Thursday, the Ministry Team will not be meeting.

The CUMC Annual Christmas Program will be held Sunday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. during regular worship service time. All community members are encouraged to attend this wonderful service led by our youth!

Outreach Workshop

Hosanna Christian Fellowship, located at 2001 N. Highway 137 in Stanton, will hold an Outreach Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 8.

Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. with the first session to begin at 10 a.m. Speakers will include Jean Oden, pastor of the Full Gospel Covenant Church in Odessa; Connie

Ainsworth, co-pastor of the Generation Church in Lubbock; and Jannie Linney, pastor of Hosanna Christian Fellowship of Stanton.

Registration fee is \$10. A noon meal will be served at a cost of \$5. December 5 is the deadline to reserve a meal.

Mail the meal charge to Jannie Linney, P.O. Box 1172, Stanton 79782.

Saturday's program will end following personal ministry, which is expected to begin at 3 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

The tree is up, the stage is set and this is the big Living Christmas Tree weekend at First Methodist.

Saturday, the orchestra arrives and practices together for the first time and at 2 p.m. the dress rehearsal will get under way. The public is welcome to attend the rehearsal; no ticket is required Saturday afternoon. The evening performances at 8 p.m. Saturday and again Sunday will require one of the free tickets. This is our gift to the community and we do it, especially this year, with a heart filled with love for our friends and



Courtesy Photo

Mariah McIntosh tries to escape from the barrage of flying food while members of the First Christian Church and St. Mary's Episcopal youth groups have a food fight in the First Christian parking lot Wednesday, Nov. 21.

neighbors.

Members of our congregation will be speaking for Laity Sunday at both services of worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Speakers will include Shelly Smith, Jan Foresyth, Delbert Donelson, Debbie van Pelt and Murray Murphy.

Orders for Christmas Continued on 8A

poinsettias are due at the end of the day Sunday. To order these traditional flowers in memory or honor of loved ones, fill out the forms in your bulletin and, along with your check, place them in an envelope in the offering.

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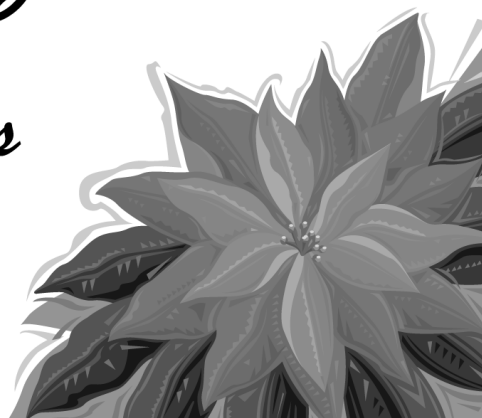


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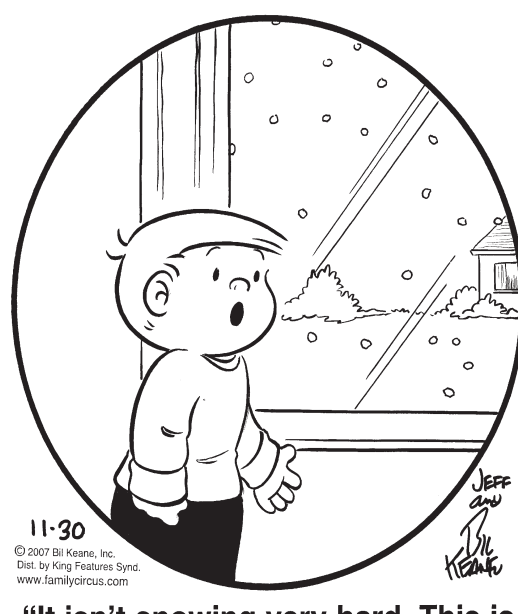
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6 :PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	John Hagee	News-Lehrer (CC)	Killer Ants (CC)	"	CSI: Crime Scene Investgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	NFL Live Football	NBA	(CC)
7 :PM :30	Movie: The Polar Express (CC)	Movie: The Polar Express (CC)	Amar sin Limites	Next Band "	My Night at the Grammys (CC)	Madre Luna	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update Review Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW (CC)	Planet Earth (CC)	Movie: Mission:	CSI: Crime Scene Investgtn. (CC)	Movie: A Beautiful Mind (CC)	Movie: Never 2	Han, Montana Wizards-Place	College Football:	NBA Basketball:	Flash Gordon (CC)
8 :PM :30	"	"	Destilando Amor	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	"	La Esclava Isaura	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Movie: Kicking & Screaming	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal (CC)	Man vs. Wild "	"	Ultimate Knockouts 4	"	"	Movie: The Lizzie McGuire	Fresno State at New Mexico	Boston Celtics at Miami Heat	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
9 :PM :30	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Familia-Luche Retro P. Luche	TMZ (CC)	NUMB3RS (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	Las Vegas (CC)	"	"	KPBT's Proud Heritage	Man vs. Wild "	Movie:	UFC Fight Night	:45 Movie:	Keyshia Cole College-Interns	Movie (CC)	State (CC)	(CC)	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
10 :PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Two-Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	J.R. Church Rico Cortes	Charlie Rose (CC)	Everest: Be- yond the Limit	Lionheart	"	A Beautiful Mind (CC)	Hell Date Hell Date	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	SportsCenter (CC)	Basketball: Clippers at	Flash Gordon (CC)
11 :PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Final Score Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night- Conan O'Brien Show	Movie: Something to Talk About (CC)	In Touch-Cr	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	Planet Earth (CC)	:45 Movie:	MXC (CC) MXC (CC)	"	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Nextel Cup	Nuggets	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
12 :AM :30	News (CC) Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Salome (SS)	Reno 911! George Lopez	The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Update Review CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Man vs. Wild "	Nightwatch (CC)	Game Head Game Head	Movie: Proof	"	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	Awards Show (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"It isn't snowing very hard. This is probably just a preview."

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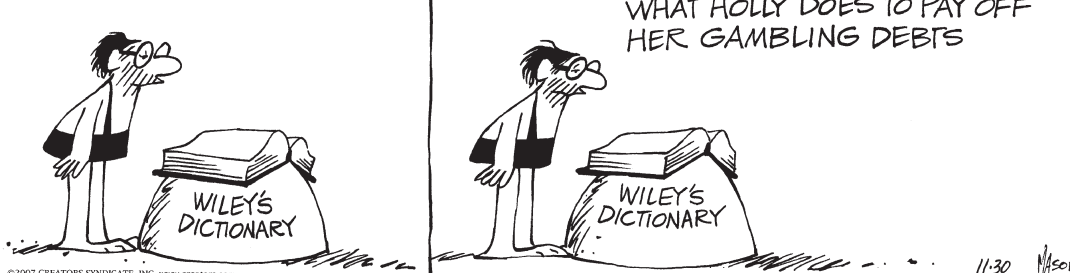


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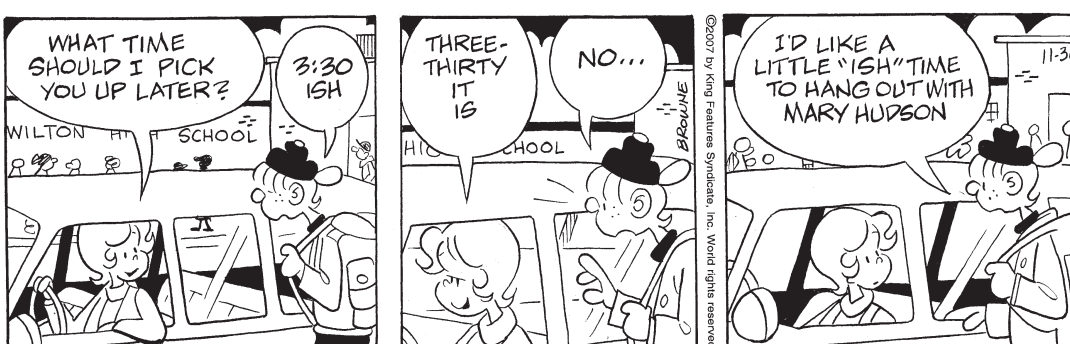
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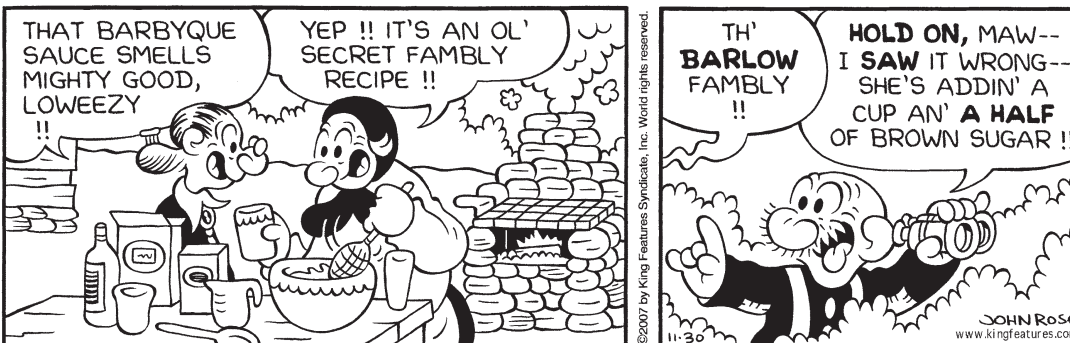
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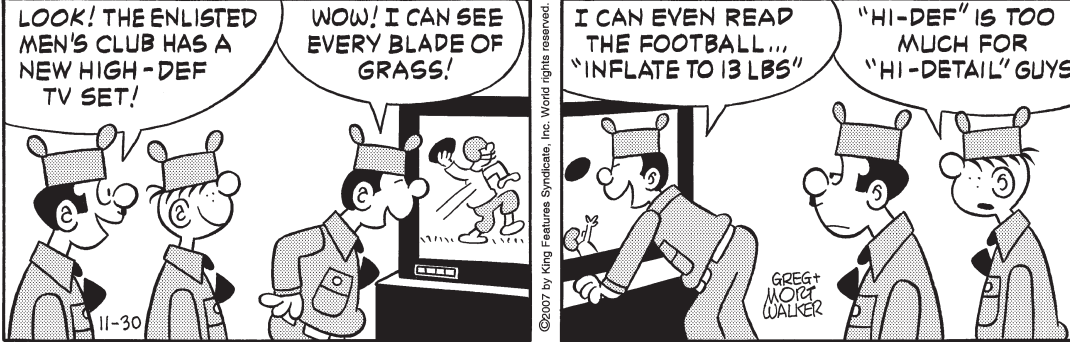
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2007. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 30, 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

On this date:

In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.

In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, "better known as Mark Twain" was born in Florida, Mo.

In 1874, Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.

In 1936, London's famed Crystal Palace, constructed for the Great Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire.

In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland.

In 1962, U Thant of Burma, who had been acting secretary-general of the United Nations following the death of Dag Hammarskjold the year before, was elected to a four-year term.

In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.

In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr. is 90.

Actor Robert Guillaume is 80. TV personality and producer Dick Clark is 78.

Radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy is 77. Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 70.

Movie director Ridley Scott is 70. Singer Rob Grill (The Grassroots) is 64.

Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 64. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 62.

Playwright David Mamet is 60. Actress Margaret Whitton is 57.

Actor Mandy Patinkin is 55. Musician Shuggie Otis is 54.

Country singer Jeannie Kendall is 53. Singer Billy

Idol is 52. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings is 50.

Rock musician John Ashton (The Psychedelic Furs) is 50. Former football and baseball player Bo Jackson is 45.

Rapper Jalil (Whodini) is 44. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 42.

Rock musician Mike Stone is 38. Actress Sandra Oh is 37.

Country singer Mindy McCready is 32. Singer Clay Aiken is 29.

Actress Elisha Cuthbert is 25. Actress Kaley Cuoco is 22.

Thought for Today: "Classic: a book which people praise and don't read." Mark Twain (1835-1910).

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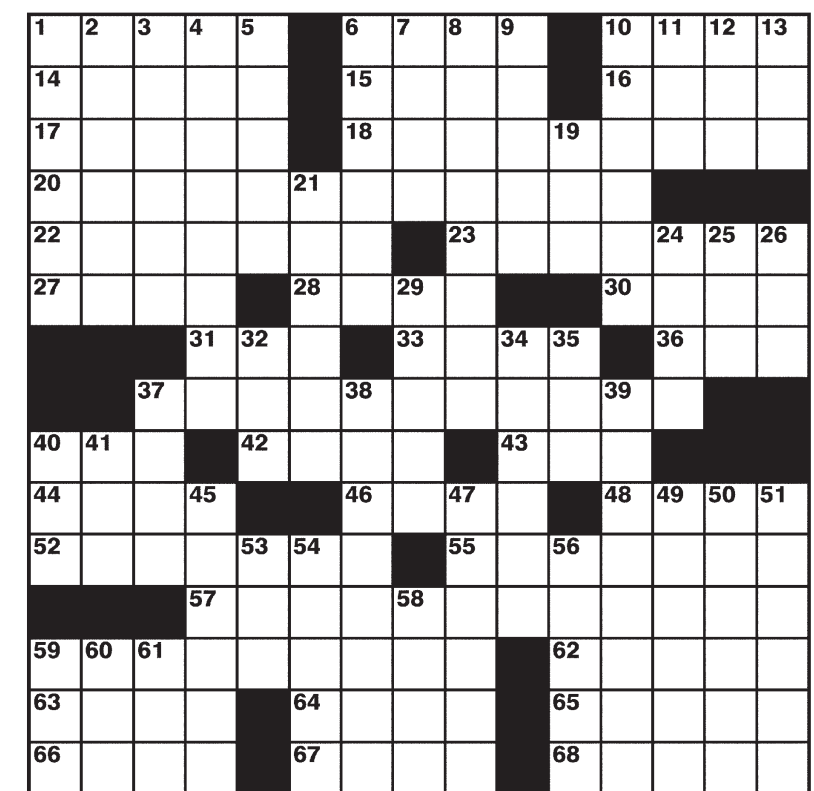
Answer to previous puzzle

RIFT	ITSME	OMIT
AMEN	CIVIL	VASE
BOTTLENECK	ERIN	
BUC	ABEL	DRESS
ITHACA	TBIRDS	
JUGHEAD	JONES	
OMAN	ARCO	ERE
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Newsday Crossword

OFF YOUR CHEST by Merle Baker
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Inhibit
 - 6 Like some chances
 - 10 Nautical pole
 - 14 Lothario
 - 15 Greenhorn
 - 16 Steering wheel
 - 17 Sesame Street
 - 18 Bands together, in a way
 - 20 Worker with a chisel
 - 22 Looked through casually
 - 23 Comic bane
 - 27 Connecticut campus
 - 28 Some loaves
 - 30 Reliever's quest
 - 31 Grassland
 - 33 Watch readouts, briefly
 - 36 Microwave
 - 37 Words from Ecclesiastes
 - 40 Transmit telephonically
 - 42 Arctic ice
 - 43 Will Smith film
 - 44 Turned red, maybe
 - 46 Caspian Sea feeder
 - 48 Irving character
 - 52 Brush up on
 - 55 Office gadget
 - 57 Source of scores
 - 59 Disrespectful
 - 62 Parboil
 - 63 Farm sound
 - 64 'acte
 - 65 Try
 - 66 Shade trees
 - 67 Freudian mediators
 - 68 Bar figs.
 - 9 Lodge member
 - 10 Goofs off
 - 11 Dispenser candy
 - 12 Tap choice
 - 13 Apt. divisions
 - 19 Japanese computer giant
 - 21 Go astray
 - 24 Not assiduous
 - 25 "Little" '60s singer
 - 26 Good name, for short
 - 29 Young eel
 - 32 Mischievous kid
 - 34 CS/ setting
 - 35 French contraction
 - 37 Jump on the ice
 - 38 Test measurement
 - 39 Striped pet
 - 40 White House monogram
 - 41 Voter's choice
 - 45 Enticements
 - 47 Changes
 - 49 Orioles' div.
 - 50 Land and buildings
 - 51 Bluenoses
 - 53 Comics bark
 - 54 U.S. Grant foe
 - 56 Rhymes of music
 - 58 Fascinated by
 - 59 Honour given to J.K. Rowling
 - 60 Web browser entry
 - 61 Highlands hat





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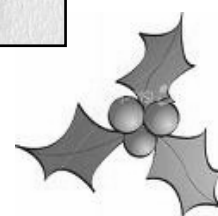


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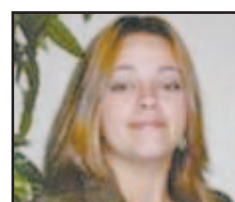
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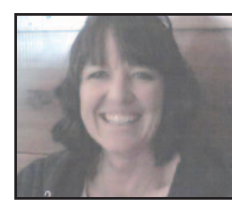
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News in brief

**Carbon monoxide sickens
40 Texas students**

KILGORE (AP) — A faulty boiler leaked carbon monoxide in a college residence hall for women, sickening at least 40 students, a school spokesman said.

The Kilgore College students woke up to headaches, vomiting and other reactions to a leaking furnace early Wednesday, said school spokesman Chris Craddock.

Most of the students who fell ill at Nolan Street Hall, which did not have a carbon monoxide detector, were treated and released. One student spent the night in the hospital and was discharged Thursday afternoon.

The heating system was in an equipment room on the first floor of the building, Craddock said.

College officials are installing carbon monoxide monitors in buildings across campus and will upgrade the heating system at the residence hall, he said.

**Perry to become head
of Republican Governors
Association**

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said he will downplay partisan politics as he campaigns for fellow Republicans as chairman of the Republican Governors Association, a position he was expected to assume Friday at a California conference.

Perry was greeted with congratulations Thursday at the association's annual convention in Dana Point, Calif. Perry, who is serving his second full term as governor, will be charged with fundraising and campaigning during his one-year term as chairman.

Republican governors need to "keep the discussion focused on the positive aspects of what we're delivering and try to stay away from these very caustic red-blue debates," Perry said.

There are 22 sitting Republican governors; of 11 governorships up for election in 2008, five GOP incumbents are seeking another term.

**Student sues Pat Robertson
after law school suspension**

HOUSTON (AP) — A law student who was suspended after posting on the Internet an unflattering photo of televangelist and school founder Pat Robertson sued the religious leader on Thursday, claiming violations of his

rights to freedom of religion and speech.

Adam Key posted a picture in September on his Facebook Web page of Robertson, who is the founder and president of Regent University, a private Christian school in Virginia Beach, Va.

The photo shows Robertson making what appears to be an obscene gesture. The second-year law student copied it from a YouTube video in which Robertson scratches his face with his middle finger. Key said he didn't manipulate the image, which was taken straight from Robertson's long running television show, "The 700 Club."

Key said he was told to take the photo down.

"Clearly the picture was of him scratching his face. That's why it's funny," said Key, who filed his lawsuit in Houston federal court. "Pat Robertson, a public figure who makes ridiculous statements, got caught in a ridiculous position and that was my whole idea of putting it up there."

**Historic tourist train to cost
\$2 million in taxpayer money**

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick announced an agreement Thursday to allow the use of \$2 million in taxpayer money for the beleaguered Texas State Railroad, a historic tourist train in East Texas.

The century-old railroad between Rusk and Palestine had such financial difficulty that its continued operation was in jeopardy.

Legislators allocated \$2 million this year for railroad repairs and to leverage an additional \$10 million in federal matching funds. The Legislative Budget Board was slow with final approval of the funding.

Craddick said concerns were raised that a contract between the railroad authority and a private contractor did not reflect the intent of the Legislature and might leave state funds at risk. Negotiations over the funding resulted in the agreement announced Thursday.

**Missing Kansas college student
led a double life as an Internet
porn star, friend says**

EL DORADO, Kan. (AP) — A missing Kansas college student believed to be the victim of foul play led a double life as an Internet porn star by the name of Zoey Zane, a friend told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

A young woman resembling 18-year-

old Emily Sander appears nude in photos posted on a Zoey Zane Web site.

"She enjoyed it. She is a young teenage girl and she wanted to be in the movies and enjoyed movies. She needed the extra money," said Nikki Watson, a close friend of Sander's at Butler Community College. "Nobody in El Dorado knew besides her close friends."

Police said they are aware of the Web site. But police investigator Chad Young would not confirm whether Sander is Zoey Zane and would not say whether the site was connected in any way to her disappearance.

Sander was last seen leaving a bar Friday in El Dorado, about 30 miles from Wichita, with a man identified as Israel Mireles, 24, authorities said. Sander and Mireles met that night at the bar, according to Watson.

**Study warns millions needlessly
getting dangerous radiation from
CT scans, raising cancer risk**

(AP) — Millions of Americans, especially children, are needlessly getting dangerous radiation from "super X-rays" that raise the risk of cancer and are increasingly used to diagnose medical problems, a new report warns.

In a few decades, as many as 2 percent of all cancers in the United States might be due to radiation from CT scans given now, according to the authors of the report.

Some experts say that estimate is overly alarming. But they agree with the need to curb these tests particularly in children, who are more susceptible to radiation and more likely to develop cancer from it.

"There are some serious concerns about the methodology used," but the authors "have brought to attention some real serious potential public health issues," said Dr. Arl Van Moore.

The risk from a single CT, or computed tomography, scan to an individual is small. But "we are very concerned about the built-up public health risk over a long period of time," said Eric J. Hall, who wrote the report.

**Fake badge, real gun: Police bust
man for impersonating officer**

BENSALEM, Pa. (AP) — Lights flashing and siren blaring, a man with a

badge allegedly jumped from his Ford Explorer and unholstered his gun, shouting orders at the motorist he had just pulled over.

And then the real police showed up.

Harry V. Hackert, an employee of a private security firm, was arrested Monday and charged with impersonating a police officer.

Hackert ran a red light near a police station and stopped another driver by turning on the lights and siren he installed on his SUV, Bensalem police said. It was not immediately clear why he stopped the driver.

Police said Hackert was carrying handcuffs and a badge with a black piece of tape across it to mimic the bands officers wear when mourning the death of a fellow officer.

**Bush commits to Mideast peace
process, urges Israeli and
Palestinian leaders to stick with it**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush told the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian territories on Wednesday he is personally committed to their mission of peace, urging them to stick with it and not lose sight of their goal.

Bush met separately with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at the White House, and then with the two men jointly before the trio emerged for a presidential sendoff from the Rose Garden. The stagecraft capped three days of U.S.-sponsored diplomacy centered around an international Mideast peace conference held Tuesday in Annapolis, Md.

"No matter how important yesterday was, it's not nearly as important as tomorrow and the days beyond," Bush said, with Olmert on one side and Abbas on the other.

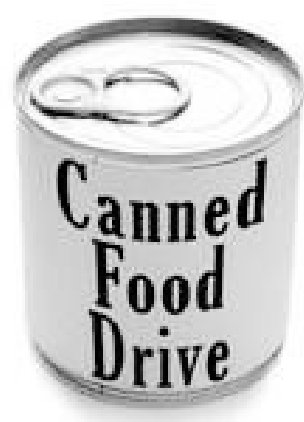
"I wouldn't be standing here if I didn't believe that peace was possible," the president said.

The Bush administration pronounced itself pleased with the outcome of the conference. It drew 44 nations, including neighboring Arab states whose support is considered vital to any peace agreement. A joint understanding between the Israelis and Palestinians, in doubt until the last minute, was salvaged.

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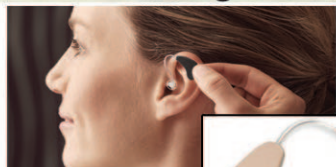
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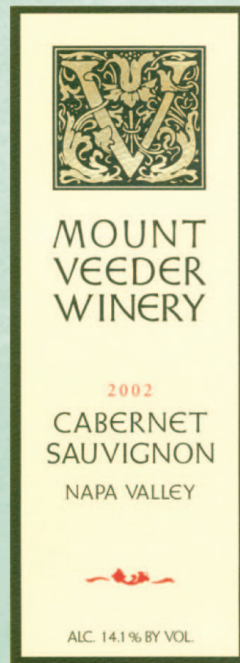
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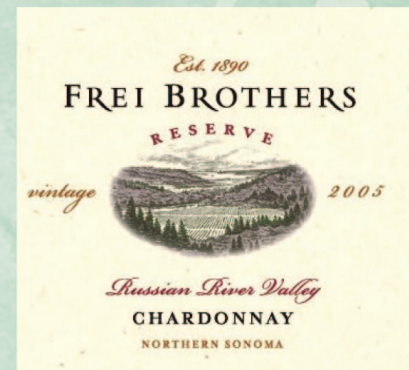
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Mount Veeder Winery Cabernet Sauvignon
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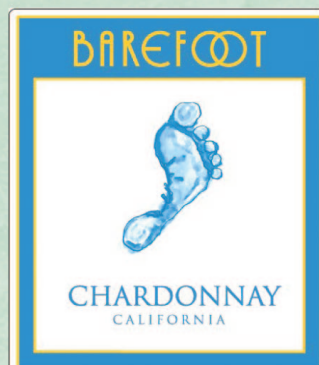
\$12⁹⁹ ea.

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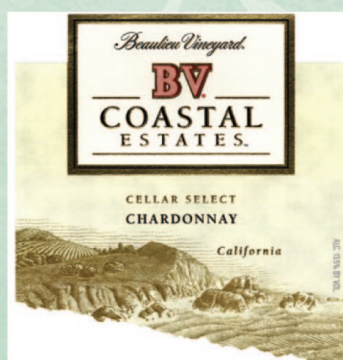
Barefoot
1.5 L
assorted varieties



\$9⁹⁹ ea.

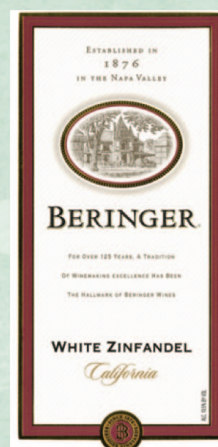
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Cotton & Farming

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald
 November 30, 2007

Cotton harvest the best

The best ever? Projections from cotton gins throughout the Crossroads area are optimistic to say the least, with some officials saying this could be the best crop West Texas has experienced.

There's a down side, however.

"Oh it's major," Big Spring Gin bookkeeper Rene Beall said of this year's crop. "This is the best cotton we've ever seen. It needs to be though. With \$3 (a gallon) diesel, it has to be. The profit margin for these guys isn't very great."

So when ginners and producers talk "best ever," that may compute to bale count only and not necessarily to financial gain, officials caution.

See **HARVEST**, Page 6

By
Bill
McClellan



November 30, 2007

November 30, 2007

Crop should be real economic boon

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

A bumper cotton crop isn't just good news for area growers.

According to Kelly Newton Tucker, owner and operator of Kelly Newton Insurance Agency, the good fortune facing area cotton growers will eventually find its way into every aspect of the community, from the local auto part stores to community grocery stores.

"The crop will certainly have a positive impact on the community as a whole," said Tucker, who's business was named the Ag Business of the Year for 2007 by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. "When the ag industry does well, the whole community does well, and the state does well, too."

"The money the growers make from this year's crop will mean more spending on everyday items,

such as furniture for their homes, vehicles and other things. The entire community will benefit, especially the small town grocers, like in Coahoma and Stanton."

And area growers have plenty to crow about following this season, according to Tucker.

"I've talked to growers that have been farming in the Howard County area for more than 40 years, and they say this is the best crop they have ever seen," said Tucker. "After 40 years, I'd say that's certainly something special."

"On average, the growers are seeing between one and four bales of cotton per acre. Countywide, we're seeing an average of about two bales per acre, which, for dryland cotton, is simply unheard of. The growers are just thrilled about it."

Tucker said the crop, which is quickly eclipsing the bumper crop established two years ago, will also have a positive effect on the agricultural insurance business.

"Well, there's obviously not a loss this year," said Tucker. "This year's totals will effect the yields for next year's crop, which will

give area growers better insurance coverage next season. There will be a higher yield across the state, but it's also based on what the individual grower does this season."

"It really ranges from grower to grower. Some of the producers are bringing in one to two bales per acre, but a few of the growers have some spots that are yielding upward of four bales per acre, which is simply amazing for this area. They have a lot to be proud of this year."

While the crop is expected to be one of the best in several decades, recent snow may have dampened some yields, according to one local agricultural lender.

"Everything was moving along really well until the recent snows, which managed to string out some of the cotton," said Bruce Griffith, vice chairman of First Bank of West Texas. "In some of the areas that saw the most snow, it actually managed to string some of the cotton out of the bolls, so the weather has definitely been a factor this season."

"The moisture is always a good thing here in West Texas, and we're certainly thankful for it. However, it's going to have an effect on the overall yield in the Howard County area, and it will also effect the quality of the cotton already in the modules."

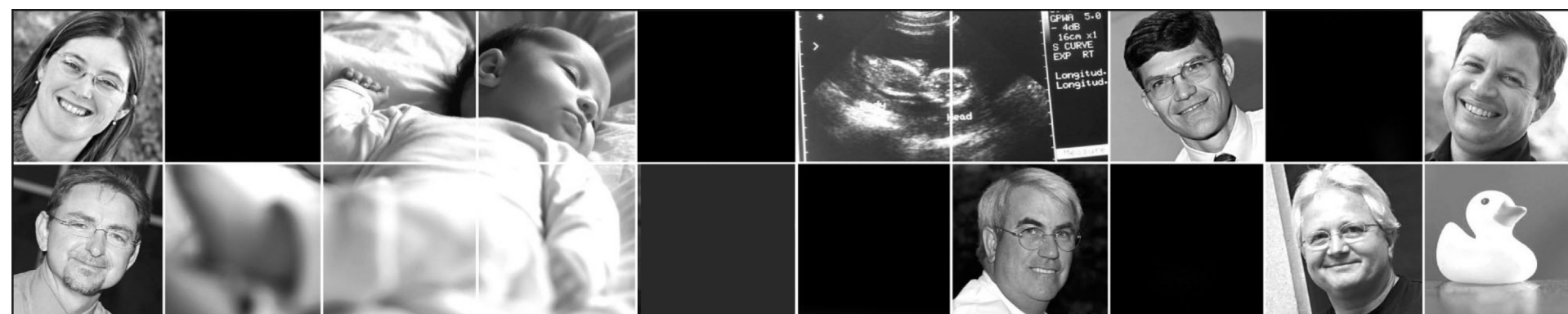
Despite the recent lack of cooperation from mother nature, Griffith said the crop is good news for growers, as well as financial institutions that lend to growers.

"The good crops will give a lot of growers that are behind on their loans a chance to get caught up," said Griffith. "And for those that aren't behind, it's a chance to solidify themselves and get new equipment and make other important purchases. It also helps put our bank and others like it in a positive situation. I think everyone in the industry should be delighted with the way the season is shaping up."

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



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PERFECT

Continued from Page 3

the record rainfall that helped create the bounty.

"Farmers had to use a lot more fertilizer than normal because the rains just kept leeching it out of the ground and you absolutely have to fertilize the sandy soils we have here," Yeater explained. "That's not a negative, though, because it's paying for itself. For every dollar they spent, they're probably getting five back."

A record crop doesn't mean just a good year for area farmers, however. The new year promises to be a good one for many businesses in the area.

"We'll see for sure the first of next year, but it (2007 cotton crop) will probably be a boon to the local economy," Yeater added. "You're going to see farmers buying equip-

ment, vehicles ... all sorts of things. In fact, a lot of them already have been."

Cotton producers in the area have not only had a "perfect" growing season, they've experienced exceptional conditions for harvesting.

Even with last week's snows considered, Yeater says farmers are being able to strip their fields much more quickly than many could have expected.

"If you'd have asked me a few weeks ago, I'd have told you we'd be late into December or even into January before we got all of the crop in out of the fields," Yeater said. "But we've had perfect stripping weather, too."

"It will probably be another two or three weeks before we have everything stripped, but that's absolutely exceptional."

It should be noted that those two snow storms of last week have



been somewhat of a two-edged sword. While they have affected the quality of some cotton still in the fields and delayed stripping for a few days, Yeater noted that it also provided valuable ground moisture in preparing the fields for the 2008 growing season.

All in all, Yeater said, farmers couldn't have imagined a better season.

"There's just no better way to describe it than being just perfect," Yeater concluded. "Believe me, we're going to taking about this season for years and years to come."

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

November 30, 2007

HARVEST

Continued from Page 2

Big Spring Gin had processed 12,600 bales by Monday and is forecasting 75,000 when the dust clears. That's more than three times as many bales as the 22,000 the gin processed last year, and far better than the 52,000 the previous year — which stands as the gin's record.

They've ginned 10,380 at Flower Grove Gin, seven miles west of Ackerly, where manager Rick Timmins is expecting a record year.

"I'm guessing 56,391 bales. Everybody always evens it off but it really never is even, so I'm going to leave it at that," Timmins said with a laugh. "We had 50,000 bales two years ago and I believe we're going to beat that."

Ditto for the Co-op Gin of Big

Spring.

"We're just ginnin' along," beamed Julie Bartlett, secretary. As of the Monday before Thanksgiving, that gin had processed 12,600 bales on its way to an estimated 45,000. If the estimate holds, it will make 2005's 39,823 bales a distant second in the gin's record ledger.

They are optimistic at the Co-op Gin in Ackerly, where 10,140 bales had been ginned through Monday, despite battling a fire that shut operations down for about nine hours Sunday. Irma Leal, secretary, said — barring any future problems — the forecast is 60,000 bales.

Officials are hoping for 70,000 bales this year at Tarzan Gin in Lenorah. Gin secretary Linda Wiebe reported 12,464 bales ginned.

A record "by a lot" is what officials at the Knott Co-op are pre-

dicting, according to Eric Johnson, scale clerk. Marking up 12,150 bales so far, they are anticipating 60,000 for the season.

Keeping pace are Farmer's Co-op Gin in Stanton, which has processed 12,665 bales, and Farmer's Co-op Association No. 2

in Lomax, which has processed 9,250. Officials at those gins declined to estimate season totals.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.



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November 30, 2007

2007 season 'one for record books'

County agent says all crops in area thrived

Sometimes things just come together and something becomes "perfect." That's how legends are born.

Such is the case with Howard County agriculture in 2007.

"Everything worked just the way we needed it to," said Howard County Extension Agent for Agriculture Tommy Yeater in assessing the fortunes of the area's farmers. "We had plenty of rain, plenty of hot, sunny days. This is one that's going to go down in the record books."

Indeed, Record rainfall for the area produced perfect results not only for the area's cotton farmers, but producers of all crops.

"It's just been an excellent year for everything ... wheat and sorghum producers have had tremendous yields and great quality," Yeater noted. "It's about the first time in history that all of our production crops have come in like this."

If there is a negative — and Yeater says it would be of minor significance — it's the approximate foot of snow that fell on the area during two winter-like storms last week.

"It's possible that the snow might have hurt the quality of the cotton that's still in the field a little," Yeater explained, "but I don't



YEATER

By
 John A.
 Moseley



Courtesy photo

Retired Howard County farmer Larry Shaw stands in the middle of one of the cotton fields near his home during the height of the 2007 growing season. Shaw, like many other local farmers, said he'd never seen the type of growth experienced in the wake of record rainfall and perfect growing weather.

think it's going to have that much impact.

"Really, the biggest effect the snow's going to have is that it postpones harvesting. That cotton's got to be stripped as quickly as possible and the snow's probably going to keep the farmers out of their fields for three or four days."

Still, Yeater said that the quality and yields local cotton farmers are seeing with this year's crop are nothing short of "unbelievable."

What's more, the 2007 cotton crop comes on the heels of two very good seasons. The 2005 crop had been better than farmers in the area could ever remember and the 2006 crop, while not as good, was nothing short of excellent, according to Yeater.

"Two years ago we were talking about record production and the gins were working into February handling the crop," Yeater said, "but I think you're going to see that it pales in comparison to what

we've got this year. The farmers in this area are going to make a lot of money."

They're going to need to, though, because the cost of production has been higher than ever.

With diesel prices having fluctuated around \$3.50 per gallon, there was no question farmers' costs were going to be expensive. But farmers were forced to spend more for fertilizer than normal due to

See **PERFECT**, Page 6

BENEFITS

Continued from Page 4

chemicals, so his fortunes are directly tied to those of farmers.

"In a good year, they're going to put down fertilizer, they're going to put down herbicide and they're going to plant good quality seed," Wood said. "After a good harvest, they'll be buying a lot things throughout the year."

Also benefiting from this year's record crop is Porter-Henderson Implements, which is enjoying its best year since it opened its Big

Spring location in 1999.

"It's having a great impact on our business," said Manger Nate Avey. "We are really seeing an increase in our business and workload ... 2005 was a great year for us, and this year beats that."

Avey noted that, while down years mean slim pickings for his business, good years mean quite the opposite.

"It causes us to stock more things, like parts ... and we've had to hire more people this year, too."

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

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tractors are arranged in a row outside Porter-Henderson Implement Company on N. Highway 87. Agriculture-related businesses such as Porter-Henderson are expected to share in the bounty of a record cotton crop this year.

Good crop benefits virtually everyone in area

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Who benefits from a good cotton crop?

Everybody, it seems.

Cotton harvests in this area have been good the past few years, but all returns indicate this year will top them all. Estimates of \$100 million cotton crop are being taken as conservative by observers.

And while a record-breaking cotton crop is undoubtedly good news for farmers, benefits from this year's harvest don't stop there.

"Everybody in the community benefits," said Tommy Yeater, Howard County extension agent. "You look at what happened in 2005 (the previous record harvest) and how it strengthened the community. Well, it'll be even better this year. It will trickle down to

everybody."

Farmers, of course, directly benefit from a good harvest. But a good return on their efforts mean they will buy more farm products and machinery, which means good news for implement and farm supply stores.

And the ripple effect doesn't stop there.

"Farmers will buy cars, appliances, almost everything you can think of," Yeater said. "Compared to many other businesses, farmers will spend their money here ... Ag money stays in Howard County. It's hard to say that about other businesses."

Yeater said that studies show that agriculture money has a tenfold impact on the local community. In other words, every ag dollar spent by farmers is circulated 10 times.

Apparently, there is no such thing as a bad bumper crop.

"It means we'll be able to keep our doors open," said Ronnie Wood, owner of Big Spring Farm Supply. "It makes a big difference.

If farms have a good year, it means we have a good year."

Wood's business sells a variety of farm supply, including seeds and

See **BENEFITS**, Page 6

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W. Texas congressmen push Farm Bill extension

Special to the Herald

WASHINGTON — Three West Texas congressman — Randy Neugebauer, Mac Thornberry and Mike Conaway — have introduced legislation extending the 2002 Farm Bill for an additional year.

Portions of the 2002 Farm Bill began to expire on Sept. 30, leaving agriculture producers without guidelines to plan for next year's crop.

Neugebauer, Thornberry and Conaway said they support the one-year extension in order to allow sufficient time for the Senate to pass a Farm Bill and for the House and Senate to work out differences between their bills.

"I am concerned that we are nearing the end of 2007 and the Senate has not completed its work on the Farm Bill," Neugebauer explained. "While there is still the possibility the Senate will return after the district work period and take up debate on this important legislation, I am concerned it will not be soon enough for our farmers."

"It is because of these concerns and on behalf of agriculture producers in the 19th District and across America, I teamed up with two of my fellow West Texas colleagues, as well as Congressman Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and the ranking Republican member of the House Agriculture Committee, Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), to introduce legislation that would extend the 2002 Farm Bill for an additional year.

"It was imperative to take action to protect the farmers and ranchers of the 19th District, as well as those around this great nation, until the Senate's work is done.

"My strong preference, and the preference farmers and ranchers have conveyed to me, is we complete work on the five-year Farm Bill. This will provide certainty for the planning decisions farmers need to make. With time running short this year, our one-year extension provides the time Congress needs to work out a good five-year Farm Bill that can be signed into law as soon as it is completed."

Neugebauer said Congress should not leave farmers guessing what farm policy will be or how long it will take to complete. "We need a Farm Bill that protects and promotes American agriculture and assists the dedicated farmers who work diligently to bring their



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Randy Neugebauer
19th Congressional District

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Mac Thornberry
13th Congressional District



food and products to the American people," he concluded.

Thornberry also stressed his belief that Congress needs to produce a new Farm Bill as quickly as possible. "Inside the Washington Beltway there aren't a whole lot of farmers and ranchers," the Amarillo Republican and cattleman said, "but outside the Beltway there are a whole lot of farmers and ranchers waiting for Congress to act so they can plan and plant next year's crop. This will give them the certainty necessary to do that."

In explaining his support for the one-year extension, Conaway, a Midland Republican, said, "It has become increasing clear that the Senate will be unable to pass a Farm Bill within the proper amount of time required to give America's producers ample notification to prepare for future business plans. I have long stated that an investment in agriculture is wise federal policy. With that said, I'm proud to support legislation that does just that — provides the proper tools, resources and practices that have a proven track record of working not only for the American farmer and rancher but for the American taxpayer and consumer."



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