

BIG SPRING

HERALD



INSIDE
The big
matchup
between
Texas and
USC is
tonight
Page 3B

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 35

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

12 dead in mine explosion

Horrific twist: Families first told that 12 of 13 coal miners had survived

By JENNIFER C. YATES
Associated Press Writer

TALLMANVILLE, W.Va. — In a stunning and heartbreaking reversal, family members were told early today that 12 of 13 trapped coal miners found were dead — three hours after they began celebrating news that they were alive.

The devastating new information shocked and angered fami-

ly members, who had rejoiced with Gov. Joe Manchin hours earlier when a rumor began to spread that 12 miners were alive. Rescue crews found the first victim earlier Tuesday evening.

"They knew the odds that were against us, and with that, to have the ending as it did with this high euphoria, I can only say there was no one who did anything intentionally

other than risk their lives to save their loved ones," Manchin told ABC's "Good Morning America."

The sole survivor of the disaster, identified by mining officials as 27-year-old Randal McCloy, was hospitalized in critical condition early Wednesday, a doctor said. When he arrived, he was unconscious but moaning, the hospital said.

Charles Green, McCloy's father-in-law, told ABC that McCloy was suffering from hypothermia and was on a ventilator, but didn't suffer any broken bones. There was no carbon monoxide in his body, he said, despite concerns about high levels of carbon monoxide inside the mine.

When he found out his son-in-law was the only survivor, "I was still devastated," he said.

"My whole family's heart goes out to them other families."

Thirteen miners had been trapped 260 feet below the surface of the Sago Mine since an explosion early Monday. The mine is located about 100 miles northeast of Charleston. As rescue workers tried to get to the men, families waited at the Sago Baptist Church during an

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Don't forget your flu shot

It's more important than ever, immunizations nurse says

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

If you haven't gotten your flu shot and you think you've made it safely out of the season, you may want to think again.

According to Sandy Samuels, immunizations nurse for the Texas Department of State Health Services Big Spring office, it's more important than ever to get your flu vaccination.

"We're still giving flu shots," said Samuels. "There are still quite a few people coming in to get their shots. Overall, we've given approximately 2,000 flu shots in the Howard County area this season, but there are still a lot of people out there who haven't gotten

"Children 6 months old to 8 years old and seniors 65 years old and up need to have their flu shots. If they haven't already gotten it, make sure they get it as soon as possible."

—Sandy Samuels,
TDSHS

theirs." According to TDSHS officials, late December, January and February are the heaviest months

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FENDER BENDER



Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service personnel survey the scene of a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Main and 23rd streets Tuesday afternoon. No major injuries were reported, officials said.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan



A student gets ready for an area stock show. The Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show begins Thursday.

Herald file photo

Season for animals

Stock shows about to get under way in Glasscock, Martin and Howard counties

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Agriculture's present may be getting all the headlines, but agriculture's future is about to take center stage in this area.

While the major news so far this year has been the bountiful cotton crop, tomorrow's farmers and ranchers will be on display when Glasscock, Howard and Martin counties hold their annual 4-H stock shows.

The annual round of stock shows begin

Thursday in Garden City with the 69th annual Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show, which will run through Saturday at the Glasscock County Community Center.

Events get started with the rabbit show at 6 p.m. Thursday. Friday's events include the goat show at 8 a.m., followed by the swine show at approximately 10 a.m.

The event closes Saturday with the sheep show at 8 a.m., steer show at about 10 a.m., the pig scramble at 11 a.m. and

the premium sale at 1 p.m.

Both Howard and Martin counties will hold their junior livestock shows the weekend of Jan. 21.

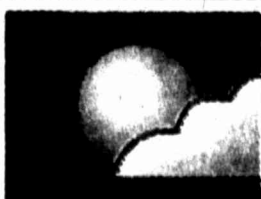
The Howard County event begins Jan. 18 at the county fairbarns with lamb and goats shows. The rabbit show is the following day, steer and barrow shows Jan. 20, and a buyer's barbecue, awards reception and auction sale Jan. 21.

The Martin County

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CHILI FUND-RAISER SET

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 will hold its Fourth Annual Chili Cook-off Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. at the Eagles building, 703 W. Third. Cost is \$10 per chili team, and \$5 for people entering the area to sample the chili, with judging set for noon.

Proceeds from the tasting and entry fees benefits the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children In Need fund. The fund helps purchase school supplies, clothing, tuition for summer camps and helps meet other financial needs of special children who are receiving services from West Texas Centers for MHMR.

For more information, call 263-6862.

LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Big Spring program will get under way next month with the first class set to be held Thursday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in the chamber board room.

Leadership Big Spring is a nine-month program, held every second Thursday of the month, February through December except for June and July. The program takes participants on tours which integrate them with all aspects of Howard County life: industry, government, medical, agriculture, education and more.

Cost is \$300. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 25. Call 263-7641 for more information.

FLOWER FAIRY IS BACK

ANDERSON ISLAND. Wash. (AP) — The "flower fairy" is back.

Last spring flower bouquets and potted plants began appearing without explanation at the homes of numerous residents of this small island southwest of Tacoma.

After a summer hiatus, the practice has resumed, island Fire Chief Jim Bixler said.

"As far as I can figure, the fairy is still alive and well and performing," Bixler said. Residents who received the deliveries said they heard a knock and answered the door to find a floral gift with a handwritten note saying, "Hope these make you smile." Each note is signed, "Love, the Flower Fairy."

Obituaries

Ben Sparks



Ben Sparks, 66, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, at the St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. Felix Cubelo officiating. Interment will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

A vigil will be held at 7 p.m. today, Jan. 4, 2006, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He was born June 1, 1939, in Pampa and married Christine Ramirez Feb. 18, 1977, in Big Spring.

Ben had been a resident of the community since 1975 and had worked for Cornell Corrections since it opened. He was an avid sports fan, enjoying golf, which was his third love; he had gone to the nationals in bowling and had been a pitcher with Cotton Mize's fast pitch teams.

Ben was proud of his children, grandchildren and wife. He never met a stranger and would talk to everybody.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association and St. Thomas Catholic Church, where he was very active, serving as a lay minister, Eucharistic Minister and lecturer.

Survivors include his wife, Christine Sparks of Big Spring; four sons, Randy Sparks of Big Spring, Clint Sparks, Mark Sparks and wife, Kathy and Tracy Sparks, all of Phoenix; two daughters, Tonia Sparks and Stephanie Sparks, both of Big Spring; nine grandchildren, Branden Sparks, Tyler Sparks, Sydni Sparks, Toby Mendoza and Jay Mendoza, all of Big Spring and Nathan Sparks, Erin Sparks, Rustin Sparks and Tiffany Sparks, all of Phoenix.

The family suggests memorials be made to Cal Farley's Boy's Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo 79174.

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

Paid obituary

Maria Y. Garcia

Maria Y. Garcia, 88, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dois M. Ray

Dois M. Ray, 85, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

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 meets the first and third Monday each month. For more information, call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

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

Take Note

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

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

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

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

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volun-

Police blotter

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

• **WARREN HOLLOWAY**, 50, of San Angelo, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ERLINDA RIOS**, 17, of 1906 Winston, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **CANDIDAD MORENO**, 18, of 1604 Robin, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **ROMERO VILLAREAL**, 21, of 1412 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of making alcohol available to a minor.

• **ALBERT CARRILLO**, 24, of 1707 Jennings, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **CHELSEY YARBAR**, 18, of 1007 Driver Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **ANGELICA LEVARIO**, 17, of 405 Pennsylvania, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **KAYLI NEWELL**, 17, of 2617 Ent, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **TONI FLORES**, 19, of 1507 W. Second Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ**, 17, of 1108 Runnels, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **TOMMY BILLALBA JR.**, 17, of 4212 Hamilton, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **PURCHASING/FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO A MINOR** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 700 block of San Antonio.

Sheriff's report

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

• **GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ**, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.

• **RANDY JAY YBARRA**, 18, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for consumption of alcohol by a minor - third or more offense enhanced.

• **CECILIA GALINDO HALLFORD**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **ROBERT MATA**, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and burglary of a building.

• **RUFUS ANDREW DAVIS JR.**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear - motion for enforcement for burglary of a habitation.

• **CHRISTOPHER BERNARD BOYD**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **JOHNNY RAY PAYNE JR.**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• **LISA JEANINE RUBIO**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **TRAUMA** was reported near the intersection of 23rd Street and Main. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Stanford. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 700 block of Warren.

teer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

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

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

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

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

• Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Colder. Lows in the mid 30s. Light southeast winds. Shifting to the north around 10 mph after midnight.

Thursday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night—Clear. Colder. Lows in the mid 20s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Friday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light and variable.

Friday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday—Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the lower 70s.

Saturday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$15 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$12 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 15, 19, 20, 32, and 38. The Mega Ball number was 21.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-15-27-34-37.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-4-3

Around Town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.BigSpringHerald.com

Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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Increase the Power of your mind. READ! **HERALD**

By PETE YOS

Associated P

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Abramoff probe edges closer to former House leader Tom DeLay

By PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — In a deal that clears the way for the next phase of a widespread Capitol Hill corruption probe, lobbyist Jack Abramoff has agreed to tell prosecutors and the FBI about alleged bribes to lawmakers and their aides on issues ranging from Internet gambling to wireless phone service in the House.

The full extent of the investigation is not yet known, but Justice Department officials said Tuesday they intended to make use of the trove of e-mails and other material in Abramoff's possession as part of a probe that is believed to be focusing on as many as 20 members of Congress and aides.

"The corruption scheme with Mr. Abramoff is very extensive and we will continue to follow it wherever it leads," said Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher, head of the Justice Department's criminal division.

Court papers in Abramoff's case refer to an aide to then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay who helped stop anti-gambling legislation regarding the Internet. Abramoff, the papers state, paid the staffer's wife \$50,000 from clients that benefited from the actions of the staffer, identified by a person close to the investigation as Tony Rudy, DeLay's former deputy chief of staff.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the probe is ongoing. Rudy did not return a phone call Tuesday at his lobbying firm.

DeLay, R-Texas, voted against his party on the Internet anti-gambling legislation which was designed to make it easier for authorities to stop online gambling sites.

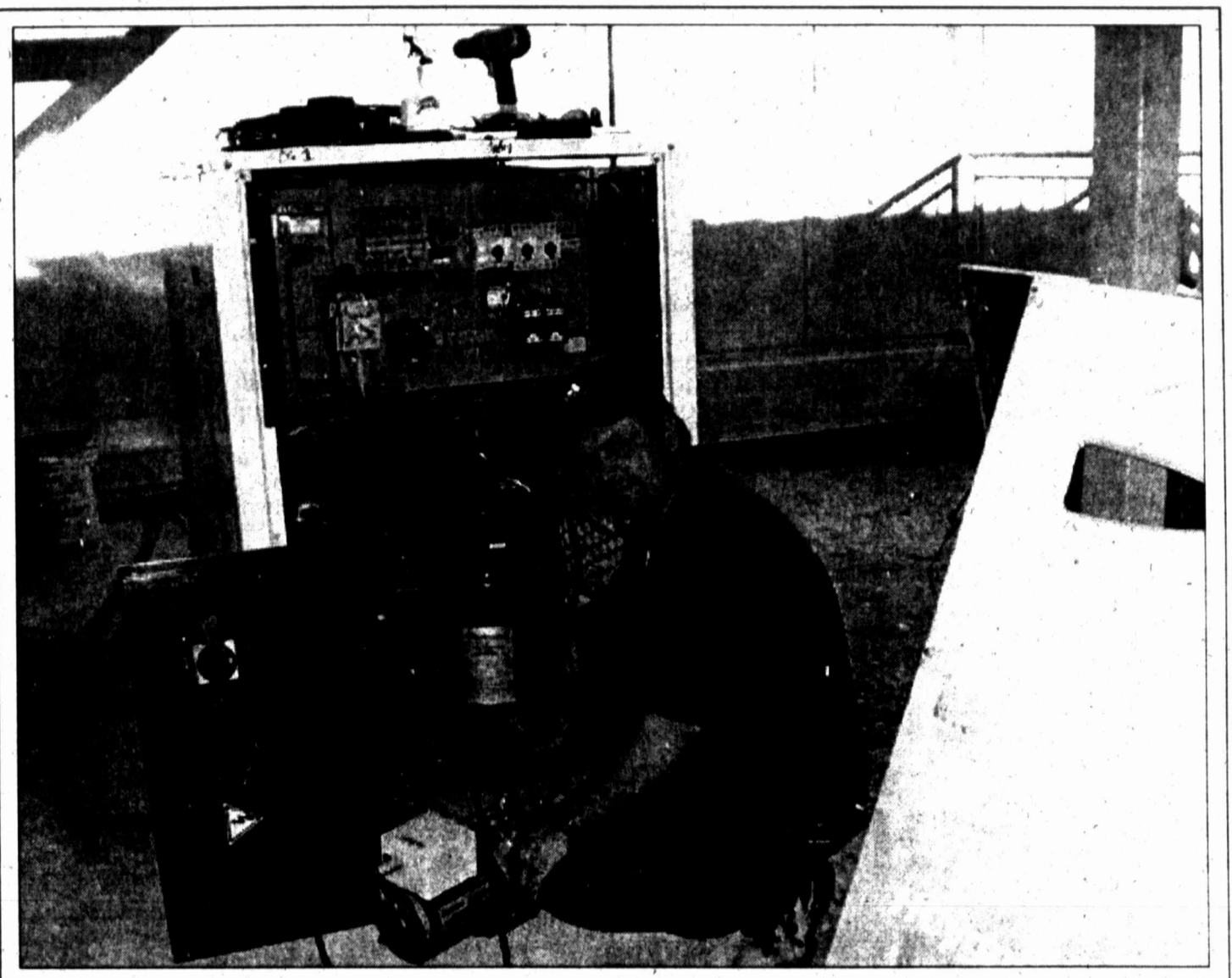
DeLay attorney Richard Cullen said he believes that when the investigation is completed and the truth is known that the Justice Department will conclude that his client, who had risen to House majority leader before stepping down from the post last year, did nothing wrong.

Abramoff pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiracy, mail fraud and tax evasion, with his conduct outlined in court papers that refers to "a stream of things of value to public officials in exchange for a series of official acts and influence."

On Wednesday, Abramoff was to plead guilty in Miami to criminal charges stemming from Abramoff's 2000 purchase of SunCruz Casinos, a case that touches on Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio.

The political ramifications of the Abramoff probe were apparent, with minority Democrats intending to make ethics a campaign issue in this election year. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said Abramoff's confession in court was "not a surprise because this Republican Congress is the most corrupt in history and the American people are paying the price."

Some political consultants and analysts are comparing potential damage from the Abramoff investigation to the 1992 House banking scandal that led to the retirement or ouster of 77 lawmakers.



Big Spring's Todd Rallsback is stationed in Iraq. He writes, "I have been a Big Spring boy all my life and I am over in Iraq serving those who serve and proud of it. I miss everyone at home, especially my fiancé Tammy, but I am doing something I am proud of. Here is a picture of me on the base I am stationed at in Tikrit, Iraq. Sincerely, Todd Rallsback."

Missing former student found in Los Angeles

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A 24-year-old former Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi student who went missing last month after leaving a note indicating he was depressed has been found in Los Angeles and reunited with his family, authorities said.

Samuel Young Chong's parents reported him missing the weekend before Christmas after arriving for his graduation from the university, the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* reported. But school officials said Chong was last enrolled at the institution for the spring 2005 semester.

Chong's roommates said they last saw him Dec. 16, and police found his car abandoned near beach dunes four days later.

Authorities found his wallet and money untouched in his apartment.

Chong's parents offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his whereabouts.

SHOT

Continued from Page 1A

when it comes to flu infections.

Samuels said the most susceptible to the influenza bug are the elderly and small children, making it paramount they receive their vaccinations as soon as possible.

"The flu can turn into so many other things when it comes to small children or the elderly," said Samuels. "One of the most common results is pneumonia. Children 6 months old to 8 years old and seniors 65 years old and up need to have their flu shots. If they haven't already gotten it, make sure they get it as soon as possible."

While the vaccinations can't 100 percent guarantee you won't get the flu, Samuels said the shot can be the difference between being sick a few days and spending a week huddled under a pile of blankets.

"You can still get the flu, even if you've been vaccinated," said Samuels. "However, it's not nearly as bad if you've had your shot. The symptoms aren't as severe and it doesn't last as long. So it's worth getting the shot either way."

As for old wives tales claiming you can actually get the flu from the vaccination, Samuels said it may have been true many years

ago, but not today.

"Years ago they actually used a live virus for the vaccinations," said Samuels. "So a lot of people got the flu right from the shot. However, today we use a dead virus for the shots, so there's no way to contract the virus that way."

"I still hear people say they got the flu from the flu shot, but chances are they had it before they were ever vaccinated."

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu is caused by the influenza virus, which infects the respiratory tract. Unlike many other viral respiratory infections — such as the common cold — the flu causes severe illness and life-threatening complications in many people.

Symptoms of flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

Children can have additional gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. However, these symptoms are uncommon in adults.

For more information on TDHSH flu vaccination clinics, call 263-9775.

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

SHOWS

Continued from Page 1A

Junior Livestock Show will be held Jan. 19-21 at the County Community Complex. Goats, lambs, pee wee goats and steers will be judged Jan. 20, while hogs and pee wee hogs

will be judged the following day.

Participants in the area shows learn more than just the ins and outs of livestock preparation, said Lee Howard, Martin County agriculture extension agent.

"We hope it will promote a positive image to the kids," Howard said. "They learn lots

of things, like responsibility, and aspects of animal science ... Hopefully, they'll learn some character-building concepts."

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

MINERS

Continued from Page 1A

emotional two-day vigil.

But late Tuesday night, families began streaming out of the church, yelling "They're alive!" The church's bells began ringing and families embraced, as politicians proclaimed word of the apparent rescue a miracle.

As an ambulance drove away from the mine carrying what families believed was the first survivor, they applauded, not yet knowing there were no others.

Though the governor announced that there were 12 survivors, he later indicated he was uncertain about the news. As word buzzed through the church of survivors, he tried to find out what was going on, he said.

"All of a sudden we heard the families in a euphoric state, and all the shouting and screaming and joyfulness, and I asked my detachments, I

said, 'Do you know what's happening?' Because we were wired in and we didn't know," Manchin said.

International Coal Group Chief Executive Officer Ben Hatfield blamed the wrong information on a "miscommunication." The news spread after people overheard cell phone calls, he said. In reality, rescuers had only confirmed finding 12 miners and were checking their vital signs. At least two family members in the church said they received cell phone calls from a mine foreman.

"That information spread like wildfire, because it had come from the command center," he said.

Three hours later, Hatfield told the families that "there had been a lack of communication, that what we were told was wrong and that only

one survived," said John Groves, whose brother Jerry Groves was one of the trapped miners.

"There was no apology. There was no nothing. It was immediately out the door," said Nick Helms, son of miner Terry Helms.

Chaos broke out in the church and a fight started. About a dozen state troopers and a SWAT team were positioned along the road near the church because police were concerned about violence. Witnesses said one man had to be wrestled to the ground when he lunged for mining officials.

Company officials waited to correct the information until they knew more about the rescue, Hatfield said.

"Let's put this in perspective. Who do I tell not to celebrate? I didn't know if there were 12 or

one (who were alive)," Hatfield said.

The explosion was the state's deadliest mining accident since November 1968, when 78 men — including the uncle of Manchin — died in an explosion at Consol's Farmington No. 9 mine in Marion County, an hour's drive north of here. Nineteen bodies remain entombed in the mountain. It was that disaster that prompted Congress to pass the Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.

It was also the worst nationwide since a pair of explosions tore through the Jim Walter Resources No. 5 mine in Brookwood, Ala. on Sept. 23, 2001, killing 13.

Federal Department of Labor officials promised an investigation. Acting Assistant Secretary David Dye, who heads the Mine Safety and Health Administration, said it

will include "how emergency information was relayed about the trapped miners' conditions."

The 12 miners were found together behind a barrier they had constructed to block carbon monoxide gas. They were found near where the company had drilled an air hole early Tuesday in an attempt to contact the men.

The miners had stretched a piece of fabric across an area about 20 feet wide to block out the gas, Hatfield said. The fabric is designed for miners to use as a barrier. Each miner had carried a breathing apparatus and had been able to use it, according to mining officials.

The hole also was used to check air quality in the mine, which revealed high concentrations of carbon monoxide. The odorless, colorless gas can

be lethal at high doses. At lower levels, it can cause headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea, fatigue and brain damage.

Manchin, who had earlier said that the state believed in miracles, tried to focus on the news that one had survived.

"We're clinging to one miracle when we were hoping for 13," he said.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Leroy Aldridge, 77, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Maria Y. Garcia, 88, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Leadership Big Spring: join up now

One of the most common mistakes people make is a rush to judgment. We criticize first and ask questions later. The correct approach, of course, is to take some time to get the facts before we put our mouths into gear. Just sitting in on a few school board or city council meetings can be a real eye opener.

There's a great way to get that kind of insight and knowledge and have fun in the process. The program is called Leadership Big Spring, and there are still spots available for 2006. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce-sponsored program takes its students on tours throughout Big Spring and Howard County. Program attendees go to government offices, major industries, educational campuses, agribusinesses — almost every entity vital to our community. Those in the program see first-hand how businesses and government work. They'll learn about communication resources and law enforcement. There are also workshops on developing leadership skills.

This is definitely not a "do-nothing" escape. There are requirements. For instance, participants are required to attend four meetings of a board such as city council, commissioners court or college, school, chamber or economic development board. They are required to ride in a patrol car with a Big Spring police officer and take part in a community project.

The course is a "must" for new business persons in Howard County and should be a prerequisite for anyone interested in a locally-elected office.

The first session is set for Feb. 9 at the chamber.

The day-long classes are held on the second Thursday of each month through December except for June and July.

Tuition is \$300 per person and covers transportation, lunch and textbooks.

Applications can be obtained at the Chamber, 215 W. Third St. Class is limited to 25 students and is on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to sign up is Jan. 25.

If you haven't consider it, do so now. Leadership Big Spring is building this community's leaders.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

The sesquicentennial wagon train

With a hearty "Wagons Ho!" the sesquicentennial wagon train left Sulphur Springs for a trip across Texas Jan. 2, 1986. Gary France was wagon master.

"Governor Mark White, when he found out we were going to Fort Worth by way of the King Ranch and El Paso told us he knew of a short cut," says Gary. "The route took the wagon train as far east as Marshall, as far south as Kingsville, as far west as El Paso and as far north as Amarillo for a total of 3,228 miles. It was quite a trip."

The wagons moved through Texas for six months, arriving in Fort Worth in early July.

"One group of people was with us all the way," says Gary. "We called them the core group. It consisted of somewhere around 30 wagons and between 150 and 200 people. We had a lot of people who weren't on the wagons, but kept the wagons rolling."

One hundred and two wagons left Sulphur Springs. In the sparsely populated areas of south

and west Texas, the train dwindled down to 32 wagons. Gary says that was the lowest number of wagons on the trip.

"When we made it into El Paso it got bigger and when we left Amarillo it really picked up. When we departed Wichita Falls going into Fort Worth we were growing daily — not only with the wagons, but we were having a lot of horseback riders. When we pulled into downtown Fort

Worth, we were about 200 wagons strong with thousands of people on horses. We stretched out well over two miles."

The trip was made to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Texas. There was nightly entertainment in the campgrounds during and after the evening meal. Many of the people on wagons dressed in period costumes to experience the way their forefathers lived.



TUMBLEWEED
SMITH

YOUR VIEWS

Say no to 'Book of Daniel'

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been seeing the very regularly advertised NBC Television "The Book of Daniel" on TV lately. The advertisements for the program certainly did not seem to portray anything even close to what Christians call the "Book of Daniel" as it is found in the Bible. Today, I received the following information on the program and feel compelled to share this with the other readers of our newspaper.

It seems that despite receiving nearly a half-

million e-mails, NBC still intends to begin their new series "The book of Daniel" this Friday. While NBC refuses to release the sponsors of the program, AFA has identified 10 potential sponsors and we will soon learn who those sponsors are as well as the local businesses that choose to sponsor this obscene show.

The network is promoting "The Book of Daniel" as a serious drama about Christian people and the Christian faith. The characters include Daniel Webster, a drug-addicted Episcopal priest; his alcoholic wife; his son, a 23-

year-old homosexual Republican; his daughter, a 16-year-old drug dealing daughter; a 16-year-old adopted son who is having sex with the bishop's daughter; his lesbian secretary who is sleeping with his sister-in-law; and a very unconventional white-robed, bearded Jesus who talks to the priest.

The writer for the program is Jack Kenny, a practicing homosexual who describes himself as being "in Catholic recovery," and is interested in Buddhist teachings about reincarnation and isn't sure exactly how he defines God and/or Jesus.

"I don't necessarily know that all the myth surrounding him (Jesus) is true," he said.

Aidan Quinn, who plays Rev. Webster, said if the show offends some Catholics, "I don't really care..."

If Christians show their objection to the program by protesting to NBC and the local television station (cable channel 9 and local channel 4), by not watching the program and by not buying the products of those who sponsor it, they might change their mind about "not really caring."

PASTOR CARROLL KOHL,
RETIRED

The governor strikes back

Last month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger gave Our Better in Europe a taste of their own bitter medicine.

Angry at the governor's refusal to stop the Dec. 13 execution of convicted four-time murderer Stanley "Tookie" Williams, city leaders of Graz, Austria, mobilized to remove Austria's most famous son's name from a stadium. Schwarzenegger responded with a "Dear Johan" letter. In it, he revoked the city's permission to use his name on the stadium and to promote Graz as a tourist destination. Schwarzenegger also returned a "ring of honor" bestowed by his hometown in 1999.

"It is already in the mail," the governor wrote in German.

On Christmas night, to avoid the glare of the spotlight, Graz city workers removed Schwarzenegger's name from the arena. The mayor of Graz is "disappointed." An Austrian poll showed that well over 70 percent of Austrians support Schwarzenegger's pre-emptive name-purge.

It apparently takes a European-born American to see what the Euro-elites are — so desperate to promote themselves as better than Americans that they kowtow to thugs.

One "human rights" group, the Association of Christianity and Social Democracy, proposed that the stadium be named after Williams. That makes sense: Flaunt how your opposition to capital punishment makes you superior by honoring a felon who shot an unarmed man in the back, then later shot a father, a mother and their adult daughter and left them to die slow, painful deaths.

(Graz, I should note, probably will rename the stadium the American way — by selling naming rights.) Meanwhile, the European press had canonized Williams — regurgitating the

Tookie propaganda about his "redemption." Agence France Presse called Williams a "repentant gang leader." London's The Independent gushed about "the widely expressed sense that if Mr. Williams were not regarded as an embodiment of rehabilitation and redemption, then the terms had no meaning in the U.S. criminal justice system."

You'd never know that Williams never apologized for killing four innocent people.

American newspapers dutifully reported on Europeans' revulsion at the death penalty — they see it as "a medieval atrocity," as The New York Times put it. You'd never guess that somehow

Graz kept Schwarzenegger's name on its stadium after he failed to stop the January execution of triple-murderer Donald Beardslee. Or that many Europeans aren't thrilled that the European Union forced abolition of capital punishment on member countries.

In 2003, former Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze regretted his decree ending the death penalty in 1997, a move he feared contributed to a rise in crime. "Evidently, we shouldn't have abolished the most extreme form of punishment, the death penalty. Criminals used to fear execution, but this factor is gone now," he said. (Also in 2003, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo reinstated the death penalty because of a dramatic rise in violent crime.)

Polls in 2002 reported that the British people — as many as 68 percent — support the death penalty for child murderers, even

if their betters in the British Parliament and the EU do not.

The never-ending International Criminal Tribunal of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic reveals the insanity of outlawing the death penalty — even for genocide. The strongman probably is safer in prison — and mocking his critics during a circus-like trial — than he would be free in his homeland. Also, the tribunal's insistence on issuing lesser sentences for lesser killings has prompted the court to issue sentences like 18 years for a key role in the murder of some 7,000 Muslim men.

The EU, be it noted, also doesn't believe in life sentences. Death penalty supporter Michael Rushford of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in Sacramento, Calif., approved of the governor's response. Rushford noted that the death penalty is a punishment for which approval goes up when people look at the offender. Like Williams.

Rushford believes Williams "traded his humanity" when he took his first innocent life. "All the benefits of being a human being, he traded that away by taking an innocent life."

The Graz incident shows a side of Europe that leaves many of us American rubes cold. Left-wing Austrians — and Americans — were quick to condemn the California death penalty and Schwarzenegger as barbaric, even as they embraced a man who killed four innocent people. To condemn an execution while canonizing a killer — that's just too civilized.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Cancer treatment: Know your options

Metro

Earlier this year, Nancy Touhey was snorkeling in the Caribbean with her family — something she never imagined she would be able to do. After getting married in 1992, Touhey was diagnosed with a form of blood cancer called multiple myeloma.

"I was 31 years old, and all I knew was I wanted to live — to have children, and watch them grow up, to be there for them and my husband," Touhey said.

By being proactive in her approach to treatment, she has kept her cancer at bay for 13 years while starting a family and maintaining an active lifestyle.

More cancer patients are learning about the importance of taking a proactive approach to their care. By being a partner with their doctors, patients are choosing treatment options that meet their objectives.

"With more choices available to patients, it is increasingly important for doctors and patients to maintain open communication channels in order to find the right treatment for them," said Susan Braun, president and CEO, CURE Media Group.

Braun says patients should discuss the following questions with their doctors:

- Do you understand my treatment goals?
- How do the different options increase chances of survival?
- Are there any potential side effects that can occur from the treatments — and if so, how can they be managed?
- How will the treatment impact my daily life (work, family, etc.)?
- Are there reimburse-



Touhey

ment programs that can help offset treatment costs?

Touhey and her doctor tried several treatments but remained focused on achieving a balance between an aggressive treatment and minimal side effects to help her maintain an active life. As newer therapies became available, Touhey and her physician adjusted her treatment based on her goals.

In 2003, Touhey's doctor introduced her to a new treatment called VELCADE, which seemed to fit her lifestyle. Several months later, Touhey was full of energy and was able to enjoy spending time with her family.

While individual response to VELCADE may vary, Touhey is winning the fight against her cancer and is realizing her dreams.

"For a cancer patient, hope is when you have options," she said. "And I have been holding onto hope since I was diagnosed in 1992."

On the Net:
CURE site: www.curetoday.com

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation site: www.multiplemyeloma.org

VELCADE for Injection site: www.velcade.com

Early detection of lung cancer saves lives

Metro

Lung cancer — the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the lungs, causing tumors to form — is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. Each year, more Americans die from lung cancer than from breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers combined.

In 2006, there will be about 172,570 new cases of lung cancer in the U.S.: 93,010 among men, and 79,560 among women, according to the American Cancer Society. About six out of 10 people with lung cancer die within one year of finding out they have it, and between seven and eight will die within two years, reports the American Cancer Society.

What causes lung cancer?

According to lungcancer.org, an online resource sponsored by CancerCare for lung cancer patients and their families, more than 87 percent of lung cancers in the United States are smoking-related.

Men who smoke increase their risk of death from lung cancer by more than 22 times, and women by more than 12 times. However, there are factors other than smoking that can increase an individual's risk for developing the disease.

These factors include: exposure to other carcinogens such as asbestos and radon gas; certain industrial substances such as arsenic; some organic chemicals; radiation from occupational, medical and environmental sources; air pollution; and tuberculosis.

Sometimes, the cause is not known or the onset of lung cancer is a result of past actions. Dana Reeve (the late Christopher Reeve's wife), a non-smoker, was recently diagnosed with lung cancer.

Former smokers, like the late Peter Jennings (anchor and senior editor of ABC's "World News

Tonight"), who recently died of lung cancer, are at risk as well.

Quitting smoking does reduce an individual's risk significantly — although former smokers remain at greater risk for lung cancer than people who never smoked.

Types of lung cancer
There are two main types of lung cancer: non-small cell (87 percent of all cases), and small cell (13 percent of all cases). The names refer to the kinds of cells that make up the tumor rather than the size of the tumor.

Small cell lung cancer often starts in the bronchi, air tubes in the center of the chest. Although the cancer cells are small, they can multiply quickly and form large tumors that can spread widely throughout the body.

This is important because it means that treatment must include drugs to kill the widespread disease. This kind of cancer is almost always caused by smoking. It is very rare for someone who has never smoked to have small cell lung cancer.

Non-small cell lung cancer is classified into three subtypes, and the cells in these sub-types differ in size, shape and chemical make-up.

Squamous cell carcinoma tends to be found centrally, near a bronchus (a large air passage in the lungs). It can spread rapidly if not treated early.

Adenocarcinoma is the most common form of lung cancer, is usually found in the outer region of the lung, is more likely than other types to be contained in one area of the body, and is the most frequent type of lung cancer seen in nonsmokers.

Large-cell undifferentiated carcinoma can appear in any part of the lung and tends to grow quickly and spread at an earlier stage than other forms of non-small cell lung cancer, which can make it hard to treat.

Lung cancer almost always begins in one lung

and, if left untreated, can spread to lymph nodes or other tissues in the chest (including the other lung).

It can also metastasize (or spread) throughout the body, to the bones, brain, liver, or other organs.

Signs and symptoms
The signs and symptoms of lung cancer may take years to appear, are often confused with symptoms of less serious conditions, or may not appear until the disease has reached an advanced stage. Here's what to look for:

- Smoker's cough that persists or becomes intense
- Non-smoker's cough that persists for more than two weeks
- Persistent chest, shoulder, or back pain unrelated to pain from coughing
- Blood in sputum (coughed-up phlegm from the lungs), an increased amount of sputum, or a change in its color
- Wheezing
- Recurrent pneumonia or bronchitis
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Headache, bone pain, aching joints
- Bone fractures not related to accidental injury
- Neurological symptoms (i.e., unsteady gait and/or episodic memory loss)
- Neck and facial swelling
- Unexplained weight loss

There also may be signs and symptoms caused by the spread of lung cancer to other parts of the body. Depending on which organs are affected, these can include: headaches, general weakness, pain, bone fractures, bleeding, or blood clots.

Anyone experiencing any of these signs or symptoms should consult a physician immediately.

Early detection
Early detection of lung cancer is critical to improving the chances of survival. The five-year survival rate for those

whose lung cancer is found when it is localized (before it has spread to other organs) is nearly 50 percent, according to lungcancer.org.

However, only 15 percent of lung cancer cases are found at the localized stage. Research indicates that when lung cancer is diagnosed/detected in an early-stage and surgery is possible, the five-year survival rates can reach 85 percent, reports lungcancer.org.

Survival rates decline dramatically after the cancer has spread to other organs. Testing people that are known to be at high risk for developing lung cancer can help to find tumors that are small and more easily treated.

Those at high risk include men and women 60 years of age who currently smoke or have a history of smoking, with previous lung tumors, or with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Choosing a doctor and treatment center

Since lung cancer is a complex disease, it often requires more than one kind of treatment, and more than one kind of doctor.

A lung cancer patient may be cared for by a team of health care experts specializing in oncology; lung and chest health, and other related fields. Treatment options include surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy, either alone or in combination, depending on the type and stage of the cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, the most important factors to take into account when deciding on treatment include the stage and type of cancer, your overall health, the likely side effects of the treatment, and the chance of curing the cancer or extending your life.

They suggest getting a second opinion which can provide more information and help you feel good about the treatment plan you choose.

The early bird gets financial aid

Metro

College costs are rising but higher education can still be affordable, thanks to more financial aid than ever before.

Last year, nearly 70 percent of students attending four-year colleges paid less than \$9,000 in tuition and fees, according to the College Board. Many received financial aid, so they didn't pay the full "sticker price." Applying for aid early is important. "Often, students wait too long to worry about financial aid and scholarships," said Linda Peckham of the College Board's financial aid department. "Many scholarships are available on a limited basis and if you wait too long, you may find yourself competing for money that's already been awarded."

Two kinds of scholarships are available: institutional grants awarded by colleges and universities; and outside grants awarded by other organizations. Institutional scholarships are usually based on merit, financial need or both.

To be considered for most student aid, applicants should use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Forms like the FAFSA and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, which certain private colleges also require, can be filed online.

"The information you submit on the FAFSA is based on your tax information for the year ending on December 31. Many people do not file their taxes until April," Peckham said. "You should submit the FAFSA as soon after Jan. 1 as possible using estimated figures because if you

wait until April, colleges probably won't have any grant money left."

For outside grants, students should research their eligibility. In certain cases, a student's location or a family member's job can qualify them for scholarships. Most outside scholarship programs have application deadlines in February or earlier. Some, like the National Merit Scholarship, require applicants to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October of their junior year.

"Start early, try everything you can," said John Curtin, an incoming college freshman at Knox College who looked into financial aid sooner than many of his peers. "You never know what schools are looking for that would qualify you for financial aid."

More information about financial aid and scholarships are available in books like the College Board College Cost & Financial Aid Handbook 2006 and the College Board Scholarship Handbook 2006.

Scholarship information can also be found online and with high school guidance counselors.

How diet can improve appearance

Metro

The old adage, "you are what you eat," is getting a 21st century makeover.

Until recently, most dietary advice has focused on weight management and disease prevention. That focus is now expanding to specifically look at how what people eat can affect how they look.

New research is examining the role of key nutrients in preserving a youthful appearance. Vitamins A, C and E, for example, are essential to healthy skin.

Vitamin A, also known as beta-carotene, helps block UV radiation. Carrots, spinach, butternut squash and cantaloupe are all great sources of this complexion-protecting nutrient.

Vitamins C and E are antioxidants that help encourage skin cell turnover and collagen for-

mation. Broccoli, citrus fruits, red peppers and strawberries are all rich in vitamin C, while vitamin E is found in almonds, avocados and dark, leafy vegetables.

It's always best to choose food sources of such nutrients over supplements, which may not deliver the same benefits and can even increase disease risk, according to some studies.

Other alimentary advice to consider for people who want to put their best face forward:

— Eat good fats like those found in seafood and walnuts to reduce the inflammation that may

lead to wrinkles.

— Avoid refined carbohydrates, which can cause insulin spikes and breakouts.

— Drink plenty of water and keep alcohol to a minimum to make sure skin stays hydrated.

— Strengthen nails by including biotin-rich foods in your diet (such as cooked eggs, soybeans and rice bran).

Looking great also means keeping body weight under control. Natural, whole foods like fruits and vegetables provide the foundation of a well-balanced diet. People will get more than just age-defying antioxidants.



The high fiber and water content of such bulky, low-cal fare will keep hunger at bay.

Jennifer Grossman is director of the Dole Nutrition Institute.

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Library News

New books are slowly trickling in and I hope by the middle of January that we can "cast caution" to the winds and begin ordering new materials in earnest. Books mentioned in today's review are mainly non-fiction.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

"Hummingbirds of Texas," (598.764 SHA C) by Clifford E. Shackelford is from TAMU University Press and is absolutely fascinating. The book contains general information on attracting hummingbirds, a description of various species, photos and the descriptive drawing of both the male and female birds. There is also a map of where each species can be found.

A second book on Texas birds is the Texas Ornithological Society's "Handbook of Texas Birds," (598.097 LOC M) by Mark W. Lockwood and Brush Freeman. It is published by the TAMU

University Press and while it does not contain quite as extensive information as the book above, it will be of value to the casual birder interested in Texas birds.

Another book from TAMU University Press is "Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Texas Hill Country," (582.160 WRE J) by Jan Wrede. She is the director of education at the Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne where she runs an outdoor classroom, directs field research and conducts educational programs for Hill country landowners. It is a valuable book for those who live there and are interested in plants that will thrive in the Hill Country.

Now I don't know if this means anything, but the next three books are published by the University of Texas Press and are about bugs, snakes and Darrell Royal. I am making no judgment, just an observation.

James R. Dixon and John E. Werler has compiled "Texas Snakes: A Field Guide" (597.960 DIX J). Again, much like the hummingbird mentioned above, it contains infor-

mation on habitats, conservation, Texas snakes that are threatened with extinction, defining a snake (I thought if it slithered, had no readily discernible appendages and hissed, it was a snake — silly me), aberrant snakes, naming a snake (how about Hiss-Honor) and then on to each species that is found in Texas. It is really a very interesting book.

"Texas Bug Book: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly," (632.709 GAR H) is the revised edition written by Howard Garrett and C. Malcolm Beck. Drawings are by Gwen E. Gage. It is filled with beautiful photos, lively prose and great bugs. It is a great book to have on hand for the kids or grandkids to occupy themselves when the weather is not conducive to outdoor activities.

"Coach Royal," (796.332 ROY D) by Darrell Royal: Many legendary men have been associated with UT but there is only one man that will be "Coach." Royal was one of the most successful coaches in college football and led the Longhorns to three national championships

and 11 Southwest Conference titles.

In this book, Royal tells his life story in his own words. He grew up during the Depression in Oklahoma and played college ball there. Discussing tough topics like racism in the UT program, the advent of Title IX and his association with Willie Nelson, he comes off as someone who is comfortable with his life.

I know this is too late as a Christmas gift, but it would be a great book for a UT alum.

"Wild Texas: A Celebration of Our State's Natural Beauty," (508.764 REY R) is by Richard Reynolds, who photographed and wrote the text. He looks at reach region of Texas and captures the beauty of nature with photographs and words. This would be a great book to give (and keep) that shows the diversity of landscape found in Texas.

"Noah's Flood: New Scientific Discoveries About the Event That Changed History," (930.2 RYA W) by William Ryan and Walter Pitman is a fascinating read.

Ryan and Pitman are two well respected geophysicists who have discovered a sensational flood over 7,600 years ago around the Black Sea. With the end of the Cold War, the two geophysicists teamed up with oceanographers from Bulgaria, Turkey and Russia to explore the Black Sea with sound waves and coring devices.

What they discovered and have theorized is contained within this book. Originally published in 1998, the library has just recently acquired this book.

Well, tax time will be upon us soon. "J.K. Lasser's Your Income Tax 2006" has been received and is available in the Reference Section. We have not received our tax forms as of this date.

Dr. Phil McGraw's latest book is in and can be found in the McNaughton New Book area. "Love Smart" will tell you how to find the one you want and how to fix the one you have (and probably how to get rid of the one you have!).

"More Ghost Towns of Texas," 917.640 BAK T) by T. Lindsey Baker

describes 94 ghost towns that range from American Indian sites abandoned before the arrival of Europeans in North America to towns that were abandoned due to economic reverses or loss of population.

Joe and I drove through Ranger over the holidays and that is one town that is ghostlike in nature. We do have Baker's first ghost town book along with his volumes on windmills and a narrative of slave life in Texas.

The library will be closed Jan. 14 and Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is online.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.

Age-appropriate advice for parents

One-of-a-kind guide helps parents help their children in troubled times

Metro

You've done the very best you can to shield your toddler from the terrible images of recent disasters. But have you done enough? Even infants and toddlers can sense changes in adult behavior as adults react to the latest crisis.

Parents the world over struggle to talk to their children about the tragedies in today's news or a crisis that looms in the family.

Parents and caregivers have a unique resource to help them help their children: "When Terrible Things Happen," a booklet released jointly by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute, L.L.C. It offers simple, practical advice in age-appropriate categories: infant and toddler, preschool, school age and adolescent/teenager.

"At different stages of development, children understand the world and how things happen in different ways," said the booklet's author, Dr. Lewis Leavitt, professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. "When Terrible Things Happen" helps parents and caregivers respond in a way that is best for each age and stage.

Infants and toddlers (0-3 years of age) cannot understand how a disaster has changed their environment. But they can recognize and respond to changes in adult behavior. What they need most from parents after a disaster is their usual loving care, according to Leavitt. "Continuing familiar routines is important — the games you played and the stories you read before the crisis are still right afterwards," Leavitt said.

Preschoolers (3-5 years of age) need strong reassurance from parents and family members about their care and safety — even though they may not talk about their feelings

directly. Talking while playing games may help children open up and express their thoughts. Leavitt advises parents to

respond directly to their questions. For example, if your child asks, "Do people wake up after they die?" You could answer,

"People do not wake up after they die, but it's nice to think about people we like even when they are not with us anymore." Also, it is important to limit television viewing. Young children may think a disaster is happening again and again if they see repeated images.

School-aged children (5-12 years of age) have more interest and understanding of how and why things happen. Parents can help by talking, listening and answering their questions. Honest, direct responses coupled with reassurance are best. For instance, if your child asks, "Mom, are you sad?" You could say, "I'm sad about what happened, but I'm happy we are together. Again, it is best to limit television viewing or watch together and discuss what has happened. School-aged children benefit by returning to their normal activities and routines.

Adolescents and teenagers (12-17 years of age) are able to understand the causes and effects of disaster, but most have not developed experience or confidence

about how they can or

may find it rewarding to help others who have suffered harm by working with their families, schools or communities.

Behavior to watch
Changes in your child's behavior may signal anxiety. Contact your pediatrician if problems such as these persist more than a month:

— Preschoolers: bedwetting, thumb sucking or increased clinginess

— School-aged children: sleep disturbances, nightmares, poor concentration, aches and pains

— Teenagers: expressions of anger or sadness, problems with eating and sleeping, loss of interest in activities, new difficulties at school.

The booklet is available through your pediatrician's office or online at www.jjpi.com.



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HENRY BACKES

"When Terrible Things Happen," a booklet released jointly by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute, L.L.C.

should respond. Their reactions can range from sadness to anger. Parents, friends and teachers can help by letting them know their views and opinions are respected. Teens still need reassurance that parents are there to help and protect them. They

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



America's regal makeover

America's most famous beauty pageant is getting a makeover. The 84-year-old event has a new location, a new TV home and a new attitude. But, despite the changes, Miss America's core values remain the same. Plus, Abraham Lincoln and spaghetti corn.

American Profile
Celebrating Hometown Life

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IN BRIEF

Big Spring sets date for football banquet

The Big Spring ISD football banquet will take place Jan. 12 in the high school cafeteria.

The public is invited to attend and tickets may be purchased in advance from Kay Cook at the ATC by calling 264-3662 or from Gene or Lana Piercefield at 816-1134. The cost is \$10.

Davis says bye to Oakland's Turner

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Raiders fired coach Norv Turner following consecutive losing seasons in which the team managed only one victory in its division.

Oakland lost its final six games and eight of nine to finish 4-12 and with one fewer victory than Turner produced in his first season a year ago. The Raiders have strung together three straight losing seasons for the first time since Al Davis came aboard in 1963 to coach and eventually own the team.

Clarett in trouble with law, charged with robbery

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Former Ohio State football star Maurice Clarett appeared in court in handcuffs and jail-issue clothing when a judge set bond at \$50,000 on charges that he robbed two people with a gun in an alley behind a bar.

Clarett surrendered Monday night, about the time the fourth-ranked Buckeyes were completing a 34-20 win over No. 5 Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl.

The 22-year-old Clarett was wanted since early Sunday, when police said he flashed a gun and demanded property from a man and a woman behind a lounge in downtown Columbus.

TCU freshman found dead in his vehicle

CONROE (AP) — TCU freshman kicker Kasey Davis was shot to death, his body found in his car by police in the parking lot of an apartment complex.

The 20-year-old player had a gunshot wound to his chest and was pronounced dead at the hospital, police said.

Police arrested a suspect near the apartment minutes after getting a description from witnesses. Jeffrey Clay Lasiter had a rifle in the front seat of his car when he was pulled over.

The 40-year-old Lasiter was charged with murder.

Astros agree to terms with Wilson

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros agreed to a contract with outfielder Preston Wilson that will pay him \$4.5 million for one season or \$24 million over four years.

Second-ranked Howard gets two wins in Florida

• Burgess' monster effort leads Hawks to easy win over IMG

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The second-ranked Howard College men's basketball team got past the first two opponents they faced at the Polk College New Years Classic in Winter Haven, Fla., Monday and Tuesday.

The Hawks rolled past IMG Academy Monday before holding off Palm Beach Community College, 67-60, Tuesday.

Howard took down IMG Academy, 112-49. Sophomore Charles Burgess had a near triple-double in the game as he finished with 22 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds and also added three steals.

Freshman Benny Valentine had 21 points, while sophomore Louis

Rodgers added 14 points, nine rebounds, five blocks and three steals. Freshman big man Benson Akpan had another double-double, finishing with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Everyone on the active roster played and scored at least nine points for Howard. All but one reached double figures.

The Hawks improved to 15-0 Tuesday, but Palm Beach Community College gave Howard all it

could handle. Valentine scored 22 points and Howard held off its opponent, winning by just seven points. Rodgers added 16 points, while Burgess scored 12.

"It was a tough game for us," said Howard mens assistant coach Jason Sautter. "The guys battled hard and were able to come out on top."

The Hawks will challenge the host school in Polk Community College tonight at 8 p.m. to finish

up action at the tourney. "Polk will be another tough test for us and they will be playing at home," said Sautter.

Howard begins conference play Jan. 16 on the road against the New Mexico Military Institute. They then travel to New Mexico Junior College Jan. 19 before hosting rival and nationally-ranked Midland College Jan. 23 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Big Spring can't hold lead against Badgers

• Hood hits three big 3-pointers in fourth quarter to seal victory

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
Made baskets have been hard to come by for the Big Spring boys basketball team lately. And Tuesday night against Merkel at home was no different for the Steers as an early advantage melted to a late deficit in a 48-43 loss to the Badgers.

"We're getting some good looks, but the shots just aren't falling for us right now," said Big Spring head coach Robert Ridgley. "I can't fault the effort though because the kids are playing hard. We just let this one get away from us."

They played hard enough to have a lead early in the game. Merkel scored the first four points of the contest, but Big Spring (5-15) finished the low-scoring first quarter on a 9-3 run and led by two points after one frame.

Junior Ryan Tannehill hit a jumper to start the second quarter and senior Kyle Piercefield added back-to-back buckets to push the Steer lead to 15-7

with 5:08 to play until halftime. Merkel hit two free throws to cut into its deficit, but Tannehill gave Big Spring its largest lead at 18-9 with a 3-pointer.

However, Merkel was able to end the second quarter on a 9-3 run and only trailed 21-16 at the break.

The Badgers then began the second half with a quick 3-pointer, which cut the Steer lead to two points. The game would eventually be tied on four different occasions in the third period before Merkel lead 30-28 after three frames.

Piercefield tied the game at 24-24 on a layup and then gave the Steers the lead by two on another layup on the team's next possession. Then, Tannehill picked up his fourth foul of the game and was forced to leave the contest.

Merkel didn't take advantage until the fourth quarter when it pushed the lead to 39-30 with just less than seven minutes to go in the game.

"It was big when Ryan went out with four fouls,"

See STEERS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring junior Ryan Tannehill puts in two of his eight points against Merkel Tuesday at the Steer Gym. The Steers held a comfortable lead in the second quarter before falling to the Badgers, 48-43.

BSHS girls struggle at home with Palo Duro

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The Big Spring girls basketball team had trouble stopping the Lady Dons of Amarillo Palo Duro Tuesday night at the Steer Gym.

The Lady Steers, who begin District 44A play Friday at home against Lake View, played the game without two key contributors and lost to the Lady Dons, 74-23.

Senior Chalesa Johnson missed the contest due to a knee injury, while junior Mallory Dunn was also not in the lineup. Johnson is expected to be out the rest of this week for sure and possibly some of next week.

Big Spring might have been overmatched even with Johnson and Dunn. Palo Duro never trailed in the game, staking a 21-5 lead after the first quarter.

Things didn't get much better for the Lady Steers in the second quarter as the Lady Dons pushed their advantage to 41-13 at halftime, outscoring Big Spring 20-8 in the period.

Palo Duro went on an 18-2 run (which started



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Reagan Ritchey attempts a jump shot against Amarillo Palo Duro Tuesday at the Steer Gym. Ritchey led the Lady Steers with nine points.

Late putback sinks 'Dogs in double OT

• Midland Christian battles back, steals win against Coahoma

By TROY HYDE

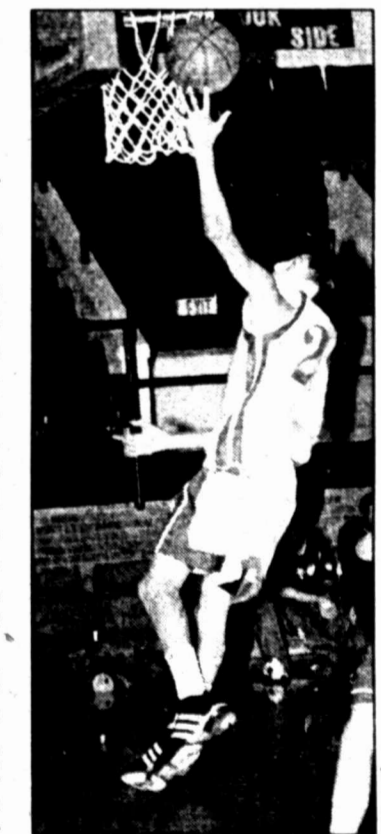
Sports Editor
COAHOMA — The Bulldogs basketball team lost a double-overtime thriller Tuesday night at home after failing to hold onto a 13-point lead heading into the final quarter.

Midland Christian outscored Coahoma (7-12) 26-13 in the fourth period and Darby O'Donnell's putback with 1.4 seconds to play in the second extra period sank the Bulldogs, 73-71.

Neither team grabbed much of an advantage in the first overtime period, but Coahoma fought back from a six-point deficit in the second OT. Junior Jason Gonzales hit a 3-pointer with 18 seconds left to tie the game before the putback by O'Donnell. Gonzales finished with a career-high 25 points and hit five 3-pointers.

Sophomore Kamrun Green and junior Stephen Ewing added 16 and 11 points, respectively, for Coahoma.

Clint Elliot and Carson Smith combined to hit nine 3-pointers in the game. Elliot led Midland Christian (5-10) with 19 points, while O'Donnell scored 16 and Smith



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma junior Jason Gonzales scores two of his 25 points during action against Midland Christian Tuesday. The Bulldogs lost in double overtime.

added 15. Jon Hibler also reached double figures with 10 points.

Coahoma's downfall in the game came at the free throw line. The Bulldogs lost by two and went just 10-for-22 from the foul line.

The Bulldogs will take on Eula Friday at home beginning at 8 p.m.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

said Ridgley. "We need him on the floor to control things offensively. We couldn't hit a shot in the third quarter."

Three consecutive free throws by Big Spring cut the lead to six with just more than six minutes to play, but Merkel pushed the lead to 10 points on two different occasions. Trevor Hood finished with 19 points in the game to lead all scorers and hit three of his four 3-pointers in the final quarter for Merkel.

"He's a good shooter and we did not do a good job of locating him in the zone," said Ridgley.

Junior Scott Fankhauser and senior Matt Hilario each scored on back-to-back possessions to cut the Steer deficit to six with 38 seconds to play. Senior Kalan Whitehead hit a desperation 3-pointer with 10 seconds to play to trim the margin to four, but the Steers didn't get any closer than that as they failed to clear a defensive rebound after Merkel missed a free throw.

"We are too up and down right now," said Ridgley. "We need to start putting together four quarters of basketball."

The Steers missed seven shots from the foul line and lost by five points.

Piercefield led the Steers with 12 points, while Tannehill scored nine. Sophomore Jason Walker added six points in the defeat.

The Steers travel to Lubbock Cooper Friday.



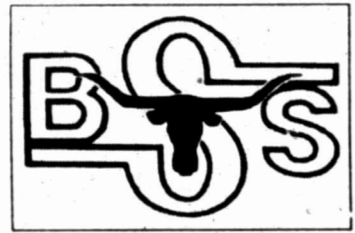
HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Kyle Piercefield finds a teammate inside the lane during action Tuesday night at the Steer Gym. Piercefield led the Steers with 12 points, but the team lost to Merkel, 48-43.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

midway through the second quarter and ended midway through the third to go up 59-15. The Lady Steers' only points in the run were two free throws from senior Raegan Ritchey.

Senior Carmen Davis and Ritchey scored back-to-back baskets to end the third quarter as Big Spring trailed 59-19.



Davis started the fourth quarter with consecutive layups, but those four points were the only points scored in the quarter as the Lady Steers were outscored 15-4 in the final period.

Big Spring, which connected on seven of 17 free throws, was led by Ritchey's nine points. Davis added eight, as well.

Megan Coats led all scorers with 20 points. Deandra Thomas and Jaz Brown also reached double figures with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

The first district game for Big Spring Friday against the Maidens will tip-off at 7:30 p.m. at the Steer Gym.

Bearkats win in double OT

• Hirt's 20 points not enough for Lady Kats

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

IRAAN — Garden City's boys basketball team survived a double-overtime thriller Tuesday night on the road against Iraan. The Bearkats won a back-and-forth battle, 66-64, as three players reached double figures.

Garden City led by five at halftime, trailed by five after three quarters and then forced overtime with a five-point advantage in the fourth quarter.

Senior Shaun Maxie scored a team-high 19 points before fouling out.

Junior Taylor Nihues added 17 points, while junior Colton Schwartz came off the bench to score 16 points and picked up the slack for senior Cory Multer, who was held to just four points.

The Bearkats won the game despite shooting just 19-for-38 from the foul line.

Garden City girls 35 Iraan girls 41

The Lady Kats suffered a six-point loss Tuesday at the hands of Iraan, which improved to 19-1 on the season.

Garden City led by two

after the first quarter, but trailed by one at halftime and after three quarters.

Iraan outscored Garden City 17-12 in the final period to seal the win.

Junior Erin Hirt returned to the lineup after recovering from knee surgery to score 20 points for the Lady Kats, while junior Lauren Plagens added 12 points.

Both Garden City teams open district play Friday at home against Dawson. The Lady Kats start at 6:30 p.m. and the Bearkats tip-off at around 8 p.m.



Rankin takes down Lady Buffaloes

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — The Forsan Lady Buffaloes saw hard-court action Tuesday night as they played host to the Rankin Lady Devils.

In their last game before district play, the Lady Buffs fought hard, but fell

short, 29-17.

Leading after one period, 7-4, Forsan went cold as Rankin went on a 13-1 run in the second to secure a lead that proved to be too much for the Lady Buffs to overcome.

Bailey Mitchum was the high scorer for the Lady Devils as she had 11

points. Chelsea Brooks added seven.

Forsan was paced by Kayla Spence, who finished with seven and Kaylon Stanley added five points.

District play will begin next Tuesday as the Lady Buffs will play McCamey in Forsan.

Forsan JV teams split against Rankin

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — The Forsan JV Buffaloes and JV Lady Buffs were in action Tuesday night in Forsan as Rankin came to town.

Both teams played hard, with the Lady Buffs losing a tight one, 27-21, and the Buffs destroying the Devils, 62-

10.

In the first game of the evening, the Lady Buffs found themselves tied at the half 11-11, but an 11-4 run in the third quarter helped the Lady Devils take over the game.

Sandi Golleher led Forsan with seven points.

The JV boys game was never in doubt as the Buffs opened the game

with a 22-0 first period.

Rankin scored the first basket of the second quarter, but did not score again until the fourth as Forsan went on another run, this time 29-0.

Mark McKiski led the Buffs with nine points and Nathan Ackerson and Russel Strong each scored eight.

BOB BROCK QUALITY PRE-OWNED HOLIDAY RED TAG SPECIAL

Advertisement for Bob Brock's car dealership. It features a grid of car listings with columns for 'Imports', 'Dodge', 'GM's/Dodge', 'Fords', 'Lincoln', 'Mustangs', and 'Motorcycles'. Each listing includes the car model, year, price, and 'NOW' price. Many items are marked 'SOLD'. The ad also includes contact information for Bob Brock Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan at 500 W. 4th.

Vertical text on the far right edge of the page, partially cut off. Visible words include: 'Lor', 'to e', 'at c', 'Trojan', 'become', 'win th', 'titles at', 'By RALP', 'AP Sports', 'BEVER', 'The R', 'one's bee', 'finally he', 'No. 1 U', 'Texas. Th', 'in the co', 'to finish', 'final ga', 'ch a m', 'onship s', 'down tha', 'see m', 'inevitabl', 'months.', 'With p', 'reco r', 'potent o', 'es, gli', 'stars, t', 'tradition', 'eye-popp', 'the', 'Longhor', 'Wednesd', 'It's the', 'The gam', 'The gam', 'Or jus', 'work for', 'ing ch', 'California', 'This', 'really pi', 'hopeful', 'toward', 'Pete', 'Tuesday', 'big enou', 'Heism', 'ners M', 'Reggie I', 'Trojans', 'stories.', 'they'll', 'Heisma', 'together', 'as USC', 'third cc', 'al title.', 'The L', '12-0, an', 'in a r', 'ner-up', 'dynam', 'leads ar', 'more th', 'touchd', 'down.', 'Texas', 'per gar', 'Trojans', 'TD.', 'We d', 'best tea', 'Pel', 'Fresl', 'clinche', 'triple-', 'By STE', 'AP Spo', 'MIAN', 'Bowl', 'and B', 'late.', 'The', 'sidelin', 'Tuesda', 'one m', 'anothe', 'time d', 'Kevin', 'made', 'to give', 'Bowe', 'State a', 'Bowe', 'Semin', 'The', 'a.m.', 'I'm', 'three h', 'Patern', 'longes', 'been i', 'Kelly', '29 an', 'would', 'earlier', 'freshn', 'back', 'miss, /', 'onto', 'game's', 'It wa', 'Paterr', 'field g', 'defens

Longhorns look to end USC's run at college history

• Trojans look to become first team to win three consecutive titles at Rose Bowl

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The Rose Bowl everyone's been waiting for is finally here.

No. 1 USC against No. 2 Texas. The two best teams in the country from start to finish in the season's final game, a national championship showdown that has seemed inevitable for months.

With perfect records, potent offenses, glittery stars, rich tradition and eye-popping pageantry, the Trojans and Longhorns will have it all Wednesday night.

It's the game of the year! The game of the century! The game of all time!

Or just another day at work for two-time defending champ Southern California?

"This is what we have really prepared to do and hopefully built ourselves toward this," USC coach Pete Carroll said Tuesday. "You can't get a big enough game for us."

Heisman Trophy winners Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush have led the Trojans to 34 straight victories. Against Texas, they'll become the first Heisman duo to play together in a college game as USC goes for a record third consecutive national title.

The Longhorns also are 12-0, and they've won 19 in a row. Heisman runner-up Vince Young is the dynamic dual-threat who leads an offense that has more than matched USC touchdown for touchdown.

Texas puts up 51 points per game, USC 50. The Trojans are favored by a TD.

"We don't have to be the best team of all time, just

tomorrow night," Texas coach Mack Brown said. It's already the best game Bowl Championship Series officials could have imagined in their eight-year history. No doubts about who belongs this time.

Plus, the weather will apparently cooperate. After storms soaked the area earlier this week, clear skies are in the forecast.

Everything, it seems, is set.

"These two teams have been talked about every day for a month," Brown said. "Good teams enjoy the hype."

Young returns to the site of his breakout performance.

The 230-pound quarterback with sprinter's speed made last year's Rose Bowl look like a pickup game, running for 192 yards and four touchdowns to beat Michigan 38-37.

"From the Rose Bowl, it kind of just took off and carried over," Young said. "A lot of guys on the team, we knew what it takes and understand what we need to do to play well to get to this point."

Young brought a new dimension to Texas. The guy many thought would never complete enough passes to lead a team to a championship threw for 2,769 yards and 26 touchdowns this season.

"There's nobody like this," Carroll said. "There's guys that can run, there's guys that throw, there's quick guys and all that, but nobody's ever been this fast."

The Longhorns began the season ranked No. 2 in the country behind USC — and that's the way it stayed as each team stormed through unbeaten seasons, punctuated with fierce finales on Dec. 3.

Texas wrapped up its return to the Rose Bowl



Clash of the OFFENSIVE Titans

The Rose Bowl, to be played Jan. 4, 2006, for the national championship pits the two top offensive teams in the nation, No. 1 ranked USC Trojans (12-0) and the No. 2 ranked Texas Longhorns (12-0). Three of college football's top offensive stars will play in the game.

2005 USC Trojans

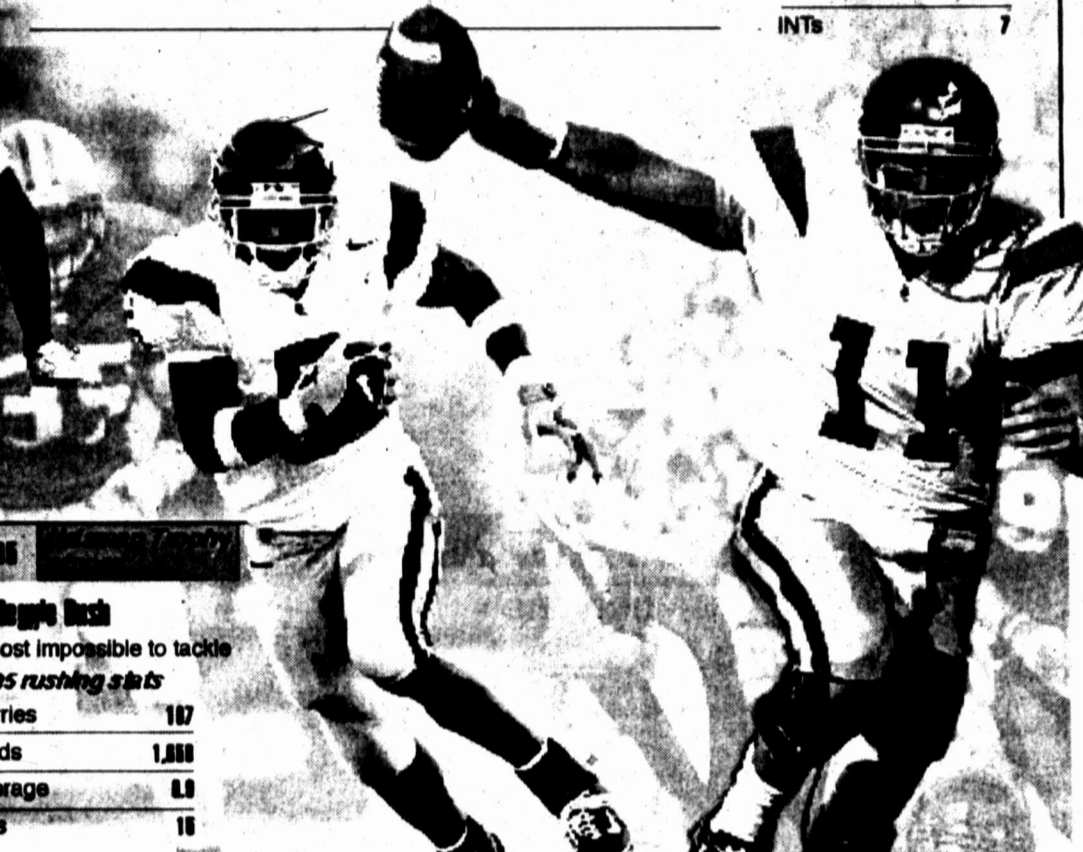
Double threat running and passing

2005 passing stats

Completion	63.0%
Yards	2,769
TDs	28
INTs	10

2005 rushing stats

Carries	170
Yards	888
Average	5.2
TDs	1



2005 Texas Longhorns

Almost impossible to tackle

2005 rushing stats

Carries	187
Yards	1,888
Average	10.1
TDs	18

2005 team averages / NCAA ranks

Comparing Trojan and Longhorn offenses, per game average / NCAA rank.

	Total yards	Passing yards	Rushing yards	Points scored
USC	372.8 / 6th	274.3 / 6th	204.3 / 6th	61.1 / 2nd
Texas	343.2 / 11th	277.8 / 1st	277.8 / 1st	61.1 / 1st

Source: NCAA, KRT Photo Service
Graphic: Tim Goheen, T.G. Teo

with a 70-3 rout of Colorado for the Big 12 championship. A few hours later, USC locked up a second straight trip to the BCS title game with a 66-19 romp over UCLA.

Young was brilliant passing and running this season, but not good enough to keep Bush from sprinting away with the Heisman.

Bush ran for 1,658 yards — 8.9 per carry — hurdling a few tacklers along the way.

"My favorite one that made me go 'Wow!' was the Notre Dame game when he shook off a tackle, hit the hole and jumped over the safety and took it to the house," Texas linebacker Rashad Bobino said.

Ah yes, the Notre Dame game. The Trojans' brush with imperfection, when they flashed moxie and guts to match their skill and speed.

Leinart's fourth-and-9 pass to Dwayne Jarrett pulled the winning streak from peril. After his fumble went out of bounds, Leinart scored with a push from Bush in the closing seconds for a 34-31 win.

The game will stand as a defining moment for Leinart, who returned for his senior year to direct one of the most prolific and balanced offenses in college football history.

USC is the first team with a 3,000-yard passer (Leinart), two 1,000-yard rushers (Bush and LenDale White), and a 1,000-yard receiver (Jarrett).

"Right now, we're right where I hoped we were going to be when I made my decision," Leinart said. "But I feel like this has been the best time of my life, these last four or five years, and Wednesday is kind of the

culmination." It could be the finale for Bush, too. He's expected to pass up his last year of eligibility and become the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft by the Houston Texans.

Young also could turn pro, but has said he'll return for his senior season.

No matter what, both teams figure to be stacked next season.

"Young people go to Texas and USC to play in games like this," Brown said.

While USC will be shooting for a three-peat, the Longhorns will be looking to end a long title drought.

Only Michigan and Notre Dame have won more games than Texas. But of the seven winningest schools to play football, none have gone longer than the 'Horns without a national title —

their last outright championship was 1969 and they shared the crown in 1970.

"Our plan is to bring this thing back to Texas," running back and Houston native Selvin Young said. "Growing up, I've always been a believer that real football is played in Texas."

During the last three years, the best football has been played at USC.

The Trojans turned last year's game against unbeaten Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl into a victory parade, breezing 55-19 for the national title.

Texas should be tougher, giving USC a chance to lay claim title to an even bigger title than national champ.

"I think it's a fair statement," Bush said, "that we could possibly compete as one of the greatest offenses, greatest teams in college football ever."

Penn State finally takes out FSU

• Freshman kicker clinches win with triple-overtime boot

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer
MIAMI — The Orange Bowl kept Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden up late.

The coaches paced the sidelines for 4 1/2 hours Tuesday night, enduring one missed kick after another in a three-overtime drama.

Kevin Kelly finally made a 29-yard field goal to give Paterno and Penn State a 26-23 victory over Bowden's Florida State Seminoles.

The game ended at 1 a.m.

"I'm usually asleep three hours by then," said Paterno, 79. "This was the longest game I've ever been in."

Kelly missed attempts of 29 and 38 yards that would have won the game earlier. Paterno gave the freshman a pat on the back after the second miss, then sent him back onto the field on the game's final play.

It was second down, and Paterno called for a fake field goal. Florida State's defensive alignment

negated that idea, and Kelly kicked the winner instead.

"I still had my confidence," Kelly said. "I don't think I've ever missed three in a row."

Florida State counterpart Gary Cismesia missed an extra point in the first half and field goal tries of 44 and 38 yards in overtime — a familiar problem for Bowden. Missed or blocked field goals have helped the Miami Hurricanes beat him six times, including in the 2004 Orange Bowl.

"When they pick the all-time missed field-goal coach, I'll probably get the award," Bowden said. "We're masters at that."

The No. 3-ranked Nittany Lions finished 11-1, with the only loss coming when they gave up a touchdown to Michigan on the game's final play. Paterno's best season in 11 years represented a big rebound after going 7-16 in 2003-04.

"To think that people actually wanted him to give up the game, to call it quits — I'm at a loss for words," Penn State quarterback Michael Robinson said. "He's a great coach." No. 22 Florida State fell

to 8-5, Bowden's worst season since 1981. He tried to shrug off the defeat.

Moments after the game, the two coaches stood shoulder-to-shoulder in a crush of cameras and microphones to exchange warm words.

"No animosity. No animosity. I mean that," Bowden said.

"Both teams played so hard," Paterno said.

He earned his 354th career win, second in Division I-A only to Bowden's 359. Each has been a head coach for 40 years.

In a bowl season that started before Christmas and has included plenty of lackluster affairs, this one really was worth staying up for.

And it served as a perfect warmup to the biggest game yet: No. 1 USC vs. No. 2 Texas in the Rose Bowl on Wednesday night.

Florida State mostly contained Big Ten most valuable player Robinson, who threw a touchdown pass with 6 seconds left in the first half but was limited to 253 yards passing and 21 rushing. One scrum knocked off his helmet.



Penn State's Anwar Phillips celebrates after breaking up a pass for Florida State's Greg Carr in the first overtime period in the Orange Bowl in Miami, Fla., Tuesday. Penn State eventually won the game in three overtimes, 26-23.

He hit two clutch completions to give Penn State a chance to win in regulation.

But Kelly, hampered by a shaky hold, was wide left on a 29-yard field-goal attempt with 35 seconds left.

Cismesia kicked a 48-yard field goal with 4:08 left in regulation to tie it at 16-all, but on the first series of overtime he was wide right on a 44-yard attempt.

Then it was Kelly's

turn. He again pushed a try wide left, this time a 38-yarder with a perfect hold.

Austin Scott's 1-yard run put Penn State ahead. B.J. Dean pulled the Seminoles even with a 1-yard scoring run.

"I looked at my watch — 12:30, quarter to one," Paterno said. "I kept saying to myself, 'When are we going to get this thing over?'"

After Cismesia's 38-yard attempt hit the right

upright, Kelly finally delivered.

"It came down to one play," Paterno said. "It could have gone the other way."

Paterno improved to 7-1 against Bowden. The only loss came the last time they met, when Florida State beat Penn State in the 1990 Blockbuster Bowl — also at Miami.

With his first win in the Orange Bowl since 1974, Paterno improved to 21-10-1 in bowl games.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Pisces moon is a poster girl for the powers of intuition. She says, "Feel it out, catch the vibe, read the signs" And, just to be nice, she amplifies those "signs" to help us do it.

HOLIDAY MATHIS
The ladders of life, be they corporate, social or otherwise. Tune in to messages that might help you up to the next rung.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What you are drawn toward and what is good for you are two different things, but a balance can be had. Tonight, spontaneity makes life ever so charming.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's a challenge to keep expectations in the realm of reality. However, something magical will happen if you drop expectations altogether and accept what is, instead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your belief in yourself draws others to you. Your personal life improves because you are so tuned in to your desires and motivations. Support the boss above and beyond your assigned tasks.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stars help along an extremely productive day. You get things done in record time because work goes smoothly, as does travel. Important contacts are made in the social arena.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes, you forget how original you are. No one has lived his or her life the way you've lived yours. Planets favor your retelling your favorite story. Better yet, write it down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). You're just the person to get others back on track in regard to health. Your loved ones, especially children, need help with their diet. (If their energy dips, weakened concentration leads to poor decision-making and trouble.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The planets highlight so many options that you're not sure how to spend your time! If it isn't fun, don't do it. If you have to do it, make it fun. Tonight, one proactive move starts a trend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Most people react to their world instead of designing it. There are hours of crystalline clarity this afternoon. This is your chance to go beyond what most people do and be the cause of your environment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though you're an ethical person, playing by the rules and abiding by the tradition isn't your style — it's too easy for you to think of new ways to accomplish your goals. Your ingenuity will be accepted.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Family is the emotional core of life. Focus on making deposits into everyone's emotional bank account. A friend asks for an honest opinion but doesn't really want one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a sense of urgency regarding your earning ability — you'll feel something has to be done, and fast, to bump you into the next level. You're right, of course, and you'll figure it out, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though spiritual fulfillment is really where it's at, maybe it takes dealing with your physical environment to get there. Cleaning and organizing may be your most effective form of meditation today.

SCORPIO 2006 ASTROLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome to your year of increased energy, vitality and wellness. This year, you harness the powers of attraction and use them to create a little magic in your life. The best way to become energized is to release the need to be impressive and important. (We humans spend so much time and effort building up our delusions of grandeur.) You simply resolve to do work to please yourself and honor your place in the universe. Things start clicking immediately. Love flows through your world this month. You have an especially easy connection with Sagittarius and Leo people. Finances are right in line with all you need in April and June. (May shows you paying for teaching that helps you create more wealth for the rest of the year.) Career shifts occur mid-summer, and you'll have to move quickly to get out of a no-win situation and into an all-win situation. The one you've been waiting for comes around in August. October is wildly romantic. Weddings are featured in November, and for some of you Scorpios, the wedding in question will be your own! The world hails your generosity by the end of 2006. Perhaps you'll even start a lifelong habit of giving.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a 20-year-old male in a rather unusual situation. I have been intrigued by cross-dressing since I was 12 and, as a result, took to "borrowing" a few things from my mother, mainly underwear.

I still live at home, and this interest of mine has caused me much embarrassment. My father has found the borrowed clothing several times and mentioned it once, telling me to stay out of other people's things. And I know my mother found a pair of her underwear one time.

I don't know what to do. I feel ashamed and embarrassed taking these things but do not want to stop. I don't feel as if I am hurting anyone. In fact, I've seriously thought about letting Mom catch me in the process of stealing her things so I wouldn't feel so guilty doing it behind her back.

A couple of years ago, I never thought I could bear talking about cross-dressing, but now I think it might be helpful to discuss it with my mother. However, I'm afraid it could go badly and I'll never again be able to look her in the eyes. This is troubling me to the point where I am losing sleep. Please help. — Confused

Dear Confused: Crossdressing is not like putting on a costume because you're in a glam rock band. The behavior is more compulsive, but you can curb aspects of it so you are not out of control. Most crossdressers are heterosexual, often mar-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

this, so I just don't have friends over anymore. I'm scared if I bring new friends to my house, they will get the wrong impression of me because of Mom. Can you help? — No Friends Because of Mom

Dear No Friends: Don't assume your friends will think less of you because of your mother. They are smart enough to know you are separate individuals. Parents need to supervise, but they don't always know how to do it without being intrusive. Walking by the room while you are on the computer is sufficient to check out the sites. Periodically asking your friends if they want a snack is enough conversation. Also, some parents want to be "pals" with their kids and try to be one of the gang. This never works unless Mom is specifically invited to chat. If explaining it to Mom doesn't help, show her this letter, and tell her you wrote it.

Dear Annie: Every day during my commute, I see car passengers with their feet up in the windows of the vehicles I pass. I would like to warn them that this is not a good idea. During an accident, there is no time to move their feet out of the way when the airbag deploys. They could break their legs. Please tell them. — Waynesboro, Pa.

Dear Waynesboro: You did, and quite succinctly. Thank you.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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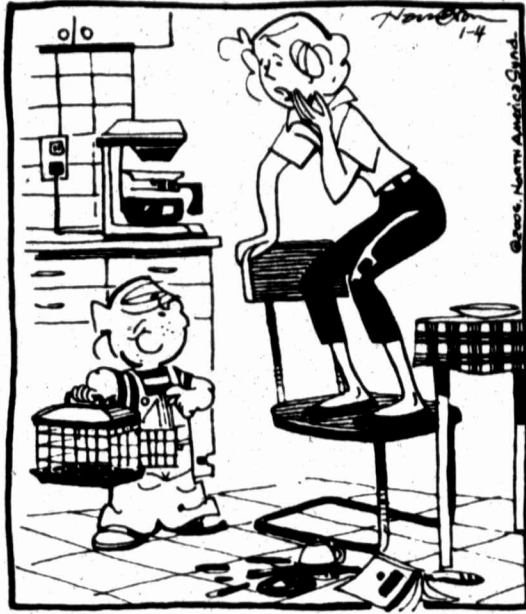
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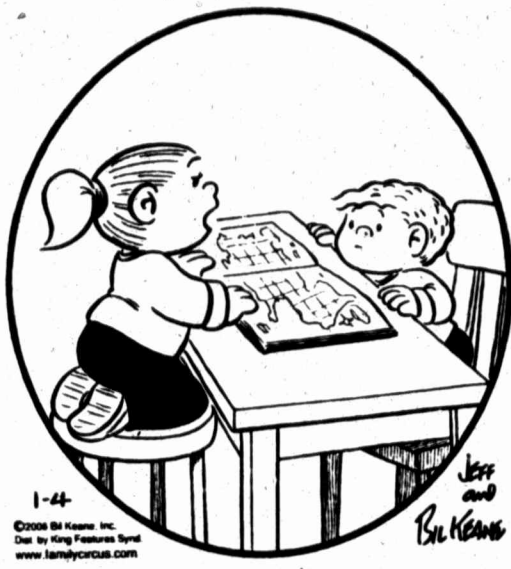
Table with 18 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows representing different time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T DESCRIBE IT, DENNIS! JUST FIND IT!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"People used to think the world was flat, but that was months ago."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2006. There are 361 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 4, 1965, President Johnson outlined the goals of his Great Society in his State of the Union Address. On this date: In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Md. In 1904, the Supreme Court ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. In 1948, Britain granted independence to Burma. In 1951, during the Korean conflict, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces captured the city of Seoul. In 1974, President Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington to Boston collided with Conrail engines approaching from a side track in Essex, Md. In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era. Ten years ago: Bowing to pressure from NATO and the United States, Bosnian Serbs freed 16 civilians who had entered Serb-held territory after NATO forces had declared roads in Bosnia open to all. Five years ago: It was announced that George, the politics and lifestyle magazine founded by the late John F. Kennedy Jr., would fold. One year ago: The governor of the Baghdad region known for cooperating closely with American troops, was assassinated along with six bodyguards as he drove to work. Today's Birthdays: Actress Jane Wyman is 92. Actress Barbara Rush is 79. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Don Shula is 76. Former heavy-weight boxing champion Floyd Patterson is 71. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 69.

Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 51. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 50. Rock singer Michael Stipe (REM) is 46. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 44. Actress Julia Ormond is 41. Tennis player Guy Forget is 41. Country singer Deana Carter is 40. Rock musician Benjamin Darvill (Crash Test Dummies) is 39. Actress-singer Jill Jones is 31. Thought for Today: "Very few men are wise by their own counsel; or learned by their own teaching. For he that was only taught by himself, had a fool to his master." - Ben Jonson, English dramatist and poet (1572-1637).

Answer to previous puzzle: LASH APED OLEO ASHES WIRE SOUP SPARKPLUGS CART SERBIA SOPRANOS ONE EGO AIR TRANSMISSION GLOW NEWARK DUO LILAC DON SCORN ALA ZAGREB ALSO DIFFERENTIAL ACT SNL USS WARSHIPS GOINTO ALOT SUSPENSION DAME ANTI ELTON ESPN NYSE ESPY

Newsday Crossword

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

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Reads quickly, 6 Rigorous exams, 11 Pub fixture, 14 Comics kid, 15 Drop in on, 16 Carnival city, 17 Editor's helper, 19 Sturdy tree, 20 Gabor sister, 21 Jukebox selection, 22 "No bid", 24 The Bathers painter, 26 Reward for a fine job, 28 Spago chef, 33 Gotten up, 36 Wear the crown, 37 Painter's calculation, 38 Bug in a farm, 39 Kitchen protectors, 40 Right-angle bend, 41 Sch. groups, 43 "Height" word form, 44 Cabaret director, 46 Salsa scooper, 49 Golf pro's woe, 50 Head Hun, 54 Legree's creator, 56 Keep (persist), 58 Papa, 59 Actress Zadora, 60 Performance history, 9 Tell a whopper, 10 Yo-yo need, 11 Pirate caches, 12 Has a bug, 13 Toy dogs, for short, 18 Take the mound, 23 Cocoon occupant, 25 Be in hock, 26 Latvia's sea, 27 White Monopoly bills, 29 Like lace, 30 -percha, 31 Cartoon frames, 32 Crinkly green, 33 Wholly absorbed, 34 Absorbed by, 35 Seafarer's right, 39 SWM part, 42 Pack away, 44 In best shape, 45 Make a pick, 47 Joke hearer's comment, 48 Mammal feature, 51 "___ think so!", 52 Shirt-tag word, 53 Abacus user, 54 Eject forcibly, 55 Start to sag, 56 Plot measure, 57 Fight-stopping decisions, 61 Genetic letters, 62 NL city, 63 Secretive org.