BIG SPRING HERALD

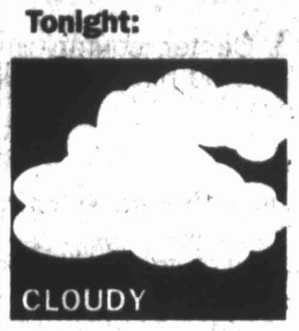
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THURSDAY

December 26, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 29-31° TOMORROW 54°-56°

INSIDE

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING

A 44-year old Big Spring man was arrested on Christmas day after allegedly kidnapping a woman. The woman was not injured and the man remains in custody.

Page 3

TRAGIC DEATH

A 17-day-old New Mexico girl died on Christmas Eve while the family was in Big Spring for the holidays. An autopsy was being performed on the infant today in Lubbock.

Page 3

BRIEFLY

WATER LINE REPAIR

The City of Big Spring Water Utilities Department will be replacing three valves in the water system on Friday from 7 a.m. until the work is completed.

Customers in the following areas will experience low or no water pressure during this time: South Owens from Second to 10th Street, South 10th Street from State to Johnson, State Street from Sycamore to Howell and Sixth Street from Caylor to Benton.

TREES SOUGHT

Hangar 25 Air Museum is asking for the donation of container-grown Christmas trees to use as landscaping. Elderica pines, firs and small-container grown ornamental trees are being accepted. Norfolk pines cannot be used.

For more information, contact Susan Lewis, museum coordinator, at 264-1999.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Disaster response agency to be housed at courthouse

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

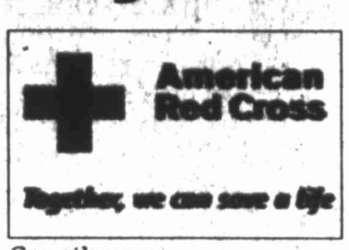


DUNAGAN

Where's the Red Cross Office in Howard County?

Some readers may be thinking it's a trick question, that there isn't an office of the American Red Cross in the county. Those readers are partly correct.

At their meeting Monday morning, the Howard County Commissioners approved office space for Howard County's American Red Cross Disaster Action Team on the third floor of the Howard County Courthouse.



The Red Cross hasn't moved in yet, said DAT Capt. Raford Dunagan, but he's are pleased with the approval.

"We've never really had a place to take somebody and do an interview when they've had a disaster in their home. We've done interviews under a tree, we've done interviews in a hotel lobby." Dunagan said. "We had talked to the judge (Ben Lockhart) previously and he had said when they got the District Court moved out of there, there might be a place."

Dunagan recently put together an official request letter for office space and sent it to the Commissioner's Court, which approved the request.

"We hope in the future

See **RED CROSS**, Page 3

Auditorium comes tumbling down

Way made for construction of new facility

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer



McKINNEY

Howard College trustees and administrators may have gotten their Christmas wish this week with the removal of the campus' theater building.

Earthco took only one day to demolish the 50-year-old-plus structure Monday.

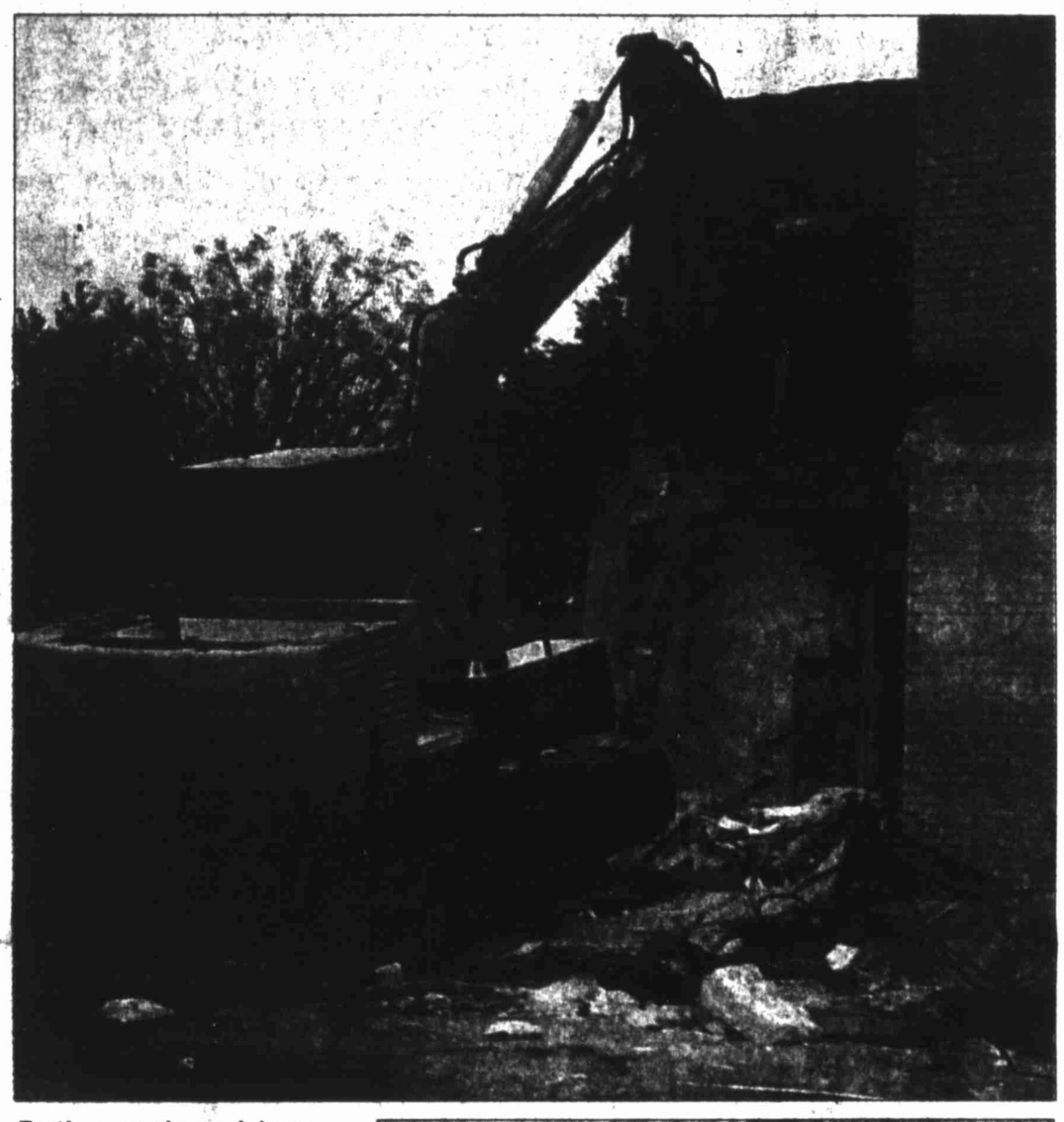
"I was here when they build it here and now it's coming down after 50 years," Howard College trustee Don McKinney said as he watched part of the building come down Monday morning.

Now the college can look forward to construction of a new performance hall building that is expected to more than double the size of the former structure.

"The next phase will be to contact the construction companies and start the bidding process for the construction management people," McKinney said.

The privately funded project was put on hold for more than a year after trustees learned the college could construct a new structure for the same cost as renovating the old one. Trustees green-lighted the project during their September meeting.

Preliminary plans for the new building, Howard College trustees hope, will make the structure a unique asset to Big Spring. Included in the plans are a small amphitheater/loading dock area, a flexible performance hall, a small traditional auditorium seating area, a small dance rehearsal area, several storage areas and classrooms for the art department.





Earthco employee Johnny Flores navigates this bulldozer to demolish part of the Howard College theater building Monday. The company took only one day to knock down the building and is currently hauling away debris. At right, Earthco employee Charlie Martinez salvages some of the copper wiring in the Howard College theater building before the building is demolished. Howard College plans to replace the structure with a unique performing arts hall.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

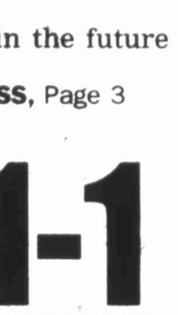
Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

9-1-1

Big Spring will pursue action to force board appointment

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring will pursue legal action in an attempt to enforce the city council's appointment of Councilman Tommy Tune to the Howard County 9-1-1 Communications District Board of Directors.



HERNANDEZ

The Big Spring City Council appointed Tune to the 9-1-1 Board at its Nov. 11 meeting, and Tune was subsequently approved by the Coahoma City Council.

Forsan, however, opposed Tune and named incumbent Mary Gressett as its choice for the the position.

"(Our policy) reads 'The initial board members appointed by municipalities...are appointed by all the municipalities," said 9-1-1 Board President Melinda Hernandez. "I think what the main thing is here is (the Big Spring City Council members) see 'all' as being 'majority.' Our board has always interpreted 'all' as 'all': All three municipalities."

At the meeting, the Big Spring council members voted unanimously to seek declaratory judge-

See **9-1-1**, Page 3

Children's sayings, stories compiled in book by former St. Mary's administrator

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

A long-time St. Mary's Episcopal School administrator has summed up more than 20 years experience in five short words, "Do Chickens Go to Heaven?"

BeBe McCasland has self-published a collection of the students' phrases, poetry, drawings and stories she's accumulated through the years while she served as adminstrator of the privite insitution. St. Mary's closed in November.

"I resigned from St. Mary's in May of 1998 and rested that summer," McCasland said. "When school started that fall, the first day of school is when I began writing it and continued for five months every day.

"St. Mary's was a wonderful experience to be a part of. I had to get this book written so that people can appreciate what an experience it was."

BeBe McCasland

"The book was not written to make money," she continued. "It was writ-

See **BOOK**, Page 3

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

BeBe McCasland and Howard County Children's Librarian Karen McIntyre visit about McCasland's new book "Do Chickens Go to Heaven?" Information for the book was taken from the Sounds of St. Mary's, a newsletter McCasland created 20 years ago when she was administrator at St. Mary's Episcopal School.

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

A.W. Schraeder



Vigil Services for A.W. Schraeder, 83, of St. Lawrence will be held at 6 tonight, Dec. 26, 2002, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church with the Rev. Bernard Getigan, pastor, officiating. Burial will be held at St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Mr. Schraeder died on Monday, Dec. 23, in a Midland hospital.

Born on March 2, 1919, in Lott, he married Colette Josephine Hoelscher on Nov. 18, 1940, in Olfen.

The Schraeders moved to St. Lawrence in 1947, from Rowena and were one of the first families to settle there. Mr. Schraeder farmed in St. Lawrence and had also worked as an agent for Catholic Life Insurance Company for more than 50 years; serving on the Board of Directors for many years.

A member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church, he was very active in the church and served on the building committees for the church and rectory. He was a member of the St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Association.

Survivors include his wife, Colette Schraeder of St. Lawrence; three sons, Dennis E. Schraeder and Gregory J. Schraeder, both of St. Lawrence, and William A. Schraeder of Midland; five daughters, Betty Kohutek of Sonora, Carolyn Ann Eggemeyer of San Angelo, Kay Scott of Hobbs, N.M., Antoinette Pack of Midland and Theresa Pruit of Christoval; one brother, Adolph Lewis Schraeder of Castorville; one sister, Virgie Lee Jansa of Norton; 22 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The family suggests memorials be made to: Mt. Carmel Hermitage, P. O. Box 337, Christoval 76935-0337 or to Our Lady of Grace Monastery, 6200 CR 339 Zia Maria, Christoval 76935-3023.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring.

Lela Lucas Rockstrom

Graveside services for Lela Lucas Rockstrom, 84, of Raleigh, N.C., will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002, at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Claude Craven, a retired Baptist minister, officiating. Eastern Star rites will be by Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star.

Mrs. Rockstrom died on Sunday, Dec. 22, in Raleigh, N.C.

Born in Mitchell County, she was the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hawkins Preston and Mr. and Mrs. John Ranson Lucas, who were pioneer settlers in Mitchell County.

Mrs. Rockstrom grew up in Mitchell and Howard counties and had resided in El Paso for 50 years. She was a homemaker. She was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church and was a 50 year and life member of the Harmony Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star in El Paso.

Survivors include one daughter, Patricia Nix of New York; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring.

Lillian Goodman

Lillian Goodman, 90, of Midland, died on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002, at Rockwood Manor Nursing Home in Midland. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, in Big Spring with the Rev. Bill Skaggs, associate pastor of Kelview Heights Baptist Church officiating.

Born on Nov. 19, 1912, in Big Spring, she was raised in Big Spring and lived in Big Spring and Midland for many years. Mrs. Goodman worked and worked as a bookkeeper until she retired.

Survivors include four sisters, Doris Williams and Sue McDaniel, both of Midland, Iola Dever of Ruidoso, N.M., and Nina Mays of Midland; one brother, O.A. Goodman Jr. of Midland and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials be made to Prevent Blindness, P.O. Box 5325, Midland 79704.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Rose Marie Caldwell

Graveside services for Rose Marie Caldwell, 17-day-old infant daughter of Jeanette and John Caldwell of Flora Vista, N.M., will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, 2002, at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rose Marie died on Tuesday morning, Dec. 24. The family was in Big Spring for the Christmas holidays.

She was born on Dec. 7, 2002, at Farmington, N.M..

She is survived by her parents, Jeanette Caldwell and John Caldwell Jr. of Flora Vista, N.M.; three brothers, Caleb Michael Caldwell and Eufemia Ortiz III, both of Flora Vista, N.M., and Thomas Elder of Alabaster, Ala.; three sisters, Jenae Renee Caldwell of Flora Vista, N.M., Tiffany Elder of Farmington, N.M., and Tameaka Elder of Alabaster, Ala.; and grandparents, Janelle and Essic Randle of Big Spring, Ida Lee James of Belen, N.M., and John Caldwell Sr. of Cleveland, Ohio; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family will be at 3614 Parkway.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

❑ **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families.For more information on becoming foster/adoptive families call Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669 or 1-800-233-3405.

Police blotter

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

• **DANIEL JONES,** 34, of 2507 Peach St. was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ANTHONY VALENTINE,** 44, of 1601 Owens was arrested on a charge of aggravated kidnapping.

• **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw.

• **AGGRAVATED KIDNAPPING** was reported in the 1600 block of Owens.

• **VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER** and **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** were reported in the 1900 block of South Runnels Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 600 block of Elgin Street. Someone reportedly entered the building through an unlocked side window before stealing home electronics, including a Playstation game system, worth $370; and computer hardware or software worth $400.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 3300 block of West Highway 80. $500 damage was reportedly inflicted on the liquor store, and an electric meter worth $25 was reported stolen.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- In the 1800 block of West FM 700. Alcohol worth $27.98 was reported stolen from a convenience store in the area.

- At Wal-Mart. Merchandise worth $376.71 was reported stolen, but was recovered.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 900 block of East 16th Street. $100 damage was reportedly inflicted on the building.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Bluebird Street, the 1200 block of East 11th Place, the 2500 block of Ent Drive and the 1600 block of Harding Street.

• **DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 2900 block of West Highway 80, the 1400 block of Bluebird Street and the 1500 block of Bluebird Street.

• **DRAGRACING/RECKLESS DRIVING** was reported in the 200 block of Lockhart Street.

• **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported in the 500 block of South Aylesford Street, the 1400 block of Sycamore Street and the 2600 block of Fairchild Drive

• **POSSESSION or DELIVERY of DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 600 block of East 16th Street.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 700 block of West Interstate 20, the 2600 block of South Gregg and at the intersection of FM 700 and Goliad Street.

• **HARRASSMENT** was reported in the 2600 block of Larry Drive.

• **UNLAWFUL CARRYING of a WEAPON** was reported in the 400 block of South Lancaster Street. A Colt Frontier Scout handgun was reportedly seized in the incident.

• **ANIMAL PROBLEM** was reported in the 2100 block of Grace Street.

Support groups

THURSDAY

❑ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

❑ Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

FRIDAY

❑ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

❑ Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night No Smoking meeting last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

❑ Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

❑ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to 1noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. to 6 p.m

MONDAY

❑ TOPS Club TX 21 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weigh in at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third.

❑ New Voice Club support group for laryngetomees and families. For more information, call 267-2800.

❑ Encourager's Support Group, all widows and widowers are invited, meets 6 p.m. at Santa Fe Sandwich Shop in the Big Spring Mall. More more information call, 398-5522

❑ Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates and times of upcoming groups.

❑ Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

❑ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Open meeting on fourth floor at VA Medical Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald Features Desk at 263-7331, ext. 238 or email jmoseley@crcom.net.

TODAY
Masonic Lodge 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

FRIDAY
AMBUCS, noon, Brandin Iron Inn.

Greater Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, country and western dance, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m, Industrial Park,. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY
Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hangar 25 Air Museum located on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home, open for tours from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for children and senior citizens.

Eagles Lodge, dance, 8:30 p.m., 703 W. Third. Members and their guests are welcome.

SUNDAY
Hangar 25 Air Museum located on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

MONDAY
Sr. Circle, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Seniors 50 years and older are invited to particpate, call 268-4721.

Concerned Citizen's, Fiberflex conference room on Bethel St. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY
Intermediate Line Dance Classes, 9 a.m., Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, Industrial Park, 267-1628.

Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Evening Lions Club, noon, Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, Industrial Park.

WEDENSDAY
Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard County Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Senior Circle Stretch and Tone, 9:30 a.m, Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom.

Downtown Lion's Club, noon, Howard County Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Line Dancing, Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, 1 p.m., Industiral park, , 398-5522 or 267-1628.

Weather

Tonight...
Mostly clear. Lows in lower 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.
Friday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Friday night... Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.
Saturday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.
Sunday... Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 60s.
Monday... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Highs in the lower 50s.
Tuesday... Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the mid 50s.
New years day... Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Highs in the mid 50s.

Lottery

Here are Wednesday's Texas Lottery game results:
Lotto Texas results Wednesday: 3-14-16-32-33-38
No jackpot winner. Saturday night's estimated jackpot: $9 million.

•••

Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday: 14-25-26-30-33

•••

Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night: 6-2-7

•••

Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon: 0-6-3

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

915-263-7331 (Main switchboard) **915-263-7335** (Circulation calls only)

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Autopsy ordered in death of New Mexico infant here

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Tragedy struck a New Mexico family on Christmas Eve with the death of their 17-day-old daughter.

An autopsy was being performed at Lubbock's Texas Tech University Medical Center today to determine the cause of death of Rose Marie Caldwell of Flora Vista, N.M.

Big Spring police were called to a residence in the 3600 block of Parkway Tuesday morning in regards to an infant that had stopped breathing, said Sgt. Roger Sweatt, Big Spring Police public information officer.

"The mother went to feed it that morning and noticed the child was not breathing," Sweatt said. "The child was three weeks old. There appeared to be no force or foul play."

The family was in Big Spring for the Christmas holidays.

Emergency personnel took the infant to Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs pronounced the child dead. Dobbs ordered an autopsy.

Sweatt said the infant's age automatically prompts a autopsy and an investigation.

"Any time, a child of this age passes away, its kind of questionable and an autopsy is always performed," Sweatt said.

The child is survived by her parents, Jeanette and John Caldwell Jr. of Flora Vista, N.M.; three brothers, Caleb Michael Caldwell and Eufemia Ortiz III, both of Flora Vista, N.M., and Thomas Elder of Alabaster, Ala.; three sisters, Jenae Renee Caldwell of Flora Vista, N.M., Tiffany Elder of Farmington, N.M., and Tameaka Elder of Alabaster, Ala.; and grandparents, Janelle and Essic Randle of Big Spring, Ida Lee James of Belen, N.M., and John Caldwell Sr. of Cleveland, Ohio.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Big Spring man charged with kidnapping a woman

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man has been arrested for reportedly kidnapping a woman on Christmas day.

According to Big Spring Police, Cathy Perez, 47, of Big Spring reported that she was kidnapped and held at knife point by Anthony Valentine, 44.

"She's reporting that she was taken by force from a residence over on Owens Street...1603," said Police Sgt. Roger Sweatt. "She was taken by force and driven to another location where the police were called. They were called to go to that location by a witness."

When officers arrived, the woman told them she had been kidnapped.

"They went ahead and grabbed up the old boy and arrested him," Sweatt said. "He is in custody for aggravated kidnapping. He has not been arraigned yet. We're waiting on the judge and that should happen just any time."

The charge in the case is "aggravated" because a weapon was reportedly used.

Sweatt said Perez knew Valentine prior to the alleged kidnapping, but he was unsure about the nature of their relationship.

There was a child present when Perez was allegedly kidnapped. Sweatt said he didn't know the age of the child, but said neither she nor Perez were injured in the incident.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

BOOK

Continued from Page 1

ten to pay tribute to all the students, the teachers and some of the headmasters and the donors that made the school what it was."

Taken from the Sounds of St. Mary's, a newsletter McCasland created 20 years ago, the material comes from teachers' contributions of humorous incidents in class and McCasland's memory.

"This book recognizes the depth of childrens' thinking," she said. "The humorous things they say. Their drawings, even in their simplicity, show visually how children live."

Each chapter is segmented for easy reading, McCasland said.

"You can pick up this book and read it for a while, put it down and come back to it," she said.

In a section titled "Out of the Mouth of Babes," one morning, kindergartner Michael asked Sterling if she could be his girlfriend, McCasland writes. Her reply was "I told you I can't be you girlfriend until I'm 18. That's what my daddy said."

McCasland finished the manuscript back in early 1999 and sent copies to a few publishers but due to her mother's advancing Alzheimer's, she shelved the book. Her mother died in March of 2002.

"This summer I finally rested enough to get my thoughts together and felt like it's time," McCasland said. "I sent many copies to publishers and received some favorable comments back; some publishers just kept the book and I never got the time of day."

McCasland decided to self-published the book, which is now on sale at the Howard County Library for $16. The library receives proceeds from the book sale.

"My mother was a volunteer at the library for many years," she said. "When she died we suggested memorials be made to the library in my mother's name.

"All the proceeds go toward the library for the children," she said "You have a children's book, about children going to help children."

McCasland said the book's theme is universal and it was a labor of love to create.

"St. Mary's was a wonderful experience to be a part of," she said. "I had to get this book written so that people can appreciate what an experience it was. When you see the book and read it you will know why.

"I hope that people giggle, smile and laugh in reading it as much as I did in writing it."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

9-1-1

Continued from Page 1

ment and a writ of mandamus in district court to force the 9-1-1 Board to accept Tune. The council also voted to explore the possibility of introducing legislation to make a 'majority rule' reading of the law more explicit.

"The argument is with the 9-1-1 Board who is interpreting the legislation and saying that it's got to be unanimous," said Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen. "We don't agree with them at all. We think it should be based on majority rule, and two thirds of the cities in our county have voted for a particular individual and that person should be seated. That's all we're saying."

City Attorney Jean Shotts said the process could be a lengthy one.

"Basically, what the council has asked us to do is to pursue a cause of action called a 'mandamus,' which is to require the (9-1-1) board to do the action it should have done in the first place, which was to seat the duly qualified and appointed member of the board," he said. "At the same time we've already started talking with various legislators. Also I'll be working in conjunction with the city of Waco which has a very similar problem. We'll be working to get the statute clarified."

Shotts said the city is exploring new ground because there has been no case precedent addressing this type of situation.

McEwen said that Waco's McLennan county is the only county in Texas other than Howard to interpret the law to say that cities within a county must be unanimous in their selection of a 9-1-1 board member.

McEwen said that a "unanimous" reading can lead to the bizarre situation of a board member serving for life if they can garner the support of just one community in the county.

"Because of the state law, that person would continue to serve until a replacement was seated," McEwen said.

Hernandez said the policy is nothing new.

"We have not changed our policy. We have seen it the way it reads, and it's not like just because Tommy Tune's up for appointment, we're going to change it," she said. "We have to be consistent."

Hernandez said a similar situation came up a two years ago.

"The city of Big Spring rejected an appointee. The cities of Coahoma and Forsan approved an appointment, named him, and Big Spring did oppose that name, and that board member is not sitting on our board of directors," she said. "They all three got together and came up with a name and that person was seated. So there may be a solution to this."

The rejected appointee was Randy Overton and Don Nell Luce was appointed in his place, she said.

McEwen said the situation is not the same at all.

"It's absolutely different, simply because the objection to Randy Overton was a conflict of interest in that his wife — I don't know whether she still does — but his wife ran the ambulance service in Coahoma," McEwen said. "Therefore we went back to the mayors of the two communities that approved him and said 'We feel like this is a conflict of interest.' They, in fact, agreed with us. We wrote a letter to the 9-1-1 Board and said 'We are opposing him because of a conflict of interest.'"

The current situation is just a difference of opinion, he said.

"There is a total difference here," McEwen said. "This is a situation where there are two communities who have said 'We believe this person should be on the board' and another community says 'We believe someone else should be on the board.' There's not a conflict of interest or anything else."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

RED CROSS

Continued from Page 1

to have at least a part-time person in the office so that we can have more visibility and be better equipped to handle the needs of the people," he said. "Right now they have to call our offices in Odessa."

The American Red Cross teams are most visible when responding to major disasters like tornadoes, hailstorms or hurricanes, but the disaster relief organization also helps people involved in small-scale disasters.

"We do an individual-basis need here in Howard County," he said. "You recall when the fire was over at the Mayo Ranch (motel). We went over and met the needs of three families who were displaced by that explosion."

The Red Cross also helped out with the local hailstorm in 1996.

"We dispensed about $150,000 for that," Dunagan said. "That was a large-scale disaster here in Howard County."

For more information about Red Cross programs or assistance, call 1-800-219-2154.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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Rose Marie Caldwell, 17 days, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be 4:00 PM, Friday at Trinity Memorial Park.

SEARS CORRECTION

On page 16 of our December 25, 2002 Wednesday preprint, we advertised Free Delivery with mail in rebate on all Kenmore Washers and Dryers. This copy is incorrect. Free Delivery is only available on all Kenmore Washers and Dryers over $399. We apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused our customers.

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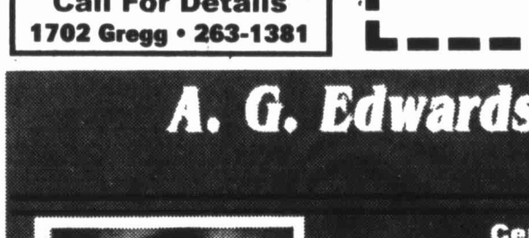
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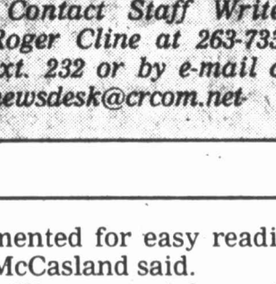
If it's been over a year since you had your hearing evaluated, you owe it to yourself to have a hearing check up to determine what can be done to help you. These check ups are offered at no-obligation to you and will only take about 20 minutes of your time.

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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.

Hank Bond
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Now here's something to bark about

Call it a non-traditional tradition. Each year, the *Big Spring Herald*, KBST and the Big Spring Humane Society team up to help make sure a particular group of residents in our community have enough to eat.

Like so many other charitable acts, we rely on donations to make this project a success. But we're not asking for toys, coats, blankets or cash. No, what we are needing is food — food for our canine and feline friends.

Yes, it's going on again — the food drive for animals at the humane society — dogs and cats that are hoping to someday be a family pet.

Each year of this program, Howard County citizens have donated generously, making it possible for the humane society to "stock up," if only temporarily, on dry and canned food for its four-legged guests.

If you'd like to help, here's how: Go to any store that sells pet food, and purchase one can, two, three, four or as many as you'd like, or a bag or two of dry food. Choose food for dogs or cats, or both, what ever you'd like to donate.

Then bring those purchases to KBST, 608 Johnson. The deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 31. Of course, if you'd rather drop off money, that's acceptable too. The purchases will be made for you. Those who donate will receive a free music CD from the folks at KBST.

Howard County always goes "all out" to help its less fortunate children, families and senior citizens at this time of year. This program ensures another special group of our residents don't get left out.

Thanks.

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 to Publisher Hank Bond at publisher@crcom.net; Managing Editor John Moseley at jmoseley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTERS POLICY

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 jmoseley@crcom.net

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

In your presence, Lord, everything is possible. May we always feel your presence.

Amen

In need of a vacation after Christmas



LINDA CHAVEZ

I don't know about you, but I need a vacation after Christmas. I mean a real vacation — one where you don't go anywhere or do much of anything. Just one solid week of sleeping late, drinking coffee, reading the newspapers and not even thinking about getting out of your bathrobe until it's time for lunch.

A few years ago, I decided to close my office for the week between Christmas and New Year's. It started off as a way to make up for not being able to give everyone a raise during a tough year, but it's become permanent. Not much happens in Washington that week anyway, and I need the week to recuperate from the shopping, cooking, entertaining and general insanity of the holidays.

Each year, I imagine that I will do something special that week, like take up watercolors or begin research on the great historical novel I plan to write someday. One year, my husband even bought me a fine set of watercolors, brushes and paper for Christmas in anticipation of my new hobby. I managed to paint two pictures: one, a scene of rolling hills from my back deck; and the other, a potted plant. My husband pronounced the bucolic landscape a masterpiece and had it framed, while ignoring the truly dreadful potted plant. That kind of blind enthusiasm coupled with tact is why we've managed to stay happily married for going on 36 years. But the watercolors have remained in their tubes, untouched, ever since.

I did manage to make it to a couple of museums during my time off one year, however. I saw an Edward Hopper exhibit and paid a long visit to the permanent collection at the National Gallery of Art. Unfortunately, a whole lot of other people had the same idea, and I came home as frazzled and exhausted as if I'd spent the day at the mall.

This year, I'm going to read some books. Not that I don't read books during the rest of the year, but I have rules for reading during the work week. Since I work primarily at home, I long ago decided I could not read for pleasure between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., otherwise I would never get any work done. The only exceptions were newspapers or work-related books that I might use in a column or discuss on TV. I could justify reading Bill Sammon's "Fighting Back: The War on Terrorism From Inside the Bush White House" or even Al and Tipper Gore's "Joined at the Heart," though the latter might best be reserved for some Lenten week when I could earn time off in Purgatory for the suffering entailed. But I couldn't read David McCullough's "John Adams" or Sandra Cisneros' "Caramello," except after hours — unless, that is, I happened to be on an airplane.

Flying is like being held prisoner, so I don't feel guilty about reading for pleasure when I'm in the air.

There are other self-imposed constraints on my flight-time reading, however. Since I am terribly phobic about flying and think the plane may simply fall to the earth at any minute, I have to make sure whatever I read is worthy of my last few minutes of life. I'd hate to waste them on David Baldacci or John Grisham.Instead, I bring along classics, just in case. I've managed to read almost all of Dickens' novels that way, as well as a handful of Trollop and George Eliot.

So this week I'm in search of the perfect book to indulge myself as I lazily stretch out on my couch in front of the fireplace.

I prefer novels, but a really well-written biography or history would do. It doesn't have to be "Crime and Punishment" or "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," but it should be worth spending my only week of pure relaxation reading.

Any suggestions?



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Some end of the year musings



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

I'm thrilled to live in America. When I was 20, I went to school in Mexico. A year later I went to Cuba. A year after that I went to Europe for two years. I've been to Africa and China. When you get away from your home country, you get a better look at it. The perspective enhanced my appreciation for the USA.

I was in Europe during the era of The Ugly American. A book by that name told us how American we looked and acted overseas. We didn't bother to learn the language of the country we were visiting, we wore only American clothing and sought out the food and places that most resembled America.

I try to eat native food and learn languages and generally blend in when I visit a foreign country so I can learn a little about it. I was taught to respect differences. Some of the places I've visited are very different.

I've not been to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran or Iraq. Right now I think it would be hard for me to appreciate the differences in those countries. I don't understand Bin Laden. He is a capitalist, yet he says he hates capitalism. He thinks he's following God by killing innocent people and destroying our buildings, factories, schools, stores and service industries.. What do you want, Osama? Why do you feel such a strong urge to conquer? Would you really be happy if all the people in the U.S. believed as you do? I don't think so. Why is your degree of hate beyond measure? What have we done to you?

Here, most Americans are involved with taking care of our families. We generously reach out to feed the hungry, heal the sick, give comfort to the troubled and bring hope to the poor. We encourage education and teach our children to aspire to lives of accomplishment.

Why do you teach your children to hate us? Are you jealous of what we have? I can understand that. I don't understand why there is murder in your heart. Not since Hitler have we seen such hate. And your desire is to surpass what he did. Have you ever heard of live and let live?

You have not succeeded in making us afraid. You've just made us mad. Once we know who our enemy is, we can fight. You are our enemy, Osama. And we are fighting you. There's no sense trying to reason with you. There's no reasoning with a crazy person. You won't listen to anybody but your so-called voice of Allah that promises you a good time in heaven. You poor man.

Killing people in the name of religion. Have you heard that murder is a sin?

Visit our schools and our nursing homes. There you will find young people filled with hope and old people who have had interesting lives of fulfillment. Instead of trying to see how many people you can kill, why don't you try to make your country come into the twenty-first century?

Have you ever lived as an American and experienced the life we have here? Have you felt our greatness? Seen our forests, our seashores, our sunsets? Have you ever had a Dr. Pepper and watched a rodeo? How many people are trying to get into your country?

Elsewhere

State and world news at a glance

Lower rate not implemented

DALLAS (AP) — State regulators are applying a new, tougher dropout standard which would have lowered ratings of 17 North Texas school districts last year if it had been implemented then, an analysis shows.

More than 9,000 dropped out of the area's high schools in 1999-2000, according to federal data, while state officials had reported only about 3,000 dropouts.

Dropout rates have been newly recalculated for all Texas school districts using the federal definition of a dropout. Some critics say it gives a more accurate picture of how many students actually quit school.

North Texas' three largest districts — Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington — and four other school systems would have been rated "academically unacceptable," the state's lowest possible rating, if the federal definition of dropout was used in the state's accountability formula.

When a district is deemed "academically unacceptable," it receives an official visit from the state and must create a plan to improve its performance.

Deregulation to mark anniversary

AUSTIN (AP) — Donald Lee should be singing the praises of electric deregulation, but he is not — at least not yet.

Lee heads Public Power Pool, a group of 100 school and hospital districts that joined together to negotiate with electric companies. The group expected to save $40 million a year on electricity.

But problems in the state's new deregulated electric market short-circuited some of those savings, and that makes Lee angry.

"If you compare Texas to any other state that has implemented deregulation, we have done it better here, but it doesn't mean that we couldn't do better than we did," Lee said.

Rebecca Klein, chairwoman of the Public Utility Commission agrees there have been problems, but said there were none of the blackouts and brownouts that plagued California in 2000-01, and several companies are vying for customers in Texas.

Concerns grow over nuclear weapons

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Thursday that his nation would never tolerate North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons, as the communist nation began moving fresh fuel rods to a mothballed nuclear reactor.

President Kim Dae-jung told a special Cabinet meeting, however, that the standoff should be resolved through dialogue, despite deepening concerns that North Korea will restart facilities that experts say could produce nuclear weapons within months.

"We can never go along with North Korea's nuclear weapons development," Kim said in remarks released to the press by his spokeswoman, Park Sun-sook. "We must closely cooperate with the United States, Japan and other friendly countries to prevent the situation from further deteriorating into a crisis."

Kim, whose five-year term ends in February, was the architect of a policy of engagement with North Korea that resulted in a historic summit in 2000.

His successor, Roh Moo-hyun, has also advocated dialogue to ease nuclear tensions since he was elected to the nation's top job last week. Roh plans to exchange special envoys with the Bush administration in January to discuss the nuclear standoff.

Israeli troops kill alleged militant

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops killed a senior Islamic Jihad militant in a gunbattle at his West Bank house Thursday that left four soldiers wounded, one seriously, the army said.

Separate clashes in the West Bank and Gaza killed three other Palestinians, including two gunmen and a high school student shot during a stone-throwing confrontation with Israeli troops, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

Early Thursday, Israeli troops surrounded the two-story home of Hamza Abu Roub, 37, a leader of Islamic Jihad's military wing in the northern West Bank, and demanded that he surrender, the army and residents said.

Abu Roub sent out his wife and children, said a neighbor in the town of Kabatiya, speaking on condition of anonymity. The fugitive then appeared near the wall of his house and began shooting, drawing heavy return fire. Bursts of gunfire and the sounds of explosions echoed through the town, residents said.

Four soldiers were wounded, and troops blew up Abu Roub's home. Wanted Palestinians have found it increasingly difficult in recent weeks to find refuge in homes of supporters because troops have been demolishing homes of those who hide wanted militants.

Cleric urges 'kill Christians'

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Police detained four people, including a Muslim cleric who allegedly urged his followers to kill Christians, after a Christmas Day grenade attack on a Pakistani church that killed three young girls and wounded 13 other people.

Two assailants covered in burqas, the all-encompassing garment worn by women in some Islamic countries, tossed a grenade into the middle of worshippers at a Christmas Day service Wednesday in Chianwala, about 40 miles northwest of Lahore.

The cleric, who uses only the one name, Afzar, was being detained because of hateful remarks toward Christians made three days earlier in a sermon at a mosque in the district of Daska, where Chianwala is located, police said. Authorities say they have no evidence yet that he was directly involved in the attack.

Afzar's son, Attaullah, was also detained for questioning. The two are open supporters of the banned group Jaish-e-Mohammed, a violent anti-India organization with ties to the al-Qaida terrorist network, said a police officer in Chianwala, Mohammed Riaz.

Home Hospice
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Debbie Read RN, CHPN (left) and Patty Kirkpatrick of Medical Records (right) present Susi Garza (center) of the Humane Society a check for $150. The money will be used for food nd shelter for abandoned animals.

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What's New?

...at the Howard County Library

I may the only person who has never seen the movie "Casablanca." The last scene on the tarmac of Casablanca is where Michael Walsh's novel "As Time Goes By" begins. This book continues the story of Rick, Ilsa, Victor, Louis and Sam. From Casablanca to wartime London, from the smoke-filled speakeasies of Prohibition New York to the tension-filled streets of occupied Prague, the story brings to life the people you thought you would never meet again. Here they are once more: Rick sounding so much like Bogey, you'd swear Bogart wrote the dialogue; Louis, as usual, dapper and ironic; Ilsa as incandescently beautiful and brave as ever. Filled with the kind of powerful emotions that will make you want to jump to your feet in a crowded nightclub when a band plays the Marseillaise, this novel will take you on a dangerous mission behind enemy lines...in the story that every Casablanca fan has been waiting for since 1943. (And I still won't see Casablanca!)



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

For you fans of Lilian Jackson Braun, we have just received a volume of short stories collected and penned by "Qwill" Qwilleran. The title is "Short and Tall Tales" and in it, you will meet up with many of the characters in her the "Cat Who..." mystery series. It is a very quick read.

Attention large print readers, the Library has received some new large print books. The first one is "Loving Chloe" by Jo-Ann Mapson; Sidney Sheldon's "The Naked Face;" "Midnight Star" by Catherine Coulter and "The PMS Outlaws" by Sharyn McCrumb. All of these are romances of sorts, except for Sidney Sheldon's book. These can be found in the Large Print section.

A donated book that the Library has received is "The Story of the Bible" (220 IDE P) from Ideals Publications of Nashville, Tenn.. The Bible speaks to us all. It is as alive today as in the time of Isaiah, Joshua, Peter, Paul and Luke. But what do we know of these men and women through whom God gave us his Holy World? What do the archaeologists and historians tell us about the places and events where they lived? "The Story of the Bible" looks at what is known about these people who wrote and lived the word of God. Luxuriously illustrated with paintings, vistas of the Holy Land and ancient artifacts, it brings alive the writers of the Bible. This can be found on the New Book Shelf.

Another donated book is "Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life" (248.4 CHA S) by Simon Chan. Beginning with the principal doctrines of God, sin, salvation and the church; the book progresses to a reflective consideration of the practice of spiritual life, from prayer to spiritual direction. Chan's book is firmly grounded in the sources of the Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox traditions while it simultaneously brings the mystery of faith to the forefront.

Duty, love, faith and betrayal are the themes of almost any novel one might pick up. It is no different in Stewart O'Nan's novels. "A World Away" opens at a remote beach cottage in the Hamptons one summer before the start of WW II. The Langer family has moved to the Hamptons to nurse James' aging father and to await word from the older son, who is in the South Pacific, fighting the Japanese. It is not an easy book to describe; you will have to read it to truly understand the dynamics of this family. Look for it on the New Book Shelf.

Other books that you will find on the New Book Shelf: biography of Sidney Poitier, "The Measure of a Man;" "Black Water" by T. Jefferson Parker; "Orchid Blues" by Stuart Woods, this one has Chief of Police Holly Barker and her father, Ham; "Natural History" by Maureen Howard; and a spooky book that I won't read is "University: A New Class of Terror" by Bentley Little.

One of the most difficult letters that one has to write is a condolence letter. How can you express your grief, distress, and sadness to friends or a business associate? When do you send a letter of condolence? Who do you send it to? Chapter 37 in "How to Say It: Choice Words, Phrases, Sentences & Paragraphs for Every Situation" by Rosalie Maggio will take you through the steps. Are you asked to write a letter of recommendation for a student? What about just writing a family letter? (My mother tells me that you cannot re-read a phone call). This is a great book for those of us who become inarticulate when confronted with a sheet of blank paper or a blank e-mail screen. Oh yes, there is a whole section on how to write Thank You letters, too!

The Library resumes usual hours today. We will close at 4 p.m. New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) and will be closed New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2003. Regular hours will resume Jan. 2. Remember, have a designated driver if partying is your game for New Year's; we want to see you back at the Library, safe and sound on Jan. 2!

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday to Friday and 9 until 4 on Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes 1/2 hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; our e-mail address is howard-county@hotmail.com.

Quick Cooking: Try Steak Pizzaiola

The Associated Press

This easy dish with the tasty name is made with ingredients evocative of your neighborhood pizzeria — ingredients you're also likely to have on your pantry shelf.

Steak Pizzaiola

(Preparation 15 minutes, cooking time 15 minutes)

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large onion (12 ounces), thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 large red pepper, thinly sliced
1 large yellow pepper, thinly sliced
4 ounces mushrooms, trimmed and thickly sliced
15-ounce can crushed tomatoes
3/4 teaspoon salt
8 beef minute steaks (2 ounces each)

In a nonreactive 12-inch skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook, stirring frequently, until onion is tender-crisp, about 2 minutes.

Add red and yellow peppers and mushrooms and cook, stirring frequently, until peppers are tender-crisp, about 2 minutes longer. Add tomatoes with their juices and 1/2 teaspoon salt; cook just until sauce has slightly thickened, about 2 minutes longer. Transfer to medium bowl; keep warm.

Wipe skillet with paper towels, then heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat until very hot. Sprinkle beef with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt; cook steaks, in batches, until just cooked through, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer steaks to warm platter as they are cooked. Spoon sauce over steaks.

Makes four servings.

Nutrition information per serving: about 355 cal., 26 g pro., 14 g carbo., 22 g total fat (7 g saturated fat), 72 mg chol., 668 mg sodium.



In Next Week's American Profile...



The town known for fruitcakes

Summer is when most people cool off at the beach or relax in the shade, but not the folks who live in the "Fruitcake Capital of the World." They are baking over 4 million pounds of fruitcake for the holidays! Plus, good 'n' fillin' casserole, boosting your energy, and whether or not you should refinance.

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

Ivy Cottage

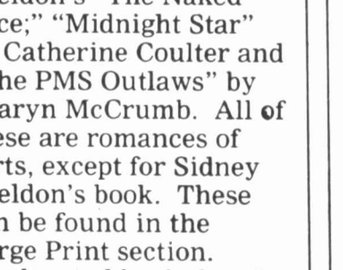
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IN BRIEF

Big Spring girls will play in Abilene tourn.

The Big Spring Lady Steers will travel to Abilene Friday to play in the Abilene Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Lady Steers' next game will be Jan. 3 when they open District 4-4A action at home against the Lake View Maidens. The games are scheduled to start at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High School gym.

Local chapter needs basketball officials

The local officiating chapter is looking for individuals interested in serving as referees for area basketball games this season.

For more information contact Adam Rodriguez after 4 p.m. at 263-8731 or contact Mandy Rodriguez during business hours at 264-4135.

Steers return to play in Lamesa tourney

The Big Spring Steers will travel to Lamesa today to play in the Lamesa Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Steers' next game will be Jan. 3 when they host Abilene Wylie in the Steer Gym. The games are scheduled to start at 2:20 p.m.

Area teams to play in hoop tournaments

Area basketball teams will return to action with a flurry Thursday by participating in three tournaments.

The Forsan and Garden City boys and girls will compete in the Sterling City Tournament.

Sands will play in the Post tournament, while Stanton and Coahoma begin play in the Iraan and Reagan Co. tourneys, respectively.

CU players arrested in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Colorado has sent home one of two football players arrested on public intoxication charges along the River Walk.

Starting senior linebacker Drew Wahlroos and freshman defensive tackle Will Down were arrested early Tuesday. The Buffaloes are in San Antonio for the Alamo Bowl.

Wahlroos, 22, practiced with the Buffaloes later in the day and was seen running extra wind sprints after the team's afternoon workout.

The 6-3, 280-pound Down, was charged with failure to identify himself to police after the 2 a.m.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Event, Time	Station
Mavericks vs. New Orleans, 6 p.m.	1490
Dec. 28	
Event, Time	Station
Mavericks vs. New York, 7 p.m.	1490
Dec. 29	
Event, Time	Station
Texans vs. Titans, 11:45 p.m.	94.3
Cowboys vs. Redskins, 11:50 a.m.	95.7
Jan. 1	
Event, Time	Station
Texas vs. LSU, 9 a.m.	1490
Jan. 2	
Event, Time	Station
Mavericks vs. Clippers, 7 p.m.	1490
Jan. 4	
Event, Time	Station
Mavericks vs. 76ers, noon	1490
Jan. 7	
Event, Time	Station
Lady Steers at Levelland, 7:15 p.m.	1490
Jan. 10	
Event, Time	Station
Mavericks vs. Boston, 6:30 p.m.	1490

Free agents aren't finding mega deals

NEW YORK (AP) - The bear market isn't just on Wall Street anymore. Just ask baseball's free agents.

In a sport where prices have skyrocketed since 1976 _ except for the collusion years and the fallout of the 1994-95 strike _ players have seen prices stagnate, then drop since Alex Rodriguez signed his record $252 million, 10-year contract with the Texas Rangers in December 2000.

"It comes as no surprise, and for a variety of reasons, that it is some kind of a buyer's market," agent Tom Reich said Wednesday, 50 days before the start of spring training.

Among the 157 players who filed for free agency following the World Series, 61 have agreed to new contracts, ahead of last year's pace on Christmas Day (50 of 154) but behind two years ago (75 of 136).

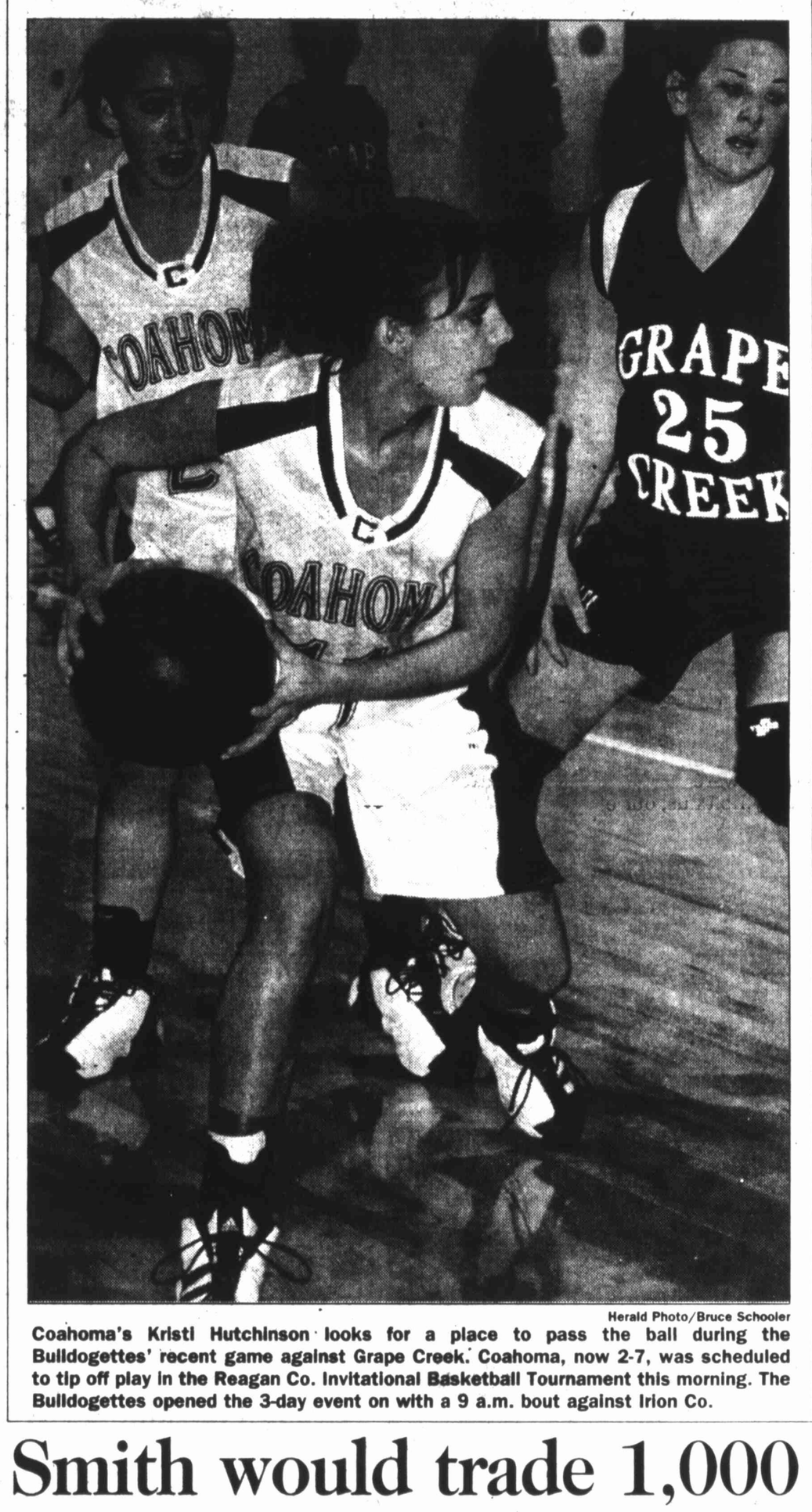
Here's the telling sign: Just 18 players have gotten deals for $5 million or more total, down from 25 last year and 35 two years ago. Only six players have gotten $20 million and higher, down from nine last year and way below the 15 at this point following the 2000 season.

And among the stars?

Jim Thome is the only player to top $40 million, agreeing to an $85 million, six-year contract with Philadelphia. Last year, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi ($120 million for seven years) and Texas pitcher Chan Ho Park ($65 million for five years) topped that level.

And in 2000, one of the most talented free-agent classes ever, seven players were over $40 million, a group that included Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez ($160 million for eight years), Mike Hampton ($121 million for eight years), Mike Mussina ($88.5 million for six years), Darren Dreifort ($55 million for five years), Denny Neagle ($51 million for five years) and Kevin Appier ($42 million for four years).

"There's a heightened awareness on the part of teams about player compensation issues," agent Jeff Moorad said. "Some of that awareness comes from the new labor agreement, some of it comes from I believe, better coaching and guidance from central baseball. For the first time in years, it seems teams have learned restraint, and some of which is positive for the industry as a whole."



Herald Photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma's Kristi Hutchinson looks for a place to pass the ball during the Bulldogettes' recent game against Grape Creek. Coahoma, now 2-7, was scheduled to tip off play in the Reagan Co. Invitational Basketball Tournament this morning. The Bulldogettes opened the 3-day event on with a 9 a.m. bout against Irion Co.

Much has changed since Miami. OSU last met on field

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Miami and Ohio State last met on a hot August day in New Jersey more than three years ago, a game that looms large as the teams prepare for a rematch in this year's national championship game.

Miami's 23-12 victory in the 1999 Kickoff Classic hasn't been forgotten by either side heading into the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 3.

"I remember it like it was yesterday, in that locker room everybody was rumping and raving together, 'Let us out of here, let us out of here!'" said former Miami running back James Jackson, now with the Cleveland Browns. "Then coach (Butch) Davis and the other coaches went out. And then once we got out, it was on, man. We started it, and we finished it."

Current Ohio State free safety Donnie Nickey played his first game that day.

"I was kind of a wide-eyed freshman," he said. "Now I've been around. I'm looking for some retribution."

Miami has won 34 consecutive games and is defending its national championship against the Buckeyes. But in 1999, the Hurricanes were trying to escape the shadows of NCAA probation.

Ohio State was ranked ninth in the nation in the preseason and coming off one of the best seasons in school history. The Buckeyes went 11-1 in 1998 to finish No. 2 in the country, ending the season with wins over rival Michigan and against No. 8 Texas A&M in the Sugar Bowl.

"(The game) was probably a lot more important to the University of Miami's football program at that time than maybe it was for Ohio State," said Davis, who took over as Browns coach two years later. "They were ranked going into that year and for us it was an unbelievable opportunity to try to recapture a spotlight in college football."

Miami's storied program had churned out national championships, Heisman Trophy winners and off-the-field problems during the 1980s and 1990s under Howard Schnellenberger, Jimmy Johnson and Dennis Erickson.

After four national titles between 1983 and 1991, probation in 1995 ended the dynasty. Miami was still hurting from three years of NCAA-mandated sanctions that cost the program 32 scholarships.

The Kickoff Classic came along at an ideal time for the Hurricanes. In 1997, largely because of the probation, they had sunk to a 5-6 record. At one point, they lost four straight games, including a 47-0 beating by rival Florida State.

The Hurricanes went 9-3 in 1998, ending the season with a 49-45 upset of No. 3 UCLA and a rout of North Carolina State in the Micron PC Bowl.

Smith would trade 1,000 yards for win over 'Skins

IRVING (AP) — Football is a team game and individual accomplishments aren't supposed to matter. Yet in what could be his last game as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, Dave Campo would really like to see Emmitt Smith notch one more milestone.

Smith goes into the finale Sunday at Washington needing 38 yards rushing to reach 1,000 yards for the 12th straight year, which would stretch the record he set last season. Barry Sanders did it 10 straight years; Walter Payton had 10, too, but they weren't consecutive.

"I'd like him to get it, I'll be up front about it," Campo said. "He fought his way to 1,000 a year ago, and I'd like to see him get 1,000 again. I think he deserves it.

Campo said he didn't plan to tell Smith that because it would go against the team concept. The only reason he's even making the exception is the long relationship he's had with the running back.

Campo has seen firsthand every one of Smith's 17,149 yards, the most in NFL history.

The Redskins game could be the last time Smith and Campo are employed by the Cowboys. Team owner Jerry Jones is considering firing Campo and releasing Smith. If Smith is back next season, he'll have to take a huge paycut from the $7 million he's due.

Smith, though, doesn't want to think about the chance that this is his last game for Dallas.

"If it is, it is. If it's not, it's not," he said. "One thing I cannot control is what happens after this ballgame."

Smith played possibly his last home game at Texas Stadium last weekend and had just 30 yards on eight carries.

Hnida becomes first woman to play in Division I game

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Katie Hnida became the first woman to play in a Division I football game when she attempted an extra point following a New Mexico touchdown in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Hnida had her kick blocked but by then she had already made history.

The 5-foot-9, 150-pound Hnida was on Colorado's roster in 1999 and suited up for the Buffaloes in the Insight.com Bowl. She joined New Mexico's team before this season.



Herald Photo/Tommy Wells

The Big Spring Steers returned to the basketball court this morning in the 2002 Lamesa basketball tournament. The Steers begin District 4-4A play on Jan. 10.

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Black Lab puppy needs good country home. 1 year old female, spayed; shots. Loving dispoition. 263-0122

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For Sale 62' Big Screen TV. With 4 yrs warranty. Come 611 Circle. $1300 payed $2500.

Play Station 2, in original box. Game Shark, surround sound, memory card, two controllers, three PS2 games, six PS1 games, carrying case, DVD remote control, modulator. $225 OBO. Call 263-4645

Queen Size mattress set, new in plastic. Retails $495. Will take $195. Call 620-0432.

Set of Tires. 215/75R15. Barely used. $80. micro-Trick Scooter, ridden three times, $25. Call 263-4645

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Silk florals, arches, candelabras
The Grishams
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For Sale By Owner- Car Lot 706 East 4th, $8500.00. Call Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 263-5000.

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2402 Main. 2 BR, 1 bath. $750 down, $165.25/mo. 180 mos. 10% interest. 1-800-804-7110.

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102 Weaver Rd.
2/1 in Coahoma
$300/ mo + dep.
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1026 Stadium
2 Bdrm - 1 bath
$425/mo. $200dep.
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1404 Stadium
3 BR 1 bath
$425/mo. $200 dep.
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1909 N . Monticello
3/1-CH/A, new flooring. Very Nice.
Call 264-6611

2 bdr. Unfurnished. 1512 Harding. $250/mo $150/dep. 267-6667

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UNFUR. HOUSES FOR RENT

2 BR. New central air. Bill paid. HUD accepted. References required. $530/mo. 263-2382

3 bdr. 1 bath w/garage. 3202 Aubum. No inside pets. References required. $425/mo $200/dep. 267-6667

3 bdr., CHA, fenced yard. No Pets. $500. mon., $225. dep. 263-5818

3 bdr. Unfurnished. 2902 Cherokee. $325/mo $150/dep. 267-6667

3-4 bedroom, no indoor pets, 4220 Hamilton. 1 year lease, $495/mo . 263-6514

3BR, 2 Bath. Next to Forsan High School. $400/mo., $200/dep. 263-5808.

407 1/2 E. 8th
1 Bdrm Apartments
Stove & Refrigerator
$225 + Dep. NO HUD
You Pay Bills
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For Rent or Rent to Own
Remodeled 4/2
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4/2 fenced. $300/15 yrs.
M.H. fenced $200/10 yrs
2BR neat $220/10 yrs
4/2 fixer $150/10 yrs
264-0510.

TOO LATES

2502 Larry
For Sale By Owner: 3Bdr-2bth. No Owner Finance. Call 267-6259 for appt.

❑ PJ's Inside Sale: 2210 Main. Sat. 10-?. Recliners, beds, large office desk, lots of household misc.

Delta Management, a rapidly growing company in the finance industry, is seeking a self motivated, enthusiastic individual for asst. manager. Must have valid TX ID & dependable vehicle. We offer health benefits, Co. paid life insurance & monthly bonuses. Send resumes to: 302 Dorthea, Crane, TX 79731 Attn: Debbie Adams.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BIG SPRING ATTENTION COX COMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS

Beginning on February 1, 2003, the following service rate charges will be in effect for **Big Spring** residential customers: Digital customers only: The rate for the Digital Gateway/Service will increase by $1.00. Depending upon your level of digital service the Digital Gateway will increase from $4.99 to $5.99 **OR** your Digital Service will increase from $10.00 to $11.00. Inquiries concerning these changes or any other cable-related issue can be made at the Cox Communications office at 2006 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 267-6571.
#3756 December 26, 2002 & January 2 & 9, 2003

Don't throw those unwanted items away! Sell them! Call **263-7331** and place your garage sale in the **Herald Classified** section and receive a Garage sale kit **Free! Call Today!**

Horoscope

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002:

Jump into action this year. You will find little reason not to do what you want. Maintaining a high level of focus could make all the difference you need and want. You might feel conflicted with work demands and/or your professional image. You find a way of making these differences work. Sometimes you can be very hard on yourself about not always achieving what you want. Be less demanding, and center on what you want and need. Others will become closer as well, as long as you don't become too exacting or demanding. If you are single, your relationship could take a startling twist or turn, as someone quite dynamic floats right through your door, probably at work. This person could knock your socks off. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit if you share more of your work with this person. LIBRA reads you loud and clear.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Know that the pressure is off. Others seek you out. You might be dismayed by what you hear, but on the other hand, you gain a new perspective on your life. Tension builds from others' expectations. Help others see this issue. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** Make an effort toward friends and loved ones. You allow others to help you see a different perspective. Your laughter helps others see what might not be realistic. Others have expectations that might be close to impossible to reach. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Realize your limits more carefully when dealing with loved ones. Not everyone has to agree with what you say and think. Be willing to break ground. Use your creativity to allow others to see life from a more realistic perspective. Tonight: Play away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** It might be the day after Christmas, but you still can enjoy some downtime with a child or loved one. Take the day off and don't get caught up in the post-season whirl. Realize your limits with a loved one you care about. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Keep talks active, allowing many around you to share their ideas. Your verbal skills emerge, helping draw a different or new perspective. Not everything is as you see it. Take a risk and move forward in the near future. Tonight: Hang at a favorite spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Make an effort to touch base with others. Realize what is going on with a child or loved one. You could decide that someone close to you might be overly materialistic or touchy. Now is the time to shake up the status quo. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Your mood cheers others up, helping you to see situations with renewed and different interest. Handle a personal matter in a more direct and caring manner. Pressure builds with a family member. Tonight: As you like it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** Nearly everything is possible, but right now you might be too worn out to see it. Don't push yourself too hard; remember, we all easily tend to go into overload. Ask for extra space and time, if need be. Think positively. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Friends call with a lot of news. Listen; in fact, it might be easier to set up plans and get together with others. You could find that many around you want and need the change of pace. Go for a leisurely few days. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Typically, when others cannot get their work done, you can. Now, how fun can it be to go to the office and work? Yet others count on you doing just that. Understand when you've had enough. Call it an early day, if possible. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** You might not be able to make the impression on others that you would like. Know when you've had enough, or when you need to go in a different direction. If possible, schedule a day trip, or relax by doing something unique. Yes, difference works. Tonight: Head in your own direction.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Don't disagree with a partner. You could be confused about what is going on with this person. The best approach is to start talking and opening up. You might be amazed by how different the two of you are. Tonight: Togetherness works.

BORN TODAY

Talk-show host Alan King (1927), actor Richard Widmark (1914), founder of People's Republic of China Mao Tse-tung (1893)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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BIG SPRING HERALD
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Annie's Mailbox
Advice for those in need



Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 15 months, and this morning, we had a very disturbing argument. As I finished my shower, I asked "Jerry" to hand me a clean towel. He told me to reuse the one from the day before, because I needed to start cutting corners to save money. I pointed out that he spends plenty of money going to football games, concerts and bowling with his friends. He said he earns more money than I do and deserves to spend it however he wishes.

What kind of a partnership do we have if one half of the couple lives the high life while the other is on skid row? I am a first-year teacher and barely earn a third of what Jerry does. I handle our finances and do not spend money irresponsibly. I have suggested that we each pay a percentage of the bills based on our salaries. He says we should each pay half the bills, period.

Any advice before I pull my pennies together and find a separate place to live? Sign me — Poor Wife in Ohio

Dear Poor Wife: Jerry should not expect you to pay 50 percent of the bills when you earn a third of his income. This means he has plenty of money to spend on himself and you have none. Such disparity can lead to resentment and hostility. This is no way to create a loving marriage.

There are several equitable methods of handling money: You can both deposit your paychecks into a common account from which all household bills are paid, and you each draw an equal amount for personal use; both of you pay the same percentage of your income toward the household; or each of you can be responsible for specific bills, according to your income.

Insist that Jerry select one of the above, or let him know you will be making an appointment with a marriage counselor.

Dear Annie: A few months ago, I was invited to a friend's bridal shower. I went to my favorite gift shop and discovered the store was going out of business. Everything in the store was on sale, so I was able to give my friend a nicer gift than I had budgeted for.

After the shower, my friend asked where I'd gotten the item. (She said she wanted to get something similar for a friend.) I told her and mentioned the store was closing. Two weeks later, we had an argument, and she told me she didn't like the gift and it was tacky of me to have purchased something so "cheap."

Was it wrong of me to have purchased a gift that she wouldn't be able to return? I didn't think so, but now I'm wondering. — Misunderstood in Maine

Dear Maine: Your friend was rude to criticize your gift, no matter how it was purchased. Nevertheless, it is always best to purchase a gift that can be returned or exchanged. Otherwise, be prepared to get it back, gift-wrapped, on your birthday.

Dear Annie: When I read the letter from the wife whose husband still smokes around their young child, I had to write and share my experience. I smoked for 20 years. My wife kept "suggesting" I stop, although it sounded like nagging to me. I finally asked her, "What will you give up if I quit smoking?" She agreed to give up chocolate.

I quit smoking, she gave up chocolate, and we're both healthier now. As a side benefit, I get all the good candy at Halloween. — Two-Way Street in Ventura, Calif.

Dear Ventura: It takes a lot to get a woman to give up chocolate. Congratulations to you both for finding a solution to two problems.

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

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BIG SPRING HERALD
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*Restrictions Apply
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THURSDAY DEC. 26

	KMID (2) Midland	KPEJ (3) Odessa	KERA (5) Dallas	FAM (6)	KOSA (7) Odessa	WFAA (8) Dallas	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	UNI (13) Spanish	DISN (14) Premium	NASH (15) Nashville	TMC (16) Premium	SHOW (20) Premium	HBO (22) Premium	KMLM (24) Odessa	A&E (25) New York	DISC (26) Discovery	TNT (28) Atlanta	TLC (41) Learning Ch.
6 :PM :30	News Fortune	King of the Hill Raymond	Cyberchase Zoboomafoo	7th Heaven (CC)	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News Seinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC) Seinfeld (CC)	Gata Salvaje	Sister, Sister Lizzie	Love (CC)	Glory (CC)	(CC) Movie News	Where's My Car? (CC)	Update With John Hagee	Real Story (CC)	Navy SEALs Training	Listen-Barkley NBA Basket-	Medical Medical
7 :PM :30	Dinotopia (CC)	Movie: Trial and Error	Robert Lloyd: Lowdown	Movie: Annie (CC)	CSI: Crime Scn	Dinotopia (CC)	Friends (CC) Scrubs (CC)	Movie: Licence to Kill	Las Vias del Amor	Movie: RocketMan			Crocodile Dundee in	Inside the NFL (CC)	Biblical Israel Richman	Biography (CC)	FBI Files (CC)	ball: Detroit Pistons at	Building the Biggest (CC)
8 :PM :30	Primetime Special	(CC) (DVS)	Metropolitan Opera		CSI: Crime Scn	Primetime Special	Will & Grace Good Morning			(CC)	Movie: Goldfinger	Movie: Lucky Numbers	Los Angeles (:35) Movie:	Sopranos (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Movie: Columbo: A	FBI Files	Washington Wizards (CC)	Hunt for Amazing
9 :PM :30	Edition (CC)	'70s Show Dharma-Greg	Presents	Whose Line? Whose Line?	Without a Trace (CC)	Edition (CC)	ER (CC)		Aqui y Ahora	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	(CC)	(CC) (:45) Movie:	The Others (CC)	Sopranos (CC)		Trace of Murder (CC)	FBI Files (CC)	NBA Basket-ball: Toronto	Treasures (CC)
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	Raymond Suddenly	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (:35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (:35) Tonight	(:15) Movie: The Quick	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Boy World Boy World		Wonder Boys (CC)	Movie: The	Real Sex 19 (CC)	Hour of Healing	Third Watch (CC)	FBI Files (CC)	Raptors at Seattle Son-	Building the Biggest (CC)
11 :PM :30	Up Close Hollywood Sq.	Spin City (CC) Blind Date	Steely Dan	Caroline Rhea Show (CC)	Show (CC) (:37) Late Late	Ent. Tonight Up Close	Show (CC) (:37) Late	and the Dead (CC)	En las Mejores Familias	So Weird (CC) Jett Jackson	Movie: Thunderball	(:45) Movie:	House of the Spirits (CC)	Inside the NFL (CC)	N. McBride Church	Biography (CC)	FBI Files	ics (CC) Inside the	Hunt for Amazing
12 :AM :30	Cowboy The Rob	Beyond Beyond	(CC)	Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	(12:06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	(12:15) Movie: The	Tu y Yo	Boy World Smart Guy	(CC)	Essex Boys (CC)		Freddy Got Fingered	Update With Promise	Movie: Columbo: A	FBI Files (CC)	NBA (CC) Movie:	Treasures (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M CHECKING TO BE SURE SANTA DIDN'T LEAVE ANY TOYS STUCK IN THE CHIMNEY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Thanks, Grandma. Sure, I'll save it for the future. I won't spend it 'til tomorrow."

HAGAR



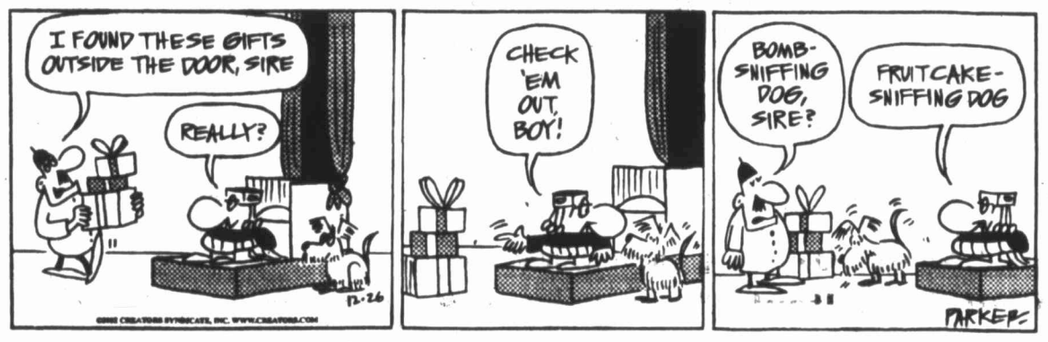
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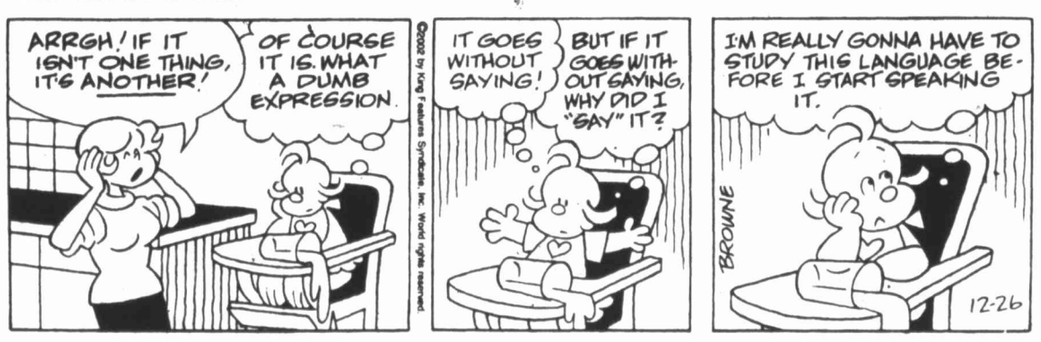
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GEECH



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH

BEETLE BAILEY



People In The News

By The Associated Press

American television host Oprah Winfrey cuddled South African children whose parents died from AIDS and promised to use her name to help humanize the pandemic that has ravaged sub-Saharan Africa.

Winfrey, who has been traveling in South Africa for the last three weeks, said in an interview published in the Saturday Star that she feels a "higher calling" to raise international awareness of the plight of the children who are losing parents and dying of the disease themselves.

"What happens to a generation of children left to fend for themselves? Unless someone does something now the orphans will change the face of this country and the continent," Winfrey said.

In a photograph on the front page of the Saturday Star, a visibly moved Winfrey stands with her hand covering her face at the bedside of a woman dying of AIDS, who was attended by her young daughter.

Anti-AIDS drugs are not available in South African public hospitals, and Winfrey said she was taken aback that the woman did not have access to treatment.

"I felt angry that this mother has to suffer, that this little girl will not have a mother," she said.

Winfrey's foundation distributed $7 million worth of Christmas gifts to some 50,000 South African children during her visit.

South Africa has more HIV positive people than any other country in the world. Figures released by the government more than two years ago showed that 4.7 million people - one in nine - were infected, and the figure today is believed to be higher.

***

Actress Jane Fonda visited a refugee camp and a hospital in the West Bank on Saturday, capping a three-day visit aimed at promoting peace.

Fonda, who was observing her 65th birthday, passed through a West Bank crossing point of Qalqiliya, trudging through mud and clutching a bouquet of red roses given to her by a Palestinian women's group.

She toured West Bank villages and nearby Jewish settlements and was led through a Palestinian refugee camp near Ramallah in a daylong tour by the Jerusalem Center for Women.

It was the final visit of a trip organized by a global movement to stop violence against women.

Answer to previous puzzle

P	U	L	L	S		P	S	A	T	S		L O W
U	S	E	U	P		O	N	T	A	P		U Z I
B	A	S	K	E	T	W	E	A	V	E		C O N
			E	E	R		A	R	E	A		I N C
K	I	M		D	U	N	K	I	R	K		L E E
A	R	A	L	S	E	A		N	U	L	L	
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Newsday Crossword

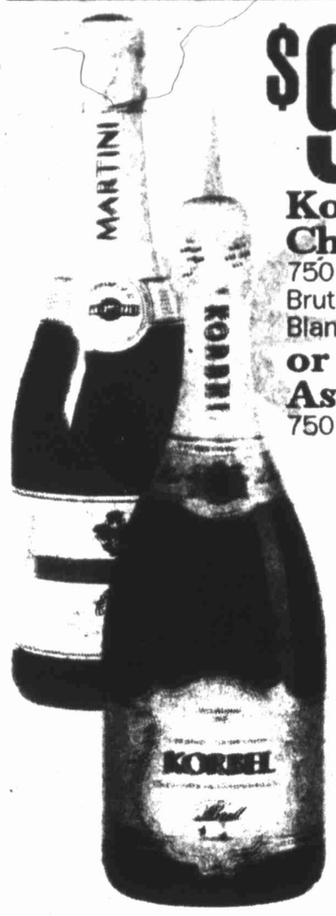
ORGANIZED by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS
1 Programmer, e.g.
6 Hit the mall
10 Amount to pay
13 Like a gymnast
14 Hawaiian coffee center
15 Plenty angry
16 Water conduits
18 Make a bootee
19 State representatives
20 Some oranges
22 Med. specialty
23 San Marino surrounder
24 Asylum seeker
28 Gain in the polls
31 Gyro breads
32 Rained a bit
36 Boardwalk refreshments
37 Wicked one
38 Limerick's land
39 Places for storytelling
41 1979 Alda role
42 Golden-__ corn
43 Most vile
44 Nita of old films
47 Place for a pint
48 Paragons
50 Haile __
55 Monk's garb
56 What expresses skip
58 Mr. Kristofferson
59 "Ah, me!"
60 Art able to
61 "You bet!"
62 Whittle (down)
63 Popular cookies

DOWN
1 You can't trust them
2 Mean dude
3 Primatologist Fossey
4 Lamb's alias
5 Leaseholders
6 Dirndl, for one
7 Brewery need
8 Latish lunchtime
9 El __, TX
10 Monarchy near Fiji
11 Ehud's successor
12 Actress Palmer
15 Obsolete tighteners
17 Dixie bread
21 Leo or Aries
24 Colossal, filmwise
25 Flaky mineral
26 Gossip bit
27 Neighbors of brakes
28 Risk a ticket
29 Joe vessels
30 Cleanse (of)
32 Stable parent
33 One-fifth of a limerick
34 Notable times
35 Fender ding
37 Christmas tree
40 Go belly up
41 Hot sauce
43 Papal edict
44 Liz's first
45 Be crazy about
46 *The Caddy* star
47 "__ porridge hot . . ."
49 Insult, so to speak
50 Lasting impression
51 Magi's guide
52 Loudness unit
53 __ facto
54 Repair shop figs.
57 Ending for scram

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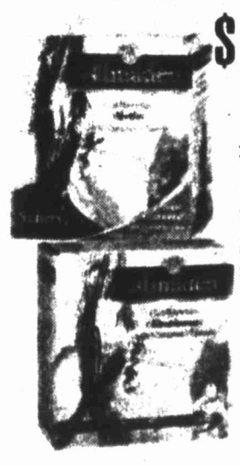
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Brut, Cold Duck, White, Pink or Spumante



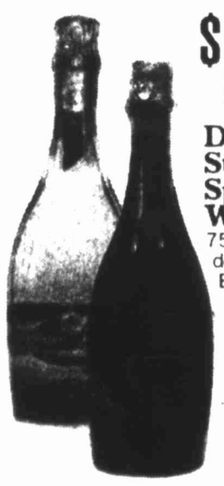
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or Wild Vines Wine
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assorted varieties



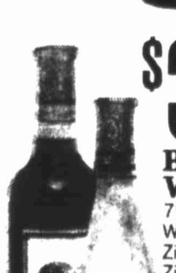
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Black Swan - Australian Wine Now to Texas
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750 ml btl.



$4.99 ea.
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Chianti or Pinot Grigio

Things to know about champagne and sparkling wine

Sparkling Celebrations is a light and fruity non-alcoholic beverage perfect for all ages.

Brut - Very dry champagne with little residual sugar. Freixenet Brut from Spain is crisp and refreshing. Look for the black bottle.

Extra Dry - Dry champagne with some residual sugar. Korbel Extra Dry Champagne - not too sweet, not too dry.

Blanc de Blanc - Translates white wine made from white grapes. This champagne is made exclusively from Chardonnay grapes.

Blanc de Noir - Translates white wine (pale pink) made from black grapes. Try Piper Sonoma Blanc de Noir with appetizers or hors d'oeuvres.

Cremant - A creamy style champagne with typically less atmosphere (bubbles).

Sec - Slightly sweet champagne with 17-35 grams per liter of residual sugar.

Demi Sec - Sweet champagne with 33-50 grams per liter of residual sugar.

Asti - Made from Muscato grapes grown in the Asti region of Italy. Martini & Rossi Asti is the sweetest of all champagnes and sparkling wines.

Spumante - Made from Muscato grapes and tastes just like Asti. Ballatore Gran Spumante is the best selling and best value Spumante.

Cuvée - A blend of sparkling wines to make up specific champagne. Try Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label.

Cuvée de Prestige - A champagne producer's top "luxury" champagne.

Non-Vintage - The blend of current and reserve sparkling wines prepared each year to be consistent with the champagne. The most recognized Non-Vintage champagnes are Moet Chandon White Star and Taittinger La Francais Brut Champagne.

Vintage - The wine or champagne of a single year's harvest, as in Dom Perignon 1983.

How many glasses of wine are there in a bottle?

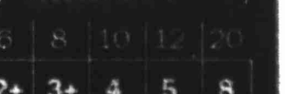
750 ml bottle = **5** five oz. glasses
1.5 L bottle = **10** five oz. glasses

How many bottles should I buy for my dinner?

# of Guests	4	6	8	10	12	20
# of 750 ml bottles	2	2+	3+	4	5	8
# of 1.5 L bottles	1	2	2	2	3	7

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fried calamari
spicy, full-bod
wine like Stone
Beringer Shiraz-

Here are some
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plays from Chef

• Chardonnay
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• Sauvignon
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exciting plays. T
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crab dip.

• Merlot is the
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with silky raspb
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foods, ranging
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afraid to try so
new. Instead of
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try an herbed
spread, creamy
crab, or a smoked
dip. Try a new
old favorites s
chicken wings
Thai peanut sau
can score big with
Sauvignon Bla
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Fried 'Frito Misto
Shrimp and Calam
lemon dipping s
Wine pairing: 20

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Holiday Entertaining: Easy ways to host a football party that scores

There's more to a great football party than opening a bag of chips and putting out a six-pack. The food and drink you offer should be just as enjoyable as the game on the big screen. This can be as easy as adding wine and creative munchies to your football celebration. Not only is a glass of red wine a lot more inviting on a cold winter day than a frosty mug of beer, it goes just as well with chicken wings and guacamole as it does with shrimp and sushi.

But where do you start? How do you plan a gathering that offers an interesting menu to complement the football action? First, keep it simple. You and your guests don't want to miss a second of the action so the food and refreshments need to be easy to serve and eat. Everything should be appropriate for a buffet table because people will be eating at different times throughout the party.

For wine, think big — one or two magnum-sized bottles can serve ten to fifteen football fans. Select something fun and offbeat with a smooth taste and good balance. David Frakes, executive chef at Beringer Vineyards compares wine and food pairing to football: "When executed correctly, it can be the winning play." He recommends his favorite football combo: a bowl of fried calamari with a spicy, full-bodied red wine like Stone Cellars by Beringer Shiraz-Cabernet.

Here are some additional insider wine pairing plays from Chef Frakes:

• Chardonnay is like a reliable quarterback. Always popular, this versatile white combines both citrus and ripe pear with soft, oak undertones and hints of spice to make a good match with a variety of foods including fried chicken wings, nuts, and crackers.

• Sauvignon Blanc is similar to a receiver - when given the opportunity, it can make fun and exciting plays. The bright citrus and gooseberry aromas add kick to rich dishes like cheese fondue or crab dip.

• Merlot is the experienced, savvy player that has been around awhile. It's a versatile red wine with silky raspberry and black cherry flavors that makes an excellent pairing with a variety of foods, ranging from cheeses to chili.

We've all had the same old party snacks. Don't be afraid to try something new. Instead of settling for the typical onion dip, try an herbed cheese spread, creamy baked crab, or a smoked salmon dip. Try a new twist on old favorites such as chicken wings with a Thai peanut sauce — it can score big with a crisp Sauvignon Blanc. Or serve something completely unexpected, like Frakes? Fried Rock Shrimp and Calamari recipe.

•••

Fried 'Frito Misto' Rock Shrimp and Calamari with lemon dipping sauce

Wine pairing: 2000 Stone Cellars Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon

Serves 8

2 quarts corn oil for frying

2 1/2 cups cornmeal (or ground polenta)

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour

3/4 cup Masa Harina Flour (substitute regular flour if not available)

salt, pepper, paprika and cayenne pepper to taste

1/2 - 1/3 pound rock shrimp (picked over for shells and deveined)

1/2 - 3/4 pound calamari (cleaned and cut into small rings)

1 lemon (sliced paper thin crosswise and deseeded)

Place corn oil into a large pot and heat to 325 degrees. Pat seafood and dry with paper towel. Combine the cornmeal, flours and seasonings and mix well. One batch at a time, toss the shrimp, then the calamari, then the lemons, into crust mixture and coat well. Shake off excess crust mixture (with a basket or by hand). Drop each batch separately into the hot oil and cook until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Toss the cooked ingredients together in a bowl and then place on serving platter.

Serve with lemon dipping sauce and sprinkle with parsley.

Lemon Tarragon Dipping Sauce

1 cup of mayonnaise

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

See PARTY, Page 2

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make 2003 the year you get a grip on your credit cards

By now, you've probably made some New Year's resolutions; you might even have already broken one or two! But along with the usual promises about losing weight, eating better and exercising more, how about getting a fresh start on your finances?

For example, now is the perfect time to take control of your credit cards.

Credit cards are a great convenience, and it might be hard to imagine going to the mall or even the grocery store without one. But for many people, credit cards are a two-edged sword. If you don?t keep a tight rein on them, you can quickly find yourself in a situation where you're paying exorbitant interest rates, or only paying the minimum balance each month.

Here are some tips for using your credit cards wisely.

The first thing to do is to get organized. This is a good time to obtain a copy of your credit report and make sure the information is accurate. Does the credit report list your current and past addresses accurately? Are there any loans or credit cards on your report that don't belong to you? Have any of your creditors reported late or delinquent payments in error?

"If you find these types of mistakes, or any others, be sure to dispute them immediately," advises Jennifer Leuer, communications manager for Experian Consumer Direct. She suggests checking the CreditMatters.com Web site, where you not only can order a credit report, but also can learn more about credit reports and scores — including guidelines for disputing possible inaccuracies.

Next, review your credit cards and make a list containing important information about each card. Include the account number and contact information, especially the 800 number to call in case your card is ever lost or stolen. Make sure your ATM card is on the list as well.

Now that you've got a list of your credit cards, it's time to evaluate them. Go back over your recent statements to double check your interest rates. "Many credit card companies entice you with low introductory offers that expire after a certain time period," notes Leuer. "You may find out that instead of the 1.9 percent you thought you were paying in interest, your rate has gone up — way up."

PARTY

Continued from Page 1

2 garlic cloves (minced)
4 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 tablespoons tarragon
salt to taste

Place mayonnaise into a small bowl. Stir in mustard and garlic followed by lemon juice, tarragon and salt (season to your own taste).

•••

Chicken Skewers with Spicy Thai Peanut Sauce
Serve with Stone Cellars by Beringer Sauvignon Blanc
Serves 8

3/4 cup soy sauce
1 onion
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 tablespoon chili paste
2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
2 cloves minced fresh garlic
2 pounds chicken, boneless, skinless and sliced in long strips

In a large bowl, whisk together first six ingredients. Add chicken strips and marinate for at least 4 hrs.

Peanut Sauce
1/2 cup peanuts
2 tablespoons Macadamia nuts
1 tablespoon sugar
3/4 cup coconut milk (unsweetened)
1/3 cup chunky peanut butter 1/4 cup water
3 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon lime juice
1 tablespoon chili paste
1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
1 clove minced fresh garlic

Sauce
Place the peanuts, macadamia nuts, and sugar in the bowl of food processor fitted with a metal blade. Pulse until finely ground. In a saucepan, add the nut mixture to the coconut milk, peanut butter, water, soy sauce, lime juice, chili paste and ginger and garlic; bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally until the sauce thickens. Cool the sauce to room temperature.

Chicken Skewers
Cut 10 inch skewers down to 6 to 7 inches each. Thread the strips of chicken along the skewer. Place on a grill (or in the oven at 425 degrees) until cooked through, approximately 8 minutes.

To Serve Place skewers on a plate with the dipping sauce close by.

•••

Herbed Cheese Spread
Serves 12

10 ounces feta cheese
fresh chives, cut in 3 inch pieces
2 garlic cloves
fresh basil leaves, chopped
fresh parsley, chopped
fresh thyme, chopped
fresh dill weed, chopped (optional)
6 ounces cream cheese
2 tablespoons sour cream

Crumble feta cheese into bowl of food processor. Mash garlic clove with edge of a flat knife or garlic press and add to the processor bowl. Add herbs, with chives, snipped into 3 inch pieces. Herb quantities should be added according to taste. Process until herbs are chopped. Add cream cheese and sour cream. Process until desired consistency, adding more sour cream for a softer spread. Makes about one pint. Serve with crackers or stuff into raw vegetables (celery, cherry tomatoes, pepper wedges).

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Help Wanted: Experienced RN to TEAM Lead our Nursing Department. Experience with Medicare, Medicaid, Jcaho, and Long Term Care desired. Paid employee insurance. salary commensurate with experience. Mail response (with salary history) to Post Office Box 1431/2901, Big Spring, TX 79721 E.O.E.

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❑ Estate Sale: 510 Douglas, Fri.-Sat. 9-2. Furn., desk, filing cabinet, mirror and misc.

❑ Sale: Sat. 8-4, 2009 Johnson. T-Shirts, blankets, watches, over 500 pcs. of jewelry & more.

FOUND / LOST PETS

Found Female dog (White w/ Brown spots) in Sand Springs area. Call 393-5709.

Lost, a male Brittany Spaniel from Edwards wearing tan co... If found call 267-1011 or 466-2105

Lost Female Pot Belly Pig (Black w/ white ring around neck) lost around Salem Rd. area. Call 393-5709.

Lost Shih Tzu (Brown & White) new hair cut. Please help to return. Lost around Wood St. Cell# 661-9971.

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Christmas decorations-supplies-gifts-dolls-quilited items-roosters-wall shelves-knick/knacks.

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Commercial property for Sale or Rent. Owner will Finance. 1903 Gregg. Call 517-0536.

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For Sale By Owner- Car Lot 706 East 4th, $8500.00. Call Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 263-5000.

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2502 Larry
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For Sale By Owner: 3/1, New Carpet & Roof. **1104 Mulberry**. $15,000 OBO. Call 270-3372.

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Super nice, very large 1 Bdrm home. Completely furnished. All bills paid. $400/mo. $250/dep ($450 move-in). Call 263-2725 after 3pm.

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$425/mo. $200 dep.
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Just follow these simple guidelines to say "good-bye" to your old item and "hello" to quick cash, 1-2-3!

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Describe unique characteristics of the item, in order of importance.

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INCLUDING OUR WEB PAGE
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Classified Line Hours
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BIG SPRING HERALD
263-7331
*Restrictions Apply
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