

BIG SPRING

HERALD

At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

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WEEKEND EDITION

December 27-28, 2003

WEATHER

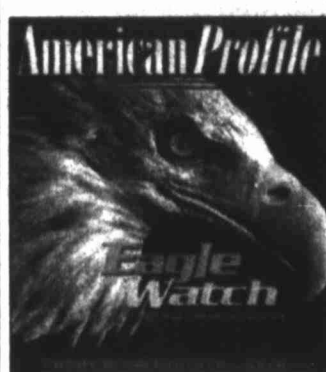
Tonight:



CLEAR

SUNDAY 54°-56° SUNDAY NIGHT 24°-26°

INSIDE



Thanks to people like Mary Rivers and the folks at Eagle Watch in Minnesota, the bald eagle has made a comeback on the Upper Mississippi River — a comeback that's reflected across the nation.

IN BRIEF

Blood drive

With the holidays in full swing, United Blood Services more than ever is in need of people willing to give the gift of life.

A blood drive has been set from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday at Woodforest National Bank in Wal-Mart, 201 W. Marcy.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and have not donated blood within the last eight weeks. All donors must present some type of identification, such as a driver's license, school or work I.D., Social Security card or a passport.

For more information, contact United Blood Services at (432) 561-5539.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

Milwaukee man killed in one-vehicle rollover along I-20 on Saturday

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

A one-car rollover claimed the life of a Milwaukee man Saturday morning, marking the first traffic fatality of the holiday season for Howard County.

According to Department of Public Safety troopers on the scene, Howard L. Everidge, 52, of Milwaukee, Wis., was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident,

which happened near the 194 mile marker of the westbound lane of Interstate 20. Everidge was the only occupant of the vehicle.

"Right now it looks like he was westbound on I-20 when he either fell asleep or lost control of the vehicle," said a trooper. "He went off the center median and the wheels of his vehicle went off of the road. He then over-

See ROLLOVER, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Howard L. Everidge, 52, of Milwaukee, Wis., was pronounced dead Saturday morning after the vehicle he was driving rolled over several times on Interstate Highway 20 near the 194 mile marker.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Dunlap's Department Store gift wrapper Libby Uibbe marks down prices on select sale items Friday, as Dunlap's and other area retailers celebrate a profitable Christmas shopping season.

Local merchants report strong sales during Christmas holidays

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

With economic instability virtually the theme for 2003, the holiday season has represented a time for many area businesses to bounce back.

With the Christmas shopping season quickly fading, Bealls Department Store reported an amazing upswing in business expected to top numbers posted last season.

"We really did great this holiday," said local Bealls



HOWELL

Manager Jay Howell. "It kind of hit us late, but when it did, it came hard.

"Our sales during and after the Thanksgiving holiday were really good, then they got sort of sluggish. Fortunately it came back really strong closer to Christmas. I expect we'll do about 10 percent over what we posted last year."

Howell said he believes local and national economics played a role in the season, but it's certainly not the final answer to a much happier Christmas season.

"I think it always plays a role in sales, but it's certainly not everything," he said. "We're really not back where we should be yet, but other things played a role. We had more in stock this year, so I

See SALES, Page 3A

MEGA BUCKS

High odds don't deter players of multi-state lottery

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

With \$150 million on the line, it's no wonder area lottery players find the new Mega Millions game so enticing.

The new interstate-driven lottery, which is available in 10 other states and Texas, began sales in the Lone Star state on Dec. 3, with the first drawing held two days later.

Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Reagan E. Greer, with the unanimous approval of lottery commissioners, signed an agreement with 10 party lotteries in October, marking Texas' official entry into the Mega Millions multijurisdiction lottery game.

With the addition of Mega Millions to the Games of Texas, the State's Legislative Budget Board estimates that the Texas Lottery Commission's revenue to the State will increase by nearly \$101 million in the first two years.

Locally, Mega Millions has grown in popularity over the past month. Dianne Hofacket, owner of Kydee's Phillips 66, said sales associated with the new game have done nothing but grow since it came out.

"When the Mega Millions first came out, it accounted for about one-third of our Texas lottery sales," said Hofacket.

"Now I'd say it's almost 50 percent of it. "Anytime a new game comes out, everyone wants to give it a try. Now that the stakes are so high, everyone still wants to try it."

Hofacket said the difference between Texas Lotto and Mega Millions odds don't seem to be effecting those chasing

"Even though they have a much better chance at winning in the Texas Lotto, they still go after the big money."

Dianne Hofacket, owner, Kydees Phillips 66

See MEGA, Page 3A

Take precautions to avoid deadly hypothermia

HERALD Staff Report

The advent of the winter season brings visions of spending time around the fireplace, but before breaking out the marshmallows, the public should take precautions against falling victim to hypothermia.

Hypothermia, the severe or prolonged loss of body heat, begins when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees, according to the Texas Department of Health.

A serious condition, hypothermia can slowly creep upon the body before the victim knows a problem exists and can lead to some serious consequences.

Last year, exposure to excessive cold resulted in 28 deaths in the state.

According to the TDH, some hypothermia victims die simply because they are unaware of the gradual temperature changes.

Symptoms of hypothermia include confusion, drowsiness, slurred speech, a drop in blood

pressure, shallow breathing and a pinkish tint to the skin. Anyone with these symptoms related to cold temperatures is in immediate danger.

People most susceptible to hypothermia include those 60 years old and older because often their metabolism is slower than that of someone younger, which means less body heat is generated.

Older people may not respond to cold as readily as younger people because the body's natural

alarm system — shivering, which increases blood flow — lessens with age, the TDH noted.

Elderly or ill people, especially if they live alone or in isolated areas, should be regularly checked on.

Others highly susceptible are infants, small children, the sick, those taking certain prescription drugs or drinking alcohol, homeless, auto or boating accident victims and those unable to find

See COLD, Page 3A

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2003 Mustang GT Premium Coupe
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Obituaries

Dr. Thomas Joe Williamson

Dr. Thomas Joe Williamson, 90, of Vanderpool, died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003, at Knopp Healthcare and Rehab Center. He worked as a medical physician in general practice. Funeral services for Dr. Williamson were held Friday, Dec. 26, 2003, at Trinity Memorial Park. Interment followed in Trinity.

He was born Aug. 31, 1913, in Kingsville, to Henry Franklin and Nora Smith Williamson, who preceded him in death.

Dr. Williamson is survived by one daughter, three sons and their spouses, Tommie Jo and Frank Hunt of Graham, Trent and Elena Williamson of Fredericksburg, Franklin and Katie Bess Williamson of Kerrville, and Tim and Brenda Williamson of Houston; 12 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Schaeffer Funeral Home, Fredericksburg.
Paid obituary

J. B. Keaton

J. B. Keaton, 81, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, December 23, 2003, at his home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Steve King, pastor of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born March 17, 1922, in Okmulgee, Okla. He was the son of Harriett Rust Keaton and J. B. Keaton Sr. He grew up in Oklahoma and worked with his father in the oil industry until he entered the Army Air Corps during World War II. After his discharge, he went to Oklahoma University and became a geologist, working in the oil industry until 1972. He then went to work for the city of Midland as a building official. He retired from the city of Midland in 1988 and moved to Big Spring at that time. He was a member of the Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, P. V. "Pearl" Keaton of Big Spring, whom he married on Aug. 19, 1981; two daughters, Tory Keaton of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Hetty Keaton Yelland and her husband Scott of Stockton, Calif.; three sons, Frank Nobles and his wife Glenda of Salem, Ind., and Mike Nobles of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., and Elliot Green and his wife Becky of Wichita, Kan.; one brother, Gene Keaton of Bedford; three sisters, Martha Dilday of Sapulpa, Okla., Betty Grable of Redding, Calif., and Zella Zigan of Vancouver, Wash.; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews, including his best buddy, Richard Keaton.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one daughter.

Pallbearers will be Frank Nobles, Mike Nobles, Elliot Green, Richard Keaton, Adrian Hamilton and Ryan Nobles. Honorary pallbearers will be Ray Lee and Tony Kennedy.

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

Maurice M. "Jack" Parkin

Maurice M. "Jack" Parkin, 85, of Big Spring, died at 12:05 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, at the Texas State Veterans Home. Military graveside services will be held at 12:45 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at the Houston National Cemetery in Houston, with the Rev. Larmar Ard officiating.

He was born May 17, 1918, at Flat River, Mo. He was a veteran of the Army Air Corps, serving as a flight engineer in China during World War II. He was a retired contractor, having specialized in home building. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by two sons, Doug Parkin of Port Isabel and Dudley Parkin of Houston; one daughter, Laurice Parkin, of New York, N.Y.; two granddaughters, Kay Parkin and Cara Correll; and one brother, Thomas Parkin of St. Louis, Mo.

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

Leland H. Graves

Leland H. Graves, 75, of St. Mary's, Ga., died Monday, Dec. 22, 2003, at Camden Medical Center. Graveside services will be held Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, at 10 a.m. in the Open Air Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park Cemetery with the Rev. James Liggett officiating.

A native of Colorado City, he had resided in Camden County for the past five years. He was retired from Webb Air Force Base as an inspector, and also had been employed as a code enforcement officer with the City of Big Spring. He was the co-founder of the Parkinson Support Group of Camden County, past Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge in Big Spring, member of Christ Episcopal Church, and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

His survivors include his wife, Ruth Graves of St. Mary's; two sons, Michael Graves of Columbia, S.C., and Brandon Sean and Carolina Graves of Charlottesville, Va.; two daughters, Trace and Kurt Willstatter of Burke, Va., and Laura and David Hall of St. Mary's; and 10 grandchildren.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, Inc., 1501 N.W. 9th Avenue and Bob Hope Road, Miami, Fla. 33136-1494.

Arrangements are under the direction of Allison Memorial Chapel of St. Mary's.

Ruby Honea

Ruby Honea, 93, of Abilene, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2003, at an Abilene hospital. Graveside services were to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003, at Elmwood Memorial Park with James Stovall officiating. Services are under the direction of Community Memorial Funeral Home.

For all of your news, sports and local information
HERALD

Police blotter

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

- **JERRY WAYNE WILSON**, 30, of 2302 Lynn, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LUCIO MONTEMAYOR VASQUEZ**, 33, of Austin, was arrested Friday on a charge of assault/family violence.
- **CRYSTAL NALLEY**, 23, of Alpine, was arrested Friday on two local traffic warrants.
- **JOHNNY RIOS**, 18, of 710 Creighton, was arrested Saturday on five local traffic warrants.
- **ARLENE PINEDA**, 50, of 2318 Brent, was arrested Saturday and held for the Howard County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1500 block of Kentucky Way.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.

Sheriff's report

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

- **SUBJECTS THROWING BOTTLES OUT OF A MOVING VEHICLE** was reported near Hilltop Road. Deputies were dispatched and vehicle was located. Arrest made.

Support groups

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m.
- Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

TUESDAY

- Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin will hold a self-help support group for care givers in Howard County on Tuesday.
- The meeting will be held at Canterbury Retirement Homes Inc., 1700 Lancaster, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, call Raynetta Williams, caregiver coordinator, at (432) 563-1061 or (800) 491-4636 or locally call Debbie Read at Home Hospice at (432) 264-7599.
- This group is open to the public and funded by the Texas Department on Aging.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.
- Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

- Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 North Highway 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 3 - 13 - 16 - 17 - 18

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 2 - 10 - 12 - 32 Bonus ball 10. Estimated jackpot: \$250,000

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-2-9

The winning Mega Ball numbers drawn Friday night: 1-10-17-20-29 Mega Ball = 36

WEST TEXAS DISCOUNT FLOORING		
M-F 9-5:30	Pergo Snap	Wilsonart
SAT. 12-4	\$2.59 sf	\$2.59 sf
1712 GREGG	REMNANT SALE	Plush Carpet
263-5500	16x16 Tile	\$6.99 yd
	\$1.49 sf	Vinyl
		\$7.49 yd

Bulletin board

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

Saturday

Dance begins at 8:30 p.m. at Eagles Lodge, 703 West Third. Members and guests welcome.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hanger 25 Air Museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m.

For information on meeting times for Big Spring Squares, call 267-7043 or 263-6305.

Monday

Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center for sit and be fit chair aerobics. People age 50 and over are invited to participate. 268-4721.

Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at La Posada. The public is invited to attend.

Tuesday

Intermediate line dancing classes meet at 9 a.m. in the Senior Citizens Center. 267-1628.

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

Weather

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph..Sunday night...Clear and cold. Lows in the mid 20s. Light winds.
Monday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph..Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.
Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s..Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.
Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s..Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.
New years Day...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s..Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40.
Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.

Take note

□ **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

□ **ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED.**

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.

□ **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

□ **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.

Newspaper In Education
Each Tuesday

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com
Reflecting A Proud Community

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.

RSVP a 2004 tour
An RSVP will be held at 10 a.m. to plan up-tour. will be held Roberts Center.
The Ret Volunteer offers tour the year. schedule i destination some old fa
Bring a fr nametag a fun. Refres be served prizes awar
For anyc unable to meeting, a the 2004 to mailed.
For more: contact the at 264-2397 Tours at 1-8

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what has alr into a \$150 r pot. Drawing each Tuesday
"It's kind c because peopl amount and odds," she s though they h better chance in the Texas still go afte money. The o ning the Mega much lower Texas Lotto."
Kate's Fina Melissa Beat focus of most tomers she tal intely set on jackpot.
"Sales on Million ticket pretty good,"

DUNI
Your Fav Headqua
111 E. Marcy

RSVP organizing 2004 tours now

An RSVP meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 8 to plan upcoming vacation tours. The meeting will be held in the Dora Roberts Community Center.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program offers tours throughout the year. The 2004 schedule includes new destinations as well as some old favorites.

Bring a friend, wear a nametag and join the fun. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

For anyone who is unable to attend the meeting, a schedule of the 2004 tours will be mailed.

For more information, contact the RSVP office at 264-2397 or Bilibrey Tours at 1-888-692-1308.

CISD won't pursue possible suit

By LYNDEL MOODY

Coahoma Independent School District trustees decided earlier this month not to pursue a possible lawsuit against major oil companies for alleged under reporting the market value of oil.

According to Superintendent Dr. Bill Kingston, trustees were concerned with the loss of the amount that might be gained from winning such a lawsuit to the Texas Education Agency.

State school financing is based on the district's tax collection and values, Kingston said.

"In discussions with TEA, they indicated it was within their right to go back previous years," Kingston said. "If we had

gotten that money in the time that it would have been normally collected, our state revenue would have been decreased by almost an equal amount."

Essentially, any financial gain would not be sufficient to enter such a lawsuit, Kingston said.

On Aug. 29, Midland County commissioners filed a lawsuit against more than a dozen oil companies for fraud and conspiracy in under reporting the market value of oil, thus reducing its taxable revenue.

In a September meeting, commissioners entered into a contingency fee agreement with the San Antonio-based law firm Perry & Kellogg to possibly pursue common law claims on the matter.

Following the meeting, the representative approached members of all three Howard County school districts - Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan - concerning the issue at the Howard County commissioners' meeting in September.

Both Forsan and Big Spring boards have not taken up the issue.

In other business, trustees discussed consolidating polling places, citing low turnout as the factor.

"It will be an action item in January," Kingston said. "We're looking at consolidation. We have three polling places, - Vincent, Sand Springs and Coahoma - we're looking at consolidating those into one

place at Coahoma. Our total voter turnout has been pretty low over the last five years at each one of those places, indicating we can certainly serve those people at one polling place instead of three."

The move could save the district from \$800 to \$1,000 for each election, Kingston said.

"We don't want to do anything that would discourage or make it impossible for voting or participating," he added. "We certainly want to be careful the way we do that. The number of people who have voted in Vincent has been very low over the past five years. I think we had seven people vote out there last year. It's hard

to justify having a polling place out there with that low of a turnout."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

J. B. Keaton, 81, died Tuesday. Graveside Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maurice M. "Jack" Parkin, 85, died Tuesday. Graveside Services will be at 12:45 PM Monday at Houston National Cemetery, Houston, Texas.

ROLLOVER

Continued from Page 1A

rected, and when he did, the vehicle went into a sharp skid back toward the north.

"He went across and ran into the side of the embankment. He was already flipping when he came out of the median, rolling over, and was ejected when he hit the embankment."

Everidge was driving a late-model Jeep Cherokee. The trooper said it was unlikely that Everidge was wearing his seat belt at the time of the accident.

"There's a possibility

that he was wearing his seat belt and was thrown out of it," he said. "That's pretty unlikely, however."

The accident occurred shortly before 10 a.m.

Contact Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

COLD

Continued from Page 1A

temporary shelter from the cold weather.

Some people, especially those living on low incomes, may not turn up their thermostats, fearing high heating bills and may fall victim to hypothermia.

Animals are subject to hypothermia, too, especially those left outside in extremely cold weather. Outside animals should have access to a warm

environment, out of the chilling wind and have access to food and water that has not frozen.

TDH officials warn that no one should underestimate cold weather and should dress appropriately.

Wear loose-fitting clothing in layers, gloves and use a face cover to block the wind. If you must be outside, stay dry.

Be extremely cautious in the wind. A strong wind, even in only moderately cool weather, can cause a windchill far

below freezing.

Not only can windchill cause rapid body heat loss, it also can cause frostbite, actual freezing of tissues. Frostbite can occur in 15 minutes or less at windchill values of 18 below zero or lower.

Anyone planning outdoor activities in cold weather should check local weather forecasts for information.

Winter storms also may cause power outages, and food safety can be a problem. If you lose power for more than four hours,

take the following precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.

- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have exceeded 45 degrees. When in doubt, throw it out.

- Any frozen food that has thawed but not exceeded 45 degrees should be prepared as soon as possible. Do not re-freeze.

SALES

Continued from Page 1A

think a better selection also helped us do better this holiday season."

One of the largest players in the local holiday shopping game is the Walmart Supercenter, and according to Manager Carla Grimes the business scored an economic touchdown to end the year.

"We did great this holiday," said Grimes. "I think the economy has certainly played an important role in this year's success. I think we're seeing a good trend, but I think most Americans would agree, everyone would like to see more improvement."

Radio Shack Manager Lupe Diaz certainly was-

n't shy about her operation's success, and said there's a lot more to the Big Spring area than just economic predictions.

"We did awesome this year," said Diaz. "I really don't think the economy had a lot to do with it, either. When it's Christmas time, I think the people in Big Spring forget about the economy and find ways to give. It's really quite impressive."

Burke's Outlet also reported above-average numbers for the holiday shopping season. Supervisor Melissa Morales said she and fellow employees stayed busy this season, helping area shoppers fill their Christmas lists.

"We did really good," she said. "Things look really good at this point. When it's over, I expect

we will have done around 50 percent more business during this holiday season than we do at any other time of the year."

The echoes of holiday fortune also extended to Blum's Jewelers, and according to owner Gregg Brooks, he and his staff are still racing to get caught up.

"We're still trying to get out from under it," Brooks laughed. "The last few days have been just wonderful for us."

When asked if he thought the reported "upswing" in the American economy played a role in their prosperous holiday season, Brooks was hesitant to put a label to their success.

"What they say nationally has little to do with what happens out here,"

he said. "I really don't know what to attribute this to. We had a sort of unsure year. I guess people just kept their desire to buy pent up until the last second."

Dunlap's Manager Judy Castro said the season was good for her business as well.

"It was really good for this season," she said. "Christmas Eve was a very good time for us, and we did a lot more business than we expected."

"I'm sure the economy played a role in our success this year, but to what extent is still unclear. We're just glad we did so well."

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

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Daily: 2:30, 5:00, 7:20 & 9:50
*Peter Pan (PG)
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Under New Management
263-2300
ADULTS: \$6.00
\$3.50 ALL MATINEES,
CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS
*PASS RESTRICTED

the Texas Lottery online at www.txlottery.org.

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

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MEGA

Continued from Page 1A

what has already grown into a \$150 million jackpot. Drawings are held each Tuesday and Friday.

"It's kind of amusing, because people look at the amount and not the odds," she said. "Even though they have a much better chance at winning in the Texas Lotto, they still go after the big money. The odds of winning the Mega Millions is much lower than the Texas Lotto."

Kate's Fina Mart clerk Melissa Beaty said the focus of most of the customers she talks to is definitely set on the inflated jackpot.

"Sales on the Mega Million tickets have been pretty good," said Beaty.

"People seem pretty excited about them. Most of them that come in are talking about the payout amount. For the most part, I don't think the odds really bother them."

According to D's One Stop Clerk John Dominguez, sales for the new Mega Millions lottery tickets were slow at first, but as the "rules" of the game became less of a mystery, sales have increased rather dramatically.

"Sales have been pretty fair so far," said Dominguez. "We really didn't sell too many when they first came out. I think a lot of people didn't know how to play them. There's a lot more coming in now, though."

For more information on Texas Lotto and the Mega Millions game, visit

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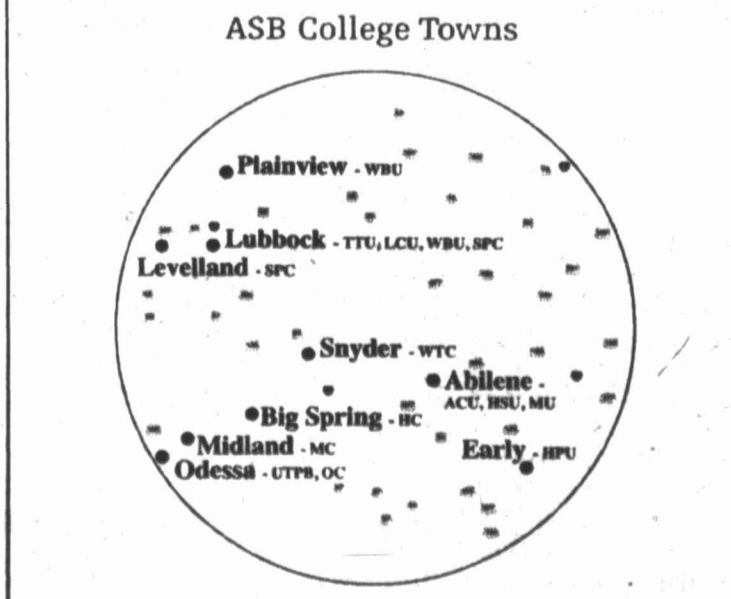
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Lack of change can be positive with each year

As we approach the end of the year, we reflect on 12 months of great diversity and on how so little has changed. However, lack of change can often be a positive.

At this time last December, we were talking of going into the new year with some trepidation — partly because of the war in Afghanistan and the treat of terrorism. As we reflect on 2003, we find ourselves still involved in Afghanistan, still fighting militants months after going to war against Iraq and still facing constant threats of terror attacks.

Yet, despite the very personal effects of the war on many Crossroads families, much of 2003 has been positive. We've seen some growth, particularly in Big Spring, with several new businesses being constructed, improvements to Comanche Trail Park, upgrades at the Big Spring Refinery and improvements at McMahon-Wrinkle Airport.

We've been blessed with a little more rain and a lot more cotton. Plans continued with the U.S. Highway 87 bypass — though some merchants do not consider that positive news — and work was completed on the Highway 87/FM 700 intersection.

Ever benevolent, we set new records raising funds for the American Cancer Association, Alzheimer's Association, United Way of Big Spring and Howard County and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We gave our time and money like never before. Those are not things that are new, of course. Each year, we Crossroads area residents do our best to make sure that no one goes hungry or cold, no child goes without clothes or school supplies and every youngster has gifts at Christmastime. As we said, in some ways very little has changed. And when it comes to giving, we certainly see that as something positive.

The impact of 2003 weighs differently for each person, family, business and individual. Clearly though, we do wonderful things when we come together for a common cause.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to jmoseley@crcom.net or to editor@bigspringherald.com

How To CONTACT Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

It's the fault of the "rotten media"

Iwant Rep. Dennis Kucinich to be the Democratic nominee for president. I don't want to lose those special moments when the candidate tells an audience he is tanking in the polls because of the Rotten Media, and all the true believers turn around and stare at me and my rotten media buddies. We're slouched taking notes, and they're wondering what shame-faced thoughts we must be thinking, when in fact we are thinking, "Loser." Yawn.

The Democrats don't have enough angry white men — oops, sorry, I'm living back in the Bill Clinton years, when the incumbent's party dismissed all conservatives as angry white men, happily unaware that the Democrats' 2004 candidate crop would be an angry-guy fest, including the Ohio congressman.

I want a Democratic standard-bearer who blames the media for his poor showing. That means even he knows he is going to lose.

I want the Democrats to pick someone who announced that he would also run for his congressional seat in January. That, too, means he knows he is going to lose.

I want a Democratic nominee who complains that former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean isn't anti-war enough. (And I applaud any Democrat who goes to the trouble of pointing out how Dean waffled on the war, before he

became former veep Al Gore's "only major candidate who made the right judgment" on the war in Iraq.)

I love hearing Kucinich talk about how he would pull U.S. troops out of Iraq immediately — as he told a lunchtime crowd from the Bar Association of San Francisco Tuesday — and replace them with U.N. troops. (And the U.N. troops would come from what countries? And just how would he order them up?)

I want a Democratic candidate who boasts, as Kucinich does, that he thinks "holistically." Who among the crowded Democratic field would have said, when he launched his campaign, that he is running "to enable the goddess of peace to encircle within her arms all the children of this country and all the children of the world"? Only Kucinich.

I want a candidate who will go on a blind date as a campaign event. That makes it particularly choice when he complains about superficial press coverage.

I want Kucinich to be the Democratic nominee because he flip-flopped from opposing abortion rights to supporting them. Indeed, he told S.F. lawyers he would not appoint any judges who think the way he used to. (Well, that's not quite how he put it.) His shall-we-say transition befits the ample history of congressional Democrats who ditched their anti-abortion positions conveniently as they were considering moving up in Washington.

I want to see whom he picks to be the Cabinet-level secretary who heads his proposed Department of

Peace. Failing that, I'd settle for hearing his explanation for the department in a presidential debate. (In 2001, his bill argued for an agency charged with conceiving "of peace as not simply being the absence of violence, but the active presence of the capacity for a higher evolution of the human awareness, of respect, trust and integrity.")

I want a nominee who bashes President Bush for unilateral decisions that separate us from the world, while in the next breath advocating pulling out of the World Trade Organization.

I think it would be refreshing to hear from a Democrat who wants to get rid of the Bush tax cuts — but only for rich people. Then, I want to hear his supporters coo about how courageous he is.

I want a Democrat who argues that he can win by attracting disgruntled members of third parties to the polls. I remember when defeat-bound Republicans made similar arguments about their base.

Most of all, I want to see a Bush-Kucinich debate because if the Dems actually nominate a vegan to run for the White House, nobody could blame Bush for asking: Where's the beef?

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

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BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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Gore endorsement does not a victory make

The most delicious moment in the final Democratic debate of the year came at the very beginning, when Ted Koppel wickedly asked the nine candidates on stage to raise their hands if they believed Howard Dean could defeat George W. Bush.

Only Dean raised his hand.

The audience rocked with laughter, Dean grinned, and the other candidates looked a little sheepish. If you missed the moment, don't worry — the Republicans will probably run it as a campaign commercial if Dean gets the nomination.

The debate was otherwise unmemorable. Dean had made sure of that when that same morning he engineered an endorsement by the party's 2000 standard-bearer, Al Gore.

The media went predictably gaga. The political media — as opposed to normal human beings — are obsessed with endorsements, campaign staffs and polls. In reality, there are probably not 500 people in the nation (there may not be 50) who will vote for Howard Dean because Al Gore tells them to. But the endorsement does have symbolic importance.

It is yet another sign that there is probably no "mainstream" of the Democratic Party that fears and loathes Howard Dean. To put it another way, the Gore endorsement is further evidence that Howard Dean is the mainstream of his party.

When a guy raises more money than anyone else, rises higher in the polls than anyone else and gets establishment endorsements, he is hardly an insurgent anymore. He has arrived.

The typical insurgent scenario goes like this: a candidate on the

left or right wing of his party wins an upset victory in an early primary state. (Pat Buchanan in 1996 or John McCain in 2000, for example.) Facing a party takeover by an "extremist," the mainstream rouses itself and coalesces around the establishment choice, who goes on to win the nomination. (Bob Dole in 1996 and Bush in 2000.)

And that is what the other Democrats in the hunt this year hope happens. At first, they tried to portray Dean as an angry, anti-war left-winger who is out of step with the party. But guess what? Hundreds of thousands of Democrats have contributed millions to the Dean campaign, and they seem to like the fact that he opposed the Iraq war early and often.

Nobody yet knows whether the capture of Saddam Hussein will change this. Logically, it shouldn't change anything. All the Democratic candidates, even those four who voted for the Iraq war resolution, have opposed the war.

But presidential campaigns are often about things other than logic. And one big question is whether Dean's anger still will have the same appeal. Clearly, many Democrats like Dean's anger. It empowers them. They like the fact Dean did not cave in or crawl before the White House.

(If Dean continues to show strength, the media will grow bored with him and concentrate on his presumptive choice for vice president. The most exciting, if not the most likely, choice would be Hillary Clinton. But there is a problem: She voted for the Iraq war resolution, too.)

So if Dean is not out of step with his party, what do his Democratic opponents use against him? Electability. They now go around the country saying that Dean cannot win because Bush will paint him as an unpatriotic radical, who will not defend this country against terrorism.

They may be right. But which of them can guarantee a victory against Bush? Which of them can rally the party? Even assuming the party wants an alternative to Dean, it seems to have too many alternatives: Dick Gephardt looks good in one state, John Edwards looks good in another, Joe Lieberman is working hard over there, Wesley Clark cannot be taken lightly, and John Kerry is not out of it yet.

So how does the party coalesce around one candidate? Well, it's called a presidential primary campaign, and not only is it not over, it has not even begun. An Al Gore endorsement does not a victory make. (The hot rumor is that Gore only endorsed Dean now because Gore heard his rival from 2000, Bill Bradley, was about to endorse Dean.)

At least one group watched the Gore endorsement very carefully, however: White House political operatives. They began telling reporters that it was now "extremely likely" Dean would be the nominee — and that they were delighted.

"The best thing Bush has going for him is that Dean is a weak Michael Dukakis," a key Bush official told the New York Daily News. "Dukakis won 10 states. Unless things turn very bad for Bush, I don't see Dean winning more than five."

This kind of talk helps the other Democrats in the race, of course. But you have to wonder why White House operatives want to help the Democrats pick a different nominee. Could it be they are a little more afraid of Howard Dean than they are letting on?

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Deal offer wrestling

WEST PALM Fla. (AP) — A Florida man whose murder and life sentence was overturned by a playmate were out this month freed from prison immediately upon plea bargain of prosecutors.

The deal is id one Lionel Tate mother rejected before he went prosecutors said Richard Tate's appellate said he expects to make a decision next couple of weeks he spoke Friday afternoon declined to discuss conversation.

Tate, now 16 year-old Tiffany to death when he claiming he accidentally killed her while pro wrestling he had seen on television.

He was tried adult, convicted degree murder received an a life-without-parcance in a case t international criminal Florida's tough of juveniles who

The plea bargain let Tate plead second-degree and receive a sentence three years in prison which he has served 33

Broward County Attorney Michael said in a statement

That would be by a year under arrest and 10 year probation. Tate would have to undergo logical treatment

STA

REVENUE

- Operating revenues
- State appropriations
- Tuition and fees (net)
- Federal grants and contracts
- State grants and contracts
- Nongovernmental grants
- Sales and services of
- Auxiliary enterprises
- Other operating revenues
- Total operating revenue

EXPENSE

- Operating expenses
- Instruction
- Research
- Academic support
- Student services
- Institutional support
- Operation and maintenance
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Auxiliary enterprises
- Depreciation
- Total operating expense

Operating loss

- NON-OPE
- Property taxes for operations
- Investment income (net)
- Interest on capital resources
- Other non-operating revenues
- Net non-operating revenue

Income before other revenues

- Other revenue
- Capital contributions

Increase in net assets

Net assets — beginning of year

Net assets — end of year

Deal offered in wrestling death

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A Florida boy whose murder conviction and life sentence in the slaying of a 6-year-old playmate were thrown out this month could be freed from prison almost immediately under a new plea bargain offered by prosecutors.

The deal is identical to one Lionel Tate and his mother rejected in 2001, before he went to trial, prosecutors said Friday.

Richard Rosenbaum, Tate's appellate attorney, said he expects his client to make a decision in the next couple of weeks. He said he spoke to Tate Friday afternoon but declined to discuss their conversation.

Tate, now 16, beat 6-year-old Tiffany Eunick to death when he was 12, claiming he accidentally killed her while imitating pro wrestling moves he had seen on television.

He was tried as an adult, convicted of first-degree murder and received an automatic life-without-parole sentence in a case that led to international criticism of Florida's tough handling of juveniles who kill.

The plea bargain would let Tate plead guilty to second-degree murder and receive a sentence of three years in prison, of which he has already served 33 months, Broward County State Attorney Michael J. Satz said in a statement.

That would be followed by a year under house arrest and 10 years of probation. Tate would also have to undergo psychological treatment.

Nine still missing in California mudslides

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Emergency crews spent a second night working their way through mud-covered debris in a search for nine people, most of them children from a church camp, who remained missing after mudslides ravaged a canyon recently burned bare in the San Bernardino Mountains.

"We have no reason to think we can't find survivors, and I hope we will," sheriff's spokesman Chip Patterson said. "I'm not aware of anything I could consider promising or signs of life," he said, but "we're not even close to

giving up."

Seven bodies had been found in the debris of two campgrounds, including five near the Greek Orthodox Saint Sofia Camp in Waterman Canyon.

Twenty-seven people, many of them immigrants from Central America, were believed to have been celebrating Christmas with the caretaker at Saint Sofia Camp when the mudslide roared through, burying buildings under several feet of debris-filled mud and sweeping two cabins away. Fourteen people were rescued, but several children remained miss-

ing.

Saturday morning, the camp was a muddy, gray landscape strewn with boulders and uprooted trees that had been swept down the canyon following a downpour that had loosened ground once stabilized by vegetation the fall wildfires had devoured. Some buildings remained standing. Others were partially buried.

Next to a small creek, about 50 yards from the caretaker's home, had been a children's playground with swings and climbing bars, said Perry Skaggs, of St. Sophia Cathedral. If the children

were out there playing when the mudslide began, they likely wouldn't have had a chance, Skaggs said early Saturday.

One child missing from the camp was swept away with her mother as her father watched, helpless to save them, the girl's aunt said. Gilberto Juarez had grabbed his 3-year-old daughter, Stephanie, but he couldn't reach his wife, Rosa, or 7-year-old Katrine.

"He said he helped the little girl up and when he turned they were gone, the water had risen too much and had swept the cabin away," said

Juarez's sister-in-law, Mildred Najara.

"They became separated when the water rushed in."

George Monzon, the caretaker who lived at the camp with his wife and two children, was also among the missing.

Two other bodies, a man and a woman, were found near each other about a half-mile from a KOA campground in Devore, about five miles to the west, where 32 house-trailers were destroyed, authorities said. No one else had been reported missing, sheriff's Deputy Kris Phillips said.

U.S. seeks Paris-L.A. no shows at airport

WASHINGTON — U.S. investigators are searching for a small number of people who failed to show up at the Paris airport to board flights to Los Angeles that fell under close scrutiny in a possible terrorist plot, a U.S. official said Friday.

One of those people was receiving pilot training, but was not yet certified, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Investigators remain interested in talking with those people to ease concerns some passengers aboard those flights might have intended to use them to launch terror attacks against the United States, the official said.

Discussions between U.S. and French officials led to the cancellation of six Air France flights

between Paris and Los Angeles on Wednesday and Thursday. U.S. officials also were talking to officials in other countries.

After the Air France cancellations, French investigators questioned seven men pointed out by U.S. intelligence but found no evidence they planned to use a Los Angeles-bound jet to launch terror attacks against the United States, French authorities said.

Meanwhile, U.S. counterterrorism officials were turning to possible threats next week that might target large, public gatherings, such as New Year's Eve celebrations. One U.S. official said there was no specific information such an attack was likely, but said such gatherings would

obviously be an attractive target for terrorists hoping to inflict large-scale casualties.

Already, Homeland Security officials have enhanced their ability to monitor the air for biological warfare agents in 30 cities, one of several ways the government is preparing for possible terrorist strikes during a high, Code Orange alert.

The alert also has activated special disaster response teams, while federal officials have been conferring with foreign governments to prevent terrorists from boarding international flights bound for the United

States.

"People have their antennas up," said Brian Roehrka, a spokesman for the Homeland Security Department.



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Howard County Junior College District
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
Year Ended August 31,

	2003	2002
REVENUES		
Operating revenues		
State appropriations	\$ 11,788,420	\$12,336,293
Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$1,691,639 and \$1,526,500)	2,036,709	1,702,279
Federal grants and contracts	4,968,606	4,601,326
State grants and contracts	885,326	1,039,986
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	439,720	399,734
Sales and services of educational activities	232,545	206,705
Auxiliary enterprises	691,897	601,453
Other operating revenues	144,352	130,698
Total operating revenues (Schedule A)	21,187,575	21,018,474
EXPENSES		
Operating expenses		
Instruction	10,586,980	10,319,909
Research	8,892	2,228
Academic support	1,117,399	1,019,184
Student services	2,189,038	2,052,363
Institutional support	3,487,804	3,414,153
Operation and maintenance of plant	2,205,456	2,318,524
Scholarships and fellowships	2,095,088	2,053,964
Auxiliary enterprises	1,613,346	1,732,791
Depreciation	664,252	543,077
Total operating expenses (Schedule B)	23,968,255	23,456,193
Operating loss	(2,780,680)	(2,437,719)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
Property taxes for operations	3,126,907	3,063,258
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	279,263	245,719
Interest on capital related debt	(110,648)	(111,130)
Other non-operating revenues (expenses)	131,254	155,852
Net non-operating revenues	3,426,776	3,353,699
Income before other revenue	646,096	915,980
Other revenue		
Capital contributions	63,127	1,484,880
Increase in net assets	709,223	2,400,860
Net assets — beginning of year	22,580,992	20,180,132
Net assets — end of year	\$ 23,290,215	\$ 22,580,992



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Search for three snowboarders slowed by snow, avalanche threat

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Hampered by heavy snows and avalanche danger, rescuers were uncertain when they would be able to resume searching for at least three snowboarders swept down a Utah canyon by an avalanche and feared dead.

Utah County Sheriff Jim Tracy said that weather permitting, avalanche safety crews would bomb the cornices at dawn Saturday to release avalanches, then determine whether it was safe enough to resume the search.

Rescue workers called off their search Friday night in Provo Canyon, about 25 miles northeast of Provo, after authorities decided it was too dangerous to continue.

Two other snowboarders who had been with the missing men when the

avalanche hit Friday managed to dig their way out after being buried up to their chests.

Tracy said the missing snowboarders probably would not survive. "It's not probable at this time," he said.

The names of the two Utah County men who survived — ages 18 and 20 — and the missing members of their party were not released. One of the survivors was hospitalized with a leg injury, Tracy said. The survivors refused to speak to reporters.

A snowshoer reported the avalanche Friday afternoon in the Aspen Grove area of Provo Canyon, about a mile north of Sundance ski resort, said Utah County Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Dennis Harris. The area is considered back-country and has no avalanche control.

DNA from JonBenet's clothes is given to FBI

DENVER (AP) — A sample of male DNA found on JonBenet Ramsey's underwear has been submitted to FBI (news - web sites) investigators seven years after the 6-year-old was slain in her parents' home, the family attorney said.

"The Ramseys have a lot of hope that the DNA will solve the case," their lawyer, L. Lin Wood, said Friday.

The DNA sample was taken from two drops of blood on the garment, which has been in storage since the investigation began into the child's murder.

JonBenet, a competitor in child beauty contests, was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her parents'

Boulder home on Dec. 26, 1996.

Earlier DNA tests on the blood indicated, it was from a male who was not a member of the Ramsey family.

At the time, the DNA sample wasn't of a high enough quality to compare against a national databank of DNA, the attorney said.

Within the last few months, the Boulder District Attorney's office was able to get a high quality sample of DNA from the garment to send to the FBI, Wood said.

Phone lines at the district attorney's office were continuously busy Friday and no one could

be reached for comment.

"I do believe the single most important evidence in the case is the DNA," Wood said in a telephone interview from his office in Atlanta, where John and Patsy Ramsey now live.

The DNA will be compared with other samples in the FBI's national databank to see if it matches men convicted of violent crimes or samples from other unsolved crimes, Wood said.

Wood accused Boulder police of not aggressively pursuing the DNA because it appeared to have been from someone outside the Ramsey family.

The Ramseys have long contended that an outsider killed their daughter.

California town up for sale again

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A year after the rural town of Bridgeville was ostensibly snapped up in a frenzied online auction for nearly \$2 million, the town is up for bid again — this time at half the price and not on eBay.

The supposed buyer, who was only ever identified as a nameless West Coast developer, disappeared soon after making the winning \$1.78 million bid last December on auction site eBay. No check ever arrived.

That prompted real estate broker Denise Stuart to offer the property to another bidder. And another. And another.

After a dozen potential deals fell through, Stuart posted the property last week on the more standard listings that brokers routinely share.

The town's owner, Elizabeth Lapple, is now

asking \$850,000 for the 82-acre property, set among redwoods about 270 miles northwest of San Francisco and about 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean.

The town, which dates to the early 1900s, includes a post office, a mile and a half of river bank, a cemetery and more than a dozen cabins and houses. It needs a new well and several buildings need to be renovated.

Last year's online auction generated national attention and nearly 250 would-be buyers, even though bidding opened at \$775,000.

"It was such a fiasco last time," said Stuart, who owns California Real Estate in Eureka. "You have no idea who (buyers) are, if they're for real or they're bogus."

That hasn't stopped other property owners and real estate agents from listing their properties on eBay.

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2003 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Vibrant White c/c w/Parchment Leather, 11,400 Miles. MSRP \$43,500 SOLD NOW \$30,995	1997 Dodge D150 Club Cab SLT - White, V-8, all power. Was \$13,995 NOW \$9,995	2002 Ford Mustang - Charcoal gray, 5 speed, air, CD, all power, one owner w/23,000 miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
2003 Mercury Sable GS - Arizona Beige/Cloth, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP \$22,505 SOLD NOW \$13,995	1997 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab Silverado - Black/tan, V-8, all power, extra clean. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995	2002 Honda Accord LX 4-DR. - Silver, all power, one owner w/31,000 miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
2003 Mercury Sable GS - Arizona Beige/Cloth, All Power, 19,000 Miles. Was \$22,505 SOLD NOW \$13,995	1994 Ford F150 - Green/tan, 6 cyl, manual shift. Was \$8,995 NOW \$3,995	2002 Nissan Altima S - Black, leather, one owner w/37,000 miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
2003 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - Silver Birch w/Flint Leather, All Power. MSRP \$30,140 SOLD NOW \$19,995	2000 Chevrolet C3500 Crew Cab LS 4X4 - Green, all power, 50,000 miles, 350 V-8. Was \$23,995 NOW \$18,995	2001 Ford Crown Victoria LX - Gray, all power, 59,000 miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
2003 Ford E350 XLT 15 Passenger Van - White w/cloth, V-10, Dual Air/Heat, Privacy Glass, 17,000 Miles. MSRP \$32,395 SOLD NOW \$20,995	1998 Chevrolet C3500 Ext. Cab Silverado - White, 454 V-8, automatic, all power, one owner. Was \$11,995 NOW \$9,995	2001 Ford Crown Victoria L.S. - Silver, leather, one owner w/39,000 miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
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2003 Ford Focus SE 4-DR. - Black, all power, 17,000 Miles. MSRP \$16,925 SOLD NOW \$11,995	2001 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - Tan, all power, one owner w/33,000 miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995	2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Gold w/leather, all power, locally owned w/28,000 miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995
2003 Ford Focus SE 4-DR. - Black, all power, 15,000 Miles. MSRP \$20,590 SOLD NOW \$14,995	2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - New body style, dk green, all power, one owner w/17,000 miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995	Nissan Sentra GXE - Gray, automatic, air, one owner w/only 26,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
2003 Ford Taurus SES - White/Cloth, All Power, 15,000 Miles. MSRP \$21,670 SOLD NOW \$13,995	2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT 4X4 Z-71 - black, fully loaded, local one owner w/50,000 miles. Was \$29,995 NOW \$28,995	2000 Ford Focus SE 4-DR. - Black, all power, 46,000 miles. Was \$7,995 NOW \$6,995
2003 Ford Ranger Edge - Blue, one owner w/21,000 miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995	2000 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver w/cloth, all power, local one owner w/31,000 miles. Was \$29,995 NOW \$28,995	2000 Mercury Cougar SE - White w/cloth, V-6, local one owner w/34,000 miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
2003 Ford Ranger - Tan, automatic, air, 15,000 miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$11,995	2000 Ford Expedition XLT - Blue, all power, dual air, one owner. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	2000 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - Red, cloth, local one owner w/62,000 miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995
2000 Ford Ranger XLT - White, all power, one owner w/44,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	2001 Ford Explorer Sport 4x4 - Blue, cloth, nice Explorer, all power, 51,000 miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$12,995	2000 Volvo S40 Turbo - Orchid metallic, all power, nice, 35,000 miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$13,995
2000 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE - Red, automatic, 68,000 miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$9,995	2000 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - Red, cloth, fully loaded, one owner w/50,000 miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995	2000 Ford Taurus SE - Red, cloth, all power, 60,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
1999 Chevrolet S-10 - White, all power, 40,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	2001 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - White, all power, local one owner w/57,000 miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	2000 Ford Focus Wagon SE - Silver, extra clean. Was \$7,995 NOW \$6,995
1998 Dodge Dakota - Blue, 4 cylinder, 20,000 miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$6,995	2001 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - Pewter, cloth, all power, 31,000 miles. Was \$23,995 NOW \$23,995	2000 Ford Taurus SE - White, all power, 67,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$7,995
1998 Nissan Frontier XE - Red, air, 5 speed, one owner w/50,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	2000 Chevrolet Blazer LS 2-Door - Very clean w/58,000 miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	1999 Nissan Maxima GLE 4-DR. - Green, all power, locally owned w/63,000 miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995
1998 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT - Tan, auto., V-6, locally owned. Was \$9,995 NOW \$7,995	1999 Chevrolet Blazer LS - Blue, cloth, nice Blazer w/70,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	1999 Ford Mustang - Red, V6, auto, all power. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
1997 Chevrolet S-10 Ext. Cab L.S. - Red, automatic. Was \$8,995 NOW \$6,995	1999 Ford Explorer Sport - Red/silver, all power, local one owner w/54,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	1999 Ford Crown Victoria - White, all power. Was \$9,995 NOW \$7,995
2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Sport - White, V-8, manual trans., one owner w/20,300 miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$14,995	1998 GMC Suburban L.S. - Tan, dual air, all power. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	1999 Mercury Sable GS - Tan, all power. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT - Tan, all power, V-8, local one owner w/20,700 miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995	1998 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer Edition - maroon/tan, leather, all power, locally owned. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995	1999 Pontiac Firebird - White, T-tops, 56,000 miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$12,995
2002 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4-DR. - Dk green/tan, tan leather, fully loaded, locally owned w/33,000 miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995	1998 Honda Passport EX 4X4 - Silver, loaded, 73,000 miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$14,995	1998 Ford Escort 2x2 - White, local one owner w/41,000 miles. Was \$7,995 NOW \$6,995
2002 Ford F150 S/C XLT Quad Cab - Tan, V-8, all power, 15,500 miles. Was \$23,995 NOW \$19,995	1992 Jeep Cherokee - Red. Was \$6,995 NOW \$4,995	1998 Nissan Maxima GLE - Gray w/leather, moonroof, 53,000 miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$13,995
2001 Ford F150 Supercrew 4-DR. XLT - Red, all power, local one owner w/40,000 miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2002 Honda Gold Wing - Illusion Blue, cruise, AM/FM, very nice motorcycle, local one owner w/4,300 miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	1998 Dodge Neon - White, 57,000 miles, nice car. Was \$4,995 NOW \$3,995
2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4-DR. - Green/tan, cloth, V-8, all power, 48,000 miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995	2002 Ford E350 XLT 15 Passenger Van Powerstroke Diesel - White w/cloth, all power, one owner w/26,000 miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995	1997 Mercury Grand Marquis GS - White, all power, local one owner w/43,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
2001 Ford F150 S/C XLT - White, one owner w/49,000 miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995	2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, all power, one owner w/56,000 miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995	1997 Mercury Tracer L.S. - Green. Was \$6,995 NOW \$4,995
2001 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Quad Cab - Chestnut/tan, V-8, has a new remanufactured motor just installed w/warranty. Was \$18,995 NOW \$15,995	1998 Mazda MPV - Red, all power, 56,000 miles. Was \$10,995 NOW \$7,995	1997 Ford Thunderbird - Tan, all power, nice car. Was \$6,995 NOW \$6,995
		1996 Oldsmobile 88 4-DR. - Pewter, all power, leather. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
		1996 Mercury Cougar L.S. - Green w/tan top, 69,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$4,995
		1995 Cadillac DeVille Concours - Gray, nice. Was \$9,995 NOW \$6,995
		1994 Cadillac DeVille Concours - Red, leather, very nice luxury car. Was \$7,995 NOW \$5,995
		1992 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - White w/blue top, leather, all power, locally owned. Was \$6,995 NOW \$5,995

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Steel

By TOMMY W. Sports Editor

The Big Sp... among the f... return from... days Monday... help tip-off... Invitational... ment in Lame... Big Spring... begin the thr... Monday night... they face the... Eagles in the... game will be



Lady spots

By TOMMY W. Sports Editor

Fresh off... playoff app... Spring Lady... rack up s... Friday after... bers of its... Magers and... were named... Street Bal... Writers Assc... school volley... Magers are... seniors, we... players nam... Class 4A... Midland's... Kendal Pavli... honorable... respectively... Andrews N... Magers and... Class 4A... squad.

Sterling set for

The Forsan... will try their... claiming the 20... City Invitation... ball title thi... week.

The 16-team t... is scheduled to... Tuesday evenin... championship... The annua... Christmas to... Lady Steer...

The Big Sp... Steers returne... Saturday afte... facing the Mi... Lady Rebels... The Lady St...

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

Steers to open O.W. Follis Tournament against Roosevelt

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers will be among the first area teams to return from the Christmas holidays Monday evening when they help tip-off the 2003 O.W. Follis Invitational Basketball Tournament in Lamesa.

Big Spring is scheduled to begin the three-day tournament Monday night at 7 p.m. when they face the Lubbock Roosevelt Eagles in the first round. The game will be played in the Follis

Gym on the Lamesa Junior High School campus.

The Steers, coming off a thrilling win over former rival Snyder, enter the tournament sporting a 3-11 record. Big Spring's three wins already surpassed the team's total win total from a year ago with more than two months remaining in the 2003-2004 season.

Should Big Spring knock off Lubbock Roosevelt — a playoff team a year ago, the Steers would move into an 8:30 p.m. matchup on Tuesday evening. A loss

would send Big Spring into a consolation semifinal bout at 5:30 p.m.

One thing almost every team in the nine-team event will be looking to do is bring the Merkel Badgers back to Earth. Merkel has won the last two tournament crowns.

The Lamesa Golden Tors may have the hardest road at ending the Badgers' reign. Lamesa is scheduled to play two games on Monday, beginning with Pecos at 2:30 p.m. The Tors will also play at 8:30 p.m.

The Big Spring junior varsity squad will also be participating in the tournament. Justin Green and the JV Steers are scheduled to face Lubbock Roosevelt at 10 a.m. Monday.

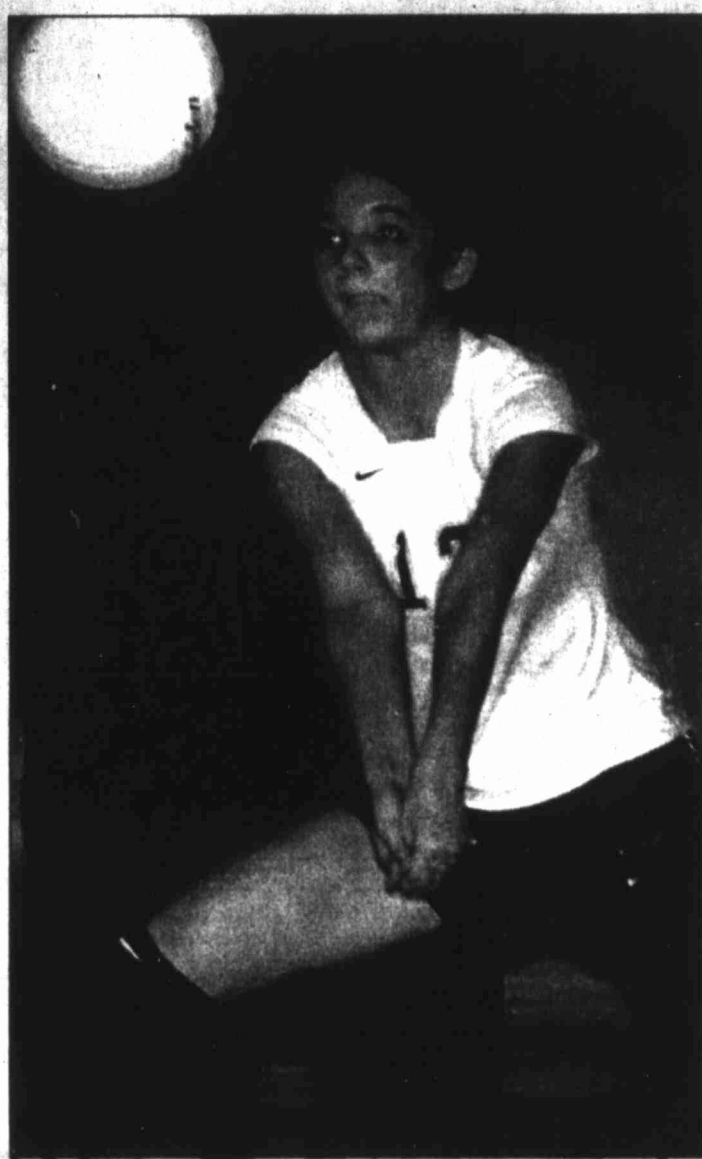
Other area teams slated to return to action Monday include Coahoma and Stanton. The Bulldogs will compete in the Reagan County Invitational in Big Lake beginning Monday. The Stanton Buffaloes will participate in the Wall Invitational. Forsan is playing in the Sterling City Invitational.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Mike Ormales-Doperto and the Steers will play in Lamesa Monday.



Big Spring's Ka'Rissa Magers and Timmi Blackshear were selected to the Texas Sports Writers Association all-state volleyball team Friday afternoon. The two helped carry the Lady Steers to the state playoffs for the third straight season this year.



HERALD Photo/Bruce Schooler

Williams ends season short of expectations

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Roy Williams will play his last college game in an NFL city knowing he could have left school early for the riches of professional football.

After a stellar 2002 season at Texas, Williams returned for his senior year to chase his dreams of winning Big 12 and national titles and the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's best receiver.

His college career ends with none of those fulfilled when the No. 5 Longhorns (10-2) take on No. 15 Washington State (9-3) in the Holiday Bowl on Tuesday.

Losses to Arkansas and Oklahoma and numbers short of the gaudy figures put up by the likes of Pittsburgh's Larry Fitzgerald and Oklahoma's Mark Clayton saw to that.

Still, Williams says he has no regrets about the way he's finishing a career that saw him rewrite the Texas record book and earn the respect of his coaches and teammates.

"It's been fun," he said. "I didn't get done a lot of stuff done that I wanted to do, but we were close. When it's all said and done, it's been good."

Williams has set Texas records for career catches (232), yards (3,769) and TD receptions (35), to name a few. Those figures could have been higher had this season gone as planned.

Instead of being the No. 1 option on offense, Williams' role diminished as the Longhorns became a running team in the second half of the season, when Vince Young replaced Chance Mock at



Pacific Life Holiday Bowl
Washington State vs. Texas
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Qualcomm Stadium - San Diego
Kickoff: 5 p.m.

quarterback and tailback Cedric Benson started churning out big yardage.

Williams finished the regular season with 61 catches for 982 yards and eight TDs. Good numbers, but not what he and others expected.

Texas coach Mack Brown said he never heard Williams complain.

"If we had done what Pittsburgh's done and thrown to him every play and thrown it to him at the end of games, he'd have been in New York," for the Heisman Trophy ceremony, Brown said. "He gave that up for us to be a better football team."

Williams became a more vocal leader and came up with big plays when he had to. His 54-yard catch in the final two minutes helped Texas beat Texas Tech 43-40 — which he called the highlight of his career — and he was ferocious as a downfield blocker on running plays.

In a 31-7 win over Nebraska, Young dashed 65 yards for a touchdown after Williams took out two Cornhuskers with one block.

Williams was a likely first-round draft pick had he left school last year. He believes he's improved his draft status with the extra year.

Parcells: Dallas won't hold anything back

IRVING (AP) — To Bill Parcells, there's no such thing as a meaningless game.

So, even if the Dallas Cowboys' game at New Orleans on Sunday would have no bearing on their playoff status, he'll still play it the way he always has — with first-stringers and a full game plan.

Dallas could win the NFC East with a win over New Orleans and a loss by Philadelphia.

Parcells is so adamant about it that he cut off the question before it was even asked, then elaborated on his stance.

"It's stupid to do that," he said. "This is a 16 game season, not 15. You play every game to try to win games. I have never done that. Never."

Although he said "I would never rest anybody," he did say some

backups "might play a little bit more."

An injury might earn someone time off to heal for the playoffs. But the Cowboys didn't list anyone on the injury report.

The goal is momentum. The Cowboys already have some by having won their last two games. Making it three in a row would certainly help, plus it would keep alive a nice streak Parcells has going.

In his previous 15 seasons with the New York Giants, New England Patriots and New York Jets, Parcells has made the playoffs eight times. He's won his regular-season finale seven times — the last seven times.

The only exception was 1984, his first trip to the postseason. That Giants squad lost its last two, then won a wild-card game.

Best of the Best

Lady Steers' Magers, Blackshear earn spots on TSWA all-state volleyball squad

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Fresh off their third straight playoff appearance, the Big Spring Lady Steers continued to rack up statewide accolades Friday afternoon when two members of its squad — Ka'Rissa Magers and Timmi Blackshear — were named to the 2003 Collins Street Bakery/Texas Sports Writers Association all-state high school volleyball teams.

Magers and Blackshear, both seniors, were among five area players named to the Class 5A and Class 4A all-state squads. Midland's Abbie Meyer and Kendal Pavlis took first-team and honorable mention honors, respectively, in 5A, while Andrews Nitra Woods joined Magers and Blackshear on the Class 4A honorable mention squad.



In her first season at the helm of the BSHS volleyball program, former UTEP coach Revis Daggett won 27 games and claimed the District 4-4A crown.

the 1980s under first-year head coach Revis Daggett. In the Lady Steers' three-year

With Magers and Blackshear in the lineup, Big Spring has dominated the West Texas volleyball circuit over the past two years, winning better than 50 games and advancing to the regional round of the Class 4A state playoffs. This past fall, Big Spring posted 27 victories and won the school's first district volleyball title since

playoff runs, Big Spring has won more than 60 games, including 41 in 2001 and 2002 under former coach Traci Pierce.

Magers, a two-time all-state selection who was named the District 4-4A most valuable player this past year, was the heart and soul of the Lady Steers offense this season. She led the Lady Steers in kills this past fall.

Joining Magers on the honorable mention for middle hitters and outside blockers were Woods, Jessica Brown of Kerrville Tivy, Torie Dacus of Red Oak, Deidre Doggett of Stephenville, Christie Feliz of Dickinson, Maddie Fuller of Highland Park, Lachitra Horton of Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Megan Jordan of Silsbee. Kerrville's Ashley Medina and Boerne's Colleen Tomlin were also selected to the roster.

See ALL-STATE, Page 8A

Sterling City tournament set for Monday, Tuesday

The Forsan Buffaloes will try their luck at claiming the 2003 Sterling City Invitational Basketball title this coming week.

The 16-team tournament is scheduled to conclude Tuesday evening with the championship games. The annual post-Christmas tournament

Lady Steers return with Midland Lee

The Big Spring Lady Steers returned to action Saturday afternoon by facing the Midland Lee Lady Rebels. The Lady Steers were

began Saturday afternoon. After taking a break on Sunday, semifinal action will be held Monday.

The Forsan Buffaloes captured consolation honors at the tournament last season and later rolled to the District 3-2A crown and its first postseason berth in years.

slated to face Midland Lee at 1 p.m. in the Lee High School gym. Results will appear in Monday's edition of the Big Spring Herald.



Howard College head coach Jim Lewis will lead his team into the second half of the season on Jan. 3 in Lancaster against Cedar Valley College.

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Montreal, Cleveland bolster lineups

(AP) — The Montreal Expos and Cleveland Indians added some much energy to their lineups Friday by signing a pair of veteran free agents in Tony Batista and Ron Belliard.

Batista agreed to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract with the Expos.

A two-time All-Star, he hit .235 with a team-leading 26 home runs and 99 RBIs last year with the Baltimore Orioles. He averaged 31 home runs a season over the last five years, including a career-high 41 for the Toronto Blue Jays in 2000.

Batista has 182 home runs and 571 RBIs in eight seasons with Oakland, Arizona, Toronto and Baltimore.

Cleveland found its second baseman for next season by signing Belliard to a one-year contract.

Belliard, 28, played for the Colorado Rockies last season, batting .277.



Herald Photo/Whitney Wells
Westbrook's Lauren Johnson looks for a place to walk during the Lady Cats' recent outing against Klondike. Westbrook will face Ira this Friday at home.

Officials reviewing Hawaii Bowl fight

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii and Houston officials are reviewing the fight between their football players in the Hawaii Bowl to determine if any disciplinary action is needed.

"We are going to take our time and review all the angles and video we have access to," Hawaii athletic director Herman

Fraser said Friday. "There is no real timeline and we will leave no stone left unturned."

A nasty brawl broke out on the field just seconds after the Warriors (9-5) sealed a wild 54-48 triple-overtime victory over the Cougars (7-6) on Thursday night.

For several minutes after the game, players swung helmets, wrestled with each other and threw punches and kicks before the fight was broken up by coaches, security personnel and police. No major injuries were reported.

Both Western Athletic Conference commissioner Karl Benson and Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky attended the game and witnessed the brawl.

ALL-STATE

Continued from Page 7A

Blackshear was one of just three players selected as honorable mention all-state defensive specialist.

Also making the list as defensive specialists were Houston Reagan's Annette Hernandez and Highland Park's Courtney McIntyre. Hernandez and Blackshear are both seniors.

With the addition of Magers and Blackshear, the total number of Crossroads area athletes earning all-state honors in their respective spots grows to nine.

Coahoma's Kelby Kemper, Sam Tindol and Sam Sevey joined Forsan Josh Helmstetter on the Class 2A all-state roster. Big Spring's Jared Phillips, Michael Shockley and Jordan Cobb were selected to the Class 4A team.

The 2003 Texas Six-Man Coaches Association has

not released its all-state teams yet.

TSWA Class 4A All-State Volleyball Team
LONGVIEW, Texas (AP) — The following are the 2003 Collina Street Bakery/Texas Sports Writers Association all-state high school volleyball teams:

First Team
Setter: Adrian Dunson, sr., Stephenville.
Middle Blockers/Outside Hitters: Anna Callis, sr., Corpus Christi Catholic; Catherine Collins, sr., Dallas Highland Park; Melissa Jones, sr., Hallsville; Morgan Rogers, sr., Tomball; Kelly Stanton, sr., Friendswood; Cynthia Thigpen, jr., Port Lavaca Calhoun; Cynthia Yarotsky, sr., Montgomery.
Defensive Specialist: Kodi Keen, sr., Kerrville Ty.

MVP: Adrian Dunson, sr., Stephenville
Second Team
Setter: Emily Ziegler, sr., Highland Park.
Middle Blockers/Outside Hitters: Heather Bashaw, sr., Stephenville; Laurie Burrow, sr., Red Oak; Amy Clendenin, sr., Longview Pine Tree; Jessica Dorrell, Aledo; Julia Foran, jr., Highland Park; Mary Inne, sr., Stephenville.
Defensive Specialist: Karley Rasmussen, soph., Port Lavaca Calhoun.

Third Team
Setter: Deidra Allen, sr., Longview Pine Tree.
Middle Blockers/Outside Hitters: Moli Abel, sr., Friendswood; Hannah Elkins, sr., Springtown; Bridget Fuentes, sr., Tomball; Lauren Munselle, sr., Friendswood; Shayla Andrea, sr., El Campo; Allison Hill, jr., San Angelo Lake View; Erica Sibley, jr., Little Cypress-Mauriceville.
Defensive Specialist: Jenny Lee, sr., Longview Pine Tree.

Honorable Mention
Setter: Kristen Allen, sr., Conroe Oak Ridge; Brooke Engel, sr., New Braunfels Canyon; Rachel Ford, sr., Boerne; Katie Ischner, sr., Kerrville Ty; Meisha Patterson, jr., Dumas; Ashley Wallace, sr., Tomball.
Middle Blockers/Outside Hitters: Jessica Brown, sr., Kerrville Ty; Torie Dacus, Red Oak; Deidre Doggett, jr., Stephenville; Christie Felz, sr., Dickinson; Maddie Fuller, jr., Highland Park; Lachetra Horton, sr., Little Cypress-Mauriceville; Megan Jordan, sr., Slaters; Ka'Nissa Magers, Big Spring; Ashley Medina, jr., Kerrville; Colleen Tomlin, sr., Boerne; Nita Woods, sr., Andrews.
Defensive Specialist: Timmi Blackshear, sr., Houston Reagan; Annette Hernandez, sr., Houston Reagan; Courtney McIntyre, jr., Highland Park.

SCOREBOARD

NFL STANDINGS

American Conference				East Division			
W	L	T	FCI	P	PP	PA	
New England	11	3	0	267	217	238	
Miami	9	5	0	290	298	240	
Buffalo	9	6	0	300	243	248	
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	240	282	278	
Indianapolis	11	4	0	233	427	319	
Tennessee	11	4	0	233	402	311	
Jacksonville	10	0	0	233	262	310	
Houston	5	10	0	233	238	300	

National Conference				East Division			
W	L	T	FCI	P	PP	PA	
Philadelphia	11	4	0	273	343	280	
Dallas	10	5	0	267	282	247	
Washington	10	5	0	233	280	341	
N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	267	219	350	
Carolina	10	5	0	267	288	280	
New Orleans	7	8	0	267	327	319	
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	267	288	313	
Atlanta	4	11	0	267	278	408	

National Conference				West Division			
W	L	T	FCI	P	PP	PA	
Green Bay	9	6	0	267	411	304	
Minnesota	9	6	0	267	399	335	
Chicago	7	8	0	267	280	315	
Detroit	4	11	0	267	240	359	
St. Louis	12	3	0	267	427	298	
Seattle	9	6	0	267	380	310	
San Francisco	7	8	0	267	367	313	
Arizona	3	12	0	200	207	435	

Western Conference				East Division			
W	L	T	FCI	P	PP	PA	
New Jersey	15	13	536				
Boston	15	15	500				
Philadelphia	14	15	463	1 1/2			
Miami	12	17	414	3 1/2			
New York	11	19	367	5			
Washington	8	19	296	6 1/2			
Orlando	8	23	258	8 1/2			

Western Conference				Midwest Division			
W	L	T	FCI	P	PP	PA	
San Antonio	21	10	677				
Minnesota	18	10	643	1 1/2			
Dallas	16	12	571	3 1/2			
Houston	16	13	552	4			
Utah	16	13	552	4			
Memphis	15	14	517	5			

Western Conference				Pacific Division			
W	L	T	FCI	P	PP	PA	
L.A. Lakers	20	7	741				
Sacramento	20	8	714	1 1/2			
Golden State	14	13	519	6			

SCOREBOARD

Game	Score	Time
Portland	14-13	5:18
Seattle	13-13	5:00
L.A. Clippers	12-13	4:40
Phoenix	10-20	3:33

NHL STANDINGS

Eastern Conference					
East Division					
W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Philadelphia	18	6	8	47	99
New Jersey	18	6	8	45	85
N.Y. Islanders	16	15	2	35	96
N.Y. Rangers	13	15	5	34	93
Pittsburgh	8	15	6	34	129

NBA LEADERS

Player	Team	Avg.
Allen Iverson	PHI	28.9
Tracy McGrady	ORL	25.2
Paul Pierce	BOS	24.9
Kevin Garnett	MIN	24.3
Baron Davis	NO	23.7
Paul Pierce	BOS	23.7
Zach Randolph	POR	23.6
Tim Duncan	SA	22.5
Vince Carter	TOR	22.2
Michael Redd	MIL	21.8
Kobe Bryant	LAL	21.4
Allen Iverson	PHI	20.9
Cory Maggette	LAC	20.7
Shaquille O'Neal	LAL	20.5
Shareef Abdur-Rahim	ATL	20.4

NBA LEADERS

Player	Team	Avg.
Kevin Garnett	MIN	13.8
Ben Wallace	DET	12.9
Eric Dampier	GS	12.8
Shaquille O'Neal	LAL	11.6
Zach Randolph	POR	11.4
Brad Miller	SAC	11.4
Jermaine O'Neal	IND	10.8
Antoine Walker	DAL	9.7
Marcus Camby	DEN	9.6
Joe Smith	MIL	9.5
Karl Malone	LAL	9.5
Shareef Abdur-Rahim	ATL	9.5
Jamaal Magloire	NO	9.4
Kurt Thomas	NY	9.3

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\$8265 Total Savings

2003 Buick Century
Stk# 807EB • Dark Bronze • Taupe Cloth • CD/Cass. Anti-Lock Brakes • Power Seat & More.

\$23,110 -MSRP
\$5,500-Factory Rebate*
-\$2,426-Dealer Disc.

\$15,184 Sale Price

\$7926 Total Savings

2003 Buick Regal LS
Stk# 5250B • White W/Gray Leather • 15" Aluminum Wheels CD/Cass. • Dual Zone Climate Control

\$26,545 -MSRP
\$5,500-Factory Rebate*
-\$2,250-Dealer Disc.

\$18,845 Sale Price

\$7750 Total Savings

2003 Buick LeSabre Custom
Stk# 1050B • White • Taupe leather • OnStar • 16" Crosslance Aluminum Wheels • Power Driver/Pass. Front Seat Traction Control & Much More.

\$29,390 -MSRP
\$5,000-Factory Rebate*
-\$2,600-Dealer Disc.

\$21,740 Sale Price

\$7600 Total Savings

2003 Chevrolet 1500 Ext. Cab
Stk# 2185T • White • Gray Leather • 2WD • V8 Silverado LT • Trailer Tow • CD & More.

\$32,900 -MSRP
\$3,500-Factory Rebate
-\$3,905-Dealer Disc.

\$25,495 Sale Price

\$7405 Total Savings

2003 Chevrolet 1500
Stk# 8419ET • Pewter • Tan Cloth • V-6 • Automatic Cruise • CD & More.

\$21,857 -MSRP
\$3,500-Factory Rebate
-\$1,500-Dealer Disc.

\$16,857 Sale Price

\$5000 Total Savings

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By Marsha Allen
HERALD Lifesty

Technology upscaled their but for the t tion Big spr tion stand to be founded people with t care possible.

Dr. John I founded t Ophthalmolog 1948. He subse nured and mentor his s and grandson the business.

The senior l medical schoo graduated in Texas Tech i and began m studies that f ished in 1942, medical degre

It takes fou college, four y ical school, internship 4 years residen credentials t ophthalmolog earned bache ence degrees Tech.

The elder fu of Paducah, formal educat University of

Cataracts easier with technology

Cataracts us op as part of process, but ca from eye injur diseases and e Cataracts ma treatment at vision is only s ry. There are tions, eye droo or glasses th cataracts to di they have form When you ar see well enou things you li cataract surger considered. Sur only way to cataract.

Once the d have surgery is ophthalmologis cuss your ch achieving a g result based on of preoperative

The benefi depend on the your retina i nerve at the t procedure is per the majority of ing cataract vision is restore requiring only tion glasses for reading and sup when you hav

They to it

Big Spring's three-generational ophthalmologists

By Marsha Allen
HERALD Lifestyle Editor

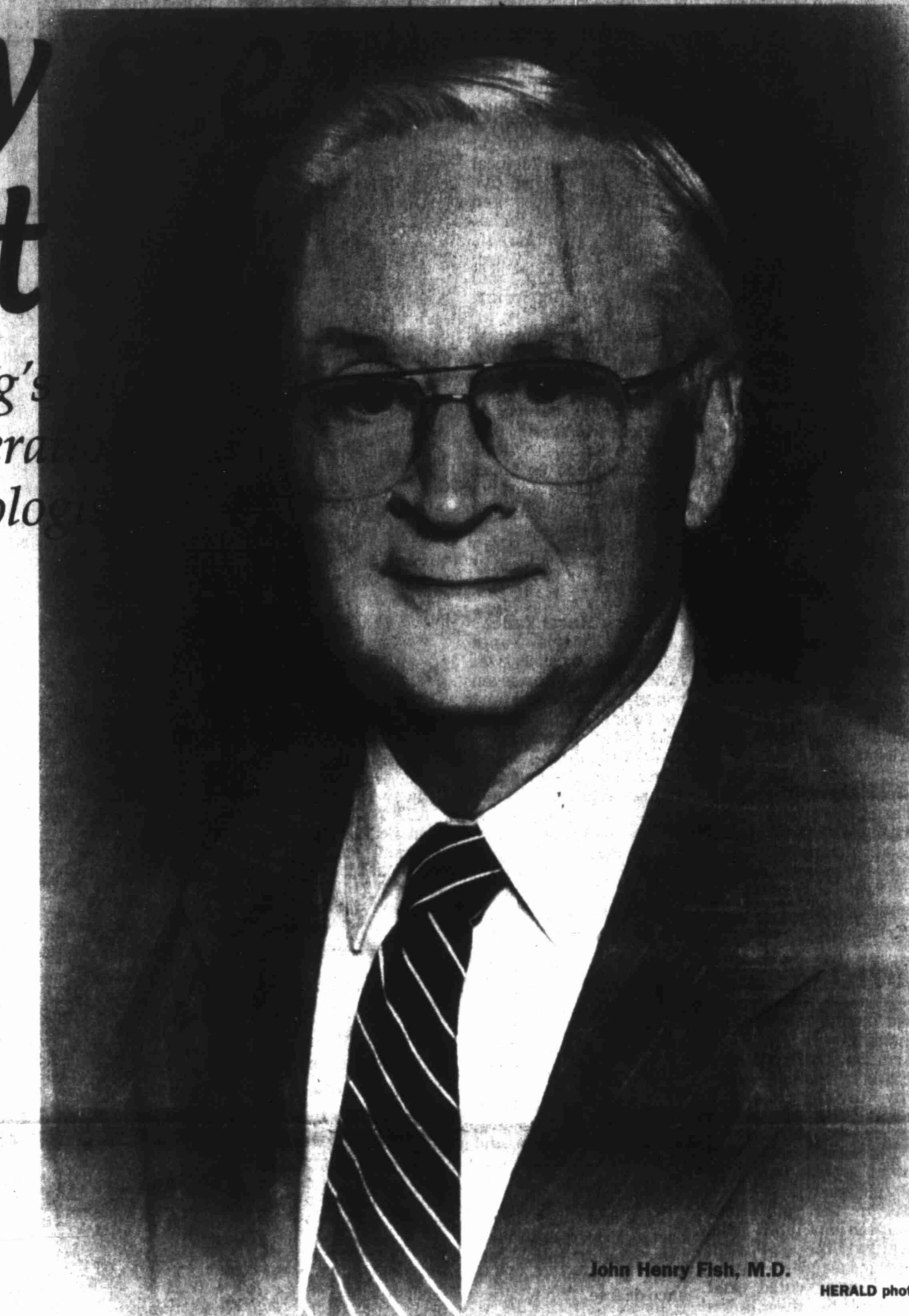
Technology has upscaled their practices, but for the three-generation Big Spring ophthalmologists, their professional standards continue to be founded on helping people with the best eye care possible.

Dr. John Henry Fish founded the Fish Ophthalmology Clinic in 1948. He subsequently has nurtured and served as mentor his son John R. and grandson Larry in the business.

The senior Fish started medical school in 1938. He graduated in 1938 from Texas Tech in Lubbock and began medical school studies that fall and finished in 1942, earning his medical degree.

It takes four years of college, four years of medical school, one year internship and three years residency to earn credentials to practice ophthalmology. The three earned bachelor of science degrees from Texas Tech.

The elder Fish, a native of Paducah, furthered his formal education at the University of Texas in



John Henry Fish, M.D. HERALD photo

Galveston. He worked on his internship in Fort Worth and a presidency in ophthalmology at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Fish also served as general medical officer in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945 prior to his Parkland work. He was stationed in Salt Lake City, Utah. He arrived in Big Spring in 1948. He has been retired since 1987. "I play a lot of golf now," he said. "Two or three times a week."

John R. Fish earned his bachelor of science degree from Texas Tech in 1966. From there he continued his formal education in Galveston, finishing in 1970 and working his internship in Dallas.

He also served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army from 1971 to 1973 at Kelley Air Force Base in San Antonio.

He took an ophthalmology residency at the University of Texas, San Antonio from 1973 to 1976. He came to Big Spring in 1976.

The youngest Fish, Larry, followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, earning undergraduate credits at Texas Tech in 1995 and continuing school for a medical degree, finishing in 1999. He worked his internship in Amarillo from 1999 to 2000 and subsequently worked from 2000 to 2003, in Lubbock.

"I came here with them July 1 of this year," Larry Fish said.

With three generations of eye care and surgery procedures with which to compare, the senior Fish said methods and technol-

ogy have improved vastly from his former days practicing the profession.

In particular, he explained, the improvements and recovery time from cataract extractions have made the procedure safer and less stressful for patients undergoing the procedure.

The elder Fish performed his first cataract extraction on a female in Big Spring one morning, and also the same morning performed a glaucoma operation on the sister of the cataract extraction patient from the morning.

"Back in those days, they had, what they call it, well, a doctor wasn't supposed to advertise in any way," he said.

Another doctor called him and told him he had heard that Fish had talked about the operation; that word had gotten around town that the operation was done successfully.

The significance of the story is to exemplify how times have changed with physicians wishing to advertise their practices.

"The advent of the involvement of cataract

surgery and intraocular lens placement; all part of new technology" said Larry Fish.

"We used to take out a cataract from a person, and when you did that, it left a very blurred vision," said the elder Fish. "What you did, was, and many have seen this, the patient had to wear real thick lens glasses. Scientifically speaking, the cataract is taken out now, and a little plastic lens is inserted in its place to do the job. The patient can immediately see extremely well."

"But there was a lot of controversy," said John R. Fish. "Actually when I was a resident in 1975 I put in the first cataract implant lens."

According to the elder Fish in former years a patient might be in bed without moving for a week, and get glasses in approximately a month. The procedure is relevant to the cornea of the eye.

"Back in the old days when I was doing cataract surgery we kept the patient in bed without being able to move for a week, and he wasn't able to get glasses for a month," he said.

"And the reason for that", added J.R. Fish, "you make an incision that went all the way around the cornea. It took a long time for that to heal up."

"And now they make an incision that is less than two millimeters," said J.H.

"And the patient is up and out of the hospital in less than 30 minutes," added Larry Fish.

Another evolving procedure of their profession has been the refractive surgery without utilizing incisions developed in the 1990's. Laser treatments are used now. With this procedure a patient can be in and out of laser treatment in one day. And the patient will have clear vision.

"The biggest changes we see are in the technology introduced in recent years," said J.R., as his father J.H. and son, Larry, nodded in agreement.

Refractive surgery renews vision

Refractive surgery includes several surgical procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the need for glasses or contact lenses. These procedures correct refractive errors by changing the focus of the eye. In the 1980s a new type of laser called the excimer laser was developed. Though originally used to etch computer chips, ophthalmologists began using the excimer laser successfully in refractive surgery techniques to remove very precise amounts of tissue from the eye's surface. Excimer lasers revolutionized refractive surgery by providing a degree of safety and precision that was previously unattainable with other techniques.

Cataracts surgery easier with new technology

Cataracts usually develop as part of the aging process, but can also come from eye injuries, certain diseases and medications. Cataracts may need no treatment at all if the vision is only a little blurry. There are no medications, eye drops, exercises or glasses that will cause cataracts to disappear once they have formed.

When you are not able to see well enough to do the things you like to do, cataract surgery should be considered. Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract.

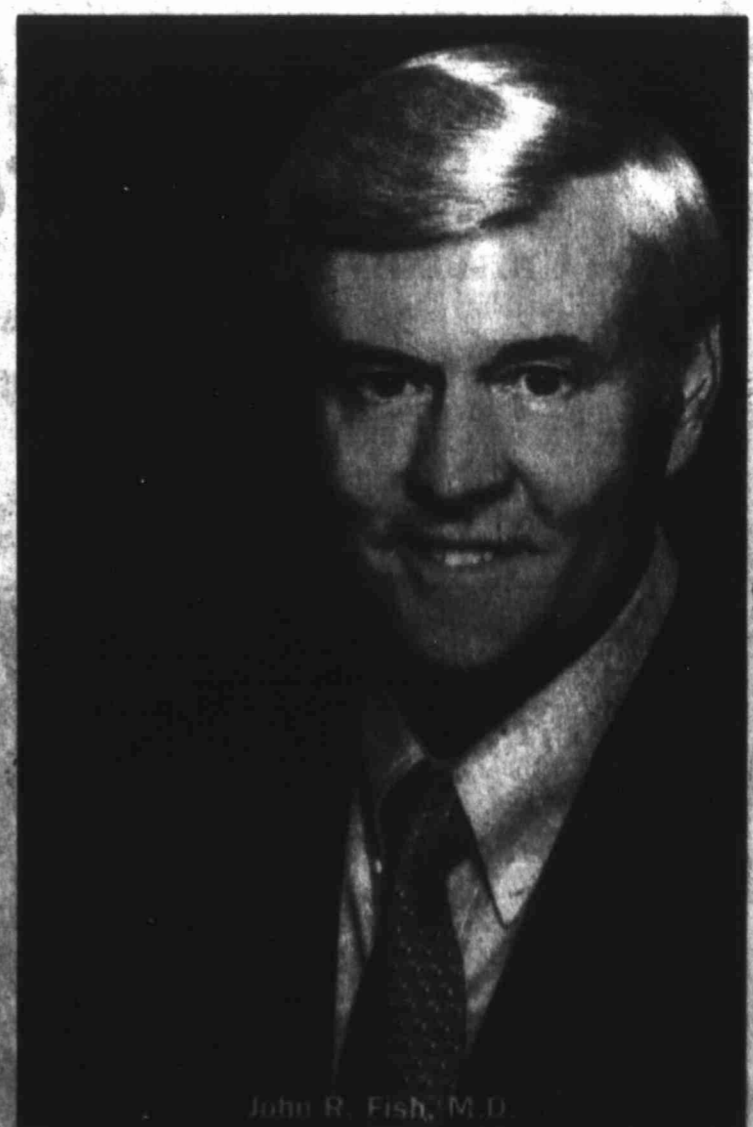
Once the decision to have surgery is made, your ophthalmologist will discuss your chances of achieving a good visual result based on the results of preoperative tests.

The benefits of surgery depend on the health of your retina and optic nerve at the time the procedure is performed. For the majority of people having cataract surgery, vision is restored, perhaps requiring only prescription glasses for distance or reading and sunglasses.

When you have other eye conditions, you may still need special optical devices, like bifocals or contact lenses, to see clearly. This is also true if you have other eye conditions, like glaucoma, macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy. Information from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



Larry Fish, M.D.



John R. Fish, M.D.

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Births



Taryn James Dodson

Taryn James Dodson, boy, was born to Aaron Dodson and Aaron Star Vogel at 2:04 p.m. Dec. 20, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Grandparents include Gary Vogel of Taos, N.M. and Dian Kligora of Big Spring.

Antonio Penn III was born at 10:20 a.m. Dec. 16, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center weighing seven pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 20 1/2 inches long. His parents are Antonio Penn Jr. and Jennifer Yanez of Big Spring. Grandparents include Antonio Penn Sr. and Rose Penn of Big Spring and Prospero and Sally Yanez of Big Spring.

Krystal Moreno was born to Martin and Monica Moreno at 2:45 p.m. Dec. 17, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical

Center, weighing six pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 19 1/2 inches long. Her grandparents include Tony and Emma Moreno of Spofford and Marcos and Maria Ortega of Greeley, Colo.

Jasmine Diana Martinez

Herbert and Dora Martinez welcomed their daughter, Jasmine Diana Martinez, born Dec. 14, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, weighing six pounds, and measuring 19 1/4 inches long. Her grandparents include Gloria Martinez of Big Spring, Dora Lozano of Lamesa, Andy Lozano of Gail and Herbert Martinez of Big Lake.

Juan Diego Guerrero Juan Diego Guerrero was born to Harvey and Wendy Guerrero of Big Spring at 10:15 a.m. Dec. 13, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. He weighed six pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 inches long. His grandparents include Jorge and JoAnn Olivas and Francies and Junior Hilario and Joe Guerrero. Great-grandparents include Janie and Javier Rodriguez.

Jasa Danae Threats Jason Threats and Angela McGee welcomed their daughter, Jasa Danae Threats at 8:49 a.m. Dec. 14, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical

Center. She weighed six pounds, one ounce. Her grandparents include Faye McGee and Mary Threats of Big Spring.

Ka'Vontae Ray'Quan Vanderbilt

Ka'Vontae Ray'Quan Vanderbilt was born at 9:07 a.m. Dec. 10, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. She weighed five pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19 3/4 inches long. Her grandparents include Denise Ward, Rosie Vanderbilt and Isbell Ward of Big Spring.

Logan Tyler Rios

Logan Tyler Rios, boy, born Nov. 14, 2003, at 7:43 p.m. weighing 6 pounds 15 1/2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. His parents are Salome A. Rios and Magdalene A. Lopez of Big Spring. His grandparents are Elva and Andres Lopez of Rocksprings and Mary Jane and Ben Licon of Big Spring.

Calistra Marie Yanez

Calistra Marie Yanez was born Dec. 20, 2003, at 11:24 a.m. weighing seven pounds, four ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Louis Yanez and Amanda Sims. Her grandparents include Louis and Elaine Yanez of Rotan, and Donnie and Sara Sims of Big Spring. Scenic Mountain Medical Center provided births where noted.

While serving in D.C. as a U.S. Marine ample opportunities were available for seeing the East Coast. It was a rewarding and educational time. At the time of New Year's one year, it was cold, but it doesn't matter, for that handsome Jewish guy and fellow Marine was a New Yorker who warmed one New Year's Eve.

"You've not seen New Year's til you see it in New York," said he. "Hmm," said she. "How about bringing in the New Year with me in my hometown?" queried he. "I loved to," was the anxious reply, knowing full well that champagne and the handsome Jewish guy on her arm would be

SEASONINGS MARSHA ALLEN

the purrrfect New Year's Eve date.

The two trekked to the famous town with the famous, esteemed Empire State Building, awesomely beautiful to view from ground level, not to mention the view from the tourist tower.

Rockefeller Plaza appeared like a gleaming jewel as holiday shoppers rested from buying bonanzas and the Jewish man held his date's hand, stopping for a kiss amidst the ending holiday hustle and bustle surrounding the plaza.

The couple strolled past Macy's festively decorated windows, and he directed her inside to the jewelry counter. "Pick out something for yourself for my gift to you to remember this occasion," he said. He was in love, you see.

"No," she said, "your company is gift enough." He insisted, so she relinquished her protest to his choice, and he chose a demure florentined gold ring with a single silver ball mount.

With a kiss on the cheek the two cuddled cozily and he he kissed her hand as he placed the ring on her finger. It fit perfectly.

After the purchase, they continued their sojourn along the streets of New York. Then the hour of midnight approached and he had led her to the area below the famous crystal ball which launches the new year as it finishes its quest downward...five, four, three, two, one...she was swept into his arms as he whispered, "Happy New Year, my sweet little Marine."

The kiss lingered. The embrace was intense. Remembering him and the time together that start of a new year is like a journey into Cinderella. He was such a gentleman, so well-read, and gifted with a stunning sense of humour. He directed the tour of his New York home with delicate precision as the two shared the excitement and romance of that New Year's Eve in New York.

Menus

Senior Citizens Center
MONDAY—Beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, salad, milk, cornbread, fruit.
TUESDAY—Chicken fried steak, potatoes, broccoli and cheese, fruited gelatin, milk, rolls, pie.
WEDNESDAY—Spaghetti and meat sauce, mixed vegetables, salad,

milk, cobbler.
THURSDAY—Merry Christmas.
FRIDAY—Closed for Christmas.
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BREAKFAST
FRIDAY—Apple churros, toast, jelly, fruit juice, milk.
LUNCH
FRIDAY—Corndogs, mus-

tard, corn, pineapple, teddy grahams, milk.
School menus will resume next week.

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Who's who



Chelsea Schwartz

She danced her way to a title

Competing as Miss Texas at the National American Miss Pageant

held during the week of Thanksgiving in Anaheim, Calif., Chelsea Schwartz, 19, danced her way to the National Talent Title with a tap dance to "Magdalena".

Miss Schwartz also was named among Top 10 in the pageant, first alternate in the sportswear competition and was awarded the Spirit of America award.

She was voted and awarded by the show's choreographers as the contestant showing the most uplifting spirit and encouragement throughout the competition.

Her winnings included crown, banner, trophies and \$900 cash.

Miss Schartz is the daughter of Floyd and Martha Schwartz of St. Lawrence.

She is a 2003 graduate of Garden City High School and currently is a student at West Texas A & M University, where she is active in Chi Omega and

P.U.L.S.E.

Fall Angelo State University graduates from Big Spring

Charles Daniel Clark, Scott A. Gully and Crystal Jean Rich were among fall graduates at Angelo State University.

Clark and Gully earned bachelor degrees in business administration and Rich, a bachelor of science degree.

Area student makes honor roll at McNeese

Haley Nicole Caldwell of Big Spring earned a listing on the honor roll this month from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La.

December graduate

Brandi Gale Moore received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology during fall commencement Dec. 20 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogedoches.

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World day to observ

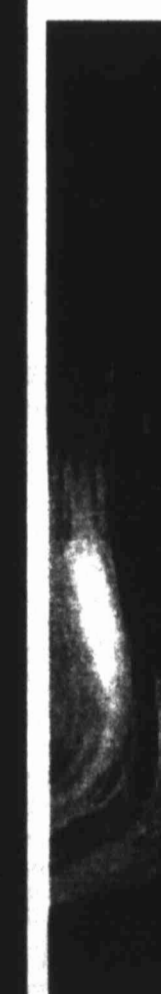
At noon date line Wednesday, ple of faith will knit minds to n healing of the This ended together pec wide spectro gious discl from various life.

Crossing n ers to achel tion, the ev people who i divine power of mankind a the good we People realiz tion with the personal unde Spiritual l calling for concentration for our world This one ho wide prayer break in ti hoped will about a surg from believe helping to c world for good To participa not need to g certain place. individuals the prayer tim prayer at the s For those v participate in chain, praye the West Texa is 6 a.m., V Dec. 31.

Read us bigspringhe

Story ic
Contact Life your story su 263-7331, e or e-m bigspringhe

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World healing day to be observed

At noon Greenwich date line time on Wednesday, Dec. 31, people of faith worldwide will knit hearts and minds to meditate for healing of the planet.

This endeavor brings together people from a wide spectrum of religious disciplines and from various walks of life.

Crossing human barriers to achieve cooperation, the event unites people who believe in a divine power for the good of mankind and hopes for the good welfare of all. People realized a unification with the God of their personal understanding.

Spiritual leaders are calling for a renewed concentration on peace for our world.

This one hour of worldwide prayer without a break in time, it is hoped, will help bring about a surge of faith from believers, perhaps helping to change the world for good.

To participate one does not need to go or be in a certain place. Millions of individuals synchronize the prayer time, creating prayer at the same time.

For those wishing to participate in the prayer chain, prayer time for the West Texas time zone is 6 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Read us online:
bigspringherald.com

Story idea?

Contact Life desk with your story suggestion, 263-7331, ext. 236 or e-mail bigspringherald.com

Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Mager Cuin Grigsby Jr.

Celebrating 50 years of marriage

Fifty years ago, Judith Ann Lawson married Mager Cuin Grigsby Jr. at First Methodist Church of Big Spring. Fifty years later, their son and grandchildren wish them even more love and laughter in the coming years.

Mr. and Mrs. Grigsby have one son, Gary, and two grandchildren Carter and Meagan, all of Houston. The couple has resided in Abilene since 1958.

Mr. Grigsby was the son of Mager Cuin Sr. and Juanita Grigsby of Big Spring, and Mrs. Grigsby was the daughter of Marvin and Thelma Lawson of Big Spring. Both grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School. He was in the class of 1949, and she was in the Class of 1950.

The Grigsbys have owned and operated clothing and shoe stores in West Texas since 1958. The most notable store owned by the couple was Grigsby's Rag Doll, which, until the early 1990's, consisted of stores in Abilene, Big Spring, Odessa, Midland, San Angelo, Lubbock and Wichita Falls.

Check out colleges early

With the ever-rising cost of higher education, visiting colleges that interest you grows more and more important.

Dincin Schneider is the author of "Campus Visits & College Interviews: A Complete Guide for College-Bound Students and Their Families". She has put all her two decades' worth of experience into this completely up-to-date volume.

Schneider reminds students and their families that colleges spend a lot of time and energy finding out all they can about students.

"You can find basic information about a college on the Internet", advises Schneider. "But

Peel off weight with sweet potato bread

Sweet potato bread peels off weight and is healthy.

Sweet potato bread
two cups sugar
1/2 cup cooking oil
one cup egg substitute
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
one tsp. cinnamon
one tsp. nutmeg

2/3 cup water
two cups fresh sweet potatoes (yams), cooked and mashed or two (15 oz.) cans sweet potatoes, drained and mashed
1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Combine sugar and oil; beat well. Add egg substitute and beat. Combine dry ingredients and add to egg mixture alternately with water. Stir in sweet potatoes and chopped pecans. Pour into three greased 9 x 5-inch loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.



Prospective students with their parents should visit a few colleges prior to making any decisions on a school.

you won't learn anything about the vitality of campus life, how the faculty and students interact, or how you'll fit in without paying a visit to the campus".

Spring is a good time for juniors to visit along with their parents, she says. Between Labor Day and Thanksgiving, is the best time for seniors to take a tour.

For thousands of facts about colleges and universities nationwide, get a copy of the College Board's 2003 College Handbook. The College Handbook is a all-in-one resource, filled with hun-

dreds of up-to-date facts about 3,600 two- and four-year colleges and universities from coast to coast. What's more, the College Handbook spells out how students and families can best approach the college-choice process.

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Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 230, or leave a voice mail.

American's brush with bankruptcy tops Texas business stories

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer
FORT WORTH — Lawyers were poised to file bankruptcy papers in New York while the new chief executive bargained into the night with union leaders on a plan to head off the collapse of the world's largest airline carrier.

American Airlines' brush with bankruptcy — a saga that included elements of sacrifice, betrayal and renewal at the Fort Worth-based airline — was among the top business stories in Texas during 2003. Other highlights include Toyota's selection of San Antonio as the site of its new \$800 million truck plant and the ongoing legal fallout from the Enron collapse.

The Toyota plant is expected

to employ up to 2,000 people and attract suppliers when it opens in 2006.

"Our economy will never be the same," San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza said. "We're talking about manufacturing becoming one of our largest industries overnight."

Fallout from the failure of Enron Corp., symbolized by the auctioning of its 50-story headquarters building in downtown Houston, also grabbed headlines throughout the year.

Former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow, faced fraud charges in connection with transactions designed to enrich insiders while hiding Enron's debt and inflating its profits. Former treasurer Ben Glisan Jr. pleaded guilty to conspiracy and got a five-year sentence — the first Enron insider

"With the economy doing so well, it's hard to imagine that we won't see a pickup in job creation."

Michael Davis,
Southern Methodist University

to go to prison.

In the first Enron shareholders' lawsuit to be settled, the former parent of Enron accountants Arthur Andersen LLP agreed to pay \$40 million to settle allegations that it aided in the company's 2001 collapse.

The Enron collapse helped spawn investigations into phony energy trades that were used to manipulate prices and inflate companies' revenue.

An executive at Houston-based Dynegy Inc. was convicted in one case, and former traders for Dynegy and El Paso Corp. face trials next year in Houston. Six companies, including El Paso and Reliant Resources Inc., settled charges that they tried to manipulate natural gas prices by paying \$112 million.

The economy — especially the continuing weak job market — attracted attention all year. Texas unemployment hovered above 6 percent most of the year, and tech companies continued to lay off thousands of workers.

San Antonio-based SBC

Communications Inc., the No. 2 U.S. phone company, said it would cut 3,000 to 4,000 jobs in the last three months of 2004. Electronic Data Systems Corp. announced in October it would lay off 5,200 workers by the end of next year — nearly double its previous estimate.

Last month's government report indicating that the U.S. economy grew 8.2 percent in the third quarter raises hopes that the hiring slump in Texas will end in 2004.

"With the economy doing so well, it's hard to imagine that we won't see a pickup in job creation," said Michael Davis of Southern Methodist University's business school. He cautioned, however, that some tech-manufacturing jobs



Texas was home to 15.5 million of the nation's 103.9 million head of cattle as of July 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Officials say Texas beef safe; producers fear mad cow fallout

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer
DALLAS (AP) — In 27 years in the business, feedlot operator Gail Morris has weathered plenty of ups and downs, but nothing quite prepared him for the news that mad cow disease may have finally arrived in the United States.

"It's the worst fear you could ever have happen," said Morris, whose Bovina Feeders Inc. in Farwell, near the New Mexico line, holds 42,000 head of cattle. "But I have the utmost confidence in the American food supply. We'll survive."

Those who raise, sell or serve beef in the nation's biggest beef state said any market decline will be brief and limited if U.S. consumers can be reassured that the discovery of an apparently infected Holstein dairy cow in Washington state was isolated and not a threat to the food supply.

Still, Tuesday's announcement that a U.S. cow might have BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the formal name for the disease that attacks the brain and spinal cord of infected animals, probably signaled the end of a booming year for Texas beef producers.

The popularity of protein-rich diets and limits on Canadian beef imports — caused by discovery of an infected animal there in May

Top beef states

Texas is the largest beef-producing state and home to nearly one-sixth of all the nation's cattle, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total herd of all cattle and calves in the leading states as of July 1, 2003, followed by the 2002 number in parenthesis:

- Texas, 15.5 million (15 million)
- Nebraska, 6.6 million (7.05 million)
- Kansas, 6.6 million (6.55 million)
- Oklahoma, 5.6 million (5.6 million)
- California, 5.15 million (5.2 million)
- South Dakota, 4.85 million (5 million)
- Missouri, 4.6 million (4.65 million)
- Iowa, 3.9 million (4 million)
- Wisconsin, 3.55 million (3.55 million)
- Montana, 3.4 million (3.35 million)
- Total, including other states: 103.9 million (105.1 million)

Source: The Associated Press

has boosted U.S. beef prices to record levels.

"The last year has been the best year ever in the cattle business as far as profitability," said Joe Richards, general manager of

Diamond Cattle Feeders in Hereford. "If this takes \$20 per 100 (pounds) off the price of live cattle, which it could, it's going to hurt."

The price of feeder cattle for January delivery fell the maximum, \$1.50 per 100 pounds, to \$93.73, before trading was stopped Wednesday. Producers will be watching the futures market closely next week to see if the drop was temporary or the beginning of something worse.

By midday Wednesday, several nations had banned U.S. beef, including Mexico, Japan and Taiwan, the three largest importers. About 10 percent of U.S. beef is exported.

Texas was home to 15.5 million of the nation's 103.9 million head of cattle as of July 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They are spread across about 150,000 cattle operations, all part of an industry that contributes \$16 billion annually to the Texas economy, according to the state agriculture department.

State officials huddled by conference call Wednesday morning to plan their response to the Washington state discovery.

Bob Hillman, the Texas state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, said there is no

See BEEF, Page 5B

Two years after the fall, now here come the Enron trials

By KRISTEN HAYS
AP Business Writer
HOUSTON (AP) — First came Enron Corp.'s scandalous collapse. Then came the crackdowns. Here come the trials.

The Enron saga has brought the infamous and the unknown to court in handcuffs as the Justice Department continues a multilayered probe into the what brought down the Houston-based company that once reveled in its own purported success.

The two biggest fish, former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay and former chief executive Jeffrey Skilling, had not been charged as the investigation passed the two-year mark. Both maintain their innocence of wrongdoing in the implosion that left thousands jobless, stunned investors and spawned dozens of lawsuits.

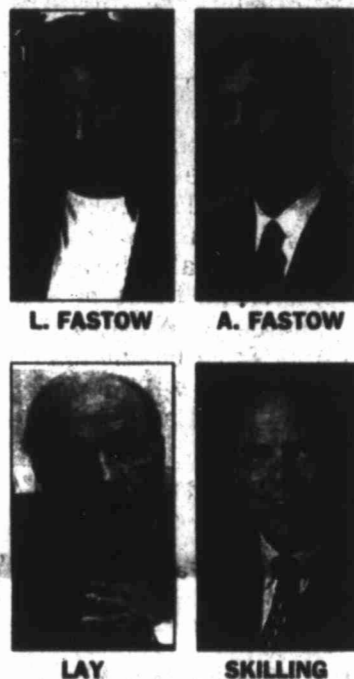
But barring last-minute guilty pleas or lengthy postponements, 16 defendants, including former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow, are scheduled for trial in 2004. The five jury trials are likely to mix intense drama with complicated testimony.

"As much activity as there has been so far, it's really just a warm-up act to what we can expect in the coming year," said Robert Mintz, a former federal prosecutor who handles white-collar crime cases as an attorney in private practice.

"The government will truly be put to the test in these upcoming trials, and we will see for the first time whether the government can successfully distill these incredibly complex frauds into cases jurors can understand," Mintz said.

The first Enron defendant to face a jury is expected to be Lea Fastow, a one-time Enron executive and wife of the former finance chief. She is scheduled for trial Feb. 10, and the judge has already denied a defense request to move the trial.

Andrew Fastow is the



L. FASTOW A. FASTOW
LAY SKILLING

highest-profile former Enron executive bound for trial in April, though his lawyers plan to ask for a postponement. They also are awaiting word on whether a judge will move his case outside Texas.

He faces 98 counts of conspiracy, fraud, money laundering, insider trading and other charges. He's accused of running a mini-kingdom of Byzantine financing methods and partnerships for years that funneled millions to him, his family and others and set the company on a collision course for failure.

Andrew Fastow was indicted in October 2002 more than two months after his former top lieutenant, Michael Kopper, spilled all to prosecutors about alleged dirty deals in Enron's secretive finance group.

Lea Fastow, who quit as Enron's assistant treasurer in 1997, was indicted in April on six counts of conspiracy and filing false tax forms for allegedly participating in some of her husband's deals.

His lawyers say he did what he was hired for, and his work was approved by Enron's top executives — Lay and Skilling — as well as the company's directors. Lea Fastow's lawyers say she was indicted to try to

See ENRON, Page 5B

Public Records

- Hot Checks/Warrants issued: The addresses listed are the last known addresses. If there are any problems with this list, please call 264-2226.
Duke, Jon E., 10705 Co. Road 52, Shallowater
Isom, Andrew Sebastian, 2627 Fairchild, Big Spring
- Mesa, Isaac, 4013 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls
Moore, Alicia, 1205 Michigan, Midland
Nabors, Jessica, 1201 Ridgeroad Dr., Big Spring
Pate, Jacque T., 5103 Woodland Blvd., Oxon Hill, MD.
- Porter, Otis J., 1904 E. 25th Street Apt. 215, Big Spring
Piquejo, Ernesto, 203 Colorado Street, Big Spring
Roberts, Kayla, 3600 Hamilton, Big Spring
Robles, Mercie, 538 Westover Road Apt. 246, Big Spring
- Taylor, Timothy, 1019 Ridgeroad, Big Spring
Wilkins, Melissa, 6110 S. Farm Road 1788, Midland
- District Court Filings:
Richard D. Haffey vs. Laelle Elaine Haffey, divorce.
Danny Coldiron and Karen Coldiron vs. Atmos Energy Corporation, other civil.
Tami Neil Horton vs. City of Big Spring, other civil.
- Marriage Licenses:
Victor Raymond Yanez, 19, and Rheta Louise Avarado, 19, both of Midland.
- Jacob Ryan Braxton, 19, and Bena Ann-Marie Stallings, 20, both of Big Spring.
Lorenzo Fabian Ontiveros, 43, and Cathy Sutton, 48, both of Big Spring.
J.W. Heidelberg Jr., 61, of

See RECORDS, Page 5B

apparent between Texas infected Holstein indication of disease in Texas.

"I believe it's a trol," Hillman spokeswoman Rick Perry said supply in Texas.

Leaders of country organization state said the first task was American consumers the beef supply since 90 percent beef goes for consumption.

Officials pro USDA, which moved quickly gate the Washington. They said of guards included animals that when they slaughterhouse of possible BSE imports of countries where ease is present ning cattle feed.

Richards, the feedlot operator eral inspectors ed twice in the to check that hi n't contain ca which was sus spreading the Europe.

"The system ing," said Ros vice president Texas Cattle Association. "The fied the animal, ed the animal identified the b of that animal. V ing it will just b mal (infected w like it was in Ca

RECORDS

- Warranty Deed: Grantor: Wells Fargo Inc.
Grantee: Secretary Affairs
Property: Lot 4, Block Lots 8 through 15 of B and 13, College Park
Date filed: Dec. 15.
- Grantor: First National Bronte
Grantee: Michael Ne
Property: Lot 3, Block Anderson Addition
Date filed: Dec. 15.
- Grantor: Lucille Em
Grantee: Barbara M
Property: Lot 1, Block Bellvue Addition
Date filed: Dec. 16.
- Grantor: Sharon Ro
Alex Rodriguez
Grantee: Henry Fran
Franco
Property: Lot 3, Block Capeheart Addition
Date filed: Dec. 17.
- Grantor: Sharon Ro
Alex Rodriguez
Grantee: Henry Fran
Franco
Property: Lot 5, Block Capeheart Addition
Date filed: Dec. 17.
- Grantor: Maxine Ow
Grantee: Elizabeth V
Property: Lost 4 and Adell Addition
Date filed: Dec. 17.
- Grantor: D.H. Snyder
Grantee: Pine Boug
Ltd.
Property: Scottsville Subdivision Phase I, a the map or plat of said recorded in Cabinet B, Plat records of Harris including Lots 1, 29, 3
Date filed: Dec. 18.
- Grantor: Author F. T and Carolyn D. Talam
Grantee: Steve Eric
Carrie Watson
Property: Lot 13, Block Kentwood (Unit 1) Ad
Date filed: Dec. 18.
- Grantor: The Edwin Jones and Dorothy R. Revocable Living Trust
Grantee: Ken Beale Bealer
Property: Lot 6, Block Park
Date filed: Dec. 19.
- Grantor: Mary Berth
Grantee: Barbara E
Property: Not listed
Date filed: Dec. 19.

BEEF

Continued from Page 4B

apparent connection between Texas and the infected Holstein and no indication of mad cow disease in Texas.

"I believe it's under control," Hillman said. A spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry said the food supply in Texas is safe.

Leaders of cattle industry organizations in the state said the industry's first task was to reassure American consumers that the beef supply is safe, since 90 percent of U.S. beef goes for domestic consumption.

Officials praised the USDA, which they said moved quickly to investigate the Washington case. They said other safeguards include testing animals that can't walk when they arrive at slaughterhouses — a sign of possible BSE — a ban on imports of cattle from countries where the disease is present, and banning cattle remains in feed.

Richards, the Hereford feedlot operator, said federal inspectors had visited twice in the past year to check that his feed didn't contain cattle parts, which was suspected in spreading the disease in Europe.

"The system is working," said Ross Wilson, vice president of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. "They identified the animal, they tested the animal, they've identified the birth herd of that animal. We're hoping it will just be one animal (infected with BSE), like it was in Canada."

The fallout from the diagnosis of mad cow disease in this country was expected to show up first in restaurants and supermarket meat shelves. The disease rained the beef industry in Europe and was blamed for the deaths of more than 100 people in Britain who ate infected meat parts or received transfusions from others who were infected.

At the Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap, south of Abilene, owner Tom Perini said some consumers "will probably cut back and see what happens... the key is, how long is this going to last?"

But, Perini added, "People that like steaks are still going to eat steaks and want them to taste good." He added that popular cuts of beef are cut from muscle, while BSE is believed to be limited to the brain, spinal cord and part of the intestines.

Gene Street, a veteran restaurateur whose company owns Ill Forks, an opulent Dallas steakhouse, said nobody had canceled Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve reservations, but he planned to prepare wait staff to handle diners' questions about BSE.

Several shoppers interviewed Wednesday said they weren't going to stop eating beef.

"What time are the burgers coming?" joked Karen Kennedy of Fort Worth, who said she was confident in regulation of the food supply.

If the beef industry stumbles, it could help producers of pork and chicken.

BUSINESS

Continued from Page 4B

have been exported and won't return.

Roy Perryman, an economist based in Waco, predicted the state will add 180,000 jobs next year after a flat job market this year.

"It's not what I'd call a banner year — not compared to job gains in the late '90s — but it's not bad after two or three years" of slow hiring, Perryman said.

Thomas K. Kim, an economics professor at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, said, however, that low labor costs in other countries will slow the recovery in tech and other jobs. He said it would take several years for the tech sector to rebuild after the dot-com bust of 2000-01.

Thousands of airline workers in Texas have lost their jobs since 2001 and only a few have been recalled — 390 furloughed American Airlines flight attendants went back to work in December. The Fort Worth-based airlines also underwent changes at the top during a tumultuous year.

By spring, parent AMR Corp. had lost more than \$6 billion in about two years, the company was running low on cash, and chief executive Donald Carty said he needed \$1.8 billion in annual concessions from employees or the carrier would file for bankruptcy protection.

tion.

Workers grudgingly went along — at least until they found out that the company had secretly approved bonuses and pension perks for Carty and other senior executives. The resulting firestorm cost Carty his job.

In April, Carty was replaced by a company financial wizard, Gerard Arpey, whose first act was a late-night meeting with union leaders to salvage the labor concessions and keep American out of bankruptcy.

American and other carriers were boosted by a better-than-expected summer vacation season. AMR posted a razor-thin profit — less than \$1 million — in the third quarter, its first gain since late 2000.

Analysts cautioned, however, that the airline would probably lose money during the slower fall and winter months.

Among other top stories:

— Houston-based Halliburton Co. was the top recipient of U.S. government contracts to support military operations in Iraq and help rebuild the country's oil industry. Pentagon auditors, however, said the company overcharged the government for delivering gasoline to Iraqi citizens under a no-bid contract.

Separately, Halliburton claimed victory when most claimants agreed to a \$4 billion settlement of the company's liability for asbestos.

A federal judge in Dallas dismissed a lawsuit against Vice President Dick Cheney stemming from his reign as Halliburton's chairman and chief executive.

— Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's largest publicly traded oil company, earned nearly \$15 billion in the first nine months of the year and moved within reach of the Irving-based company's record profit of \$17.7 billion in 2000.

— Plano-based EDS, a \$21 billion technology-outsourcing giant, replaced chairman and chief executive Richard H. Brown in March. The company was hobbled by bad contracts, fewer wins on new contracts, and a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation.

Dallas-based Texas Instruments said it would build a \$3 billion semiconductor plant while the state pays \$135 million to expand research facilities at the nearby University of Texas at Dallas.

— Despite a tumble that saw its stock lose about 90 percent of its value in two years, management at El Paso Corp. prevailed in a bitter proxy fight with an influential investor who tried to oust the entire board of directors.

— Reliant Resources barely avoided bankruptcy by cajoling banks to renegotiate debt.

— ConocoPhillips of Houston sold its Circle K convenience stores for \$800 million.

ENRON

Continued from Page 4B

squeeze cooperation out of her husband.

In June, four former Merrill Lynch & Co. bankers and two former midlevel Enron executives are scheduled to go to trial on conspiracy charges. They're accused of pushing through a loan disguised as a sale of Nigerian barges in 1999 so Enron would appear to have met lofty earnings targets. All six have pleaded innocent.

The 2004 trials on the... after the... of the... in the...

Enron, is scheduled for trial in San Francisco — so far, the only trial scheduled outside of Houston — on 11 counts of conspiracy and fraud. He's accused of manipulating Western energy markets during California's power crisis of 2000 and 2001. He too has pleaded innocent.

Besides Kopper, six people have struck plea deals — five former Enron executives and David Duncan, who was the top Enron auditor at nearly defunct Arthur Andersen LLP.

All six are cooperating with prosecutors in the...

upcoming trials and other ongoing investigations except former treasurer Ben Glisan, who began serving a five-year sentence in September after pleading guilty to conspiracy. He will turn 38 in prison next month.

"We're all glad to see something come up," said Rebekah Rushing, who was laid off from Enron when the company imploded and is now a real estate agent. "We went on with our lives, but it will be interesting to see what comes out of all this that affected so many workers and shareholders."

RECORDS

Continued from Page 4B

Stanton, and Eva Hutton Ditto, 72, of Big Spring. Oscar Hernandez, 43, of Big Spring, and Irene Jimenez Hinojosa, 38, of San Angelo.

Warranty Deed: Grantor: Wells Fargo Mortgage Inc. Grantee: Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Property: Lot 4, Block 13, plat of Lots 8 through 15 of Blocks 6,9 and 13, College Park Estates. Date filed: Dec. 15, 2003

Grantor: First National Bank of Bronte. Grantee: Michael Narin. Property: Lot 3, Block 2, Anderson Addition. Date filed: Dec. 15, 2003

Grantor: Lucille Emerson. Grantee: Barbara Moore. Property: Lot 1, Block 8, North Bellvue Addition. Date filed: Dec. 16, 2003

Grantor: Sharon Rodriguez and Alex Rodriguez. Grantee: Henry Franco and Lisa Franco. Property: Lot 3, Block 2, Capeheart Addition. Date filed: Dec. 17, 2003

Grantor: Sharon Rodriguez and Alex Rodriguez. Grantee: Henry Franco and Lisa Franco. Property: Lot 5, Block 2, Capeheart Addition. Date filed: Dec. 17, 2003

Grantor: Maxine Owens. Grantee: Elizabeth Varela. Property: Lot 4 and 5, Block 1, Adell Addition. Date filed: Dec. 17, 2003

Grantor: D.H. Snyder III. Grantee: Pine Bough Properties, Ltd. Property: Scottsville Crossing Subdivision Phase I, according to the map or plat of said Phase recorded in Cabinet B, Slide 12-A. Plat records of Harrison County, including Lots 1, 29, 30, 32 and 33. Date filed: Dec. 18, 2003

Grantor: Author F. Talamantes and Carolyn D. Talamantes. Grantee: Steve Eric Watson and Carrie Watson. Property: Lot 13, Block 3, Kentwood (Unit 1) Addition. Date filed: Dec. 18, 2003

Grantor: The Edward Eugene Jones and Dorothy R. Derr Jones Revocable Living Trust. Grantee: Ken Beeler and Wanda Beeler. Property: Lot 6, Block 3, Stanford Park. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: Mary Bertha Sanders. Grantee: Barbara E. Arrowsmith. Property: Not listed. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: Juanita Rodriguez. Grantee: Jay Hilderbrand. Property: Lot 14, Block 9, College Park. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: Windol Lunsford and Heidi Lunsford. Grantee: C.L. Lunsford and Barbara J. Lunsford. Property: The south 65 feet of the north 130 feet of tract 5, out of the replat of lots A and B of tract 8, Kennebeck Heights. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: Michele Chavez fka Michele Hernandez and Joe Chavez. Grantee: Revocable Trust of Cheryl Ann Hollingsworth. Property: The south 35 feet of Lot 14 and the north 35 feet of Lot 15, Block 13, Washington Place Addition. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien: Grantor: Liberato Carrillo and Velia Carrillo. Grantee: Alan C. Powell and Pamela G. Powell. Property: A 1 acre tract out of the west part of section 25, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey. Date filed: Dec. 15, 2003

Grantor: Gene Dixon and Frances Dixon. Grantee: First American Bank, SSB. Property: A 8.07 acre tract out of SW/4 of Section 33, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey. Date filed: Dec. 18, 2003

Grantor: Cleo Brawley and Boyd W. Brawley. Grantee: Dannie Higginbotham and Margaret Higginbotham. Property: Lots 4 through 7 and lots 16 through 19, Block 25, Original Town of Folsom. Date filed: Dec. 18, 2003

Grantor: Richard Fillingim and Cassandra Fillingim. Grantee: Sharon Platt. Property: Lot 25, Block 25, College Park Estates. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: Ken Beeler. Grantee: Linda F. McDonald. Property: Lot 6, Block 3, Stanford Park. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: C.L. Lunsford and Barbara J. Lunsford Revocable Living Trust by C.L. Lunsford, trustee. Grantee: Windol Lunsford and Heidi F. Lunsford. Property: Tract 6 out of a replat of lots A and B of Tract 8, Kennebeck Heights. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Grantor: The Cheryl Ann Hollingsworth Revocable Trust. Grantee: Jennifer Walker. Property: The south 35 feet of Lot 14 and the north 35 feet of Lot 15, Block 13, Washington Place Addition. Date filed: Dec. 19, 2003

Used Car Clearance Sale Continues
CARS: 2000 Chevrolet Cavalier - Stk# 268, Automatic, Power Steering, AM/FM Stereo. Was \$7,995... NOW \$6,995
2001 Chevrolet Cavalier Coupe - Stk# C61, Black, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD. Was \$8,995... NOW \$7,995
1997 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Z34 - Stk# 305, Power Equipped, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Leather, Rear Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. Was \$8,995... NOW \$7,995
2001 Chevrolet Lumina - Stk# 564B, White, Automatic, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Cassette. Was \$8,995... NOW \$7,995
1999 Buick Regal GS - Stk# C29, V6 3.8L Supercharged, Gran Touring Pkg., Tilt/Cruise, CD, Leather, Power Seat, Rear Spoiler. Was \$9,995... NOW \$8,995
1998 Oldsmobile Intrigue GLS - Stk# 269, Gold, Power Windows/Doors, CD, Leather, Rear Spoiler. Only 43K One Owner Miles!! Was \$11,995... NOW \$8,995
1999 Buick Regal LS - Stk# 331, V6, Auto., Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Cassette, CD, Traction Control, Power Seat. Was \$12,995... NOW \$10,495
2001 Buick Century Custom - Stk# 397, V6, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Cassette, Traction Control, Power Seat. Was \$11,995... NOW \$10,495
2002 Buick Century Custom - Stk# 403, Power Windows/Locks, Traction Control, Power Seat. Was \$12,995... NOW \$11,495
2001 Buick LeSabre Limited - Stk# C110, Auto., Power Steering, Power Windows/Locks, CD, Traction Control, Leather, Dual Power Seats. Was \$12,995... NOW \$11,495
2002 Chevrolet Impala - Stk# C81, Power Equipped, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Cassette, CD, Power Seat. Was \$12,995... NOW \$11,995
2003 Oldsmobile Alero GL - Stk# C119, Automatic, single CD, Power Seat, Rear Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995... NOW \$12,995
2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Sedan 4D - Stk# C146, V8, 4.6 Liter, Auto., A/C, Power Steering, Power Windows/Locks, Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995... NOW \$12,995
2003 Buick Century - Stk#s C120 & C121, V6, Automatic, Power Windows/Locks, AM/FM Cassette, Power Seat. 2 To Choose Prom!! Was \$14,995... NOW \$13,995
2001 Buick LeSabre Custom Sedan 4D - Stk# C143, V6, 3.8 Liter, Auto., FWD, A/C, Power Seat, Alloy Wheels, 23,000 Miles. Was \$14,995... NOW \$13,995
2002 Buick Regal LS - Stk#s 368 & 419, Power Equipped, CD, Traction Control, Leather, Dual Power Seats. 2 To Choose Prom!! Was \$16,995... NOW \$14,495
2003 Chevrolet Malibu LS - Stk# C57, Automatic, AC, Power Equipped, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Power Seat, Alloy Wheels. Was \$15,995... NOW \$14,495
2000 Buick LeSabre Limited - Stk# C103, Auto., AC, Power Windows/Locks, CD, OnStar, Leather, Dual Power Seats. Was \$15,995... NOW \$14,995
2002 Pontiac Bonneville SE - Stk# 318, Auto., Power Equipped, CD, Power Seat, Rear Spoiler. Was \$16,995... NOW \$15,995
2003 Cadillac DeVille - Stk# C111, V8, 4.9 Liter, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, CD, OnStar, Leather, Dual Power Seats, Alloy Wheels. Was \$32,995... SOLD
PICKUPS: 1999 Dodge 1500 Pickup Short Box - Stk# C160, Auto., 2WD, ST, A/C, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Alloy Wheels. Was \$9,995... SOLD
2000 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 - Stk# C35, Auto., Fourth Door, Power Equipped, CD, Towing Pkg. Was \$16,995... SOLD
2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 - Stk# C98, Automatic, Power Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Alloy Wheels. Was \$17,995... NOW \$16,995
2001 Dodge Dakota Quad Cab - Stk# C118, V8 4.7L, Automatic, CD, Hard Tonneau Cover, Alloy Wheels. Was \$17,995... SOLD
2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Stk# C109, V8 5.4L, Automatic, Power Equipped, CD, Running Boards, Grille Guard, Towing Pkg. Was \$19,995... NOW \$18,995
2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup Extended Cab Short Bed - Stk# C159, Auto., 2WD, LS, A/C, Power Steering, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Alloy Wheels. Was \$22,995... NOW \$19,995
2001 GMC Sierra SLE 2500 HD Extended Cab - Stk# 503, V8 8.1L, 4WD, Long Bed, CD, Premium Sound System, Bed Liner, Towing Pkg. Was \$23,995... SOLD
2002 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500 Sport Utility Pickup 4D - Stk# C145, Z71 Off-Road Pkg., A/C, Rear Air, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cass. Was \$28,995... NOW \$26,995
2003 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 Crew Cab - Stk# C30, V8 6.6L Turbo Diesel, OnStar, Leather, Running Boards, Towing Pkg., Dual Rear Wheels. Was \$38,995... NOW \$35,995
2003 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500 Sport Utility Pickup 4D - Stk# C151, Auto., 4WD, A/C, Rear Air, Power Steering, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Alloy Wheels, 6,000 Miles. Was \$34,995... NOW \$33,995
SPORT UTILITY: 1996 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 Conversion - Stk# C106, 4 Capt. Chairs, Custom Paint, Molded Running Boards, CD, Third Seat. MUST SEE!! Was \$10,995... NOW \$9,995
2002 Dode Durango Sport Utility 4D - Stk# C147, V8, 4.7 Liter, Auto., 2WD, A/C, Power Steering, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cass., Third Seat, Alloy Wheels. Was \$17,995... NOW \$16,995
2003 Jeep Liberty - Stk# C136A, Power Windows/Locks, CD, leather, W/Cloth Inserts, Molded Wheel Flares, Low Miles! Was \$18,995... NOW \$17,995
2001 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 - Stk# 376, V8, 5.3L, Rear Air, Power Equipped, CD, Dual Power Seats, Third Seat, Roof Rack, Towing Pkg. Was \$25,995... NOW \$22,995
2001 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 Sport Utility - Stk# C151, Auto., 2WD, LT, A/C, Rear Air, Power Steering/Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cass., Towing Pkg., Alloy Wheels. Was \$26,995... NOW \$25,995
2002 Lincoln Navigator Sport Utility 4D - Stk# C134, Auto., 2WD, Silverado, A/C, Power Steering, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cass., Running Boards. Was \$30,995... SOLD
2003 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 Sport Utility - Stk# C156, Auto., 4WD, Z71 Off-Road Pkg., A/C, Rear Air, Power Steering/Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cass., Alloy Wheels. Was \$32,995... NOW \$30,995
2000 Chevrolet Express Conversion - Stk# C157, V8, 5.7 Liter, Auto., A/C, Rear Air, High Top, Quad Seats, TV & More. Was \$17,995... NOW \$16,995
2003 Chevrolet Venture Extended Minivan 4D - Stk# C158, V6, 3.4 Liter, Auto., FWD, Power Sliding Door, A/C, Rear Air, Alloy Wheels. Was \$19,995... NOW \$18,995
2003 Chevrolet Venture Extended Minivan 4D - Stk# C152, Auto., FWD, Power Sliding Door, 7-8 Passenger, A/C, Rear Air, Alloy Wheels. Was \$19,995... NOW \$18,995

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1996 Ford F-350 Crew Cab XLT. White. Powerstroke Automatic. Tool Box. Aluminum Wheels.

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1999 Chevy Tahoe LS. Power windows, power door locks. Tilt/Cruise. AM/FM with CD Player.

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HELP WANTED
Need truck driver, 2 yrs. experience. Run 48 states. Good driving record. Call Gerald King, 394-4037 after 5:00.

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HELP WANTED
Domino's 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

HELP WANTED
Store Manager
You will be responsible for the successful operation of The Cash Store's Big Spring office. An on-the-job training program will prepare you for the position. You should be a self-starter who is outgoing, courteous and able to assume responsibility. Some computer familiarity or skills required. Primary duties involve processing loan applications and making loans. Starting pay is \$1,708 monthly, 401(k) plan, plus benefits. Call 432-267-1118 EOE.

HELP WANTED
STANTON NURSING & REHAB
RN/LVN for all shifts. Call or come by at 1100 W. Broadway, Stanton, Tx. or phone 432-756-2841 ask for Denise or Paula.

HELP WANTED
Typing and Computer skills a must, good phone manners. Must answer phones and take messages. Be at work on time. Send resume to c/o Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431/221, Big Spring, TX 79721

HELP WANTED
Warehouse/Delivery needed to move furniture. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person. Credit World 1611 Gregg.

HELP WANTED
GAS PLANT "A" OPERATOR needed at natural gas plant, NE of Big Spring, 12 hr. shift. Fax resumes, (432)399-4290 or mail to: 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511.

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customer rebate
OR
1.9% APR
60 Mos.



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Newsday Crossword

STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Offers assurances</p> <p>10 State an oath, one way or another</p> <p>15 UN delegate</p> <p>16 Pablo's parent</p> <p>17 Walking horse's origin</p> <p>18 Made strong suggestions</p> <p>19 Geographer's unit</p> <p>20 She might give you a line</p> <p>22 Preserve</p> <p>23 Creator of the Joker</p> <p>24 Praiseful lyric</p> <p>28 Felix's fixation</p> <p>32 More tender</p> <p>33 Georgia Indian</p> <p>34 Hire out</p> <p>35 Thing</p> <p>36 Clammy</p> <p>37 Glazier's unit</p> <p>38 Place for pairs</p> <p>39 Friend of Zola</p> <p>40 Make fragrant</p> <p>41 Savings</p> <p>43 Out of the sun</p> <p>44 Ease off</p> <p>45 Pro</p> <p>46 Parking places of a sort</p> <p>49 Belt owners</p> <p>53 Make corrections to</p>	<p>54 Watch</p> <p>57 Red stuff</p> <p>58 Primitive one</p> <p>59 Treacherous one</p> <p>60 They're out of here</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Road hazard</p> <p>2 Supplemented, with "out"</p> <p>3 British composer</p> <p>4 Adder's weapon</p> <p>5 More intense</p> <p>6 Leg length</p> <p>7 Ready to bake</p> <p>8 Fannie</p> <p>9 Most indirect</p> <p>10 Literally, "fellow traveler"</p> <p>11 Cal's colleague</p> <p>12 Sidle</p> <p>13 Father of Phobus</p> <p>14 Some wines</p> <p>21 Middy's colleague</p> <p>24 Shogun, e.g.</p> <p>25 French pronoun</p> <p>26 Takes a hike</p> <p>27 Don't commit</p> <p>28 Doesn't give up</p> <p>29 Veldt grazer</p> <p>30 Reason</p> <p>31 Ranger's ride</p> <p>33 Thick</p> <p>36 Diploma word</p> <p>37 Hen or coat preceder</p> <p>39 Have no destination</p> <p>40 Comparatively flimsy</p> <p>42 Sudden sensation</p> <p>43 Machination</p> <p>45 High points</p> <p>46 Pat's boss</p> <p>47 Pierre's "Help!"</p> <p>48 Enlist again</p> <p>50 Tangy flavor</p> <p>51 Safe, to safecrackers</p> <p>52 Simba's ill-wisher</p> <p>55 Seine land</p> <p>56 Monorails, often</p>
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MISCELLANEOUS
 For Sale, Intel 2.2 GHz 2 - 80 MByte Hard Drives, 1.0 GByte of memory. Rampus 400MHz. Nvidia Video Card w/128 MByte of Memory. DVD & CD Writer and Reader (HP), DVD & CD Reader (Plextor) LCD 17" monitor, 250 Watt 5.1 Dolby 5 speaker set, modem, 10/100 ethernet card, many more options MS Keyboard/MS Optical mouse. Window XP installed. \$1,500. 263-3519.

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BY JOYCE JILLSON
Hanukkah ends under the thoughtful Pisces moon, a spiritual aspect that lends the maturity needed to sum up an experience. It's good to gather messages learned through the week but only if you leave room for further interpretations. The Capricorn influence overhead reminds us that if we follow the tradition, we'll reinforce what we know.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Old love is back on the scene, either in real life or in your heart. Safeguarding your privacy is a priority, as family and friends are in your business a little too much. That's the price you pay for being mighty attractive.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're the one with answers to perplexing questions. Believing in yourself is getting to be a snap. It's an attitude you pull on like you would a comfortable pair of jeans. Those caring for children get more than they bargained for.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't let the pressure to produce interfere with the thing that keeps you sane — your serenity. Breathe in the outdoor air, even if only for 15 minutes. Tonight features the recognition you sacrificed much to experience — bask in it.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Charming and disarming, you are quite the host or hostess, especially when there's no party. Who needs one? Your whole life is a party. Show a friend around, and take the time to make sure he or she has met everyone.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's kind of a booby-trapped day, loaded with triggers that when tripped will bring old issues to the fore. This gives you a chance to show how "over it" you are — even if you're really not. By acting, you can make it so.



Joyce Jillson

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sure, a partner has habits that get on your nerves, but this person makes up for it in other ways. If your new love has a different attitude toward money, think carefully about potential problems before committing.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Be light of heart on this romantic, sentimental day, full of sweet memories of the good moments from your past. For many, wedding bells ring in the distance. It's a great time to make a down payment.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you can put romantic issues out of your mind for 48 hours, you're better off. Solutions come when you're not trying. Relax (even though Libra is particularly good at distracting you). Stay out of high gear tonight.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be prepared for the unexpected. Harebrained high jinks are in store due to accidental screwups. Romance moves from the back to the front burner. You'll be a blast on date because you've got so much to talk about.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A short attention span over the next 48 hours makes you feel like you've got to get everything done now or never. Impulse buys are dangerous, especially if they have to do with fashion.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Fun with vanity may be the theme this afternoon. You'll take advantage of sales and the global "makeover mania" mind-set and be right in step with the trends. Scientific proof is what you want, and you'll get it.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Take pleasure seriously. You're in a peak period of artistry. Allow yourself the right to change your mind — every artist must be willing to throw out some ideas in favor of better ones. Your love life thrives with honesty.
WHEN THE NEW YEAR SMILES ON AMBITIOUS SOULS, HERE'S HOW TO TAP INTO YOUR INNER GO-

GETTER: The new year will likely be the kind of year that most helps those who help themselves. And those who are constantly on the move will get hit by luck most often. But each sign gets its energy in a different way. Where will you get your motivation in 2004? **LIBRA:** Whereas most people have a tendency to start with a bang and lose interest, you have the lucky habit of a slow start, and by the time you're in the middle of a project, your energy really kicks in. Getting through the setup and organizational part of a project is a challenge that Aries or Leo can help you with. As far as deciding where your ambition lies, don't worry. Choose something, anything. The what doesn't matter as much as you think it does. **SCORPIO:** Your chosen ambition has got to speak directly, even obviously, to your bottom line in order to sustain any kind of appeal to you. Therefore, if too many elements and people are involved, your ambition starts to wane.

The trick is to keep it simple. Do as much on your own as you can, and you'll get more of the rewards.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Kate Moss has had a resurgence of popularity — I recently counted over 50 pictures of her in a single issue of a popular fashion magazine! This waif has blossomed into a woman in the eyes of the public, partly because motherhood gives Moss an added dimension and partly because Moss' creative choices have been so artistically mature.
 If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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 1405 1/2 Settles. Clean 1 bdr., stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$200/mon. \$100/dep. Call 432-267-1543

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PUBLIC NOTICE ATTENTION COX COMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS

Beginning on February 1, 2004, the following monthly service rate changes will be in effect for Big Spring residential customers: Limited Basic will change from \$16.00 to \$17.15 and Expanded Basic will change from \$23.95 to \$24.84. Conventional rental charges (analog and digital) will change from \$3.70 to \$3.99. In addition, the Channel Guide Magazine monthly purchase amount will change from \$1.99 to \$2.50. All prices quoted do not include franchise fees and/or sales tax. Inquiries concerning these changes or any other cable-related issue can be made at Cox Communications, 2006 Birdwell Ln. Big Spring, TX 79720 or by calling 267-381-4407. Decan ter 26, 28 & 29, 2003.

PUBLIC NOTICE ATTENTION COX COMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS

Beginning on February 1, 2004, the following one-time service charges will be in effect (these changes will not affect your current monthly cable bill): Big Spring residential customers: Pre-wired home initial installation (analog or digital) will change from \$45.00 to \$33.00. Unwired home initial installation will change from \$45.00 to \$49.99. Additional outlet (2 or more) installation (analog or digital) will change from \$14.95 to \$18.99. Additional outlet installation (activation requiring an additional truck roll) will change from \$24.95 to \$28.99. All prices quoted do not include franchise fees and/or sales tax. Inquiries concerning these changes or any other cable-related issue can be made at Cox Communications, 2006 Birdwell Ln. Big Spring, TX 79720 or by calling 267-381-4407. December 26, 28 & 29, 2003.

PUBLIC NOTICE SHERIFF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE: REAL PROPERTY
 THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF HOWARD, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Writ issued out of the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, 24 day of September, 2003 by Judgement of said Court for the sum of \$7,631.46, dollars and costs of sale, under a Writ of Execution, in favor of Leota Fay Reed, Della Pearl Holcomb, Kenneth Leroy Burch and Leona Mae Duffer in a certain cause in said Court, 42877 and styled Leota Fay Reed, Della Pearl Holcomb, Kenneth Leroy Burch and Leona Mae Duffer, plaintiff vs Rick Pruett, defendant, placed in my hands for service, I, Dean Restell, a Deputy Sheriff of Howard County, Texas, did, on the 05 day of November, 2003 levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Howard County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: LT 2 BK 1 REYNOLDS 75X140 COAHOMA HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS AND LEVIED UPON AS THE PROPERTY OF RICK PRUIETT and that on the first Tuesday of JANUARY, 2004, the same being the 5th day of said month, at the Court house door, of Howard County, in the City of Big Spring, Texas, between the hour of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., by virtue of said levy and said Writ of Execution I will offer for sale and sell at public venue, for cash, to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of the said property.

PUBLIC NOTICE THE STATE OF TEXAS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition a default judgment may be taken against you.
TO: LORI KAY MILLER
 Defendant: Greeting: You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday 19TH day of JANUARY, 2004, before the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Big Spring, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 29TH day of MAY, A.D., 2003, in this case, numbered 42986 on the docket of said court, and styled,
MICHELLE WEAVER
 LORI KAY MILLER.
 A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: INJURY DUE TO CERTAIN VEHICLE as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: We work in an office with six small cubicles. One of our new co-workers has a habit of clipping his long fingernails in a very loud and precise manner. All day long, we can hear clip, clip, clip.
 The other five of us put up with it as long as possible. Finally, we asked him to stop. He said there was nothing "impolite or disgusting about nail clipping," and he was going to continue to do it. What should we do now? — Five Little Piggies

Dear Little Piggies: It is plenty impolite and disgusting to clip your nails where others can see or hear. Some things are intended to be private. It's time to hit the nail on the head and ask your supervisor or the human resources department to put an end to this boorish behavior.

Dear Annie: It's 3:45 a.m., and I am up, reading your column, hoping you can help me. For many years I was a stay-at-home mom. The children are now almost grown, and I am not needed the way I once was. My problem? Finding myself.

Every day my husband asks the same question: "Did you find a job today? We could use the extra income." I agree. However, prospective employers look at the fact that I have not held a job in years, and they are not excited about hiring me. The life skills of a stay-at-home mom should count for something, and yet we are treated with disrespect. A day hitting the pavement is enough to make a woman in my place feel useless.

I cannot afford college to improve my employability. I love my sons with all my heart, and I am very blessed to have been able to raise them, to be a room mom, team mom, school volunteer, and so on. Now that it's time to do something else, I'm at a complete loss. Any suggestions? — Mom Looking for Herself

Dear Mom: Yes. Check into college classes at a local community college (it's less expensive), and also look into loans and scholarships. Brush up your resume so your life experience and volunteer work shows in areas such as organizational skills and time manage-

ment. Get any kind of job that doesn't require a college degree so you can build up some work experience. Check employment sites on the Internet, and find out what skills you need in order to get the kind of job you want.

You must take that first step before you can achieve success, but even one tiny step will get you closer to your goals. Get moving and good luck.

Dear Annie: I have something to say to all married men. Tell your wife every single day how lovely she is. If you don't, someone else will.

The heart is a very strong organ physically, but very fragile emotionally. A woman needs to know that she is loved and wanted, and she needs to hear it as often as possible. Sometimes just a simple, "Oh, by the way, I love you," as you walk out the door will make her day. Is that so hard to do? Such words are more priceless than diamonds, and they will pay tremendous dividends.

Things like this come easy to a romantic like me, and my wife knows it. There's nothing more beautiful than the smile of the woman you love. We men sometimes become too macho to realize what's most important. If I never, ever love again, I will have had my share. — D.S. in Mississippi

Dear D.S.: Well, aren't you just a sweetheart. Your wife surely appreciates your thoughtfulness. And you are right — most women need to hear the actual words. So, men, pay attention, and save yourselves some possible heartache. In case you haven't already, tell your wife she's beautiful and you love her. It will be worth it.

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ANNIE'S MAILBOX