BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 26 | WEEKEND EDITION, DECEMBER 24-25, 2005 | COPYRIGHT 2005 | 50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 WEEKEND

INSIDE

Sports Editor Troy Hyde looks back on the year

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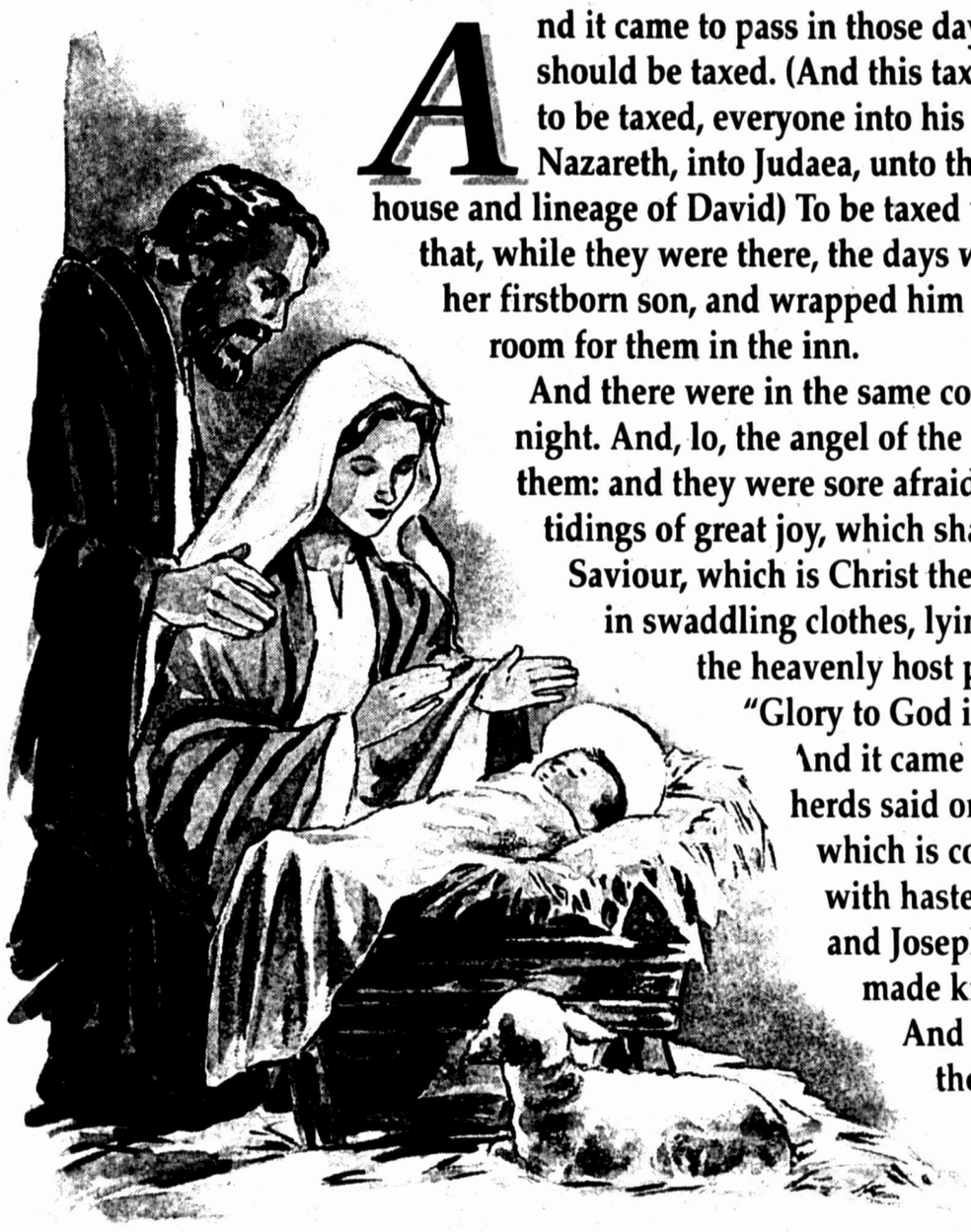
The Christmas story



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

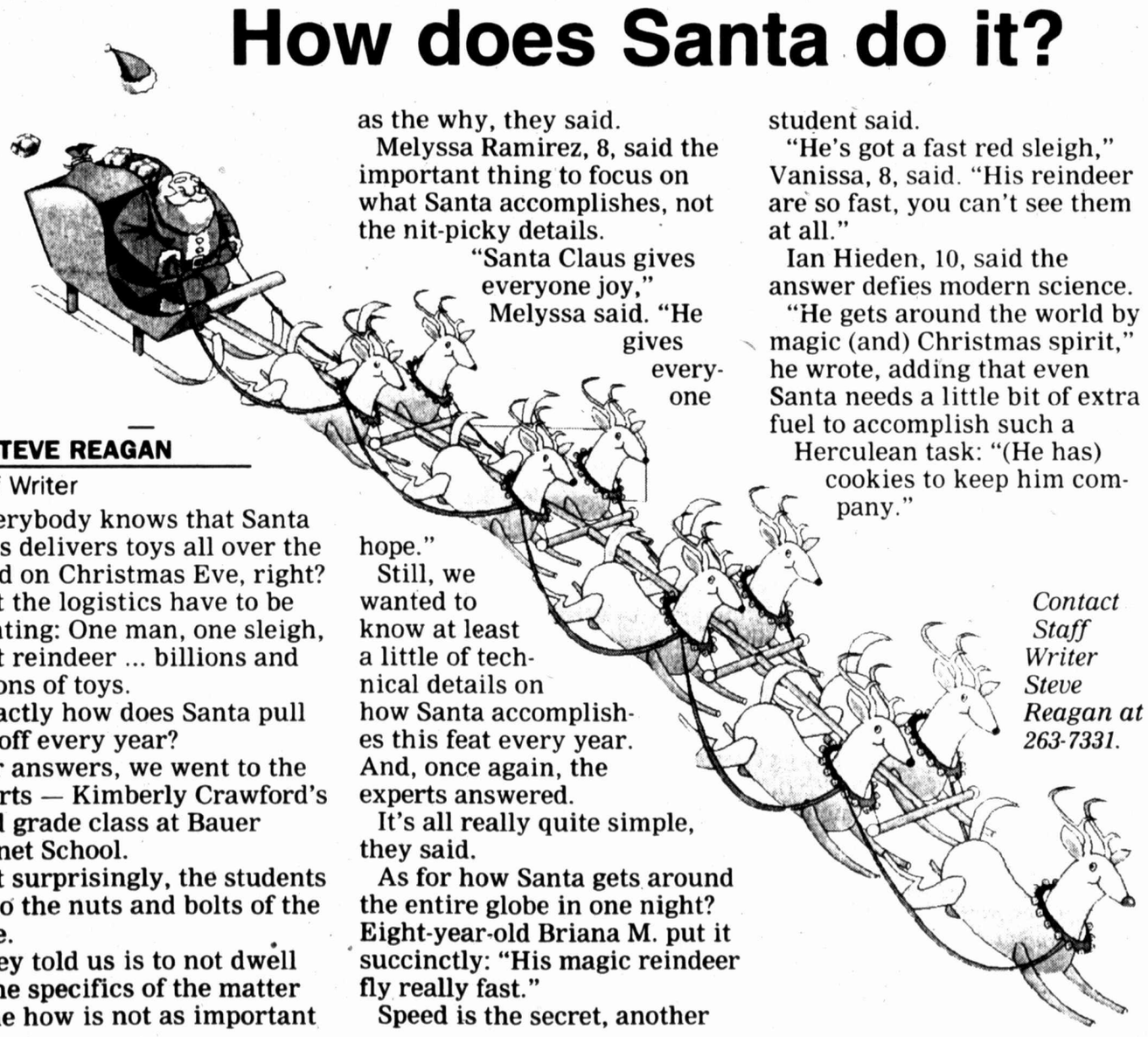
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary,

and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. ***Luke 2: 1-20***

How does Santa do it?



By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Everybody knows that Santa Claus delivers toys all over the world on Christmas Eve, right?

But the logistics have to be daunting: One man, one sleigh, eight reindeer ... billions and billions of toys.

Exactly how does Santa pull this off every year?

For answers, we went to the experts — Kimberly Crawford's third grade class at Bauer Magnet School.

Not surprisingly, the students cut to the nuts and bolts of the issue.

They told us is to not dwell on the specifics of the matter — the how is not as important as the why, they said.

Melyssa Ramirez, 8, said the important thing to focus on what Santa accomplishes, not the nit-picky details.

"Santa Claus gives everyone joy," Melyssa said. "He gives everyone hope."

Still, we wanted to know at least a little of technical details on how Santa accomplishes this feat every year. And, once again, the experts answered.

It's all really quite simple, they said.

As for how Santa gets around the entire globe in one night? Eight-year-old Briana M. put it succinctly: "His magic reindeer fly really fast."

Speed is the secret, another student said.

"He's got a fast red sleigh," Vanissa, 8, said. "His reindeer are so fast, you can't see them at all."

Ian Hieden, 10, said the answer defies modern science.

"He gets around the world by magic (and) Christmas spirit," he wrote, adding that even Santa needs a little bit of extra fuel to accomplish such a Herculean task: "(He has) cookies to keep him company."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331.

Don't dispose of trees in trash bins, city warns

There are better ways to get rid of them

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As the holiday season comes and goes in the Big Spring area, one Christmas casualty is assured every year — plenty of dead or dying Christmas trees.

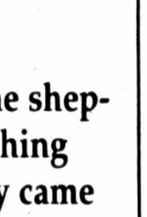
And since Santa isn't quite thoughtful enough to load them into his sleigh once the holiday has passed, the city of Big Spring will once again offer its tree recycling program.

"We'll be collecting the Christmas trees in containers at the municipal landfill and the city compost facility," said city Landfill Supervisor Kenny Davis. "We also plan to have a drop off location in front of the old Wal-Mart in Coronado Plaza.

Davis said the seasonal effort is two-fold.

"The compost facility will grind the trees up to be used in the compost," he said. "That way we're recycling them and not just throwing them in the landfill. The other reason we do this is to keep people from putting the trees in their dumpsters. When people put them in their dumpsters they get stuck and cause a serious problem for us."

"When people put them in their dumpsters they get stuck and cause a serious problem for us."



Davis

For those who choose to dispose of their trees in dumpsters, Davis said the results could get serious.

"If someone puts their

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SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT
67°-69°	32°-34°

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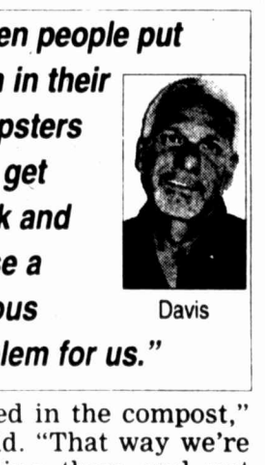
YES, VIRGINIA

"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) *Sun* in September, 1897. Her Letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" — the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. See Page 4A.

CHRISTMAS DAY

A SISTER'S LOVE



The Festival of Lights may have Highway 87 covered, but a local woman with Christmas joy and an amazing love for her brother who was killed In Vietnam almost 40 years ago is staking claim to Interstate Highway 20. Libby Uribe, owner and operator of La Vedera Club, has been working to establish a new park dedicated to the memory of her brother, Ismael Holguin, in northwest Big Spring. See Page 5A.

Obituaries

Sovoy Kay

Sovoy Kay, of El Paso, formerly of Big Spring, was born in Vealmoor in 1932. He went home to be with the Lord Dec. 21, 2005, after a lengthy illness.

Savoy graduated from Big Spring High School where he played football and later attended Howard County Junior College where he excelled in track. He served in the Texas National Guard.

In 1959 Sovoy went to work for American Petrofina where he worked until 1979. He then moved to Austin where he joined Tolson Oil Company where he stayed until 1986. That year, Sovoy started his own company, S & S Fuel Company, which today still operates in El Paso.

A beloved husband, father and friend, Sovoy believed in the goodness of all men and treated all people with honour and respect. His handshake was worth more than any legal document and his word was as good as gold.

Throughout his years, Sovoy played many sports; however golfing was the one that he was most passionate about. He was a long time member of Vista Hills Country Club, where he forged many friendships.

His love of the Lord sustained him in all that he did in his life and he lived each day as an example for his loved ones. He passed away peacefully in his home with his wife at his side.

He is survived by his wife, Donna of El Paso; his mother, Dee Scarbrough of El Paso; his daughter, Paula Don Kay and her partner, Sharon Kay Garcia of San Antonio; his son, John Paul Kay of San Antonio; his stepdaughter and son-in-law, Matt and Gina Lochausen of El Paso; his stepson and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Vanessa Thomas of El Paso; two grandsons, Bishop and Jadyn Thomas, and one granddaughter, Sofia Thomas all of El Paso.

Sovoy will be missed by his family and friends, each of whom feels blessed for having known him.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with J.W. Clanton officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Aline Lawrence

Aline Lawrence, 101, of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 22, 2005, in Lubbock. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Feb. 24, 1904, in Little Elm and married C.B. Lawrence June 1, 1926, in Little Elm. He preceded her in death Dec. 6, 1974.

Mrs. Lawrence and her late husband were longtime residents of the Luther Community, where they farmed and ranched. She attended North Texas State College.

Her first teaching job was in the Luther Community in a one room school house known as Gay Hill. She was a lifelong Baptist and a member of Little Elm Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Big Spring.

Survivors include several nephews and nieces and a number of great nephews and nieces.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Wendell Lawrence; her parents, Eli and Alice Gammon; five sisters; and two brothers.

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

Paid obituary

Darrell James White

Darrell James White, 70, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, in Grape Creek. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until to noon Monday at the funeral home.

He was born Oct. 3, 1935, in Corona, N.M.

Darrell came to Big Spring in 1945 from Corona, N.M. He served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1957 to 1959. He worked as a truck driver and traveled from coast to coast, retiring in 1985.

He was dedicated to his family and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include three sons, Darrell Miles White and wife, Angela and Roy James White, all of San Angelo and Loy James White and wife, Judy of Big Lake; his friend and companion of 42 years, Delores Edwards of San Angelo; nine grandchildren, Justin White of Arlington, Ashley White, Taylor White, Kyle White and Joy Butler, all of San Angelo, Amanda White of Hewitt, Larryn Arnold and Natalie Arnold, both of Big Lake and Kellie White of Big Spring; and one great-grandchild, Alliyah Harrison of Big Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Charlie White and a nephew, Terry Lee White.

The family would like to give special thanks to Hospice of San Angelo, especially Alice Brown, for the care given to Darrell.

The family suggests memorials to Children's Miracle Network, 4525 S. 2300 E., Salt Lake City, Utah 84117 or to Hospice of San Angelo, P.O. Box 471, San Angelo 76902.

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

Paid obituary

Minnie Lee Williams Derhoff

Minnie Lee Williams Derhoff, 99, of Stanton died Friday, Dec. 23, 2005, in an Odessa hospice house. Graveside funeral services are 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005, at the Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton with the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church in Stanton, officiating.

She was born Feb. 9, 1906, in Wingate and married T.C. Williams and he preceded her in death. She then married Rudoff Derhoff Jan. 28, 1961 in Laredo. He preceded her in death in June 1990.

She had been a member of the Martin County Chamber of Commerce and worked as a laboratory technician at Webb Air Force Base for 20 years. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Stanton.

Survivors include two brothers, Troy Bradshaw of Stanton and Delmer Bradshaw of Big Spring; and two grandsons.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Jessie Ree Westbrook, June 12, 2003.

The family suggests memorials made to Home Hospice of Big Spring, 111 E. Seventh, Ste-A, Big Spring 79720 or to the Martin County Senior Citizens Center, P.O. Box 1233, Stanton 79782.

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

Support groups

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets the first and third Mondays each month. For more information, call 398-5522.

Bulletin board

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

SATURDAY

• Christmas Eve.

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

SUNDAY

• Christmas Day

MONDAY

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

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

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

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

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

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

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

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

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

FRIDAY

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

• New Year's Eve

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

SUNDAY

• New Year's Day

Take note

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weather

Saturday night—Mostly clear. Colder. Lows around 30. Light and variable winds becoming northwest around 10 mph after midnight.

Christmas day—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds around 10 mph.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Monday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.

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

Tuesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Tuesday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Wednesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Wednesday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Thursday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

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SMMC DONATION

Courtesy photo

Scenic Mountain Medical Center donates monies to the Community Angels of Big Spring's Teen Angel Program. Pictured are Pat Hardison, left, and SMMC's CEO George Parsley.

Man jailed for over a year in Dallas with no lawyer, hearing

DALLAS (AP) — A 69-year-old man was jailed for more than a year without ever seeing a lawyer as he waited for a repeatedly postponed court hearing, and he was freed only after a cellmate told a public defender about the case.

Walter Mann Sr. was released Dec. 16 after a year and three months — well over twice the time he would have served if he had been convicted in his contempt case.

"I was shocked, and then part of me was shocked that I was shocked because I've read enough other stories about things like this," said public defender Shoshana Paige, whose efforts led to Mann's quick release. "This one seems to be pretty egregious."

Mann's legal troubles began in 2002, when his 13-year-old son assaulted him and was sent to a juvenile detention center. Mann, unemployed and on disability benefits, was ordered to pay $50 monthly for the boy's housing but never did, according to court records.

The district attorney's office filed a motion for contempt of juvenile court. The court then issued a writ ordering Mann brought before a judge, which led to his incarceration in September 2004 for three minor warrants issued for writing bad checks. Then he waited more than a year as his contempt case was postponed again and again.

"He wasn't lost in the system," said Sheriff's Department spokesman Sgt. Don Peritz. "We knew he was here. He was here on a legitimate writ of attachment. We hold them until the judge says to hold him no longer."

An October 2004 court docket entry appears to order that the writ be lifted, but Sheriff's Department records do not show the writ being lifted or an ordered release.

If Mann had been convicted in the contempt case, he would have served a maximum of six months in jail and faced a $500 fine.

His release came after cellmate Jim Brooks, 64, heard from Mann that he had never seen a lawyer.

"I said, 'Man, why don't you call your people?' He said, 'Nah, I don't want to bother them with anything,'" Brooks said.

Brooks, jailed on minor theft charges, told his public defender, who told Paige. She made several calls and Mann was released the same day.

That's when he disappeared again. Paige has not been able to locate him, and a search of previous addresses, phone numbers, shelters, hospitals and medical examiner offices turned up nothing.

"I don't know if he had a place to sleep," Paige said. "I don't know what his mental condition was."

Jackpot inflation leads to trying times at the lottery

By LIZ AUSTIN
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Dawn Nettles had been tracking Lotto Texas jackpots for years, convinced the Texas Lottery couldn't possibly be selling enough tickets to pay the advertised prizes.

This June, after Nettles complained to the Texas attorney general, lottery officials admitted she was right: Three times in eight months the agency had advertised jackpots that were higher than ticket sales would have supported.

That revelation set off a firestorm at the nation's third-largest lottery, prompting the executive director's resignation and leading lawmakers to question some management practices at the agency that reported over $3.5 billion in sales last year.

"I just was tired of them lying and I thought, 'Well, I'll try this,' but I never expected anyone to pay attention to it," said Nettles, a lottery watchdog who publishes the "Lotto Report" newsletter and Web site.

Lottery chief Reagan Greer resigned in July, two weeks after he admitted approving a staff report proposing advertising an $8 million jackpot for the June 8 Lotto Texas drawing even though estimated sales could only cover $6.5 million.

An internal investigation found the same thing had happened twice before, in October 2004 and again in February. No one won the jackpot in any of those drawings.

The jackpot starts at $4 million and traditionally grows by at least $1 million each time no tickets match all five numbers and a bonus ball. But sales are usually slow until the jackpot reaches at least $9 million.

Products Manager Robert Tirloni, one of two lottery managers who proposed the inflated June jackpot, told the three-man Texas Lottery Commission he was concerned players would stop buying tickets if the jackpot didn't grow each drawing.

> ***"I think that the lottery still has not come to grasp that they are under the jurisdiction of the Legislature."***
>
> —Rep. Ismael "Kino" Flores

Greer said he did not closely scrutinize the staff report because he trusted his staff.

The House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee, which oversees the agency, chastised lottery leaders for deceiving the public.

Lottery spokesman Bobby Heith said the agency made significant changes to Lotto Texas to avoid future problems and regain the public's trust. A commissioner must now sign off on advertised jackpots, and the agency guarantees that grand prize winners will be paid either the advertised jackpot or the jackpot based on sales, whichever is greater.

"Any time you have a change in leadership, it gives management an opportunity to step forward and meet new challenges," Heith said.

The lottery is still looking for a new executive director.

In addition to the jackpot scandal, lottery officials also had to face questions about personnel policies and emergency preparedness.

Following the firing of Lee Deviney, the other manager who proposed the inflated jackpots, current and former lottery employees complained the agency uses the threat of terminations to scare and intimidate anyone who questions lottery operations.

Deviney had written an e-mail to top lottery officials pointing out that ticket sales wouldn't cover the approved jackpot. While agency officials insisted his termination was not related to the controversy and its timing was a coincidence, Deviney said he had received a positive evaluation and a pay raise eight months earlier.

The November firing of a senior lottery systems analyst who went public with claims that the agency's emergency control center isn't fully functional appeared to bolster the employees' case with some lawmakers.

However, lottery commission chairman C. Thomas Clowe and acting executive director Gary Grief insist the emergency center has been fully functional for years.

"There seems to be a pattern of an employee sharing information and then being terminated. It's never the other way around," state Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale, R-Houston, said in November. "Even in the last two instances, it's been share information and even convey 'I'll probably be terminated' and then get terminated."

Lottery lawyers say at-will firings are protected by Texas employment law, and officials have denied threatening anyone.

Since July, supervisors have had to get Grief's approval before taking any actions that could result in a firing.

The State Auditor's Office is looking into the lottery's personnel policies at the agency's request and its findings should be released early next year.

Still, state Rep. Ismael "Kino" Flores, chairman of the legislative committee that deals with the lottery, said he will closely watch the agency.

"I think that the lottery still has not come to grasp that they are under the jurisdiction of the Legislature," said Flores, a South Texas Democrat. "They still have an attitude that they want to do whatever they want to do when they want to do it."

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Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs Endorses Jim Landtroop for State Representative

Landtroop also announces more than 16 key conservative endorsements from across West Texas

PLAINVIEW – The Jim Landtroop for State Representative campaign today announced the endorsement of Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs and released new names of key Republicans who have endorsed Jim in the March 7 Republican primary (see list below). In addition to Commissioner Combs, those who have endorsed Landtroop include all four members of the State Republican Executive Committee who represent House District 85 and 9 of the 13 Republican County Chairmen who are allowed to endorse a candidate.

"I am proud to support Jim Landtroop in his race for the Texas House of Representatives," said Combs. "Having served there myself, I know that his personal integrity, conservative views, and hard work will serve the citizens of that district well. Rural Texas needs a strong voice and Jim Landtroop will provide that voice. I look forward to working with him in the coming years."

Landtroop said "I am honored to receive Ag Commissioner Susan Comb's endorsement. Susan has been a great asset to West Texas and a champion for our agricultural interests. I am excited about the opportunity to work with her to ensure the growth of West Texas."

Additionally, Landtroop was endorsed last week by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, adding to previous endorsements from Congressman Mike Conaway, who represents four of the counties in HD 85, and fellow West Texan Victor Carrillo. Mr. Carrillo serves on the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees the state's oil and gas industry.

Landtroop said "Our conservative message is attracting new supporters each day. Our campaign continues to gain momentum each week, and I'm proud and honored to have these people on my team. Our message is simple: standing up for small business and jobs across West Texas, protecting our agriculture and oil and gas industry, ensuring educational excellence, and standing firm for traditional Texas values. I'm pleased that people are responding to our message."

Big Spring City Councilwoman Joanne Staulcup, who has previously endorsed Landtroop, commented "I have endorsed Jim Landtroop because of his conservative values, and I am convinced Jim will be an excellent representative for our area."

Landtroop is a 5th generation Texan and a resident of Plainview, Texas. He understands what it means to live, work and raise a family in West Texas. Jim graduated from Texas A&M University in 1991 with a degree in Business Management. Today, he owns a small insurance agency in Plainview. Landtroop is an active civic leader involved in many aspects of the community including the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the American Cancer Society.

As a lifelong conservative, Jim Landtroop believes in traditional Texas values as well as core Republican principles. Jim has served as a precinct chairman, convention delegate, and most recently, as county co-chairman for U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer's successful campaign. Jim and his wife, Cathy, are the proud parents of three children: Braden (10), Kenneth (9) and Lauren Grace (5). The Landtroop family helped found Plainview Bible Church where Jim serves on the Leadership Team.

ENDORSEMENTS ANNOUNCED 12/22/05:
Chad Weaver, SREC District 31 Committeeman
Benona Love, SREC District 31 Committeewoman
Jane Cansino, SREC District 28 Committeewoman
Tom Mechler, SREC District 28 Committeeman
Kerry Pratt, Floyd County GOP Chair
Wade Cowan, Terry County GOP Chair
Isaac Castro, Jones County GOP Chair
Margarita Durand-Hollis, Howard County GOP Chair
Diane Havlak, Glasscock County GOP Chair
Leondra Standard, Irion County GOP Chair
Gerald Isom, Reagan County GOP Chair
Roberta McCrea, Sterling County GOP Chair
Irene Howell, Garza County GOP Chair

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Jim Landtroop Campaign
17552

TREES

Continued from Page 1A

tree in a dumpster or next to the dumpster, we won't pick it up," he said. "We'll simply notify code enforcement and let them handle it."

Davis said dropping your tree off at the landfill and other designated locations is free of charge, and there are only a few simple guidelines to follow.

"We need people to make sure all of the lights and ornaments are off the tree," he explained. "We also can't take it if it's still wrapped in plastic or anything like that. You also need to make sure the tree stand has been taken off. Once they drop it off, we'll take it from there."

The drop-off locations are expected to be in place as soon as Tuesday, according to Davis.

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

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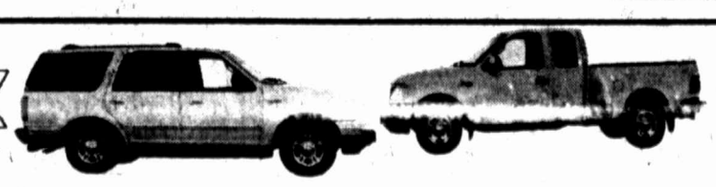

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) *Sun* in September, 1897. Her Letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" — the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in *The New York Sun* in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every quarter of the globe.

The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcelius Church's response is an annual tradition at the *Herald*. We hope you enjoy it.

***

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The Sun*:

"Dear Editor:
I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Clause.
Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.'
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon,
115 West 95th Street"

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, and ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you every see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what make the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Hark! The Herald angel coughs

Random thoughts while coughing:

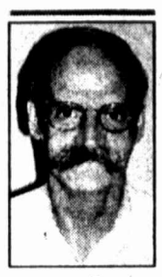
•••

Nothing says Christmas quite like a head cold.

OK, that sounds bad.

How about: 'Tis the season to sneeze like crazy.

Nah, that doesn't quite do it, either.



STEVE REAGAN

See, the deal is this: It's almost The Day — Christmas, Dec. 25, etc. — and the Powers That Be have seen fit to bestow on me the gift of a nasty, nasty cold.

And that's 10 kinds of unfair.

It's hard enough getting into the Christmas spirit in the first place without having to deal with a coughing fit at the same time.

Don't get me wrong: This is not some weak, transparent attempt to gain your sympathy.

I don't want your pity — I want your cough drops.

I don't want your tears — I want your tissues.

I don't want your ... oh, never mind. What I really want is to be over this stinkin' cold.

When I was a kid, not only did I think Christmas was the most fantastic time of the year, but I could not imagine anyone being sick the week of the holiday. It was an impossibility, right up there with getting toothpaste back in the tube, or the Texas Rangers winning the World Series.

Well, the impossible has arrived — and no, I'm not talking about the Rangers, either.

Before this really does dissolve into a bald-faced grab at sympathy, let me say that in the great scope of things, I still have things pretty darned good, and a lot better than some of more unfortunate brethren across the globe.

It's just that I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired, you know what I mean?

•••

Since my brain is having trouble with complex functions like, say, typing and forming coherent thoughts, let's see what's going on elsewhere, shall we?

From the "Some People Have Too Much Money" Department comes the following news item from Tokyo:

TOKYO (AP) — If you can't decide between diamonds and something sweet for your sweetheart this holiday season, a Japanese store has the answer: both.

Takashimaya Department Store in central Tokyo is offering a diamond-studded, $1.7 million cake.

The sparkling pink creation, which went on sale Tuesday, "has already received many inquiries" from prospective customers, said store spokesman Takeshi Morinaka.

A total of 223 diamonds — including a 5-carat, heart-shaped stone — adorn the double-layer, marzipan-coated fruitcake, designed by Tokyo-based sweets chef Jeong Hong-yong.

"It's entirely edible, except for the diamonds of course," Morinaka said.

For those who can't afford the luxury, Takashimaya will be serving up a less costly replica of the cake at a champagne party on Christmas eve, he added.

The cake is on display at the store until Dec. 25.

Notice that the gentleman in the story said the cake was edible "except for the diamonds, of course." I'm glad to see that totally obvious things need to be pointed out in other countries, as well.

•••

In other Christmas-related News of the Weird:

LONDON (AP) — For some harassed Christmas motorists, Santa has turned out to be just the ticket.

Motorists receiving parking tickets in the central English city of Birmingham recently have found Christmas cards on their windshields containing money to pay the fine, the Daily Telegraph reported.

Each card contains a note reading, "Don't let this ticket spoil your Christmas. Here's 30 pounds to pay it off. Merry Christmas — Parking Ticket Santa."

So far, 14 motorists have benefited from this anonymous benefactor's largesse, the newspaper said.

"At first I thought it was a joke and kept looking around for the person who had left it there," said Caroline Howard, 27. "But perhaps Santa really does exist after all."

What can you say to that — except, "Merry Christmas," of course.

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

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Ill tidings coming from Capitol Hill

This holiday season brings ill tidings for an America dominated by two bickering behemoths. The Republicans are flailing under their bag of goodies for America, stuffed with a spate of ethics scandals at state, congressional, and presidential levels, as well as Iraq's daily death toll. The Democrats are buckling under the weight of their own Santa satchel, bulging with pundits and consultants who cry for a bold, new vision, but with little, unified answer from party leaders who already should have one.

During my two decades as a congressman, I know that this kind of political posturing and finger pointing in Washington is par for the course, even at this time of year. But it has gotten worse, with more serious consequences. Lost in the self-interested politics of this bitterly divided, two-party duopoly is Americans' perennial wish to finally be free to vote their conscience, not their calculus.

For too long, Americans have had to choose between "the lesser of two evils" or risk having their vote for a favorite candidate outside the duopoly split the majority and benefit their least favorite candidate. Many simply abstain.

The problem is our winner-take all, plurality-voting system that could and should be changed by mere statute. This system violates the fundamental principles of real democracy: that every vote should count equally and that a true majority should rule.

Furthermore, it increasingly causes demonizing partisanship and power grappling between two mega-parties, supplanting public service and principled policy altogether.

Indeed, the "bane of party spirit," of which George Washington warned in his farewell address in 1796, has produced the factions and increasingly bitter recriminations feared by our constitutional framers. Our polarized, winner-take-all elections in gerrymandered districts have given us five consecutive national congressional elections where more than 98 percent of all incumbents have won, most by huge margins. Most state legislators are even more entrenched, resulting in leaders who quash all dissent and run roughshod over the minority.

JOHN B. ANDERSON

The one-party domination of most congressional districts and of most legislatures is a product of limiting choices and denying representation to so many Americans. As it stands now, winner-take-all elections for legislative seats has majority Republicans entrenched, feeling invulnerable, while the minority Democrats try to be everything — and therefore nothing — to everybody to win back seats.

Regardless of which party is temporarily on top, though, too many in the major parties loathe the idea of voters having more viable choices. With more voices, they risk losing the chokehold of a two-choice electoral system that produces stagnation rather than stability, an entrenchment of corrupting power rather than the energy of new ideas needed to address war and inequality that cast lengthening shadows here and abroad.

There is little democracy, much less progress, when voters' choices are restricted and their voices, therefore, muted. This is exactly why I left my party to run as an independent for president of the United States in 1980. The major parties can only be accountable if able to defeat challenges by independents and third parties.

Americans want, and deserve, a bold, pragmatic vision for free and fair elections here at home, bridging the so-called red-state, blue-state divide, and ensuring accountability, integrity and diversity of views - even within a given party. We must put America's democracy back in the hands of the voters, where it belongs.

Instead of electing executive leaders by plurality systems that put independents in the "spoiler" role, we should use instant runoff voting, a majority system that has passed with flying colors in major elections abroad and in American cities. Instead of electing legislators through winner-take-all, one-seat districts, we should use proportional systems that widen voter choices and representation in multi-seat districts — just as my home state of Illinois so effectively elected state legislators for more than a century.

If our elected officials are too hooked on the politics of power to trust the will of the American people, we should likewise choose not to put our trust in them. Such common-sense reforms cannot wait when the purpose of our country and so many lives literally hang in the balance.

For each American, therefore, let us recall the words of Lincoln in this season and give our country the gift that truly keeps giving: a real democracy — of the people, for the people, and, ultimately, by the people.

John B. Anderson served Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1961 to 1981. He ran for president as an independent in 1980 and today is chairman of FairVote - The Center for Voting and Democracy, P.O. Pox 60037, Washington, D.C. 20039; Web site: www.fairvote.org

Sister's love

Libby Uribe decorates a family park for her brother and community

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Libby Uribe makes some last minute adjustments to a light-wrapped poinsettia, one of several Christmas-inspired displays lighting up the Big Spring skyline at her park, located on the Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road. Uribe built the park as a memorial to her brother, Ismael Holguin, who was killed in Vietnam in 1968.

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Festival of Lights may have Highway 87 covered, but a local woman with Christmas joy and an amazing love for her brother who was killed In Vietnam almost 40 years ago is staking claim to Interstate Highway 20.

Libby Uribe, owner and operator of La Vedera Club, has been working to establish a new park dedicated to the memory of her brother, Ismael Holguin, in northwest Big Spring.

And thanks to a couple-thousand Christmas lights and a marked lack of fear for heights and ladders, Uribe is using the spot, located at 1100 Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road, to brighten the Christmas spirit for travelers.

"I figured since the park is on the Interstate Highway, a lot of people driving by see it," said Uribe. "With the Festival of Lights, you pretty much have to drive to it to see it. I figured this would be a good way to give something back to the community.

"I was born here and I really love this community. I'm not doing any of this for money. I do this for the people and everyone seems to enjoy it."

Uribe said she's even keeping with this year's unofficial holiday theme.

"I purchased one of the poinsettias, similar to the ones you see around town and at the Festival of Lights, for the park as well," said Uribe. "The same people who made the ones out at the lake made this poinsettia. I'm also looking at getting a bigger one for next year."

Uribe said she's learned a few lessons through decorating the small tract of land, especially when it comes to decorating mesquite trees.

"I've worked on it every day," said Uribe. "My arms are all cut up from the mesquite trees. I had to use a really tall ladder and a pole to hang a lot of the lights. I put more than 500 of the larger bulb lights on the large mesquite tree alone. When it lights up, it just looks like so bright you can't see the tree itself."

As Uribe stands back and looks at her Christmas marvel each night, the Big Spring woman said it serves as a shining reminder of her brother and the love they shared.

"My brother was like my own son," said Uribe. "He was 10 years younger than me. I graduated in 1956 and he graduated in 1966, and we did everything together. He was killed in 1968, so he's getting to be an old man now.

"We received a video he had sent us from Vietnam. We got it 10 days after he was killed. He was on the video assuring my mom he wasn't fighting, that he could see the fire but he wasn't close to it. I kept up with things on the radio while he was there, and I had a map and followed where he was on it."

Holguin was killed in 1968 while serving with the U.S. Army's 186th Light Infantry in Vietnam. Holguin was 20 years old at the time of his death.

"I thought to myself, 'I have three acres. I can fix it up and make it into a memorial for my brother,'" said Uribe. "I figured I don't have to wait for anyone, I can just do it myself.

"When the war in Iraq started, I decorated the outside of my entire house in red, white and blue. I even put a really big USA in the lawn for everyone to see. I do that for him. I do that for my brother."

Uribe said the lights will be on display until after the New Year holiday.

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

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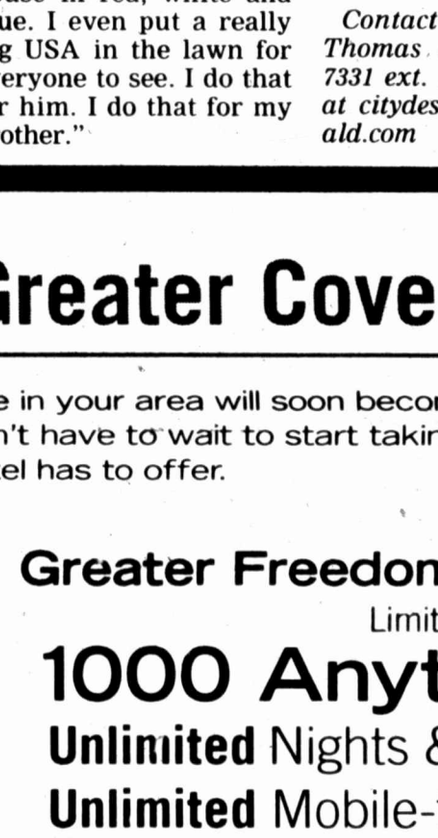

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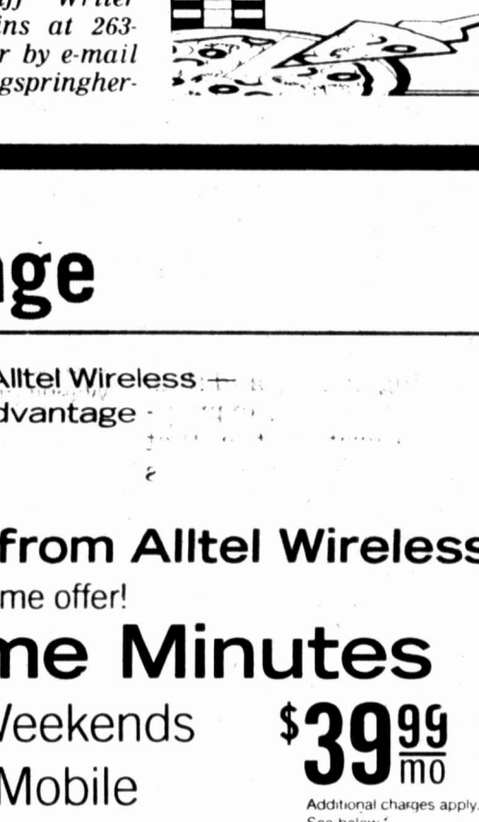

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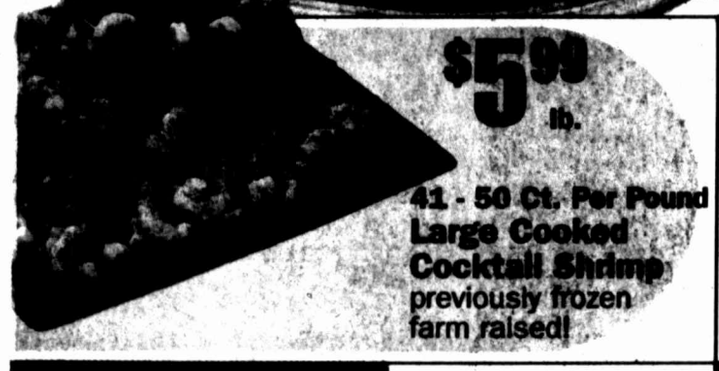

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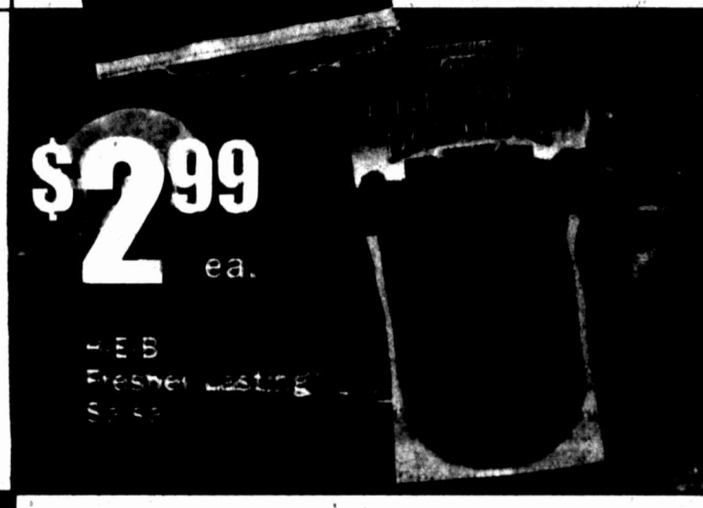

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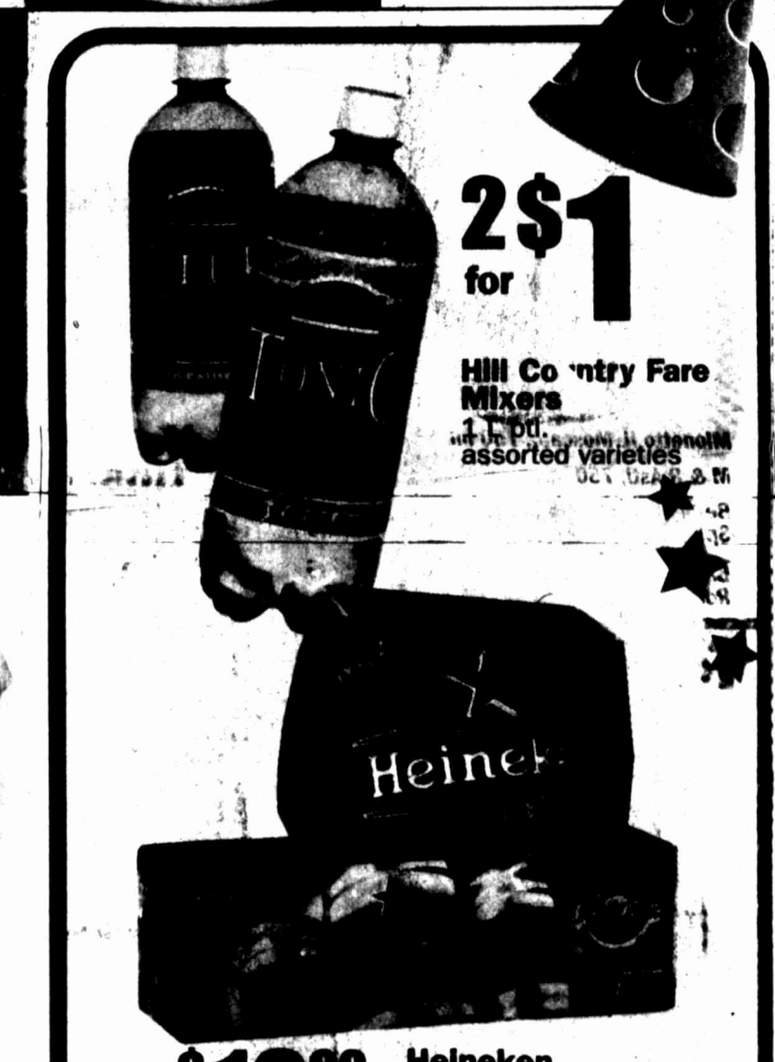

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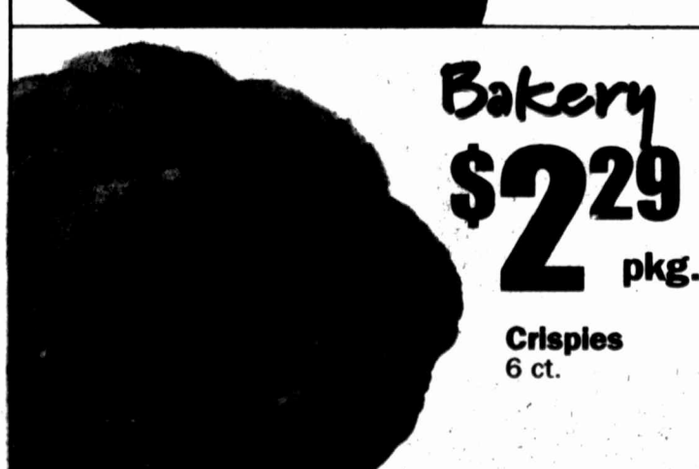

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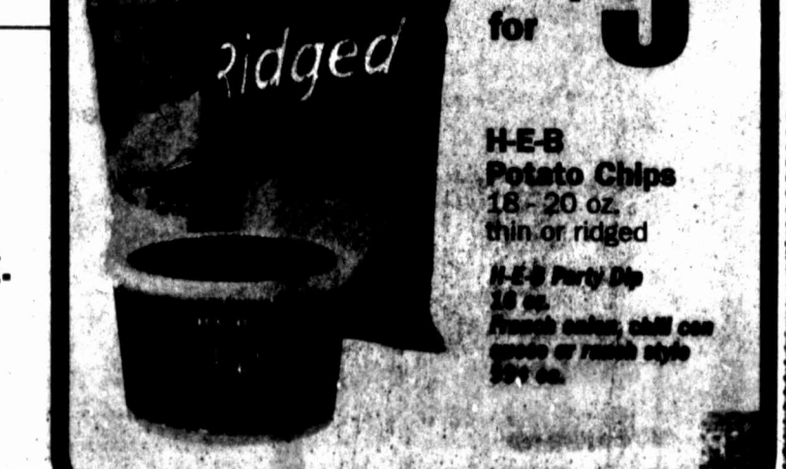

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tips: to prevent sparkling wine from [illegible] glass, pour an ounce, which will settle quickly. Then fill the remainder of the glass and enjoy.

Ideal serving temperature for sparkling wine - 46°F / 8°C

Top Rated Wines from the Wine Spectator

92 point rating $37.99 ea. Joseph Phelps Cabernet 2002 750 ml

90 point rating $14.99 ea. Sebastiani Cabernet 2002 750 ml

Allegrini Della Torre 2000, 750 ml	*$15.78 ea. (90 pt. rating)*
St Supery Napa Sauvignon Blanc 2004, 750 ml	*$13.99 ea. (89 pt. rating)*
Chat Souverain Alexander Valley Cabernet 2002, 750 ml	*$18.99 ea. (88 pt. rating)*
Crossing Reserve Pinot Noir 2004, 750 ml	*$17.99 ea. (88 pt. rating)*

Top Rated Wines from the Wine Enthusiast

90 point rating $37.89 ea. Treana Red 2001 750 ml

91 editor's choice $21.17 ea. Franciscan Oakville Cabernet 2002 750 ml

Cuviason Chardonnay 2003, 750 ml	*$18.28 ea. (92 pt. rating)*
Chiarlo Nivole Moscato D'Asti 2004, 375 ml	*$9.50 ea. (87 pt. rating)*

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Carmel Road Monterrey Pinot Noir 750 ml	$14.99 ea.

Top Rated Wines from Robert Parker

90 point rating $14.99 ea. Shingleback Shiraz 2002 750 ml

The Gate Shiraz 2002 750 ml, $29.99 ea. (90 pt. rating)

Las Rocas Grenacha 2003, 750 ml $6.99 ea. *Robert Parker called this "World Greatest Find" 99 pts.*

Top Rated Wines Wine & Spirits Magazine

92 point rating $19.98 ea. Beringer Knights Valley Cabernet 2001 750 ml

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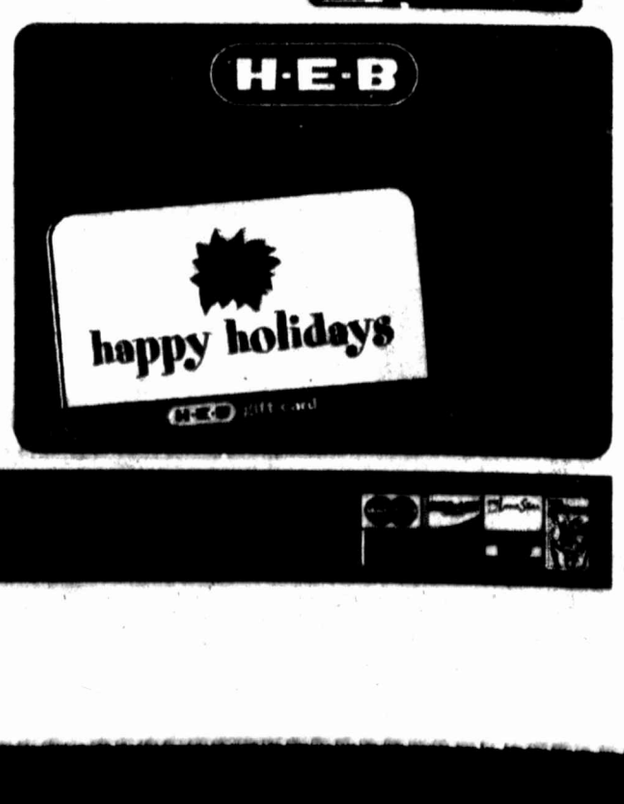

H-E-B

Prices Good Monday, December 26 Thru Saturday, December 31, 2005 At Your Neighborhood H-E-B Stores.

NAME THE PRESIDENTS

Can you name these presidents? The answers are on Page 10A

Lauren F. Winner, the daughter of a Jewish father and a lapsed Southern Baptist mother, is the author of the acclaimed 2002 memoir, "Girl Meets God," about her spiritual journey from Judaism to Christianity.

When a household celebrates two holidays

By Lauren F. Winner
The Dallas Morning News

"I've really appreciated my Jewish in-laws' excitement and openness to celebrating Christmas with us. This year, we can celebrate them together for real because the holidays coincide."

Here is one of my childhood memories: I remember the Christmas tree, sitting in front of the window in the den of our house in Asheville, N.C., all decked out with ornaments and long strings of cranberries and popcorn my sister and I had strung; and a few feet away sat the menorah, with its pretty, proud candles, green, yellow, and pink.

I remember my father asking my mother, with just a hint of worry in his voice, whether my grandmother — the Baptist grandmother — would mind us lighting Hanukkah candles after her arrival, or whether we should rush and get them lit just a little bit early, and my mother laughing her glassy laugh and saying "No, of course she won't mind, don't be silly."

And then I remember Grandy in her polyester suit and her arched osteoporosis hump and her finely styled faded red hair standing with us, quite happily, while my father in his slightly awkward Hebrew (awkward because of rare use, and awkward because of his thick mountain accent) chanted the brachot, the blessings, and lit the menorah.

This simple and sweet memory captures best, I think, the beauties of growing up in an interfaith family. It is a memory that I will slip into again on Sunday, which, this year, in a rare congruence of calendars, is both Christmas and the first night of Hanukkah. (The Jewish calendar is lunar, each month tied to a new moon. Because the lunar calendar is not the same length as the Gregorian calendar, the Gregorian dates on which Jewish holidays fall are different each year. This is what people mean when they talk about Hanukkah being "late" this year. Sometimes it is "early" and overlaps with Thanksgiving!)

But interfaith family

See CELEBRATE, Page 10A

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CELEBRATE

Continued from Page 9A

celebrations are not always simple and sweet. Sometimes, the holidays feel very, very complicated. With interfaith marriages now commonplace — at some synagogues, interfaith families outnumber all-Jewish families — more husbands and wives and moms and dads struggle to figure out December.

Celebrate Christmas? Celebrate Hanukkah? Celebrate both?

When I look around at my friends in interfaith marriages, I see a variety of answers to those questions. One couple I know, Dan and Susan, easily blend their religious traditions all year round — until December. For Dan, who grew up in a conservative Jewish household and now attends a Reform synagogue, having a Christmas tree is beyond the pale. So he and Susan always spend Christmas Day with her family — Dan can handle a tree as long as it's not in his home.

"I know a tree is a cultural symbol, not a religious symbol," he says, "and maybe it isn't logical that I can accompany my wife and her family to church, but do not want a Christmas tree. But to me the symbolism is just the point — I knew too many Jewish families growing up who talked of having a 'Hanukkah bush' because they felt their traditions were inferior to their Christians neighbors'."

Another intermarried couple I know decided to raise their children in a Jewish home, even though the non-Jewish father has not converted. So rather than spend Dec. 25 celebrating Christmas, they volunteer at a local soup kitchen.

Other families blend the holidays into one syncretic mush - you can even find greeting cards the feature bagels, lox, and holly, or reindeer munching maztah balls and proclaiming "Happy Chrismukkah!" (The phrase was made popular in 2003 by television's "The O.C.," which features an interfaith family.) I have to admit I find "Chrismukkah" in poor taste. Christmas and Hanukkah are not the same holiday. In fact, insofar as Hanukkah celebrates the Jewish people's triumphs over assimilation, they might even be in tension with one another.

Many interfaith families fret about the "December Dilemma." And the season can be full of challenges. How do you celebrate both holidays in a way that is authentic, but respectful? How do you please — or at least not offend — your mother-in-law?

Raising children makes matters even trickier. If you introduce your children to two religious traditions, do you risk their feeling grounded in neither? If your son one day, as a teenager or an adult, settles fully into one tradition, will he feel like he has picked one parent over the other?

It is important, too, to note that families trying to create truly interfaith households are in a different — and perhaps more difficult — situation than spouses of different religious backgrounds who have committed to, say, raise Jewish children in a Jewish home. Sylvia Barack Fishman, author of "Double or Nothing? Jewish Families and Mixed Marriage" and a professor of contemporary Jewish life at Brandeis University, has argued that if parents want their children to have a strong Jewish identity, they need to choose between celebrating Christmas and celebrating Hanukkah. It is fine to go to Grandma's house on Christmas morning, she says, as long as you make it clear that Christmas is part of Grandma's religion, not the religion of your immediate family. But what if both Christmas and Hanukkah truly are part of your household's religion (or religions)? That can be more complicated to explain on the ride over to Grandma's.

Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, of Dallas' Temple Emanu-El, points out that December can be difficult for Jewish families even when there is no intermarriage. Jewish parents, especially in the South, sometimes worry that "their kids will stand out, or will be perceived as strange if they don't believe in Santa Claus. There is a real fear that neighbors or other friends might exclude us or ostracize us from other social gatherings if we're not participating in Christmas."

But the December Dilemma is not just a dilemma. Rabbi Goldenberg says she sees this time of year as an opportunity to remind her congregants that "there are many ways for people to build rich joyous Jewish memories for ourselves throughout the year."

Many interfaith families feel enriched by their celebrations of different holidays. Donna Freitas of Brooklyn is a Catholic, married to a Jew. This year, her father and her in-laws will gather for a joint celebration of Christmas and the first night of Hanukkah.

"I've really appreciated my Jewish in-laws' excitement and openness to celebrating Christmas with us," she says. "This year, we can celebrate them together for real because the holidays coincide." Freitas fondly recalls cooking Italian holiday favorites with her mother, who died two years ago. "I'm excited to be cooking with my mother-in-law bringing some of her Jewish recipes into our new culinary celebrations."

Those of us who, by marriage or by birth, are part of interfaith families can take some practical steps to make December less a dilemma and more a delight. Good communication is, of course, key. Folks in interfaith marriages need to share their expectations with their spouses — even if they don't fully understand why they feel the way they do. (You might not know exactly why you don't want that Christmas tree in your living room. In fact, you might not even realize that you don't want it until your honey announces it's time to grab your ax and go chop one.)

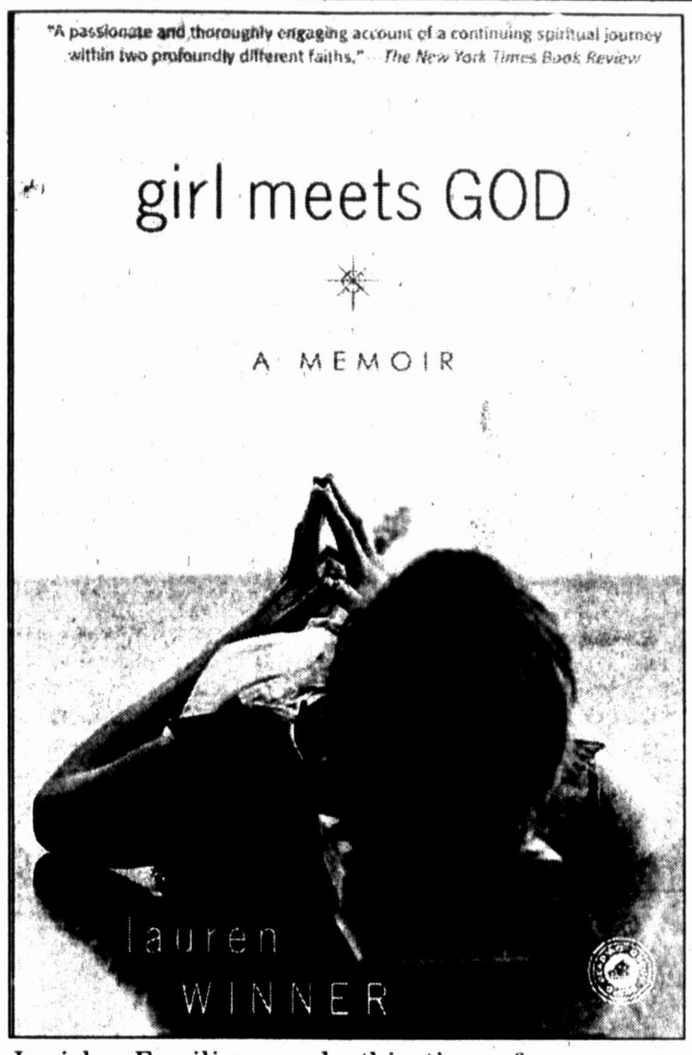
If you hope your parents and in-laws will be involved in your new interfaith traditions, invite them. You might even send them a calendar with holiday celebrations highlighted. But, just as important, invite them into conversations about their thoughts and feelings, their discomforts and anxieties. Try to create space for them to say that they don't want to or can't participate in certain rituals or celebrations.

Be prepared to compromise. If your Jewish father-in-law is coming for Christmas Eve dinner, perhaps you can skip the traditional baked ham and oyster casserole.

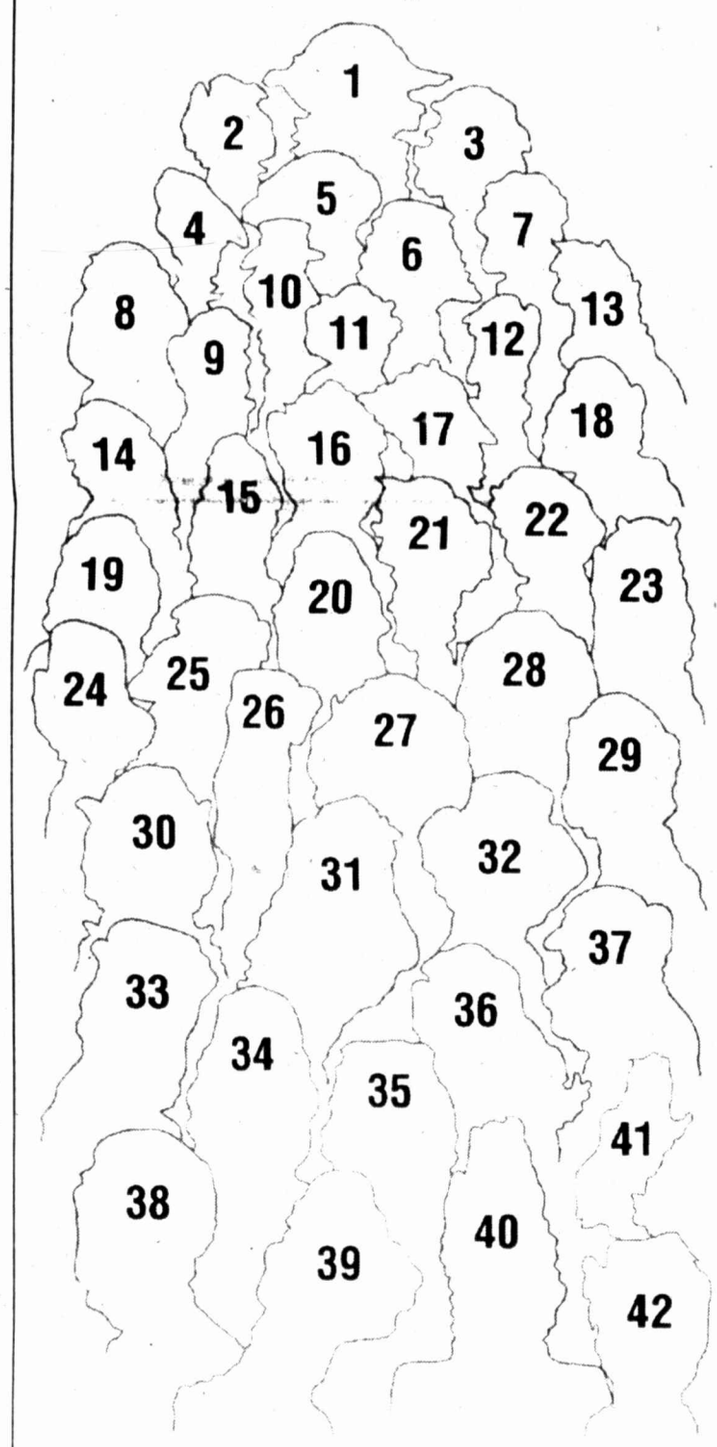
I have landed in the Episcopal Church, and I am married to a Presbyterian (not exactly an interfaith marriage, though you might be surprised ...) This Christmas will find us at my parents-in-laws' home in Americus, Ga. A few days later, we'll drive to Asheville, where we'll listen to my father in his mountain Hebrew chant the brachot over the Hanukkah candles. In the background, my stepmother's Christmas tree will twinkle with its own lights.

My father and I are members of different religious communities, and we believe different things. As I watch the Hanukkah flames dance, on the fourth day of Hanukkah and the fourth day of Christmastide, I will be thinking less about the Macabees, and more about the Light of the World. But everyone gathered around that menorah, whether Christian or Jewish, will both be giving thanks for family, and contemplating the miraculous way that God breaks into our ordinary human time.

Lauren F. Winner, the daughter of a Jewish father and a lapsed Southern Baptist mother, is the author of the acclaimed 2002 memoir, "Girl Meets God," about her spiritual journey from Judaism to Christianity.



NAME THE PRESIDENTS



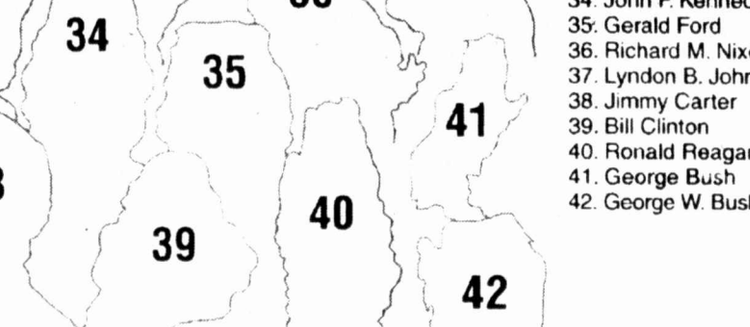
KEY

Numbers do not correspond to the order each president served

1. George Washington
2. John Quincy Adams
3. Thomas Jefferson
4. John Tyler
5. John Adams
6. James Madison
7. James Monroe
8. Millard Fillmore
9. James K. Polk
10. Andrew Jackson
11. Martin Van Buren
12. William Henry Harrison
13. James Buchanan
14. James Garfield
15. Rutherford B. Hayes
16. Zachary Taylor
17. Franklin Pierce
18. U.S. Grant
19. Grover Cleveland
20. Chester Alan Arthur
21. Abraham Lincoln
22. Andrew Johnson
23. William McKinley
24. Calvin Coolidge
25. Benjamin Harrison
26. Woodrow Wilson
27. William H. Taft
28. Theodore Roosevelt
29. Warren G. Harding
30. Harry S. Truman
31. Franklin D. Roosevelt
32. Herbert Hoover
33. Dwight D. Eisenhower
34. John F. Kennedy
35. Gerald Ford
36. Richard M. Nixon
37. Lyndon B. Johnson
38. Jimmy Carter
39. Bill Clinton
40. Ronald Reagan
41. George Bush
42. George W. Bush

Answers appear above for the puzzle on Page 9A

Merry Christmas & Happy New year!
To All Our Friends And Patients



From Left To Right: Dr. Shroff, wife Pragna Shroff, Jeannette Butler, Becky Coker, Dee Clawson, LVN; Rachel Martinez, Gracie Nuno.

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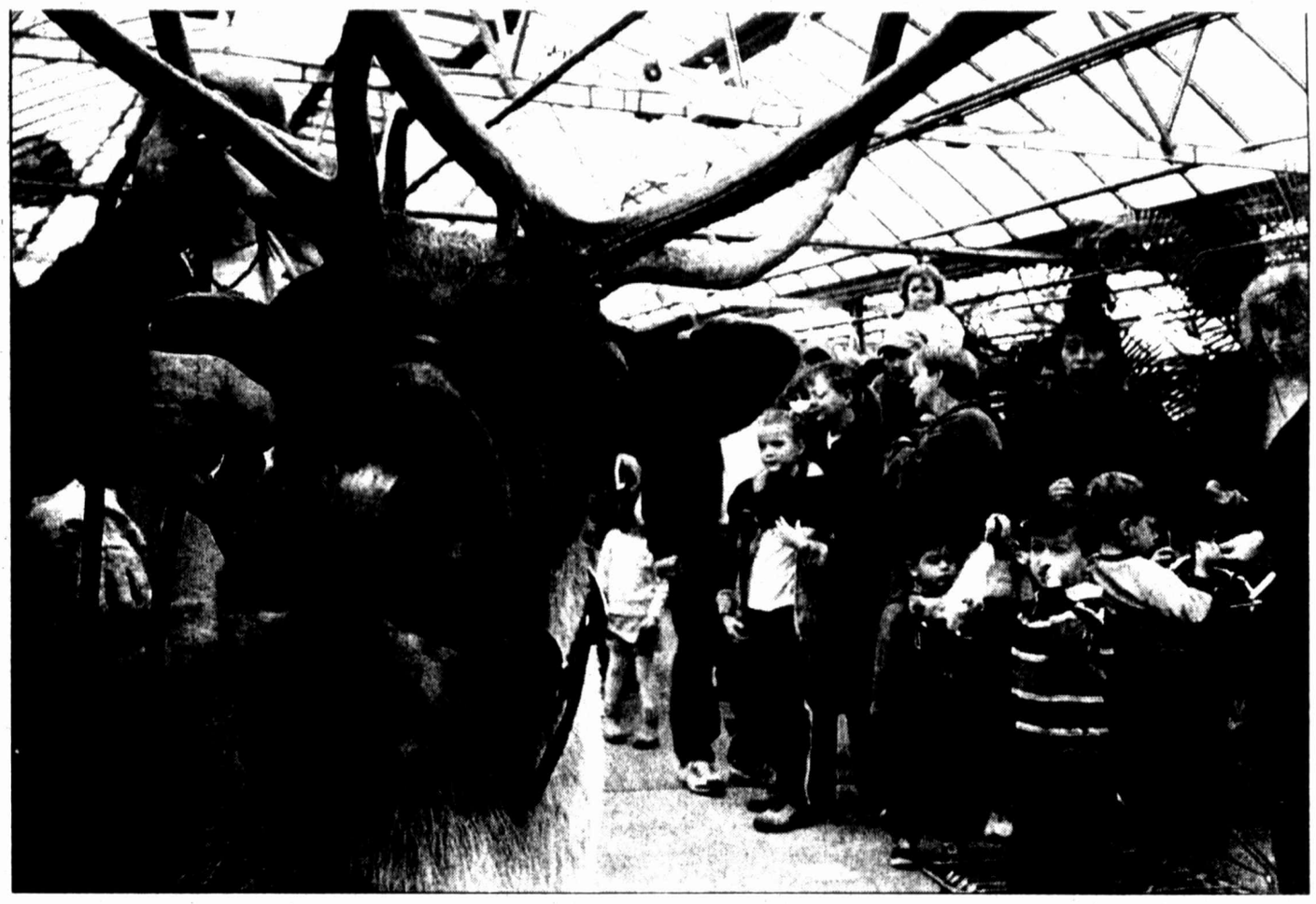
A CHANCE TO PET SANTA'S REINDEER

KRT Photo/Richard Koci Hernandez

Holidays are always in style at Santa.com. After Dec. 26, reindeer will be traded for hearts, the cider and cocoa for champagne and chocolates. The elves of Santa.com will becme the Cupids of happyvalentinesday.com, happy4thofjuly.com and so, on, for at least 24 more major holidays.



KRT Photo/Joan Fairman Kanes

Scottie the reindeer waits patiently for the next child in line, Matthew Lenghiel, 4, (in striped shirt) to pet him and pose for photos at Waterloo Gardens in Exton, Penn.

KRT Photo/Lloyd Francies Jr.

Santa Claus, left, holds his arms aloft as security guards at the San Jose International Airport check to make sure that he doesn't bring any unwanted gifts aboard his flight. Santa passed the test and was able to make his flight, sans the reindeer and sleigh.

KRT Photo/Carol T. Powers

Randy Brooks of Dallas, who penned "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" in 1977, says he is surprised his hit has become a children's song: "It was meant to be sung in a bar where people are drinking beer." Nineteen years after Randy Brooks wrote the hit song, people still ask him for his secret to success.

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Blow-up collectibles become big addiction

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE

(KRT)

Nothing says "Merry Christmas" like an oversize Santa on a blow-up Harley.

Unless, of course, Santa is accompanied by a hulking Frosty the Snowman, a gigantic Grinch and an 8-foot Homer Simpson toting a box marked "D'ohnuts."

Welcome to the world of inflatable-decoration collectors, where almost no display can be considered, um, overblown.

Inflatables have been looming over American yards for five Christmases now, ever since the first super-sized Santas and snowmen rose from the landscape on drafts of fan-driven air. And some people just can't get enough of them.

Take the Holders, for example. Each Christmas the Jackson Township, Ohio, family fills its yard with inflatables — 18 this year, to be exact. The Holder kids, Ashley and Alyssa, are known among their schoolmates as "the ones with all the blow-ups," their father, Charlie Holder, said. When the school bus pulls up on the first day the display is in place, "you can hear the decibel level go up."

It started innocently enough, Holder insisted. He and his wife, Christine, bought a couple of inflatables about four years ago, when the yard decorations were the new thing. Now they can't stop.

"We see a different one and decide, well, that would look good in the yard," he said.

Interest in inflatables has ballooned — sorry — to such an extent that there's even a collectors club. Muskogee, Okla., resident Jason Jones, the self-anointed King of Holiday Inflatables, started the Airblown Inflatable Collectors Club in July with another devotee, Joe [illegible] of suburban New York. The club has about 150 members already, and "we're getting more daily," Jones said.

Members of the club specialize in the nylon inflatables made by Gemmy Industries, the Texas toymaker that originated the genre. The company's product-development and creative team had seen giant blow-up characters tethered to the roofs of car dealerships, and it decided to translate the idea to consumer scale, said Sharlene Jenner, Gemmy's marketing manager.

"We're a toy company," she explained, "so we're just a crazy bunch of people."

Gemmy's first inflatables were an 8-foot Santa and an 8-foot snowman, which hit the market in 2001. Now the company introduces 150 to 200 new designs a year, Jenner said. This season's big sellers are the snow globes, which have a mechanism to suck up plastic pellets and shoot them out the top of a transparent inflatable ball, showering the characters inside.

Whatever Gemmy makes, Jones wants it. His collection currently comprises more than 400 Christmas inflatables — he refers to them by Gemmy's trade name, "Airblowns" — as well as inflatables for other holidays and occasions. In fact, his collection has grown so massive that this year he had to move his Christmas display from his yard to a local event site, where visitors can drive through his hundreds of Santas, reindeer, cartoon characters and other decorations.

The club has made it easier for Jones and connoisseurs like him to feed their habit. Some of Gemmy's inflatables are made exclusively for specific retail chains, he explained, so members will often offer to buy and ship an inflatable to a fellow collector who can't get the item in his or her area.

Those are the die-hards who drive Bob Gibbs' online inflatables business. Gibbs, of Massillon, Ohio, started Yardinflatables.com after seeing the exorbitant prices a hard-to-find Grinch from Rite-Aid was commanding on eBay a few years ago.

Now Gibbs sells inflatables for a variety of holidays, along with a few other items, through his online store. Business has been so brisk that Gibbs had to move from his garage to a warehouse in Canton, where boxes and boxes of Peanuts and Pooh and Elmo and SpongeBob inflatables line shelves and teeter in towering stacks. He's already wondering whether the cluttered warehouse will be big enough next year.

Gibbs specializes in hard-to find inflatables and eschews items that "everybody can get at the Wal-Marts." He sells only Gemmy products, with the exception of two inflatables he had custom-made in China — a Hanukkah bear, which sports a yarmulke and holds a dreidel, and an angel with a fabric skirt that flutters in the breeze.

The angel, it turned out, posed a bit of a marketing problem. It was supposed to be called a Holiday Angel, but the boxes came back printed "Hanukkah Angel."

"Unfortunately, with China, there's a little communication problem," he said with a wry smile.

It's the constant innovation in inflatable designs that attracts Akron, Ohio, residents Terry Motz and Garry Lynch, who have eight of the decorations on display along with animated deer, lighted trees and other illuminated decorations. Among their newest additions is a family of snowmen huddling inside a snowglobe — an inflatable that Motz spotted during the summer and had to have.

Their inflatables also includes a reindeer family, which waves to people driving by their home at 218 White Pond Drive; a Santa that rises from a chimney and then drops back down, propelled by a pillow of air that continually inflates and deflates; and Chilly Willy, a penguin atop an igloo, who lists a bit as the result of surgery he underwent after an unfortunate slashing incident by a vandal.

Motz and Lynch don't limit themselves to Christmas. The couple also puts up inflatables for Halloween and Thanksgiving, and Motz admitted she'll probably branch out to Easter if she ever sees a blow-up decoration for that holiday.

Still, she insists on restraint. The couple has an entire barnful of lighted deer they didn't display this year, because that would be just too much.

They're not aiming for any "Christmas Vacation"-type excess, she said. "We don't want to look like the Griswolds."

KRT Photo/Mike Cardew

Garry Lynch checks on one of the Christmas decorations on the front lawn of his home in Akron, Ohio.

Information about the Airblown Inflatable Collectors Club is at www.airblownclub.com. Log on to see photos of Jason Jones' display on his Web site, www.kingofholidayinflatables.com.

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INSIDE THE BIG SPRING MALL • 263-0273

Linemen out of doghouse

IRVING (AP) — By the end of last season, coach Bill Parcells had lost so much faith in offensive linemen Andre Gurode and Torrin Tucker that he kicked them out of the starting lineup.

On Saturday, with the Cowboys fighting for a playoff berth, both might be back on the first team.

Their depth-chart revival is a reflection of many things, primarily the state of Dallas' line.

But it's also a testament to the players responding to Parcells' challenge and working their way back into his good graces.

The first thing to note is that injuries are behind their promotions. Tucker has started the last eight games at since left tackle Flozell Adams was lost to a knee injury and Gurode will only get his first start of the season if right guard Marco Rivera can't play because of a neck injury.

Gurode started 13 games at right guard last season, missing two because of injury and coming off the bench for the finale. The Cowboys signed Rivera to replace him. Gurode was moved to center, where he's backed up Al Johnson all season.

"A lot has changed that was problematic last year," Parcells said Thursday. "He's done a good job of battling back. I think he'll be fine, assignment-wise."

Rivera landed on his head during a play this past Sunday against Washington and had to be taken off the field on a stretcher. He spent the night in a D.C.-area hospital, then flew home Monday after tests found no serious problems. He didn't practice Wednesday or Thursday and is listed as questionable for Saturday's game against Carolina, jeopardizing his streak of 120 consecutive games, including playoffs.

"What he's got really are spasms," Parcells said. "Sometimes all of a sudden they dissipate and you're set to go. So we'll see. He's been right there for every drill, so he knows what to do."

Tucker went from starting the first 13 games at right tackle last season to being inactive the last three. The Cowboys did all they could to replace him in the offseason, finally giving the job to sixth-round pick Rob Petitti in training camp. Tucker played well enough in training camp to stick around as a backup, though the idea was he could fill in if Petitti struggled.

Replacing Adams, a Pro Bowl pick the previous two seasons, has been a tougher task. The Redskins blew by him for at least four of the seven sacks they recorded.

While Parcells is considering activating tackle Marcus Price, an eight-year veteran signed last month, he's more likely to tweak his game plan to get more help for Tucker and/or Petitti.

OFF the BENCH

TROY HYDE

This time of year, the days go too fast and the end of the 2005 year is quickly approaching us. As I drift back to Iowa for a little more than a week, I want to take a few inches and reflect on the past year in sports.

The Big Spring and Coahoma softball teams quite possibly made the biggest splashes this year with their incredible runs through the state playoffs.

The Lady Steers got farther than ever before, losing to arch rival Andrews 1-0 in the regional final. Big Spring, which beat Andrews twice during the regular season, lost just three times during the year.

The Bulldogettes are now the school with the most state tournament trips as the Coahoma softball team returned to Austin after a brilliant run through the playoffs. Kali Roberts threw back-to-back no-hitters in a best-of-three series and dominated on the mound in getting her team to state. The Bulldogettes were eventually ousted in the first round at state.

Another big story this year was the Big Spring football team making a return to the playoffs. The Steers lost some close games to some good teams early in the year, but were able to get three playoff-clinching wins at the end to seal a spot in the postseason. The Steers took down Pampa in Round 1 before traveling to El Paso the following week. Chapin's offense could not be stopped in the Steers' second playoff game as Big Spring's season ended with a 4-8 record.

The Garden City and Grady football teams also competed in the playoffs this year as did the Big Spring volleyball team. The Bearkats won their first playoff game in quite some time as they took down Borden County before losing to Grandfalls-Royalty in the second round.

Michael Rodriguez led his Big Spring boys cross country team this year, recording high finishes in the district and regional meets and advanced to the state cross country championships in Round Rock for the second straight year. He will go for a third next season as he returns to the team as a senior.

Congratulations to Jeff Lane for winning this year's edition of "Friday Night Forecasters." The game where myself and a few other community members try their luck at picking local, college and professional football winners each week. This year's contest was as close as it has ever been as Jeff won by just a few games over myself and Adam Dunlap.

The biggest news in sports locally right now would have to be the Howard men's basketball team and its quest for a national tournament appearance in March. The Hawks are currently 13-0 and ranked No. 2 in the season. The team is made up of several Division I caliber players. Charles Burgess has already committed to Texas Tech and James Barrett, who is not playing this season, will attend Sam Houston State next season.

Howard's biggest challenge this year might come from a long-time conference rival. Midland College ended Howard's chances last year at a national title, but this year's Hawk squad is determined to get to the next level. The Hawks have already defeated Midland this year and will have to play the Chaps at least two more times before the season is finished. But you can almost bet they will have to go through Midland to get to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

The best local basketball teams competing in the area this year are the Garden City girls and boys and the Forsan boys. The Lady Kats have started 12-3, while the Bearkats have a 6-2 record and have handed Forsan its only two losses on the year as the Buffaloes are 11-2 at the midway point.

The college bowl season is upon us. I think that March Madness blows away the bowl games as far as excitement and anticipation goes, but this year's bowls should bring about some great football action.

The Longhorns will play for the national title Jan. 4 in Pasadena, Calif., against two-time defending champion USC. Bowl teams enter the game undefeated and this should be one of the best BCS games of all-time. There is a reason why this game is so hyped as the contest features three of the best players in college football in UT's Vince Young and USC's Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart, the past two Heisman Trophy winners.

Fans should expect a lot of offense in this one as both teams average more than 40 points per game. The difference could come from the sidelines as USC coach Pete Carroll goes up against Texas' Mack Brown.

The other big games on this year's ticket should be Ohio State-Notre Dame, Oregon-Oklahoma, LSU-Miami, Alabama-Texas Tech, Auburn-Wisconsin, Boise-State-Boston College, UTEP-Toledo and Iowa-Florida (GO HAWKS). The Michigan-Nebraska game pits two of the all-time best programs against one another, but to me the Cornhuskers don't stand a chance in this particular game.

The two other BCS games feature Georgia against West Virginia and Big 10 champion Penn State against Florida State in a matchup of two of the all-time winningiest coaches in college football.

Florida State to me is not deserving of a BCS berth and neither is West Virginia. The Seminoles have four losses and the

Son of Colts coach Dungy dead of apparent suicide

By TRAVIS REED
Associated Press Writer

LUTZ, Fla. (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts' near-perfect season was plunged into sadness when the news came that coach Tony Dungy's eldest son was found dead of an apparent suicide.

"Everybody said a team prayer for Coach Dungy and his family," quarterback Peyton Manning said. "It's laying on the hearts of all the players here today."

James Dungy, the 18-year-old who became a fixture around the teams his father coached and was often mistaken for a player because of his towering size, was found dead in a Tampa-area apartment early Thursday.

His girlfriend returned to the Campus Lodge Apartments at about 1:30 a.m. and found him unresponsive, Hillsborough County Sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Carter said. Carter said evidence at the scene indicated he had killed himself.

A sheriff's deputy performed CPR before an ambulance took him to University Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Tony Dungy took the team plane from Indianapolis to Tampa, Fla., where he had coached the Buccaneers from 1996 to 2001. He left his team with instructions befitting their ever-steady leader: Keep playing.

"He's an amazing individual with great strength and integrity, even in the toughest times," assistant head coach Jim Caldwell, who will take over in Dungy's absence, said after Thursday's practice. "He told us to carry on as usual."

The Colts (13-1) travel to Seattle for a game Saturday, and team president Bill Polian said Caldwell will lead the team "for however long Tony will be away, and however long he will be away is entirely up to him."

The Seahawks took a

See DUNGY, page 2B

KRT photo/Matt Kryger

James Dungy, right, son of Indianapolis head coach Tony Dungy, left, is shown on the sidelines during a game in 2004. James Dungy was found dead in his apartment in Florida on Thursday.

Baylor men still trying to cope with non-conference penalty

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

Practice, practice, practice.

So far, that's all there has been for Baylor. There has even been a practice road trip, complete with bus ride, overnight hotel stay, morning shootaround and intrasquad scrimmage.

While other teams already have played about a dozen games, the Bears are banned this season from playing non-conference games. It's part of the NCAA penalties for numerous violations under former coach Dave Bliss.

So they wait, watch other teams play on television and keep practicing until their Big 12 opener Jan. 11 at Texas Tech.

"When you see people playing in game situations, it hurts not to be a part of it," said Aaron Bruce, the nation's top scoring freshman last season. "But we're working very hard, and we're just looking forward to getting started."

And finally getting past all the penalties for violations discovered after former player Carlton Dotson murdered teammate Patrick Dennehy in 2003, sparking a scandal that led to Bliss' resignation. All that came before the arrival of coach Scott Drew and all but one current player, senior Tommy Swanson.

"The light is definitely at the end of the tunnel," Drew said.

"Once we're done with them, we can just turn our back on the whole situation," Bruce said. "We'll always remember what happened, but can turn our backs on the penalties and stuff like that and just really focus on basketball."

After considering a full-season ban, the NCAA in June instead levied what is believed to be an unprecedented partial ban on regular-season games. Baylor got the choice of when to take the reduced schedule, and chose this season rather than next.

Baylor still got to start practice in mid-October like other teams. But when everybody else

See BAYLOR, Page 3B

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL SCHEDULE

2005-06 Bowl Schedule
Bowl Championship Series

Fiesta Bowl
Notre Dame vs. Ohio State
Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 2, 3:30 p.m. ABC

Sugar Bowl
Georgia vs. West Virginia
Atlanta, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m. ABC

Orange Bowl
Florida State vs. Penn State
Miami, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., ABC

Rose Bowl
USC vs. Texas
Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 4, 7 p.m. ABC

Non-BCS Schedule

New Orleans Bowl
Southern Mississippi 31, Arkansas State 19

GMAC Bowl
Toledo 45, UTEP 13

Las Vegas Bowl
California vs. BYU Las Vegas, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., ESPN

Poinsettia Bowl
Colorado State vs. Navy San Diego, Dec. 22, 9:30 p.m., ESPN2

Fort Worth Bowl
Kansas vs. Houston Fort Worth, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., ESPN

Hawaii Bowl
Nevada vs. UCF Honolulu, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

Motor City Bowl
Memphis vs. Akron Detroit Dec. 26, 3 p.m., ESPN

Champs Sports Bowl
Clemson vs. Colorado
Orlando, Fla., Dec. 27, 4 p.m., ESPN

Insight Bowl
Arizona State vs. Rutgers
Phoenix, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

MPC Computers Bowl
Boise State vs. Boston College
Boise, Idaho, Dec. 28, 3:30 p.m. ESPN

Alamo Bowl
Michigan vs. Nebraska
San Antonio, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. ESPN

Emerald Bowl
Georgia Tech vs. Utah San Francisco, Dec. 29, 3:30 p.m., ESPN

Holiday Bowl
Oregon vs. Oklahoma
San Diego, Dec. 29, 7 p.m., ESPN

Music City Bowl
Minnesota vs. Virginia
Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 30, 11 a.m., ESPN

Sun Bowl
UCLA vs. Northwestern
El Paso, Dec. 30, 1 p.m., CBS

Independence Bowl
South Carolina vs. Missouri
Shreveport, La., Dec. 3, 2:30 p.m, ESPN

Peach Bowl
Miami (FL) vs. LSU
Atlanta, Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m., CBS

Meineke Car Care Bowl
South Florida vs. NC State
Charlotte, N.C., Dec. 31, 10 a.m. ESPN2

Liberty Bowl
Tulsa vs Fresno State
Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 31, noon, ESPN

Houston Bowl
TCU vs. Iowa State
Houston, Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m., ESPN2

Cotton Bowl
Alabama vs. Texas Tech
Dallas, Jan. 2, 10 a.m., Fox

Outback Bowl
Iowa vs. Florida
Tampa, Fla., Jan. 2, 10 a.m., ESPN

Gator Bowl
Louisville vs. Va. Tech
Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 2, 11:30 a.m., NBC

Capital Bowl
Wisconsin vs. Auburn
Orlando, Fla., Jan. 2, noon, ABC

Dungy

Continued from page 1B

knee on the practice field in Kirkland, Wash., on Thursday and bowed their heads for a moment of silence. Seattle coach Mike Holmgren acknowledged that it will be somewhat awkward to coach against the Colts with all they are suddenly enduring.

"Yeah, it is, but we must separate that," he said. "We still have a lot at stake. We must be able to do that. So that is what we are going to do."

Dungy is immensely popular around the league and known for his soft-spoken style and commitment to balancing family life with football _ a rare trait in NFL coaches. He shared the blame when Indianapolis lost its first game Sunday against the visiting San Diego Chargers, ending what had been a perfect season.

"It certainly keeps things in perspective," Manning said. "Players with families, it certainly hits home. Coach Dungy's close to a lot of these players. ... Players feel close to him as well as his family."

The Dungys have four other children: daughters Tiara and Jade and sons Eric and Jordan. James Dungy spent his senior year at North Central High School in Indianapolis and graduated this year.

C.E. Quandt, the school's principal, said Dungy was a personable student who never flaunted his father's position, and had recently visited North Central. He said the death surprised and saddened everyone at the school.

"It kind of diminishes our school family," he said.

A woman who answered the door at James Dungy's girlfriend's home declined comment Thursday. Jessica James, 18, who described herself as a close friend, said she and a group of friends went to the movies with Dungy on Monday night.

"He was cracking jokes, just being himself," she said. "This morning, it was so surreal."

She said Dungy "was just a really good kid, very laid-back. Unless you asked him, you'd never know he was Tony Dungy's son."

The mood was somber Thursday at the Buccaneers' practice facility, located near the airport where the Colts' plane that brought Tony Dungy to Florida was parked. Players and coaches could see the plane from the practice field.

"It shakes you, there's no doubt about it. Tony and I first came together in 1992 and I got to see the boy grow up. ... Tony's got tremendous faith, and that's what will carry Tony through," said Bucs defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, who worked for Dungy at Tampa Bay.

James Dungy was a frequent visitor to the Bucs' practices and games when his father coached the team.

"He was here all the time, hanging out in the locker room and with the players on the field," fullback Mike Alstott said. "If James wasn't here, it was like: `Where's James?' He was part of this football team."

New York Jets coach Herman Edwards, one of Dungy's closest friends, called James a "very, very good kid.

"The whole family is good people. You know Tony, how he raised a family," Edwards said from Jets training camp in Hempstead, N.Y. "A tragedy."

Two other NFL head coaches lost close family members this season, both in November. Don Parcells, brother of Dallas Cowboys coach Bill Parcells, died of brain cancer in New Jersey at age 62; Steve Belichick, father of New England Patriots' coach Bill Belichick, died at 86.

Bench

Continued from Page 1B

Big (L)East Conference should be taken out the BCS mix.

The Dallas Cowboys have had a roller coaster of a season. Although I am not an expert, I can't remember a season where this team had so many games come down to the wire. Winning out should give them a playoff berth, but several teams in the NFC will be battling the Cowboys for the final two wild card spots in the last two weeks.

The Houston Texans may get the top pick in next year's draft. They did the 49ers a possible favor by winning this weekend against Arizona. Both the Texans and Niners have only two wins.

A matchup in the regular season finale will decide which team gets first crack at Reggie Bush. My Niners are at home so I like their chances, but I wouldn't mind having the Heisman Trophy winner in red and gold next season.

The NBA and NHL seasons have also begun. The Spurs look to be heading for another championship as they will most likely be the first team to 20 wins this year. The team plays great defense and has one of the best five players in the game in Tim Duncan.

The Mavericks are playing some good ball and giving help to all-NBA forward Dirk Nowitzki. Ron Artest has said Dallas is one of the teams he would like to get traded to and I wouldn't put anything past owner Mark Cuban. Artest to some would be a mistake to bring to Dallas, but if this kid can find the right fit he could help a team get to the next level.

The Rockets can't seem to get their team in tact. Tracy McGrady started the year injured and now 7-6 Yao Ming will miss several games due to a toe injury. Houston was horrible without T-Mac, but have began to pick up some big wins with him back in the lineup.

The Stars are one of the West's best teams at this point in the season. Jeff Lane, who is a good friend of mine, is a Dallas fan and I love the Detroit Red WIngs. It would be fun to see our teams in the Western Conference Finals.

The Red Wings are currently first in the West and three points ahead of Dallas in the standings and that matchup is very possible later this year.

The Houston Astros and Texas Rangers are currently working hard at bringing about contenders for next year's baseball season.

The Astros got all the way to the World Series in 2005 behind great pitching from Roger Clemens, Roy Oswalt, Andy Pettitte and Brad Lidge. They might have to compete this year without Clemens, who was not offered salary arbitration.

The Rangers traded away one of their best players from last year in Alfonso Soriano, but got in return Brad Wilkerson from the Washington Nationals. They also attempted to address their pitching need with the signing of former Philadelphia Phillie Vincente Padilla and the acquisition of Adam Eaton from San Diego. They traded some young talent to get Eaton, but the Rangers' run at the top of the AL West will start on the mound as their offense has been more than capable the past two or three seasons.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. I will be back next year and maybe I will bring you back a picture of what a real snowstorm looks like.

Sports Editor Troy Hyde can be reached at 263-2331, ext. 237 or sports@bigspringherald.com.

What's a Rose Bowl ticket worth? What do you have to trade for it?

By TODD HARMONSON
The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — Money talks, but a Mercedes might be worth a discussion.

Willing to trade a 42-inch plasma television, a used motor home, a date with a stranger or, well, your soul?

OK, maybe the final option should be reserved for the Super Bowl, but the hunt for tickets to college football's national championship game at the Rose Bowl has soared past rabid and could reach ridiculous by game day on Jan. 4.

"There's no college football game in history that's had this demand, from what I've seen, ever," said John Schultz, who manages the Costa Mesa, Calif., office for Barry's Tickets, a broker service.

The anticipation for the matchup between the best and only undefeated teams in the nation, No. 1 USC and No. 2 Texas, has combined with a shortage of tickets available to everyday fans to create a frenzy.

It has made power brokers of anyone fortunate enough to procure a ticket with a face value of $175, and left countless others dealing over the Internet for ducats with everything from money to a baby Benz. Ticket holders can ask for the outrageous — how about that RV? — and ticket seekers' offers try creativity along with cash.

One Texas fan who lives in Southern California left a post on Craigslist.com saying he would supplement his offer of $500 for two tickets, well below market value, with his girlfriend's flash of much more than her smile.

"She told me it will be her first time to flash someone," Brady Moore wrote in an E-mail. "Smart girl."

The site featured dozens of other offers that ranged from cars to vacation condos for tickets anywhere in the 91,000-seat stadium. And it even turned into a

See **ROSE**, page 3B

Rose Bowl

When: Jan.4, 5 p.m. PST.
Where: Pasadena, Calif.
Who: No.1 USC vs. No.2 Texas
TV: ABC
Ticket time
Demand for Rose Bowl tickets had prompted some fans to make intriguing offers for tickets on Craigslist.com. Some examples:
A 2.67-carat diamond engagement ring for eight tickets
Two round-trip, first-class tickets anywhere United Airlines flies
$400 per ticket and personal entertainment. According to the ad: "I can dance/strip for you and we can hang out."
San Diego Chargers season tickets for next season
General contractor will do work in home or office
Five nights' lodging at the Turtle Bay resort on Oahu's north shore
Cardinal Mercedes 190 or Saab convertible
Two nights' hotel in Pasadena and a case of wine
Week at Manhattan Beach house or Clippers' floor seats
Week at a timeshare in Cabo San Lucas
Five nights at a Mammoth Mountain condominium next to the slopes
Money and design services, such as for wedding invitations
Landscaping services
Power-washing or car-detailing services
Rose Bowl tickets, by the numbers, according to StubHub.com:
Highest-priced tickets: $57,500 for an eight-person suite
Record sales: Gross sales for Rose Bowl tickets on the site have surpassed total sales for all bowl games last season. Sales for this season's championship game have tripled sales for last season's in the Orange Bowl, site of last year's title game.
Who's buying: 80 percent of sales on the site have come from California and Texas.

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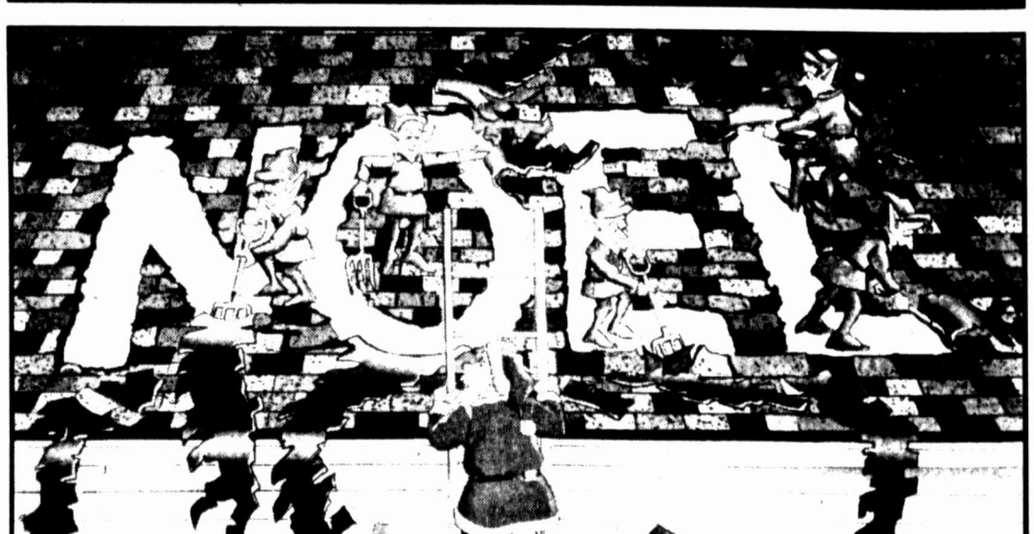

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Jags seek berth into playoffs

• Texans look to finish season strong

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Jacksonville Jaguars remember vividly what the Houston Texans did to them last year.

That doesn't mean they like to discuss it.

Jacksonville was headed for an AFC wild-card playoff spot when Houston handed the Jaguars a 21-0 loss at home on Dec. 26 that ended up keeping them out of the playoffs.

On Saturday, the Jaguars face Houston again, and the only thing standing between them and clinching their first playoff berth since 1999 are, yes, the Texans. The lowly 2005 Texans.

"They spoiled our dreams last year," said Jaguars cornerback Rashean Mathis, who leads the team with four interceptions. "We all know that. It's nothing that we talk about, but it's something that's lingering in your mind."

"You know they want to spoil our season again. That's not something we want to let happen."

Even if Jacksonville (10-4) doesn't beat Houston (2-12), the team could still earn a wild-card spot this weekend if Pittsburgh and Kansas City lose. The Jaguars can also clinch with a win over Tennessee in the finale.

The Jaguars remember last year's loss not only for what it meant to their playoff hopes, but also for the way it happened.

Houston held Jacksonville to a franchise-low 126 yards while piling up 333. It remains the only time in team history Houston has shut out an opponent and the team's largest margin of victory.

"At home, 21-0, it was an embarrassment," said Jacksonville linebacker Mike Peterson. "It's definitely a motivation. If it don't motivate you to prepare yourself like this is a 12-0 or 14-0 team, then there's something wrong with you."

Jacksonville is coming off of an ugly 10-9 win over San Francisco and the Texans broke a six-game losing streak with a 30-19 win over Arizona.

The Jaguars scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns in a 21-14 come-from-behind win in their first meeting with Houston this season.

Quarterback David Garrard has taken over since Byron Leftwich broke a bone in his ankle on Nov. 27. He has a 2-1 record and has thrown for three touchdowns and rushed for two more.

While the Jaguars are looking toward the playoffs, Houston is simply trying to win two straight games for the first time this season. Some fans would rather the Texans just give up though, as any win now could seriously jeopardize their chances of landing the No. 1 draft pick.

"This is a bowl game, Super Bowl — whatever you want to call it for us," said Houston quarterback David Carr. "Everybody knows we're not playing for too much right now."

For the two-win team, beating Jacksonville would be a nice prize at the end of a woeful season.

"I would love to knock them off," said Texans safety Glenn Earl.

Rose

Continued from 2B

dating service of sorts with several men of both the USC and Texas persuasion dangling one ticket to single women interesting in accompanying them to the title game.

Still, ticket brokers and on-line auction sites, such as eBay, have remained the most popular places for frantic fans to go to when they are ready to convert that college fund into a college football fund. Matt Davis, who does media relations work with StubHub.com, said the priciest tickets sold for $4,286, and the site's average sale price through Friday was $1,248.

Schultz, however, said prices have come down recently after ticket holders sensed an opportunity to profit and turned into sellers. He said that the lowest-priced tickets could be purchased for $800 as of Monday afternoon.

Some USC season ticket holders were directed to StubHub.com by the school after they came up empty in the Rose Bowl lottery, and the cheapest seats available for immediate purchase on the site were going for $799 each Monday.

"We didn't provide any tickets for StubHub to use," USC senior associate athletic director Steve Lopes said. "We're just working with them to provide a safe place for our fans to find tickets."

He said the site's guarantee to customers was important because there are counterfeit tickets being sold, leaving some fans out of money and without tickets.

Lopes said some of the crunch was created by the decrease in tickets USC received. The school had 33,000 tickets for its fans when the Trojans appeared in the Rose Bowl two seasons ago, but USC and Texas were allotted 22,000 each because this time it is the sanctioned championship game.

USC secured an additional 2,000 tickets from the Pacific-10 Conference, but the Trojans are still more than 30,000 shy of their season-ticket base of approximately 62,000, including students.

"We're trying to spread our tickets around as much as possible," said Lopes, who said donors could buy between two and eight tickets, depending on their contribution level.

Even the players in the Bowl Championship Series title game are scrambling to put their families and friends in seats. USC players are given six complimentary tickets each, but, in a change from past seasons, they have no opportunity to buy more tickets to satisfy the demand.

"It's really tough this year," said USC defensive end Frostee Rucker, who will have to turn down requests outside his immediate family. "Everybody wants to go, and you have to say no to so many people.

"This is my last game, but I can't get the tickets."

He also can't sell the ones he has.

That would be a violation of NCAA rules, and USC players received emphatic warnings from their coaches and school administrators about testing the so-called secondary market for tickets. Players also must submit a list of whom will receive their tickets.

"When you see how much people are willing to pay, it has to make some guys think," USC fullback Brandon Hancock said.

Baylor

Continued from Page 1B

started playing games a month later, the Bears just kept practicing.

Without any games, Drew and his staff shortened practice sessions and devoted more time to individual development of skills such as passing, shooting, rebounding and dribbling.

Players still spend an hour a day, three times a week, doing heavy weightlifting.

"With a young team, physically, you're normally not as developed. And when the season starts, you're in a maintaining mode," Drew said. "We have been able to keep the building mode for a longer period."

There isn't any replacement for actual game experience, but the extra development time could have long-term benefits for a team with two seniors and six freshmen — the most for Baylor since 1978-79.

Five of the freshmen were playing in high school last year. The other is 7-foot center Mamadou Diene from Senegal, who has gone from a skinny 200 pounds to more than 240 pounds since getting to Baylor last winter.

"We know all the plays like the back of our hand, that shouldn't be a problem," freshman guard Curtis Jerrells said. "Each player has something special they do. This extra time has given us all an opportunity to improve on what we do best."

Before getting a rare extended break for Christmas, just like they did at Thanksgiving, the Bears hit the road. Drew didn't want the opener at Texas Tech — 307 days after their last game — to be their first trip this season.

They went to Dallas — about 100 miles from the Waco campus — and stayed in the same hotel they will for the Big 12 tournament in March. They practiced at the American Airlines Center, going through a morning shootaround like they will on game days, then returned later for an intrasquad scrimmage that consisted of five 10-minute periods.

"That was our whole non-conference season in one practice day," Drew said.

Assistant coaches encouraged the players with shouts of "It's game day, boys!", and emphasized paying attention to details.

Conference referees officiated the scrimmage, during which Bruce (who averaged 18.2 points a game last season) had 28 points and 11 assists with several spectacular passes.

"The coaching staff has done a great job in making sure we aren't doing the same stuff day in and out," Swanson said. "Things like this change up the rhythm."

Baylor's program fell apart in the summer of 2003 after Dennehy was killed by Dotson, who pleaded guilty earlier this year and was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Bliss and athletic director Tom Stanton resigned that August, and school investigators later discovered that Bliss paid up to $40,000 in tuition for two players and improperly solicited $87,000 from school boosters. The probe also revealed that staff members didn't properly report some players' failed drug tests.

As a result, Baylor endured several self-imposed sanctions that put severe limitations on Drew and his staff in their attempt to rebuild the program.

The school placed itself on probation and released all players from their scholarships, allowing the top three returning scorers to transfer to other Division I schools. The Bears also didn't play in the 2004 Big 12 tournament.

Scholarships were reduced, and contact between coaches and recruits was limited. Baylor, which is on a five-year NCAA probation, never had more than seven scholarship players dressed for a game the past two seasons.

But the 35-year-old Drew, whose infectious enthusiasm has provided a much-needed boost for the program, believes there already have been important steps forward, despite a 17-40 record the past two seasons.

"We're very excited with the progress we've made in a short period of time," Drew said. "Our goal is to be a competitive program as soon as we can, rather than waiting."

Bears hire USC's top compliance officer

WACO (AP) — Baylor has hired Southern California's top compliance officer as its new assistant athletics director for compliance.

Keith Miller is an assistant athletics director at USC and has been on the staff of the Los Angeles school since 2001. He also worked in the athletic compliance offices at Marquette and Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Miller, who has been the Trojans' top compliance officer since 2002, will begin his duties at Baylor on Jan. 30.

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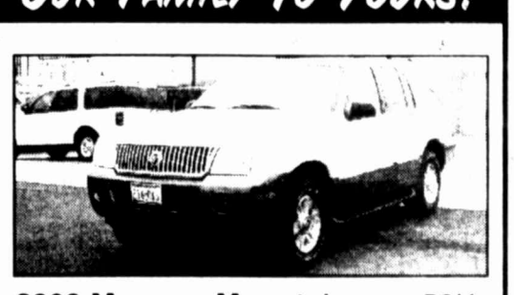
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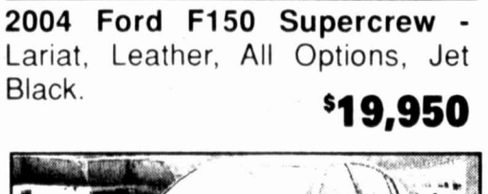
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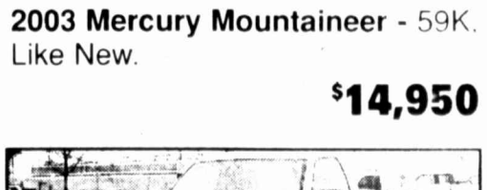
2003 Toyota Tundra - 6 Cyl., Clean. $8,950

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2001 GMC SLE HD 1500 - 70K, Sharp. $14,950

2000 Chevrolet Suburban LS- Leather, Quad Seating. $11,950

2005 Ford Van - 12 Passenger, 26K Miles! $16,950

Redskins look to continue surge to NFC postseason

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

The Washington Redskins are officially back from the dead.

After four losses in five games and six in eight, they've won three in a row and can make the playoffs simply by winning their last two. Or even just by beating the New York Giants Sunday if some other things break for them.

This won't be as easy as their 35-7 win over Dallas last Sunday.

After all, the Giants won the first meeting 36-0 and have their own ambitions, such as clinching the NFC East with one more win.

Despite the pounding the Redskins took at the Meadowlands, they are 3-point favorites this week — home field advantage. That's reasonable, although the Giants also have won three straight.

That blowout in the first game resulted from a combination of circumstances: emotion after the death of Giants owner Wellington Mara, early Redskins turnovers and some curious defensive alignments that helped Tiki Barber rush for 206 yards.

But the Giants have injuries now, the Redskins have momentum and home field.

REDSKINS, 24-20

San Diego (plus 1) at Kansas City

Two teams in desperation mode. Despite their win in Indy last week, the Chargers need help to get in. They have to help themselves first.

CHARGERS, 31-21

Atlanta (plus 3) at Tampa Bay

Two teams that froze last week in northern climes battle for survival in the NFC South.

BUCS, 17-16

Dallas (plus 5 1/2) at Carolina

The Cowboys' playoff hopes are almost gone. The Panthers are almost in.

PANTHERS, 22-14

Oakland (plus 13) at Denver

The Broncos clinch the AFC West against Mike Shanahan's least-favorite team.

BRONCOS, 31-13

Indianapolis (plus 8) at Seattle

The Colts? Underdogs by eight? Think Jim Sorgi.

SEAHAWKS, 24-6

Pittsburgh (minus 6 1/2) at Cleveland

The Steelers, clinging to the sixth AFC playoff spot, have to be careful.

STEELERS, 16-13

Jacksonville (minus 6) at Houston

The way the Jags played against the 49ers last week, anything can happen against a team that's trying to blow the Reggie Bush pick.

JAGUARS 16-13

Buffalo (plus 13 1/2) at Cincinnati

The Bills are 0-6 on the road. That sounds like the old Bungles.

BENGALS, 33-10

Chicago (minus 6) at Green Bay (Sunday)

Not much left in the poor Pack.

BEARS, 24-2

Minnesota (minus 1 1/2) at Baltimore (Sunday)

Two long-term Vikings trends: they fade late and they're bad outdoors.

RAVENS, 17-13

New England (minus 5) at New York Jets (Monday night)

Pats will be careful about injuries.

A going-away game for Doug Flutie?

PATRIOTS 20-19

Tennessee (plus 5 1/2) at Miami

Four straight wins and Saban has the Dolphins on track for a winning season.

DOLPHINS 20-10

Philadelphia (plus 1) at Arizona

Go with the stronger franchise. Besides, there are more Eagles fans in Arizona than Cardinals fans.

EAGLES, 20-17

Detroit (plus 3) vs. New Orleans (at San Antonio)

Maybe the Lions will be helped away from home.

Not this year.

SAINTS, 24-19

San Francisco (plus 9) at St. Louis

The 49ers almost beat the Jags, so don't accuse them of tanking it for the Reggie Bush pick.

RAMS 20-7

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Duramax Diesel • Allison Transmission
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2003 Chevrolet Tahoe - Stk# E190, 50K Miles!
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2003 GMC Yukon - Stk# E103, 32K Miles!
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2004 Chevrolet Avalanche - Stk# E112, 12K!
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Life

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item or story idea for Life!? Call 263-7331; E-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

Weekend Edition, December 24-25, 2005

Holiday Blessings

COUNTING BLESSINGS

While the New Year may be the time for making resolutions, celebrating Christmas always finds me celebrating the blessings in my life.

I am truly a blessed woman because I am able to celebrate openly the birth of my Savior, Lord and King, Jesus Christ, and I have a place of worship that gives me unconditional love and acceptance and the foundation of a supportive spiritual family.

I am truly a blessed woman because I have health and long-lasting friendships, people in my life whom I love and who love me in return.

I am blessed because I have great children, those born to me and those who choose to share their lives with me. I am blessed because I have teen-age friends who will offer me a hug, who squeal my name when I enter the room, who will say first, 'I love you.'

I am a blessed woman because I am able to devote my life where my Lord leads me. I am allowed to serve others, love others and marvel at the wondrous miracles of creation I see everywhere.

I am a blessed woman because I have co-workers who will laugh with me, at me and against me, but will stand up for me and protect me as well.

I am a blessed woman because I live in a community filled with generosity.

While I may not have abundant wealth in the eyes of the world or have any of the material things associated with success, I believe I am a truly blessed woman.

May God bless each of you. Merry Christmas.

Marsha Sturdivant, Features Editor

Joy Peace PROSPERITY

Births

Kylor Jay Mata

Kylor Jay Mata, a boy, was born on Nov. 22, 2005, at 1:34 p.m., 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

His parents are Meagan Scarbrough and Joey Mata of Big Spring. His grandparents are Mike Scarbrough of Big Spring, Darleen and Colin Cameron of Round Rock, Tana and James Greenhill and Johnny Mata, all of Big Spring.

Jenna Marie Jones, a girl, was born Dec. 14, 2005, at 12:53 p.m. weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

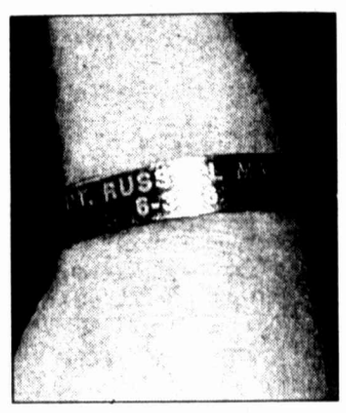
Her parents are Jerry Jones and Rinnie Carson of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Royce Carson of Lubbock, Cindy Mize, Pwe Jones, both of Big Spring, and the late Elizabeth Lyons.

Jenna was welcomed home by 6-year-old Zoey Berry, a sibling.

Honoring an MIA soldier 34 years later

Courtesy photo

Jennie Watkins, left, traveled from Ardmore, Okla., to Nixa, Mo., Veteran's Day weekend to return a MIA bracelet honoring Lt. Col. Russell Martin to his daughter, Julie Sartin. Watkins, a Big Spring native, kept the bracelet for 34 years. Her sister ordered the bracelet in 1971. Martin was declared Missing in Action when the plane he was on was reportedly shot down June 3, 1966. While wreckage from the plane was found, no remains of any of the crew of six was found until recently, when remains from another crewman, T. Sgt. Luther Rose were discovered. Now the crew are listed as Killed in Action. Watkins traveled seven hours to reach Sartin, who was 3 years old when her father was declared MIA. Remembering the soldiers still unaccounted for, including 1,814 from Vietnam alone, is Watkins', daughter of Thomas and Helen Ament of Big Spring, motivation for going the extra mile to return the bracelet.



Cottongame receives national certification

Special to the Herald

Sgt. Jackie Cottongame, a Denton County Sheriff's Office communications officer, received emergency number professional certification from the National Emergency Number Association, an organization of emergency communications professionals.

He is the son of Jack and Peggy Cottongame of Big Spring and a 1984 Big Spring High School graduate.

The ENT certification is the highest level available for 911 dispatchers. Only about 100 dispatchers in Texas have achieved the ENT and less than 1,000 have received this certification nationwide.

Cottongame began his career in communications as a dispatcher for the Big Spring Police Department. He was also employed by the Midland Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher and 911 communicator before taking a position with the Denton Sheriff's office.

He lives in Krum with his wife, Sanden and his daughters, Danielle and Roxanne.

More than 4 million entries at legacy.com

For 2005, Rosa Parks and Luther Vandross top list of most eulogized online

What honor is shared by civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, R&B singer Luther Vandross and wrestling superstar Eduardo Guerrero? They top this year's list of Most Eulogized Persons Online, according to the nation's largest tribute site Legacy.com.

In 2005, an unprecedented number of people mourned electronically by participating in a fast-growing outlet for expressing condolences: online guest books.

In all, more than 4 million guest book entries were submitted to Legacy.com for personal heroes, celebrities, and loved ones twice as many entries as in 2004.

Rosa Parks, who tops the list, received 44,780 submissions.

"Paying respects through online guest books clearly appeals to a broad and growing number of people who are finding it easier to convey respects and heartfelt emotions online," said Stopher Bartol, president and CEO of Legacy.com, which, through a network of 225 newspapers, provides guest books for one of every two people who die each day in the U.S.

"The response to Rosa Parks, guest book reflects a connection she made across broad sections of the population and the influence she had on our nation."

The Legacy.com Top 10 Most Eulogized Persons Online:

1. Rosa Parks (civil rights pioneer)
2. Luther Vandross (R&B singer)
3. Eduardo Guerrero (wrestling superstar)
4. Pope John Paul II (leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics)
5. Terri Schiavo (brain-damaged woman involved in epic legal battle)
6. Johnnie Cochran (lawyer who helped clear O.J. Simpson)
7. Peter Jennings (ABC news broadcaster)
8. Joseph Ashley (soldier killed in submarine accident)
9. Lamont Bentley (a regular in the 1990s TV sitcom "Moesha")
10. Ossie Davis (actor known for roles dealing with racial injustice)

With Parks topping the 2005 list, historical significance is not the only factor in determining the popularity of a guest book.

Pop culture icons who inspire through music or personal tales of triumph also attract large numbers of electronic condolences.

Entries for Grammy Award-winning singer Vandross offer a window into his appeal.

"My husband and I call our five children 'Luther babies'," wrote Kiki Clark of Atlanta.

"Every time I hear one of your songs it brings back 'Sweet Memories," Alexis Perry of Stone Mountain, Ga., wrote, "Your music and songs moved my life. Provided comfort, warm feelings and joy."

Eduardo Guerrero, a World Wrestling Entertainment superstar who struggled with drug and alcohol abuse, received thousands of entries from people who said they were touched by his personal story.

"I fought some of the same battles he had overcome but could never seem to find the strength and courage that he did," wrote Rich Crocker of The Philippines. "He was an inspiration to me and my kids."

While all but one of the 10 most popular Legacy.com guest books were for well-known figures, the overwhelming majority of entries submitted in 2005 were for ordinary people whose guest books were attached to their obituaries in newspapers across the country.

For example, the guest book for Ohio soldier Joseph Ashley, who was killed in a submarine accident, drew more than 2,000 notes from family members, friends and submariners around the world.

Legacy.com is the leading provider of online obituary solutions for the nation's newspapers. The company posts obituaries, death notices and guest books for one of every two deaths in the U.S. each day.

Tejano music bash set

Texas Tours Entertainment presents The 2006 Tejano New Years Bash in Odessa from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. Dec. 31 featuring Javier Galvan y Groupo Fama. Special guest is Albert "Tiger" Diaz plus Los Matadors and Tony Guerrero y La Sombra.

The bash is at the International Ballroom, 201 Alabama St. in Odessa. Advance tickets are $20 each. VIP tables for six people are $300; eight people, $400; and 10 people, $500. Two people per table will also have an opportunity to meet and greet Javier Galvan and Tony Guerrero during the event.

Doors open to VIPs at 6 p.m. All VIPs will be catered by Big Daddy's Bar & Grille , with a choice of catfish, char-broiled chicken, BBQ ribs, mash potatoes,

Party favors and Midnight Champagne will also be served to all Vips.

To make reservations, call 432-337-1551. For more information, contact Nick Hernandez, Tejano International Inc., at 432-337-2189.

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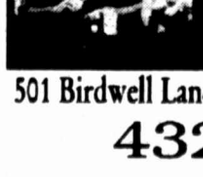

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The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and *Beautiful Beginnings* in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

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Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel James Lafler Jr.

Hutcheson, Lafler wed

Ada Mae Hutcheson and Daniel James Lafler Jr., both of Big Spring, exchanged wedding vows Friday, Dec. 2, 2005, at 7 p.m. in the Salvation Army Chapel with Capt. Russ Keeney officiating.

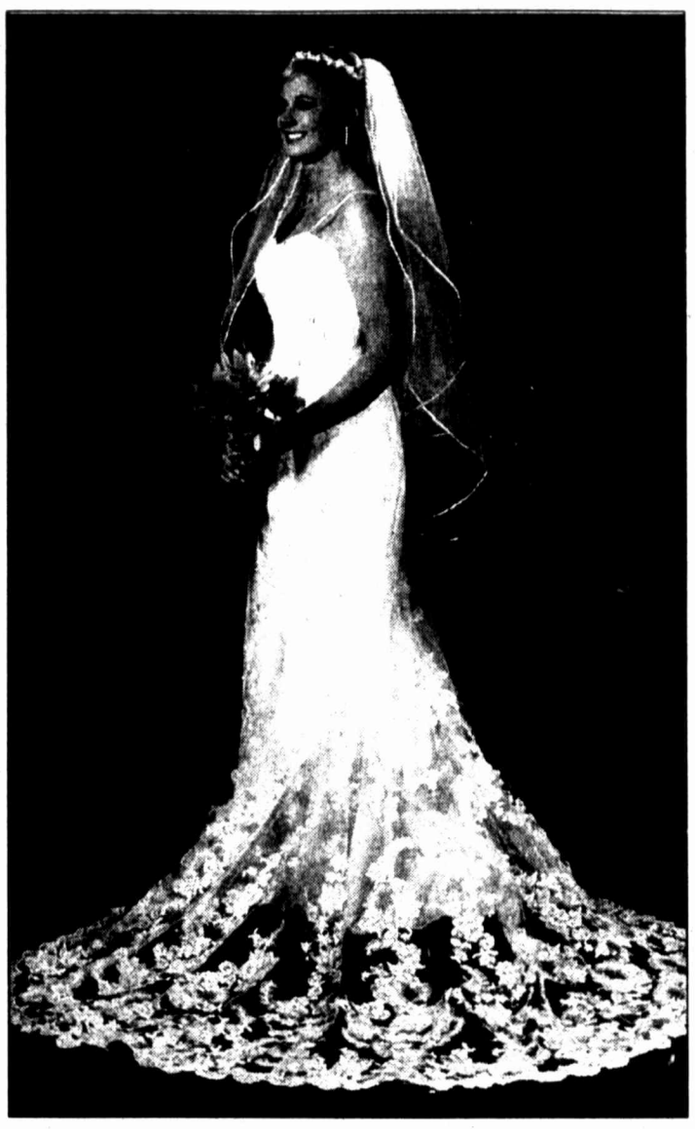
She is the daughter of the late Jo Ann Stewart and Robert Dale Hutcheson. He is the son of Dan and Paula Lafler of Big Spring and the grandson of Viola Lafler of Rapids, Wis., and the late Lester Lafler, Leon Yingst and Jerry Yingst.

Given away in marriage by Billy Hutcheson, the bride wore a white, short-sleeve gown with a beaded bodice, an A-line shirt, a long train and veil. She carried a bouquet of white daisies intertwined with pink baby roses.

Vocalist for the ceremony was Capt. Linda Keeney and instrumentalist was Janette Brown.

Matron of honor was Bessie Flores and bridesmaids were Robin Hutcheson and Brandi Hutcheson. Lisa Osborn and Brandy Knight served as flower girls and ring bearer was Justin Daniels.

Vance Jones stood up as best man for the ceremony and groomsmen were Luis Flores, Billy Ray Miears and Daniel Lafler Sr.



Mrs. Coy Hunter Irwin

Romine, Irwin wed

Melissa Anne Romine and Coy Hunter Irwin, both of Andrews, were united in a double ring ceremony at 3 p.m. Nov. 12, 2005, at the Tarzan Church of Christ in Tarzan.

Derrick Looney officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Gary Romine of Big Spring and Pat Taylor of Ackerly.

She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tom Romine and late Mr. and Mrs. Grant Billings of Big Spring.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Irwin of Andrews.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Mann Bailey of Florida and the late Mr. and Mrs. Gene Irwin of Andrews.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a slim silhouette dress of soft white duchess satin with beaded and appliquéd lace covering the hemline and bodice.

Attending the bride as maid of honor was her sister, Laurie Reed of Canyon.

The flower girls were Jaylen Reed, niece of the bride, Gabie Lucero, friend of bride and Allie and Maycee Decker, friends of the bride.

Attending the groom as the best man was Ben Clements, friend of the groom.

The ushers included Cade Nobles and Chris Henderson, friends of the groom, as well as Tanner Ballew, cousin of the groom.

After the ceremony they enjoyed dinner and dancing with family and friends at the Party Station in Midland.

Following a wedding trip to the Bahamas, the couple will make their home in Andrews.

Menus

Spring City Senior Citizens Center

Monday: Lunch, Holiday.

Tuesday: Lunch, hamburger steak, rice, squash, milk, bread, fruit.

Wednesday: Lunch, baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, milk, bread, fruited gelatin.

Thursday: Lunch, chicken spaghetti, mixed vegetables, tossed salad, milk, garlic bread, cake.

Friday: Lunch, chicken fried steak, potatoes, Brussels sprouts, milk, bread, fruit salad.

Who's Who

Angelo State University

Laura Lea Jones received a bachelor of science degree; Lacey Marie Knight received a bachelor of arts degree; John David Newton received a bachelor of science degree; Joy E. Shaw received a bachelor of science degree cum laude; and Anthony Hudson Tucket received a bachelor of arts degree during fall commencement Dec. 17 at Angelo State University.

Cathie Key

Cathie Key of Big Spring graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education from East Texas Baptist University Dec. 17.

Dr. Ward's
Healthy Smiles Club

Dr. David Ward
presents a prize to
Devon Maddox
whose name was drawn from kids who had dental appointments in December

David L. Ward DDS, PC
Family & Sedation Dentistry and Orthodontics

1500 Scurry Rd. Big Spring 432-267-1677

Poetry

Memories of A Childhood Christmas

By Loiuse Burgess

The holiday season seems to bring to mind
The fun I had as child at Christmas time
We'd hang branches of holly and mistletoe
And decorate a tree we'd chopped down in the snow.

On Christmas morn', what a joy to behold
There were gifts for everyone, young and old
There were books, toys and candy for each lassie and lad
A new dress for Mom, a new rifle for Dad.

At Granny's house, where the family would meet
The table was laden with good things to eat
There was chicken and dumplings and country ham
Corn on the cob and candied yams.

There was pickles, cole slaw and butter beans
Corn bread muffins and turnip greens
Strong black coffee in thick, steaming mugs
Sweet apple cider poured from a jug.

There was puddings and cookies and cakes and pies
And the cook and her helpers were praised to the skies
There was happiness and love on each smiling face
As we bowed our head for table grace.

As we were leaving, Grandpa would say
'Let us always remember why we celebrate today
For this is the day of our dear Savior's birth
Merry Christmas, may peace reign forever on Earth.'

Home Town

By Billy Acosta
Aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower

My small Texas town sits in a valley,
That smells of barbecue on Sunday afternoons,
That smell is better than any Navy galley,
How I miss Friday night football games and the Sonic drive in,
Just another kid who had no worries,
A guy who barely grew hair on his chin,
A guy who now lives on a floating city of steel,
No close family or loved ones,
A guy who now sits with a new family for an evening meal,
No family who is connected to the hip,
No childhood friends of that small town,
Just a bunch of new friends on this Navy ship,
The weather is not sunny but cold,
The people here without that towns hospitality,
They are just different and bold,
I am a US Navy Sailor,
A guy from that Texas town,
Just a guy who will someday return,
A guy who will hold his loved ones and family,
Till then I will sail the sea and take the burn,
It's OK to leave that small Texas town,
To see the world and have a temporary smile,
But you might get that 'I miss home frown.'

JACK & JILL DAYCARE
Open 7 days a Week 5 am-Midnight
Birth to 12 years old
1708 S. Nolan 267-8411
00425S

Wishing You a Peaceful & Blessed Holiday Season

To the friends we have had the pleasure to serve...
To the friends we have yet to meet...

Odyssee HealthCare
Giving The Gift Of Hospice

1003 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX (432) 263-5999

17455

Alon USA, Petro announce new travel center venture

Special to the Herald

DALLAS -- Alon USA (NYSE: ALJ) and Petro Stopping Centers, LP announced an agreement to form a joint venture for constructing and operating a new signature Petro Stopping Center in Midland.

Alon USA and Petro will jointly design and construct the travel center.

The complex will provide all the features that commercial drivers and interstate motorists have come to expect at Petro Stopping Centers, including an Iron Skillet restaurant, a Petro Lube truck service center and a Petro Travel Store.

In addition, the site will provide overnight truck parking and a full range of driver amenities.

When the new facility opens in the first half of 2007, Petro will be responsible for primary operation of the Travel Center. Alon USA will be responsible for the fuel supply and will operate a 7-Eleven convenience store within the complex, featuring Fina-branded fuels.

According to Jeff Morris, president and CEO of Alon USA, the new facility provides another opportunity to create an end-to-end connection between the Big Spring Refinery and fuel customers. Alon USA will supply fuel to this site via pipeline from its refinery in Big Spring.

"We're thrilled to join with a partner of the quality of Petro," said Morris. "This site will be physically integrated with our Big Spring refinery and will provide a reliable and highly visible outlet for a significant portion of our diesel fuel production. Most importantly, we're very happy to provide new jobs and economic development in our home in West Texas."

In announcing plans for the new Travel Center, Petro Chairman and CEO Jack Cardwell commented on the strategic location of the site.

"The new facility will be a destination for drivers traveling on Interstate 20 between El Paso and Dallas," said Cardwell. "Petro has an extremely strong customer base in Texas and the addition of this site in Midland fits our network perfectly."

The Travel Center will be the initial development on a 100-acre site, which is expected to include additional quick service restaurants and retail outlets.

Development of a new hotel on the site in the future is also being considered.

It is expected that operations on this site will initially employ up to 200 people and ultimately grow to become one of the major employment locations in Midland.

After finalizing all permits, the Center's design and relationships with the City of Midland, it is expected that construction will begin in 2006.

Wal-Mart takes aim at electronics market

Competitors eye retailer's moves with interest, fear

By MARIA HALKIAS
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — When Wal-Mart wants to dominate a merchandise category, it usually gets its way. And the world's largest retailer is showing that it wants to be No. 1 in consumer electronics.

It has remodeled the electronics departments in about a third of its U.S. stores to accommodate big-screen plasma TVs, rows of digital cameras and satellite radio displays. It has bumped up its breadth of brands including Canon cameras, Toshiba notebooks and Sony camcorders. And it has started offering warranties on some products and service contracts with wireless phones.

"This year, they're going after the well-heeled consumer and the enthusiast," said Alan Wolf, senior editor at industry trade publication TWICE. "It's too early to tell because they haven't made a total transformation. It's a start — and a scary proposition for electronics retailers."

By selling low-price televisions, DVD players and cameras, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. moved ahead of Circuit City Stores Inc. into the No. 2 spot in TWICE's 2003 sales rankings.

The discounter is still No. 2, with U.S. electronics sales last year of $12.11 billion (not including sales of $2.07 billion at its Sam's Club chain). Best Buy Co. is No. 1, with sales of $20.75 billion.

Wal-Mart management has said it views electronics as a way to entice customers from its grocery aisles to the other side of its stores. Although Best Buy still has a substantial lead, and electronics chains trump the discounter on selection, service, installation and warranties, no one is underestimating Wal-Mart.

When asked about Wal-Mart's potential in consumer electronics, analysts shrug and point to toys and groceries. The discounter reigns in both categories.

"Wal-Mart always wants more. In this category, it's No. 2, but Wal-Mart doesn't like being No. 2 when it thinks it can be No. 1," said Edward Weller, retail analyst at ThinkEquity Partners LLC. "It wasn't that long ago that people didn't think they would take the toy lead."

"Talk to the food guys a few years ago," CompUSA Chief Executive Larry Mondry said about Wal-Mart's fast rise to become nation's No. 1 grocer. Dallas-based CompUSA is the eighth-largest electronics retailer.

So far, electronics is Wal-Mart's best-selling category online, said Wal-Mart.com spokeswoman Amy Collela.

"We offer an expanded assortment of electronics to complement our stores on our Web site," she said.

Its top-selling item online this holiday season is its proprietary mobiBLU Cube. The 512-megabyte MP3 player sells for $99.72 and is the retailer's answer to Apple's wildly successful iPod. It comes with five free Wal-Mart music downloads.

Wal-Mart is now the leading major retailer of wireless phones. Rankings released in early December showed that it moved ahead of RadioShack Corp. in the category during the third quarter.

When Dell Inc. expanded into printers, cameras, and flat-screen TVs a couple of years ago, TWICE's Wolf remembers Best Buy management calling Dell "dangerous." But it wasn't until Wal-Mart moved ahead of Circuit City that Best Buy started to respond to the competition with its "customer-centric" stores, he said.

Almost two years ago, Best Buy defined what these new and remodeled stores would look like and what items they would carry, based on neighborhood demographics. It opened several of these stores in California and acquired an upscale home theater company called Magnolia.

On Dec. 13, Wall Street battered Best Buy's stock price after the retailer said higher spending on new initiatives — including its customer-centric stores — and stiffer competition in Canada cut into third-quarter profits.

So far this holiday season, Circuit City's aggressive pursuit of market share has made the environment more competitive for Best Buy, Goldman Sachs analyst Matthew J. Fassler said in a report Dec. 14.

He downplayed the impact of Wal-Mart and Target Corp. on the consumer electronics specialty stores for now: "The threat from discount stores on near-term results has been overstated, but as flat-panel TVs commoditize, discounters will grow more relevant."

Wal-Mart advertised a big-screen TV for just under $1,000 and a $387 laptop computer the day after Thanksgiving. Both sold out, said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Gail Lavielle. "Those were our blitz products, but we're also selling out of some digital cameras and combo TV and DVD players," she said.

CompUSA's Mondry said stores that are selling technology have an advantage over Wal-Mart. "We all had $400 notebooks and huge lines the day after Thanksgiving, too, and so did Best Buy," he said.

Shoppers who want to integrate their big-screen HDTVs with their computers, install cables and cut holes in the wall "can't go to Wal-Mart," Mondry said. "Our sales associates know what else you can do with your new iPod and can show you what you need to run it through the car stereo or make it an alarm clock."

"Our employees have gone through extensive training," said Amada Tate, spokeswoman for Circuit City. "Flat-panel, big-screen TV prices are down 30 percent from last year. That's driving a lot of interest, and more consumers are aware, but we deliver and offer installation and component and speaker hook-ups."

Warranties are also important to shoppers buying complex electronics, and Wal-Mart has started offering them. But a warranty is a product that needs to be sold, analysts said. Last year, warranties represented 3.8 percent of Circuit City's domestic sales.

Just before Thanksgiving, analyst Rowen published an in-depth report on Wal-Mart's potential threat to the consumer electronics chains this season and beyond.

Although Wal-Mart has improved its assortment of advanced-television technologies, he concluded that at least for holiday 2005, the electronics chains have better selections.

Wal-Mart's foray into selling warranties is alarming for the chains, he said. And ultimately, he said, Wal-Mart and such direct-to-consumer retailers as Dell pose threats — especially in product categories that consumers view as commodities, such as DVD players and entry-level cameras.

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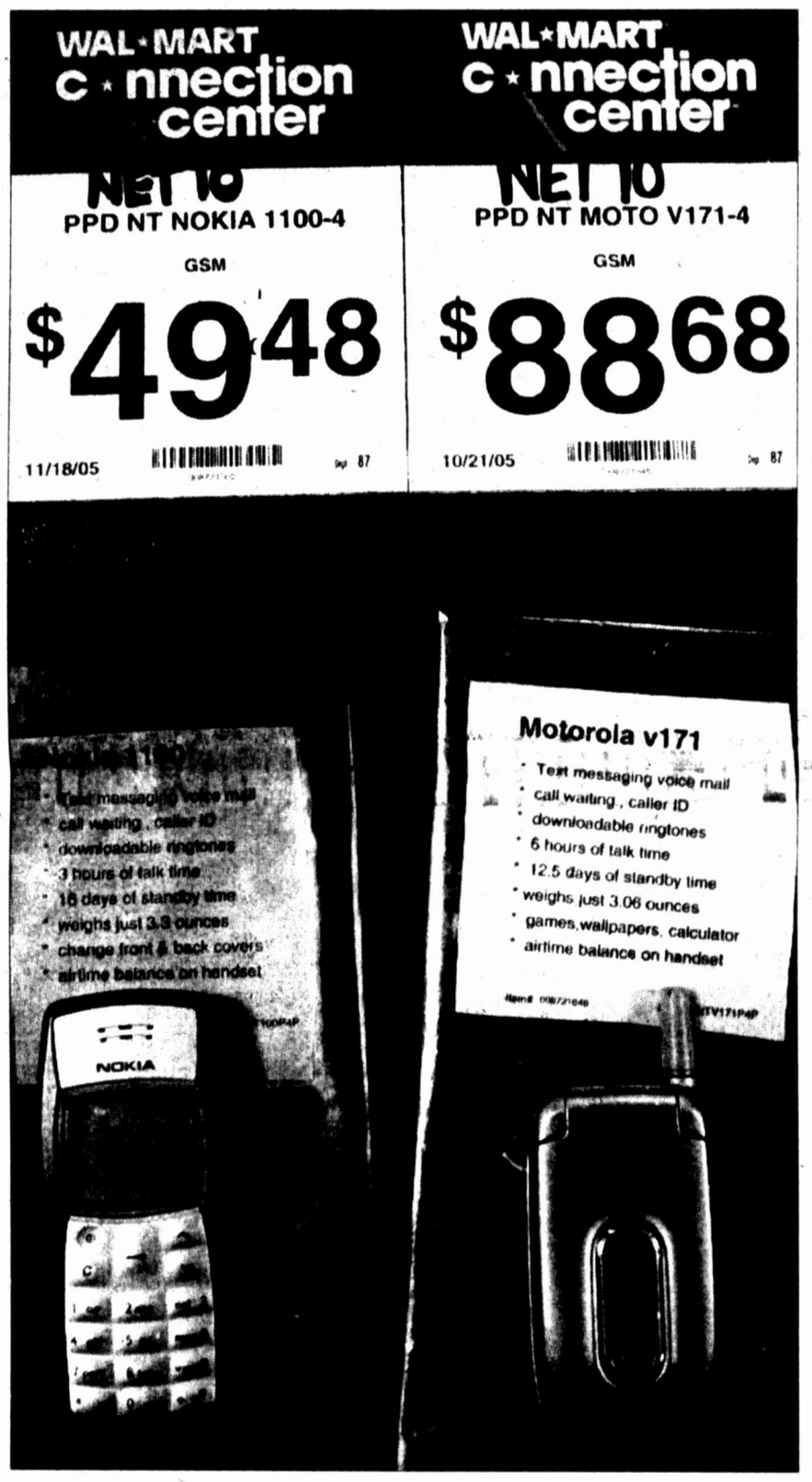

KRT photo/Ron Baselice

A detailed view of a few of the cell phones and prices offered at a Wal-Mart store in Arlington. When Wal-Mart wants to dominate a merchandise category, it usually gets its way.

"Wal-Mart always wants more. In this category, it's No. 2, but Wal-Mart doesn't like being No. 2 when it thinks it can be No. 1. It wasn't that long ago that people didn't think they would take the toy lead."

Retail analyst Edward Weller

USDA-NRCS accepting applications

Special to the Herald

Farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for Farm Bill conservation programs through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

USDA cost-share funds have been released earlier this year to give farmers and ranchers more time to make sound decisions regarding conservation practices before planting season begins.

Eligible producers may apply for cost share assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concern identified by the Local Work Group (LWG). Practices are implemented through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP offers cost share assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. The NRCS determines eligible land and eligible conservation practices.

The Howard County USDA Service Center will be accepting EQIP applications for 2006.

The deadline for applications on 2006 EQIP funding is Feb. 17, 2006. Applications for EQIP funds received on or before that date will be ranked and funded from the initial allocation to Howard County.

Last year EQIP funding in Howard County totaled $280,145.00, according to NRCS information.

EQIP was established to assist landowners with applying conservation plans to treat major resource issues.

In Howard County, these include water quantity on rangeland and soil erosion on cropland. Eligible conservation practices include mechanical brush control on mesquite and cedar, spraying prickly pear, spraying salt cedar, range seeding, prescribed grazing, terraces and waterways.

NRCS, through the invitation of the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is the federal government's principal agency for conserving natural resources on private lands, while encouraging voluntary efforts to protect soil, water, and wildlife on private lands. NRCS offers its services free of charge.

Those interested in signing an EQIP application should visit the USDA Service Center office in Big Spring or call (432) 267-1871, ext. 3 or access the information on the Texas NRCS Internet Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Javier Alcantar, 1513 Scurry, Big Spring

Lisa Aleman, 306 W. First St., Big Spring

Lorie Avina, 603 Steakley Dr., Big Spring

Stephanie Renee Beaty, 2718 E. SH 176, Andrews

Samantha Ann Berrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater

Kami Nicole Bennett, 802 Culp, Coahoma

Kerrie Lea Bhuiyan, 538 Westover, Big Spring

Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. D, Snyder

Douglas (Doug) Brown, 205 W. 14th St., Monahans

Shane Michael Burt, 1403 E. 19th Street, Big Spring

Paul D. Calhoun, P.O. Box 842, Plains

Maria Campos, 751 Agua Pesada, El Paso

Rebeca Carillo, 309 E. St. Anna, Stanton

Wayne V. Carpenter, 3766 Patriot Dr., Abilene

Noelia Carrillo, 1806 E. 11th Place, Big Spring

Mart A. Clem, 10911 Woodmeadow Apt. 821, Dallas

Laura Collins, 402 E. Highway 121 Lot 661, Lewisville

Aubrey Dale Conway, 1101 N. Kelly, Odessa

Andrea Coxey, P.O. Box 1042, Sterling City

Stephanie R. Daniels, 506 N. Avt. T, Snyder

James V. Ditto, 501 W. 17th, Big Spring

Johnnie Lou Dry, RR11, Box 156, Longview

Kathi Duke, 337 Greenbow, Summerville, Ga.

Shannon Fonda, 910 N. Runnels, Coahoma

John R. Franklin, PO Box 1521, Stanton

Kenneth Galindo, 6830 El Paso Dr., El Paso

Concepcion Garcia, PO Box 16156, Lubbock

Joe E. George Jr., 6336 FM 585, Bangs

Christopher George, 215 E. Third, Laramie, Wyo.

Frank Gibbs, 1102 Hwy. 176, Big Spring

Katherine A. Gladhill, 7670 M. Trailer/2718 Rear, Lubbock

Michael Glidewell, P.O. Box 204, Fort Davis

Naomi Gonzales, 1209 Runnels, Big Spring

Billy Gonzales, 1212 S. Hannah, Hobbs, N.M.

Elizabeth Gonzalez, 931 E. 17th Street, Odessa

Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt No. 8, Fort Worth

Martha R. Graham, 2135 Mossy Creek Driver, San Antonio

Ray Charles Green, 3016 S. CR 119, Midland

Timothy Edward Hansen, 1310 Park Ave., Big Spring

Jeremy Royce Harman, 6713 E. Robinson Rd., Big Spring

Nicholas Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams, Breckenridge

John A. Hernandez, 4405 N. Garfield, Midland

Omega Hernandez, 500 N.W. Fifth Street, Big Spring

Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Cumberland Rd., Odessa

Emily Howard, PO Box 2224, Big Spring

Joann Baldwin Hubbard, 504 Eugene or 4000 W. Illinois, Midland

Sharon Annette James, 1311 W. Second, Big Spring

Jonathan Jarrell, 2804 Williams Road, Big Spring

Ronald Jeffery, 1101 Fitch, Odessa

Rae Lynn Jennings, 1904 E. 25th St., Big Spring

Ryan Kendrick, 1425 E. Sixth Street Apt. 34, Big Spring

Gladys Lamonda, 400 Circle Street, Big Spring

Robert Landrum, 310 E. Palace Ave., Hobbs, N.M.

Johnathan Lee Lanham, 3708 28th St., Lubbock

Laura Lea Leon, 319 Rocky Lane Dr., Midland

Christopher Ernest Luellen, 599 Truehart, Paint Rock

Diana Marie Luna, 715 Shinnery Lane, Brownfield

Stephanie Marie Macias, 909 S. Sixth Street, Lamesa

Judy Mata, 6309 E. Midway Rd., Big Spring

Connie Suzanne McMahan, 604 N. Washington, Denver City

Manda Lisman Meeks, 2908 Sherman Road, Big Spring

Brian L. Mendez, 583 56th Street, Lubbock

Ernest Meza, 1902 N. Midland Dr. Apt. 2111, Midland

Elizabeth Rose Mills, 4211 Hamilton, Big Spring

Linda Michelle Molina, 1545 Locust, Colorado City

Debra Montez, 103 N. 18th, Lamesa

Brigido M. Moreno, 2908 Wiscasset Drive Apt. 210, Arlington

Esiqueio Moreno, 508 S.E. First, Andrews

Arthur Ortega, 607 Bristlewood Cove, Cedar Park

Dandra Ortega, 2300 Camp Dr., Midland

Erica Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring

Liza L. Rios Ovalle, 612 Elgin or 1507 E. Sixth Street, Big Spring

Melissa Pena, 208 N. Nolan, Big Spring

Renee Perez, 2133 Glenwood Drive, Abilene

Elva Perkins, 2414 N. Anderson Rd., Big Spring

Lori Ann Pichon, 65159 Sylve St., Lacombe, La.

Nina Powell, Hwy 103 East or Powell's Carpets, Lufkin

Karla Quimby, 1005 W. Debaca, Hobbs, N.M.

Margarita Olivarez Ramirez, 538 Westover, Apt. 223, Big Spring

Sierra Ramos, 200 M. Estes Ave., Midland

Salome Rios, 2511 Albrook, Big Spring

Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaush, San Angelo

Mercie Robles, 705 E. 13th Street,

Robert Rogers, 3815 S.C. Rd. 1192, Midland

Jennifer Roth, 2630 Dow, Big Spring

Debra Ruth, 1311 Mobile Street, Big Spring

Emily K. Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder

Wally Shifflett, 6901 Tumbleweed, Odessa

Allen Stanford, 774 E. Eighth, Colorado City

Karen Stearns, 613 Glenn, San Angelo

Stephanie B. Street, 2611 Ryan Pl., Fort Worth

Tonya Conner Taylor, 406 Goliad, Big Spring

Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview

Terri Lynn Ward Trevathan, 1003-2 County Road 175, Colorado City

Jacob Unger, Co. Rd. 402, Seminole

Georgianna Williams, 907 E. I-20, Big Spring

Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell, Sweetwater

Richard M. Wren, 3303 91st Street, Lubbock

Anthony Yates, 5001 Dawson, Big Spring

Shuang Cheng Zhang, 1201 Gregg St., Big Spring

District Court Filings:

Amy Hernandez vs. Rogelio Hernandez, divorce.

Jody Buxton Ritter vs. Jimmy Dean Ritter, divorce.

Diane Castillo vs. Adam Rodriguez Canales, family protective order.

Marriage Licenses

Larry Allen Raff, 63, of Colorado City, and Laura Evers Durbin, 57, of Blackwell.

Ronald Manndler Jett, 52, and Linda Faye Jett, 49, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:

Grantor: Antonio Medellin Jr. and Irene M. Medellin
Grantee: Kerry R. Hendricks and Tina Michelle Hendricks
Property: A tract of land out of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: Nov. 29, 2005

Grantor: Randy Welch and Sonia Welch
Grantee: Jeffrey M. Casbeer and Jodie R. Casbeer
Property: A tract out of Section 44, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: Nov. 30, 2005

Grantor: Frank Holt and Gayle Holt
Grantee: Juan Robles and Margarita Robles
Property: Lot 3, Block 6, College Park Estates
Date Filed: Dec. 1, 2005

Grantor: William C. Tarleton and Sheryl Tarleton
Grantee: William Thomas Gassaway
Property: Lot 26, Block 3, Kentwood Unit No. 1
Date Filed: Dec. 1, 2005

Grantor: Gerald Harris and Ramona Harris
Grantee: Richard Cantwell
Property: All of Block 7, Hathcock Heights
Date Filed: Dec. 2, 2005

Grantor: Kevin G. Parker and Susan E. Parker
Grantee: Raymond D. Waight and Gwendolyn Waight
Property: Lot 8, Block 2, Kentwood Unit No. 1
Date Filed: Dec . 2, 2005

Grantor: Russell Ginnetti and Kimberlea Ginnetti
Grantee: Peggy J. Drake
Property: Lot 9, Block 3, Washington Place
Date Filed: Dec. 2, 2005

Grantor: E.W. Stokes and Cindy L. Stokes
Grantee: Kandi Burris and David W. Burris
Property: Lot 2, Block 1, Indian Hills Addition
Date Filed: Dec. 5, 2005

Grantor: Big Spring Main Street Inc.
Grantee: Thomas O Tafuro
Property: The rear 71 feet of Lot 18, Block 4 Original Town of Big Spring
Date Filed: Dec. 8, 2005

Grantor: Stephen W. Jeter and Carol Ann Jeter
Grantee: Henry Gusman and Michelle Edmondson
Property: Lot 8, Block 11, Hall Addition
Date Filed: Dec. 9, 2005

BOB BROCK QUALITY PRE-OWNED HOLIDAY RED TAG SPECIAL

★ ★ ★ 2005 FORD & LINCOLN PROGRAM CARS ★ ★ ★

2005 Lincoln Town Car Si[gnature Serie]s - [Beige] w/Leather, All Power, w/15,000 miles. SOLD
WAS $30,995 NOW $28,995

2005 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - White w/Leather, All Power, only 9,000 miles.
was $30,995 NOW $28,995

2005 Ford Mustang - Red Fire Clearcoat, V-6, Automatic, Sport Pkg., Spoiler, All Power, CD, 13,000 Miles.
was $21,995 NOW $20,995

2005 Ford Mustang - Mine[ral] [Gray] Clearcoat, V-6, Automatic, Sport Pkg., Spoiler, CD Radio, All Power, SOLD
was $21,995 NOW $20,995

2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Silver Frost, All Power, Keyless Entry, Anti Lock Brakes, Moonroof, 18,000 Miles.
was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Merlot Clearcock, All Power, Keyless Entry, Anti Lock Brakes, Moonroof, 15,000 Miles.
was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2005 Ford Taurus SEL - [Silver] [Leather], All Power, Keyless Entry, All Power, Moonroof, Anti Lock[s], SOLD
Was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona Beige w/Leather, Moonroof, Keyless Entry, Antilock Brakes, 18,000 Miles.
was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Cloud 9 White Clearcoat, Automatic, Air, Speed Control, All Power, Tilt, 20,000 Miles.
was $13,995 NOW $12,995

2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Silver Clearcoat, All Power, Automatic, Speed Control, Tilt Wheel, 14,000 Miles.
was $13,995 NOW $12,995

2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Arizona Beige Automatic, Tilt, Cruise, All Power, 13,000 Miles.
was $13,995 NOW $12,995

2005 Ford Focus ZX5 SES 5-DR - [Red] [Clearcock], Charcoal, Leather Bucket Seats, All Power, [Wheels], Remote Keyless, Automatic, SOLD
14,000 Miles.
was $16,995 NOW $15,995

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CARS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Lincolns ★ ★ ★

(Highway Gas Mileage 25-27 MPG)

2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver w/leather, locally owned w/45,000 miles. New Michelins!!
Was $15,995 NOW $13,995

★ ★ ★ Crown Victorias & Grand Marquis ★ ★ ★

(Highway Gas Mileage 25-27 MPG)

2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS. - White, w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/62,000 miles.
Was $11,995 NOW $10,995

2001 Ford Crown Victoria LS - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/40,000 miles.
Was $11,995 NOW $10,995

2000 Mercury Grand Ma[rquis] - [Silver] [Cloth], All Power, Local One Owner w/72,000 miles. SOLD
Was $9,995 NOW $7,995

1999 Ford Crown Victoria LX - White, All Power, 90K Miles, Nice Car.
Was $8,995 NOW $6,995

1995 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - White, w/Cloth, All Power.
Was $6,995 NOW $4,995

★ ★ ★ Mustangs ★ ★ ★

2004 Ford Mustang - Bla[ck] V-[6] [Coupe], All Power, One Owner w/40,000 miles. SOLD
Was $14,995 NOW $13,995

2004 Ford Mustang - Black, V-6, Program Car W/25,000 miles
Was $17,995 NOW $14,995

2003 Ford Mustang GT. - [Red] [Convertible], [5 Speed] Transmission, Loaded, w/31,000 miles. SOLD
Was $18,995 NOW $15,995

2003 Ford Mustang - White, V-6, Automatic, One Owner, w/22,000 Miles.
Was $13,995 NOW $12,995

★ ★ ★ Imports ★ ★ ★

2004 Nissan 350Z Touring - Pearl White, Leather, Loaded, Automatic, Local One Owner w/Only 10,000 Miles.
Was $30,995 NOW $29,995

2003 Toyota Avalon XL - Seafoam Green, All Power, One Owner w/43,000 Miles
Was $21,995 NOW $19,995

2002 Honda Accord EX Coupe - [Yellow] w/[Leather], Moonroof, All Power, Local One Owner w/21,000 M[iles] SOLD
Was $20,995 NOW $16,995

★ ★ ★ GM's/Dodges ★ ★ ★

2003 Dodge Neon SE 4WD - White, One Owner w/68,000 miles.
Was $8,995 NOW $6,995

2001 Pontiac Grand Prix SE 4WD - Silver, V6, All Power.
Was $9,995 NOW $7,995

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TRUCKS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Fords ★ ★ ★

2005 Ford F150 Supercrew [Lariat] - [Arizona Beige], Leather, All Power, Local One Owner, w/17,000 mi[les] SOLD
Was $31,995 NOW $30,995

2005 Ford Explorer Sp[ort Trac] - [Red] [One Owner With Only 6,000 Miles. SOLD
Was $22,995 NOW $21,995

2004 Ford F150 Supercab STX 4x4 - Yellow/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/33,000 Miles.
Was $25,995 NOW $24,995

2003 Ford F-150 Supercab [XLT] - [Black], [5 Speed] Manual Shift, Local One Owner w/21,000 Miles. SOLD
Was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2003 Ford F-150 Supercab XL[T] - [Black] w/cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/23,000 mi[les] SOLD
Was $19,995 NOW $17,995

2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Blue/Silver, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One owner w/37,000 Miles.
Was $23,995 NOW $22,995

2003 Ford F150 Supercrew [Lariat] - [White], All Power, Local One Owner W/28,000 Miles. SOLD
Was $21,995 NOW $20,995

2002 Ford F150 Supercab [XLT] - [Blue], V-8, All Power, One Owner w/44,000 miles. SOLD
Was $17,995 NOW $16,995

2001 Ford F-150 Supercab XLT - White, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/70,000 Miles.
Was $14,995 NOW $13,995

1998 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Blue/Black Two-tone, V-8, All Power, 76,000 miles.
Was $11,995 NOW $10,995

★ ★ ★ GM's ★ ★ ★

2005 Chevrolet C1500 S[ilverado] - [Red], [V-8] Automatic, Local One Owner w/18,000 Miles. SOLD
Was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2004 Chevrolet Silverado [1500] [Extended Cab] - Pewter, Leather, Totally Loaded, W/Local One Owne[r] SOLD
Was $24,995 NOW $23,995

2003 Chevrolet Avalanche Z66 - Charcoal metallic, Cloth, XM Radio, On Star, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles.
Was $24,995 NOW $22,995

1999 Chevrolet Silverado C1500 EXT Cab LS - Pewter/Cloth, V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/73,000 Miles.
Was $13,995 NOW $12,995

1999 Chevrolet Classic C1500 EXT Cab LS - Pewter, 350 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/56,000 Miles.
Was $12,995 NOW $11,995

1996 GMC-1500 Ext. Cab [SLE] - [Red] [Fully] Loaded, One Owner, Nice, Nice, 4X4, Only 95,000 Miles SOLD
Was $11,995 NOW $10,995

★ ★ ★ Dodges ★ ★ ★

2003 Doge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT - White w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/29,000 Miles.
Was $20,995 NOW $19,995

2001 Doge Ram 1500 Reg. - [Red], [Cloth], [5 Speed] Under, 5 Speed. Air, One Owner w/39,000 Miles SOLD
Was $10,995 NOW $9,995

★ ★ ★ Nissans ★ ★ ★

1998 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE - Gold, 5 Speed, 4 Cyl, Air, 42,000 Miles.
Was $9,995 NOW $8,995

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SUVs ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Fords ★ ★ ★

2004 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Red/Tan, Leather, DVD, Power 3rd Row Seat, Dual Air/Heat, One Owner w/42,000 Miles.
Was $30,995 NOW $29,995

2003 Ford Explorer XLT 4DR - Arizona Beige, All Power, Local One Owner w/46,000 Miles.
Was $17,995 NOW $16,995

2003 Ford Escape XLT - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/50,000 Miles.
Was $17,995 NOW $16,995

2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4DR - Blue w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/49,000 Miles.
Was $17,995 NOW $16,995

2002 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver, w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/60,000 Miles.
Was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4DR - White/Silver, All Power, Local One Owner w/51,000 miles.
Was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2002 Ford Explorer XLS 4[DR] - [Red] [Beige]/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner With 35,000 Miles SOLD
Was $14,995 NOW $13,995

2001 Ford Expedition E[DDB] - [White] [Beige], Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/77,000 [Miles] SOLD
Was $15,995 NOW $14,995

★ ★ ★ Lincoln ★ ★ ★

2001 Lincoln Navigator 4x4 - White, Leather, All Power, One Owner.
Was $20,995 NOW $18,995

★ ★ ★ GM's ★ ★ ★

2003 Chevrolet Tahoe LS - Black, All Power Dual Air/Heat, One Owner.
Was $19,995 NOW $18,995

2002 GMC Yukon XL SLT 4x4 - Red, Leather, All Power or OnStar, Local One Owner.
Was $20,995 NOW $19,995

2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, Loaded, One Owner w/45,000 Miles.
Was $21,995 NOW $20,995

2002 Cadillac Escalade 4x4 - Sandstone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner w/40,000 Miles.
Was $32,995 NOW $29,995

2002 Chevrolet Tahoe LS - [Yellow] [Local One Owner W/54,000 Miles. SOLD
Was $19,995 NOW $18,995

★ ★ ★ Dodges ★ ★ ★

1999 Dodge Durango SLT 4x4 - Black w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/57,000 Miles.
Was $12,995 NOW $11,995

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ VANS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2004 Ford Freestar S Van - Gray, All Power, Only 4,700 Miles - Program Van.
Was $19,995 NOW $15,995

2004 Ford Freestar SES Va[n] - [Beige] Power, Dual air/Heat, 20,450 Miles. SOLD
Was $19,995 NOW $15,995

2003 Dodge Grand Caravan SE - Blue, V6, All Power, 54,000 Miles.
Was $14,995 NOW $13,995

★ ★ ★ MOTORCYCLES ★ ★ ★

2002 Harley Davidson Road King Classic - Pearl White, Local One Owner, 25,000 Miles.
Was $15,995 NOW $14,995

Bob Brock Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan

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710 Scurry 263-7331 www.bigspringherald.com

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Sun 8am-noon
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16162

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The **Big Spring Herald** always need dependable carriers for various routes. Must have insurance and reliable transportation.
Apply in person.
Contact Duane McCollum
710 Scurry (432)263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

Help Wanted

• DRIVERS •

Do your New Year's resolutions include: more home-time, higher pay, better miles or full benefits? Drive Regional Dedicated and average $800 per week, $42k per year! Run 2,000 miles per week, operating throughout the Midwest. Enjoy single customer delivery, no-wait freight, and an industry leading benefits package. Plus, you'll get home up to 2 days each week! Let us help you fulfill your resolutions and start the New Year off right!

Call:
1-800-723-0848

EOE, 3 mos class A exp req.
17501

Assistant Manager/Collector Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay, and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now hiring for a Liquid Plant Management position. Excellent benefits, excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena Chemical, 100 S. St. Peter, Stanton, Texas.

Help Wanted

CITY OF Big Spring is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/ Paramedic through January 4, 2006. Testing will be on Saturday, January 7, 2006. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, (432)264-2346, 310 Nolan St. Big Spring, TX 79720 or from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us The City of Big Spring is EOE.

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Communications Officer, Heavy Equipment Operator/Landfill, Utility Service Worker and Animal Control Officer. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 310 Nolan, (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

Help Wanted

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

DOWN HOLE Pump Repair/ Delivery Person. Experience Preferred, but will train. Salary D.O.E. Full Benefits Package. Send Resume to P.O. Box 2234, Big Spring.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. **Call Jay at 888-527-7221.**

We Are Always Looking For Dependable Newspaper Carriers For Various Routes

17508

Must Have Insurance & Reliable Transportation.

Come by 710 Scurry and pick up an application.

BIG SPRING HERALD

17508 #2

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McMillan Welding
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Apply In Person @ 3001SCR 1173
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EOE
17619

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All types of fences & repairs.
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1/2 Cord - $140
Quarter - $70
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Home Repair • Carpentry
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All type of repairs!
Work Guaranteed.
Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs!
Free Estimates!!
Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
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263-7331
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LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING
More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.
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Help Wanted

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Home Daily, 5 days on, 2 days off schedule. Steady Paycheck, Strong Customer Base. Cash bonus for exp. gas haulers. Will train qualified driver w/hazmat. On Board Dispatch & E-log. Well-maintained low mileage equipment. New Odessa Mngmnt & Mech on duty. Apply at FST 1003 W. Co. Rd South Odessa Or call (432)617-1100 x-404.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now hiring class A-CDL driver.Excellent benefits, excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena Chemical, 100 S. St. Peter, Stanton, Texas.

HOWARD COLLEGE Book Store is hiring temporary cashiers and for help to work during the back to school rush in January. Apply in person at Howard College Book Store inside the Dora Robert's Student Union Building.

NOW ACCEPTING applications for:
1. RN - Mitchell County Hospital 7AM to 7PM
2. RN - Mitchell County Hospital 7PM to 7AM
3. CNA - Mitchell County Hospital 7 PM to 7 AM
4. CNA - Mitchell County Hospital 7AM to 7PM
5. LVN - Wallace Prison Medical Clinic - 3PM to 11PM

These are full time positions with benefits. Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext 7105.

Help Wanted

MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Maintenance Worker or Lead Man in Big Spring area. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful.
District benefits include paid vacation, holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer.
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432)267-6341.

POSITION OPEN
for weekend RN
Flexible 8 hr. shift 1 to 4
Weekends available each month.
Great Support Staff
Stephanie Potter, DON RN
Valley Fair Lodge
325-728-2634

Help Wanted

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & $175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

NEED EXECUTIVE Secretary at Boothe Vassar Pope & Company. Send Resume via fax to (432)263-2124.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Expanding Nursing Department. Now Hiring for Charge Nurse position. Please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full and part time cashiers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Expanding Nursing Dept.. Now Hiring Certified Nurse Aides for 6-2 shift, taking applications for all shifts. Apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilltation, 3200 Parkway.

REPORTER/ EDITORIAL Staff needed. Temporary, approx. 3 month. Experience in writing, reporting and Quark Preferred. Part or Full time. Call Bill McClellan, Big Spring Herald after 10:30 am (432)263-7331.

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

Help Wanted

BAKER HUGHES

There is an opening for a Contract Treating Driver in Howard County. Candidate will operate a treater truck for downhole and pipeline treatments. Must be physically capable as well as maintaining associated paperwork. Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent; good driving record; Class A OR B CDL; HAZMAT and Tanker endorsements. Please call 432-556-0929 between 8-5 CT for appointment.
"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

Items for Sale

14X32 OFFICE, Ready To Move In To, Free Delivery & Financing Available. (432)563-1807.

Items for Sale

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

MARK DOWN on Scratch and Dent 10x16 in Stock. Delivery and Financing Available. (432)563-1807.

MUST SELL 10x20 Barn, Will Deliver. (432)563-1807.

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

Miscellaneous

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

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

West Texas Centers for MHMR has an opening for a Mental Retardation Intake Specialist. Will perform screening and intake interviews for people seeking service. Bachelor degree with major in Human Service or High School diploma plus four years experience. Salary $11.31-12.09 hr ($23,532.00-$25,140.00 annually) plus benefits. Some travel is required. Prefer bi-lingual.

Applications can be piked up at 409 Runnels or at www.wtcmhmr.org. or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. **EOE.**
17622

Make a difference every day, in our community hospital...

Positions are available for the following areas:

Full Time Medication Aid - Price Daniel Unit Clinic
Full time LVN - Price Daniel Unit Clinic
RN's: Medical/Surgical - 7A - 7P & 7P - 7A, Full Time
Emergency Dept. - 7P - 7 A, Full Time
OB - 7P - 7A, Full Time
LVN's: Medical/Surgical 7A - 7P & 7P - 7A, Full time
PRN's for all areas

D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital
1700 Cogdell Blvd. Snyder, TX 79549
Fax Resume: 325-574-7136
Email Resume: pfoster@cogdellhospital.com
17534

HOLLY LOGISTIC SERVICES, L.P.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
December 14, 2005
TERMINAL/PIPELINE TECHNICIAN

Forty-Hour workweek is standard Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, with overtime and travel required. Successful candidate will be on call and be able to work more than 40 hours per week. General duties will include, but not limited to, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical / electrical / communications equipment including PLC's, Stratos VSat, Honeywell transmitters (pressure and temperature), Smith Acculoads, Titan additive injectors, Rexa and Fisher control valves, motors and starter circuitry, and electrical switchgear. Strong personal computer skills are required with Microsoft Windows operating systems, and Microsoft Office applications. Candidates should be familiar with G.E., Modicon, Square D Ladder Logic, Wonderware, and Top Tech terminal automation systems. Candidates must have applicable experience in writing PLC programs in ladder logic, troubleshooting PLC SCADA systems, and adept in the use of electronic testing and calibration equipment. Considerable manual dexterity is required. A minimum of five (5) years relevant work experience in pipeline and truck loading terminal operations required. High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent, at least 21 years of age, and valid driver license required. Technical school training or Journeyman's Electrician license preferred, but not required. Ability to work in close confined spaces and wear respiratory protective equipment (NO BEARDS). Must be able to climb to heights exceeding 60'. A comprehensive physical must be satisfactorily completed. A DRUG SCREEN IS PART OF THE PHYSICAL. Must have ability to solve problems quickly and efficiently, be able to cope with several problems or projects at the same time, and be able to make decisions and take responsibility. A competitive starting salary based on experience and qualifications. A 180 day probationary period applies. As a condition of employment, the successful candidate must reside within 20 miles of the assigned work location, and be able to be contacted by telephone. A comprehensive fringe benefit package for employee and family. The program includes medical, dental, life insurance, disability insurance, paid holidays, paid vacations. 401K savings and retirement plans. Applications may be obtained at the Texas Work Force Commission Office. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 30, 2005.

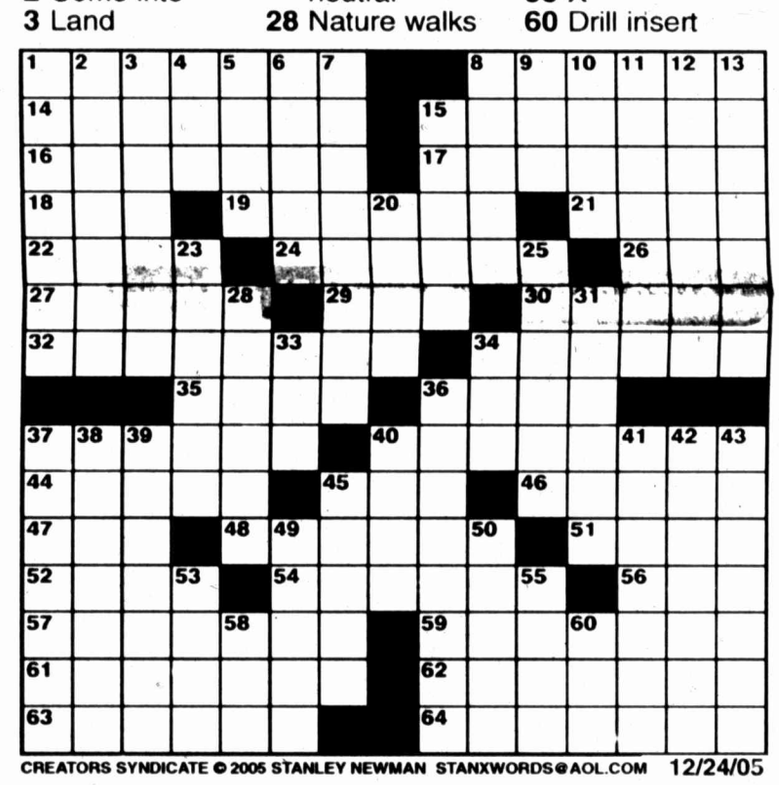
All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. M/F
17433

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Go-between
8 Thin sphere
14 Slope
15 Didn't leave alone
16 Menace's output
17 On the way down, perhaps
18 Unisex wear
19 Married woman
21 City near Turin
22 Times to remember
24 Betty Friedan's birthplace
26 No-win situation
27 Sarcast's word of disagreement
29 Desperado's piece
30 Walkers' venues
32 Low-cost passage
34 Not boastful
35 Wharf denizens
36 Dear, in Venice
37 Ambitious 20-something
40 Hunter-gatherers
44 NBA star
45 Not mil.
46 Knock down
47 Article in *Le Monde*
48 Made it home
51 In __ (as found)
52 Salamander
54 Turned colors, in a way
56 Archeological site
57 More important
59 Navigation hazard
61 Top of the world?
62 One being considered
63 Mind
64 Like some teeth

DOWN
1 Makes a mess
2 Come into
3 Land
4 Tact ending
5 Where Rama VI once ruled
6 Available
7 Cash reserves
8 Light pancakes
9 Mormon predecessor
10 Test version
11 Show irritation
12 Soup ingredient
13 Most wired
15 Trim
20 Don Juan
23 Climber's guide
25 Ethically neutral
28 Nature walks
31 Saws
33 Took in
34 Spoil the finish of
36 Wanting badly
37 Less mature
38 Daunt
39 Small marbles
40 Cone bearers
41 Obvious
42 Condo buyer, maybe
43 Hit
45 Wine and dine
49 Reach a maximum
50 Furnishings
53 Container weight
55 Bruce ex
58 X
60 Drill insert



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2005 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/24/05

Want to have the adventure of a lifetime without all the fuss? **Read!**

West Texas Centers for MHMR

Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Bachelor's degree in social, behavioral or human services OR a Bachelor's degree with 24 hours of Social Work credits. Base salary $12.90-$13.78 per hour ($26,832.00-$28,668.00 annually) plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. **Salary dependent on experience.** Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty Big Spring LPC supervision offered. **Plus sign-on bonus and performance incentives.**

Training Coordinator: Will perform technical duties to the preparation for and development of service plans. High school diploma or GED plus two years experience in a related field. Salary $8.75-$9.30 per hour ($18,192.00-$19,344.00 annually). Benefits.

Case Manager Float for Mental Health: Duty site negotiable. Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Bachelor's degree in social, behavioral or human services OR a Bachelor's degree with 24 hours of Social Work credits. Base salary $12.90-$13.78 per hour ($26,832.00-$28,668.00 annually) plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. **Salary dependent on experience.** Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty site. LPC supervision offered. **Plus sign-on bonus and performance incentives.**

Counselor for Mental Health: Will provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to an individual, group or family. Salary $18.53-$19.79 hr ($38,544.00-$41,160.00 annually) plus benefits. Must be licensed LPC, LCSW, LMFT, Licensed Nurse Practitioner or Licensed Psychologist. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty station. Some travel is required. **Salary dependent on experience.**

LAN Support Technician: Required to manage Novell networks and their Wide Area Network configuration and connections, demonstrates familiarity with PC troubleshooting and maintenance and coordinates maintenance. Works with end users as a helpdesk contact to identify and report system problems. Need experience includes Windows 98-xp. Must be available for travel. Salary $12.90-13.78hr. ($26,832.00-$28,668.00 annually). Salary depends on experience. Benefits. Mon-Fri 8-5.

Part Time Clinic Driver: High school graduation or GED required. Duties include transporting clients to clinic and other community appointments. Salary $6.47 hr.

Direct Care Staff: Part time. Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary $8.20hr. Hours vary.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org. or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE.
17680

You think **helping people is a talent that deserves celebration.**

Some of us are born with greatness.

Sounds like you're Cingular material. Listening to challenges and providing clear, concise solutions is the lifeblood of our business. Sure, we're the nation's largest wireless company, but open communication and extraordinary customer service got us here. That's why people like you thrive in our empowering environment. You have the freedom to help customers make the right decisions. After all, you're the one who's listening.

New opportunity. New expectations. New Cingular.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
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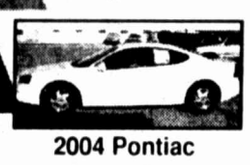
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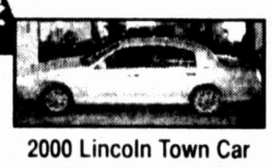
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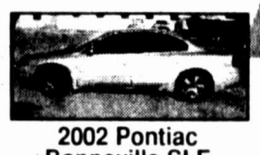
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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, 4001 Penbrook Street, Odessa, TX, 79762, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation that is productive of oil and gas. The Applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Glorieta formation, S.T. Eason -A- Lease, Well No. 1. This well is a vertical produced water injection well. The well is located 4 miles west from Forsan, Texas, in the Howard Glasscock (Glorieta) field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 2800'-3425'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:
Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of The Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application, should be submitted, in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792)
#4820 December 25, 2005

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Big Spring HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Merry Christmas! The Libra moon brings in the holiday in a visual way, the picturesque scenery triggering both sentimental and joyful emotions. As much as we attempt to be fair, spending equal time with family members and doling out equal cheer, too — in the end, it's a tricky balancing act. We may tumble, but at least we try!

HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Adversity builds character. But on days like today, when everyone is supposed to just get along, who needs it? Avoid conflict. Be soft, forgiving, and willing to be wrong. Your day will positively shimmer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You simply forgot to have expectations for this day, so it is, as they say, "all good." Let nothing impede the flow of family harmony. Protect those who are vulnerable. You are admired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When people say you are one step closer to realizing your dreams, you can't help but wonder, "how many steps are there?" A mentor can give you a fair estimate, but the astrological opinion is somewhere around 325.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're introspective on this social day. Between activities, you analyze your life as it is and wonder if you can't make it better by focusing on different priorities. Of course you can. But for now, relax and feel loved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The stars give you an energy boost. Even without the coffee, you're awake and alive, and you see possibility in every moment. Help that grump in your midst by ignoring his attitude and trying to connect with the goodness in him.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Cherish the relationships you've built. It's not too late to pay someone back for kindness that is, by now, historic. It is especially lucky to share your thoughts with a Capricorn and a Taurus.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To reinforce the memory of this special day, do something you think you can't. For example, if you never tried baking a pie, bring one to the table. The evening brings an unexpected call.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Two agendas are prevalent — your family's and yours. Instead of clashing with what a loved one expects of you, flow with it, accept his or her expectation and turn it on its ear with your fantastic wit and humor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your idea of the good life might seem frivolous to someone else, just as his or hers is difficult for you to relate to. The theme today is, "it takes all kinds." You'll be deeply satisfied by what's given to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You take special interest in those who please you. You feel as though you'll do anything to make them happy, and you revel in their joy. Earn points in heaven by taking the same attitude with those you're displeased with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your natural tendency toward philanthropy is momentarily lost while you chase after something you want. It's OK! Generosity begins at home. Many a noble accomplishment begins with one's own hunger.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Forget about last-minute details and have fun. Slip into your party attitude — it's divine. Let everyone fend for themselves — they all do a fantastic job at keeping content.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The holidays are jolly indeed, and aesthetically pleasing to boot under the Libra moon's tutelage. Banding together is a natural effect of Libra's lunar vibes, and the Capricorn sun promises that where there's a protocol to follow or a tradition to honor, we'll try our hardest to respect it. Hanukkah begins today at sunset under the mystic Scorpio moon. When the ancient holiday stories are told, they have resonance and meaning. Adults and children alike are all ears, not needing to be convinced to believe in the miracles. Mars, the warrior, and Saturn, the teacher, have been in a rough conflict, which comes to a climax on Tuesday. The instances where ideology is at odds with your mission may finally be clear. Any action you've taken that doesn't support your values and ethics will be illuminated, and probably not just to you. Though the picture may not be pretty, the outcome will be if you apply what you learn. Boundaries are lifted! Barriers come tumbling down! The new moon on Friday is your chance to forgive yourself and others and start completely fresh. The stars shine on your 2006 wish list — but only if you take the time to make one!

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

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Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
To: KEVIN LARRY, Respondent
GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable 118th District Court, Howard County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Big Spring, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the NOVEMBER 1, 2005, against KEVIN LARRY, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 44472 on the docket of said Court and entitled "In the Interest of DAIJAH WHITED, a Child", the nature of which suit is a request for protection of a child, for conservatorship, and for termination in suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

The officer executing this citation shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
#4821 December 25, 2005

Answer to previous puzzle

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Readers: Today is Christmas, and we wish all our readers joy and peace, and the opportunity to be with family and friends. We also hope you will take a moment to think of those for whom this day may not be so joyful and peaceful, and consider what you may do for them.

Since tonight also is the first night of Chanukah, here is a little bit of humor that's been circulating on the Internet in various forms. Sorry to say, we don't know the author, but we thought you might enjoy it:

Chrisnukah

Continuing the current trend of large-scale mergers and acquisitions, it was announced today at a press conference that Christmas and Chanukah will merge. An industry source said that the deal had been in the works for about 1,300 years.

While details were not available at press time, it is believed that the overhead cost of having 12 days of Christmas and eight days of Chanukah was becoming prohibitive for both sides. By combining forces, we're told, the world will be able to enjoy consistently high-quality service during the 15 days of Chrisnukah, as the new holiday is being called.

Massive layoffs are expected, with lords a-leaping and maids a-milking being the hardest hit. As part of the conditions of the agreement, the letters on the dreidel, currently in Hebrew, will be replaced by Latin, thus becoming unintelligible to a wider audience.

In exchange, it is believed that Jews will be allowed to use Santa Claus and his vast merchandising resources for buying and delivering their gifts. In fact, one of the sticking points holding up the agreement for at least 300 years was the question of whether Jewish children could leave milk and cookies for Santa, even after having eaten meat for dinner. A breakthrough came when Oreos were finally declared to be kosher. All sides appeared happy about this development, except for Santa's dentist.

A spokesman for Christmas Inc., declined to say whether a takeover of Kwanzaa might not be in the works as well. He then closed the press conference by leading all present in a rousing rendition of "Oy, Come All Ye Faithful."

Dear Annie: I really get tired of hearing and reading complaints about Christmas newsletters. For me, reading newsletters is one of the highlights of the holiday season. The older one gets, the harder it is to keep up with friends and acquaintances from the past. However, that doesn't mean we don't still care about them and wonder how they are doing. Life is so busy these days that we might not call or write these people as often as we should, and those newsletters give us a chance to catch up.

I know newsletters are generally impersonal, but I would much rather get a mass-produced letter with people bragging about their kids and telling me about their trips than a card with just a signature. Very few people these days bother to send a card with a long, personal, handwritten note inside. I sit there and wonder: How are they? How are their kids doing?

So, I want to say keep those newsletters coming, and if you don't like them, *don't read them*. — M.R.

Dear M.R.: OK, let's hear it for the other side! We agree that for some folks, those newsletters are a pleasure to receive, and they keep you current with distant friends and relatives whom you would not otherwise contact regularly. Here's a suggestion from us, though, to make those newsletters more palatable — try to brag less and add some humor. That way, the recipients not only will enjoy them more, but are less likely to be annoyed when you do add those tidbits about Little Johnny's latest gold medal.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Anywhere, USA," who worried about losing interest in sex after menopause. Your readers might be interested to know that the loss of estrogen and testosterone can cause a host of other problems for women, including insomnia, fatigue, loss of bone and muscle strength, diminished memory, heart palpitations and many other serious medical conditions.

The good news is that there are many effective options for women who want to restore the "spark" to their lives. — Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D., Founder and Medical Director, HER Place (Health Enhancement and Renewal for Women)

Dear Dr. Vliet: We appreciate your words of encouragement, and if our readers want to check out your website at herplace.com, they are welcome to do so, although they should know that your services do not come cheap. Here's more on the subject:

From Ontario: I read an article which explained that sexual desire is dependent on levels of testosterone. I showed it to my doctor, and he put me on a low dose of testosterone. Wow! What a difference!

Kentucky: I am in my mid-70s and look forward to sex every chance I get. I enjoy a leisurely bath, spray perfume on the sheets, and make every effort to encourage my partner to relax and not have to do all the work. Attitude is everything. Quit calling him Grandpa.

Winnebago, Minn.: Please tell "Anywhere" about bio-identical hormone replacement.

Oregon: I enjoy my sex life now more than ever because I am lucky to have a partner who knows what I like, and I am not afraid to tell him what I need.

Florida: Vaginal dryness, mood swings, night sweats and hot flashes set me off completely. I now take a natural, plant-based estrogen, Vitamin B6 and a low dose of antidepressant daily.

Pennsylvania: My husband and I are both 55. We have sex once or twice a week. We use a lubricating gel. Also when we were younger, he was in a hurry. Now he takes time to give me a back rub or massage to get me in the mood. I enjoy sex more now than the first 15 years of married life.

Midwest: I was widowed at 50 and figured my sex life was over. I was really surprised when I met a younger man and those desires returned big-time. If women had Viagra, it might be more than the male population could handle.

Bermuda: I'm on hormone replacement therapy, and though I was skeptical, my doctors assured me I would be fine and my sex life would improve. I am happy to report they were right.

Michigan: There's nothing wrong with my libido that a little bit of TLC from my husband wouldn't cure. Menopause has nothing to do with it.

New Haven, Conn.: When our youngest left for college, my husband and I were alone for the first time in 27 years. I realized that from the moment he walks through the door, everything is foreplay, including every squabble, every look, every conversation. We are now the most passionate lovers of our long married life.

Pittsburgh: My doctor prescribed natural hormone creams. Unfortunately, insurance companies (the same ones that pay for Viagra) won't cover these creams.

Staten Island, N.Y.: To keep my sex drive alive, I read sexy books and magazines, watch sexy movies, and make sure I have extra batteries for my vibrator.

Texas: My husband and I have the "two-minute rule." When he wants to have sex and I don't feel like it, he can caress me for two minutes and then I make up my mind if I want to continue or not. I've always wanted to continue.

Indianapolis: I am 70 years old, and my husband is 77. We make love at least once a week. During the day, he will hug me, kiss me on the neck and tell me he loves me. How can I not love this studly man?

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

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A MESSAGE OF THANKS AT CHRISTMAS

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