



BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

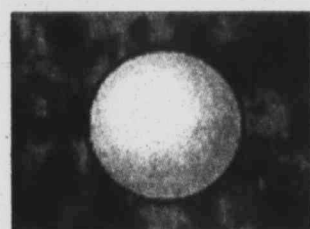
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

WEDNESDAY

December 8, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 44°-46° TOMORROW 64°-66°

BRIEFLY

BSHS band sets winter concert

The Big Spring High School band will hold its winter concert at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. There is no admission fee but those attending are asked to bring cans of food which will be given to the Salvation Army.

The concert will feature the full band, playing selections such as "Christmas Festival" by Leroy Anderson, "Slovakian Folk Suite" by Alfred Reed, "Home for Christmas," "Greensleeves Rhapsody" and "Jingle Bells Forever."

The concert will be topped off with the band surrounding the audience and playing its entire marching show.

COMING

THIS WEEKEND



It's Christmas year-round for Chip Davis, who is better known as the mastermind behind the New Age band Mannheim Steamroller. Davis is responsible for creating the nation's best-selling Christmas music. He's sold more than 32 million Mannheim albums, out-selling Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel and Sting. The third-generation musician from Sylvania, Ohio, now lives on a 100-acre ranch outside of Omaha, Neb.

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Vol. 101, No. 11

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Giving Tree

Providing a means to help foster parents give gifts for many children who are in need

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Special to the Herald

A 6-year-old girl wants a Bratz doll. A 7-year-old boy wishes for his own tent. A 3-year-old girl asks for an Elmo.

They seem like just any other kids hoping for something special for Christmas. But these children won't be home to wait for Santa Claus; they have been removed from the care of their parents because of abuse and neglect.

Wells Fargo's lobby is once again home to the Giving Tree, its evergreen limbs covered with bright paper ornaments naming

What: Giving Tree.

Where: Wells Fargo Bank, downtown.

For: Provides Christmas gifts for children placed in foster homes by Child Protective Services.

dozens of local children who are in the care of Children's Protective Services.

Jeanie Knocke, Customer Service Representative for Wells Fargo, said the tree is a way the community can help foster par-

See TREE, Page 5A



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen
Shelly Tito, a teller at Wells Fargo, looks over ornaments on the Giving Tree in the bank's lobby. Each ornament lists the Christmas wishes of a child from Big Spring who is in the care of Child Protective Services.

Officials conducting mock emergency drill

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Big Spring and the Howard County area were under attack by terrorist forces Tuesday morning — hypothetical terrorist forces, that is.

Representatives from the city of Big Spring's emergency service providers, including the Big Spring Police and Fire Departments, joined forces with local, state and federal entities to conduct an emergency drill that began Tuesday and will continue through Thursday.

Operating from an office upstairs in the Polly Mays Annex, the team of emergency

"You learn what you're good at and what you have in place — what's working for you — and some of the things that aren't working for you." —Terry Chamness, emergency coordinator



responders woke up to a slew of problems early Tuesday morning, and according to local emergency coordinator Terry Chamness, hit the ground running.

"This drill is dealing with weapons of mass

destruction," said Chamness. "There have been several drills like these throughout the communities in West Texas already — Midland-Odessa did one back in 2001 and Fort Stockton did one earlier this year — and now it's Big Spring's turn.

"We started off today with a fictitious radical group that wants Texas to declare its independence from the U.S., and are doing terroristic type attacks. First thing there was a scenario with an explosion near one of the substations, which took down electricity in the city for a short period of time. Right now we're working with a scenario where a lot of

See DRILL, Page 3A

Robbery conviction nets five-year prison sentence

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A 22-year-old Big Spring man was found guilty of aggravated robbery in 118th District Court Tuesday, receiving a five-year prison sentence.

Joshua Detroy Francis, who listed addresses of 1401 Highway 87 Apt. 1403 and 4113 Muir, was found guilty of aggravated robbery for his part in the June 2003 robbery of a Big Spring laundromat located in the 200 block of E. 11th Place.

According to testimony from witnesses for the prosecution, Francis, along with another man allegedly identified as Alfred Lee Mitchell, 18, of 803 Pine, entered the laundromat and threatened the attendant with knives, demanding

money.

The pair made away from the laundromat with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured in the robbery.

Francis was indicted by a Howard County grand jury on Aug. 19, more than a year after the robbery occurred.

Mitchell was also indicted on the same charge of aggravated robbery in August.

According to Howard County District Attorney officials, Francis will not be eligible for parole until a minimum of one-half of his sentence has been served, due to the aggravated nature of the charge. No fine was assessed by the jury, which could have sentenced Francis up to 99 years in prison.

FATAL ACCIDENT



HERALD photo/Debbie Jensen
Sgt. Cliff McCartney of the Howard County Sheriff's Office talks on a cell phone at the scene of a one-vehicle rollover accident that claimed the life of a Big Spring woman Tuesday morning. Susan Kaye Tubbs-Crawford, 41, was ejected from her vehicle in the accident on S. Highway 87 near Trinity Memorial Park. She was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center by Big Spring Fire/EMS, where she was pronounced dead at 3:25 p.m. See story, Page 5A.

FIRE SCARE



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Students at Big Spring Junior High got an unexpected break from their studies Tuesday morning when a smoke alarm forced school officials to evacuate the building. After several hours of searching for the source, school officials found a blower motor on the building's roof that had seized up, producing the smoke.

Scouts hoping to bring more boys into program; recruiting drive is Friday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

What do scouting and a porous yellow sea-dweller have in common? For one night in Big Spring, it's the Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America and local children wanting to know more about the organization.

The local Boy Scouts organization will be holding a recruiting drive Thursday at 6:30 p.m. that includes a chance for youngsters in the first grade and older to see the new Sponge Bob Squarepants Movie, and according to David O'Neill, district executive for the Buffalo Trail Council, it has a new, personalized twist.

"In September we invit-

What: Boy Scouts recruiting drive.

Where: Movie Theater in the Big Spring Mall.

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday.

ed the public to come out and check out scouting, and that's something we're also doing with this event," said O'Neill. "Now, however, we're enlisting the kids that are already in the program to invite a friend. The program's called 'My Best Friend is a Cub Scout,' and they are all going to get invitations in the mail that they can give to two friends or relatives to come and look at scouting.

See SCOUTS, Page 5A

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Obituaries

Rosebell Craven Meek

Rosebell Craven Meek, 86, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004, at her residence. Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. James Liggett officiating. She was born June 14, 1918, at Kennedy. She married Gorman Craven July 21, 1935. She later married Glenn W. Meek, U.S.N., retired, in 1990. He also preceded her in death in 1991. She came to Big Spring in 1990. She worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as an operator and later as No.5 crossbar switchman in Beaumont.

She is survived by two daughters, Susan King and her husband, David of Big Spring and Dr. Gail Fail and her husband, LeRoy of California; two sons, Carl Craven and his wife, Pat of Arizona, and Dr. Jerry Craven and his wife, Sherry of Canyon; dear friend that she called her adopted daughter, Esterlin Graham and her husband, Keith of Beaumont; eight grandchildren, Elizabeth Treece and her husband, William and Bill King and his wife, Wanda, all of Big Spring, Tim Craven and his wife, Sherry of Arizona, Jerry Fail of California, David Craven of Canyon, Laurie Watanabe and her husband, Samio of Kobe, Japan, Virginia Ortega and her husband, Paul and Tom Walters and his wife, Katherine, all of Arizona; and 13 great grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the David and Susan King Endowment Fund at Howard College, in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720, or other favorite charity, especially any library. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Ellie Howell



Ellie Howell, 63, of Big Spring died Monday evening, Dec. 6, 2004, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Joe Torres, Home Hospice chaplain, officiating.

She was born Feb. 13, 1941, in Menard to Walter and Paula Estep. She lived most of her life in Howard and Martin counties and farmed at Lenorah for more than 40 years. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by her husband, Carl Howell of Lenorah; one son, Troy Whetsel of Belt Buckle, Tenn.; two brothers, Walter Estep of Lake Tawokani and Jimmie Estep of Big Spring; three sisters, Laura Dye and Paula Hass, both of Dallas and Gidget Lane of Denton; one grandchild; and one great grandchild. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Elva Westerman Murphy

Elva Westerman Murphy, 94, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004, in a local nursing home. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Gaylon Lamb, minister of the Ackerly Church of Christ and Billy Reed, minister of the Anderson Street Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born June 21, 1910, in Knox County and married Lloyd B. Murphy Nov. 18, 1927, in Lubbock. He preceded her in death March 3, 1990. She was a member of Anderson St. Church of Christ and she volunteered and served as a Pink Lady at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Survivors include her son, Pat Wayne Murphy of Big Spring; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Lee and Martha Westerman, two brothers and three sisters.

The family suggests memorials to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 15186, Austin 78761.

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

John Ortega

John Ortega, 50, of Avondale, Ariz., died Dec. 6, 2004, in his home. Memorial services are 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004, at Advantage Maryvale Chapel, 6901 W. Indian School Road, Phoenix, Ariz.

He was born Sept. 27, 1954, in Big Spring and moved to Arizona 15 years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Frances, children, brothers and sisters.

Susan Crawford

Susan Crawford, 41, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004, in an automobile accident south of Big Spring. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jessie Woodruff Sr.

Jessie Woodruff Sr., 41, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004, in a house fire. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

Nollie K. Teague

Nollie K. Teague, 80, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- DAVID RIVERA JR., 19, of 605 E. 12th Street, was arrested Tuesday on local warrants.
- JASON PAUL BOLT, 19, of 1902 Settles, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- PAULA SUE BAKER, 45, of 109 E. 16th Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID LYNN DOW, 21, of 1000 Runnels, was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- BRANDI RENEE NEUSER, 29, of 801 E. 14th Street, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- STEVE ALAN HANNABASS, 46, of 309 W. Fifth Street, was arrested Monday on two local warrants, a Howard County warrant and three Martin County warrants.
- TONY RANDALL PARTEE, 45, of 1425 E. Sixth Street Apt. 4, was arrested Monday on four Galveston County warrants and a charge of driving while license suspended.

Note: Police activity logs for Tuesday, Dec. 7, and today were not available at press time.

Sheriff's report

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

- ERNEST HUTTON KERR, 40, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault/family violence.
- JOSE MANUEL JIMENEZ JR., 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- TERESA ANN SIMS, 45, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- LEVI PATRICK CARTER, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- EARL PERRY HANKE, 46, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of theft by check, driving while license suspended/invalid and motions to revoke probation for theft by check and driving while license suspended/invalid.
- DAVID EYNN DOW, 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation/shelter center.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported on S. Highway 87.
- DOWN POWER LINES was reported at the intersection of Midway Road and Cameron Road.
- ASSAULT/HARASSMENT was reported in the 900 block of S. First Street.

Take note

□ BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONCERT set for 7 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. Everyone is asked to bring two cans of food for the Salvation Army canned food drive. The Goliad Intermediate School beginner band is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday.

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

□ A BENEFIT FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Jeremiah Best, to help with the cost of his cancer treatment. Contributions and prayers are appreciated.

□ THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF HOWARD COLLEGE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE is set for Dec. 1-15. Bring toys to the Howard College library, which is open from 7:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Toys may also be taken to the administration building, the STEPS lab, the student services office or the registrar's office. Gifts for children of any age are appreciated, especially for children 13-15.

Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
 - Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
 - Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
 - American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
 - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
 - Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.
 - Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main St.
 - Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Drive-Thru Nativity presented by Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

- SATURDAY**
- Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 21st and Lancaster streets. Breakfast is served.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-12-26-28-31. Number matching five of five: 0. Matching four of five: 95. Prize: \$576. Matching three of five: 3,543. Prize: \$11. Matching two of five: 36,698. Prize: \$2. Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-4-5

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. West winds near 10 mph.
Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs near 70. West winds 10 to 20 mph.
Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds near 10 mph.
Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Northwest winds near 10 mph.
Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.
Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.
Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows near 40.
Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs near 50.
Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows near 30.
Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs near 50.

Children's Christmas Fun Festival
East Side Baptist Church
1108 E. 6TH & SETTLES ST.
Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Telling The Christmas Story
With Actors, Puppets And Crafts
Space is limited - Reservations are required
Call 267-1915 or 267-1845
Lunch Is Provided
Parents Are Welcome To Observe
Our Purpose Is To Tell HIS Story

ERNESTO FERNANDEZ, M.D.
is pleased to announce the opening of his new office for the practice of **PSYCHIATRY** at **Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez, Texas State Veterans Home**
1809 N. Hwy. 87 Big Spring, Texas
For appointment please call **432-268-8387 ext. 107**

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Reflecting A Proud Community
432-263-7331 (Main switchboard) **432-263-7335** (Circulation calls only)
(Fax) 432-264-7205
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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.
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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

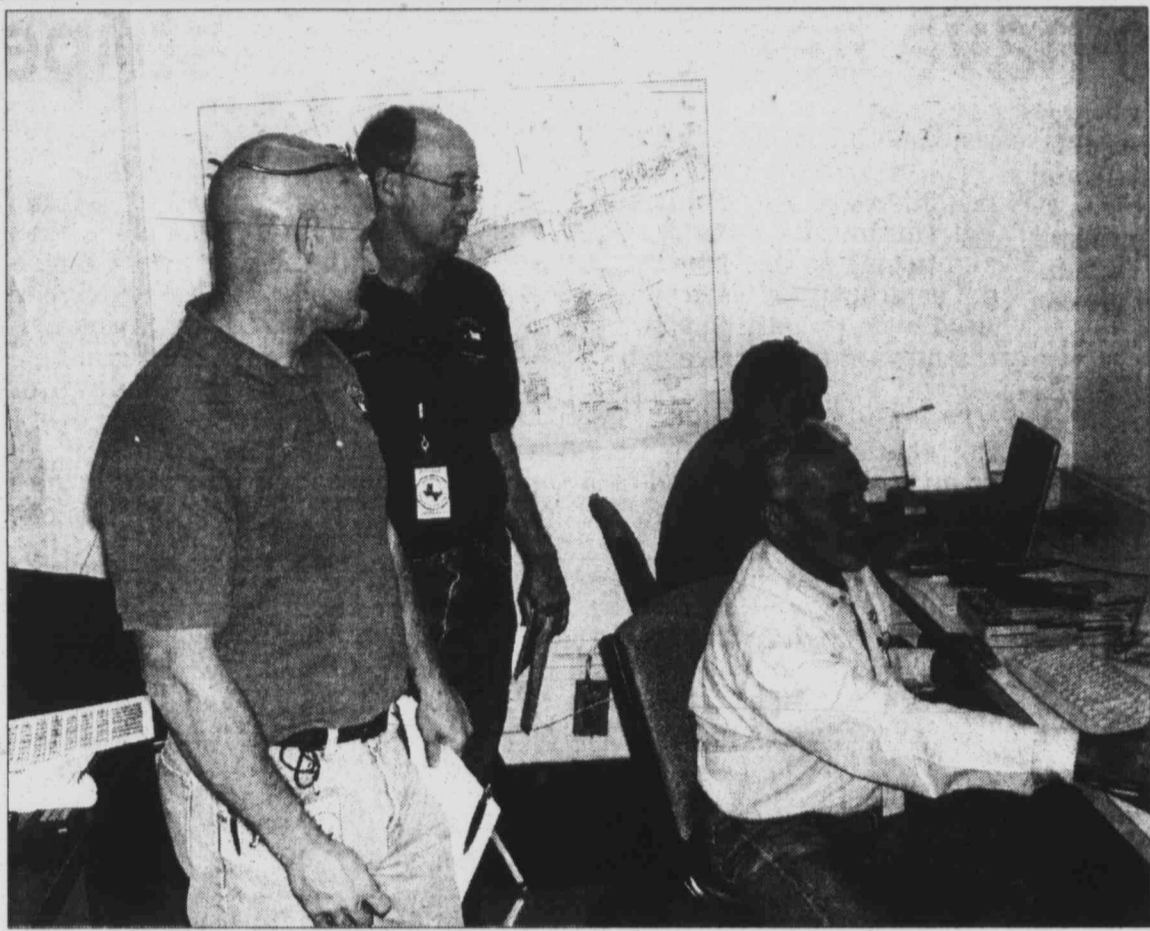


City of Big Spring Management Director operations center Water and Waste Tuesday's emergency

DRILL

Continued from P
people are com with flu-like which could b tude of weapons and v there."
Chamness Tuesday's drill first time the agency operati (EOC) has been "This is the we've actually emergency center," said "The National Response an Training Cente contracted th Texas Extensi and has bee through Gov. and Homelan Director Jack here helping They come int

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
City of Big Spring Building Official Kenny Davis, right, and Big Spring State Hospital Risk Management Director Chris Churchwell work at computer stations at the city's emergency operations center while Tony Modisette, city water treatment superintendent, left, and Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager Kenny Scott relay information to them during Tuesday's emergency drill.

Pecan show winners named

Special to the Herald

Juan Palacios took overall grand champion and two division championships at the Howard County Pecan Show, going on through today at the county courthouse.

Palacios' Desirable took grand champion honors. He also was the Classic and New Division winner with his Stuart entries and Commercial Division winner with his Desirable entries.

Nathan Hughes won first place in the Commercial Division with his Western and Pawnee varieties; Wayne Johnson took first place in Commercial with his Wichita variety; and Geraldine Hughes received first place in Class and New Division with her Mahan variety. The trio, along with

Palacios, will advance to the Regional Pecan Show, set for Dec. 13-14 in Abilene.

Results of the county show are as follows:

- Commercial Division
Western
1. Nathan Hughes*
Desirable
1. Juan Palacios*
Pawnee
1. Nathan Hughes*
Wichita
1. Wayne Johnson*
2. Nathan Hughes
Cheyenne
1. Boyce Hale

- Classic and New Division
Stuart
1. Juan Palacios*
Mahan
1. Geraldine Hughes*
2. Orville Spradling
3. Wayne Johnson
Variety Seedling
1. Jesse Saenz

2. Juan Palacios
Other Varieties
1. Juan Palacios
2. Wanda Johnson
Burkett
1. Nathan Hughes
- Commercial Division
Winner, Juan Palacios
(Desirable)
Classic and New Division
Winner, Juan Palacios
(Stuart)
Overall Grand Champion,
Juan Palacios (Desirable)

The names with astricks beside them will be sent to the Regional Pecan Show.

"We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's pecan show and congratulate all the winners," said Tommy Yeater, Howard County Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture.

DRILL

Continued from Page 1A

people are coming up sick with flu-like symptoms, which could be a multitude of biological weapons and viruses out there."

Chamness said Tuesday's drill was the first time the new emergency operations center (EOC) has been used.

"This is the first time we've actually set up an emergency operations center," said Chamness. "The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, which is contracted through the Texas Extension Center and has been set up through Gov. Rick Perry and Homeland Security Director Jack Colley, is here helping us today. They come into a commu-

nity after we've done pre-planning for several months and have had some schooling and show us how things should be running.

"The city has been gracious enough to give us an emergency operations center, which we can come in now and work from during a disaster of any type, which is very good for us. It's been designated we will work from this center to coordinate all of the efforts within the community."

While the two-day drill, which will end on Thursday with an assessment of its results, doesn't involve first responders actually going to scenario sites, Chamness said there is still a great deal of footwork involved.

"This type of exercise is called a functional scenario," said Chamness. "We actually have to do

things during this drill. We don't send the people out in the field because that would be a full scale drill, but during the functional drill we have several different operations and different groups working to provide the best response for the community."

"You have an incident command system, and every time there is an incident we'll have people there running that incident. What the EOC does is provide resources for each incident and make sure and plan resources for the community. That means making sure if we need more ambulances, fire trucks or police officers, we have them ready for the people in the community and the first responders."

While the majority of the people bustling in and out of the EOC Tuesday

were city employees, there were plenty of representatives from local entities involved — an asset Chamness said emergency responders couldn't do without.

"The EOC isn't set up just for first responders, such as police and firefighters," said Chamness. "The EOC is set up for planning within the community. When you have any type of disaster, whether it's manmade or natural, your hospital is certainly going to be involved, and they have someone here right now."

"There are people here from the Big Spring State Hospital and VA Medical Center as well. They all have attributes that they bring to the table to help the community in emergency situations. We also have the health department, utility representatives and people from the

school districts here. We even have the Salvation Army and American Red Cross involved in the drill."

While the drill isn't a pass or fail situation for emergency responders, Chamness said they are already finding issues that need to be dealt with, making it a learning experience for everyone involved.

"You learn what you're good at and what you have in place — what's working for you — and some of the things that aren't working for you," said Chamness. "Things you need to shore up here and there. One of the problems that we're having right now, and it's the same problem all of the cities have had in doing these drills, is communications. Not only the ability to communicate among ourselves in the

city, but also with the state and county."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Rosebell Craven Meek, 86, died Saturday. Memorial Services will be at 10:30 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Molly Patton, 89, died Sunday. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ellie Howell, 63, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 10:30 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Jessie Woodruff Sr., 41, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Susan Crawford, 41, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Baby's Name
Born: Date

Merry Christmas
Joey!!

Your being here
makes it even
merrier for us.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Susie

You always make
our Christmas
special

We Love You,
Grandma And
Grandpa Jones

Make their holiday even more special with a photo greeting!

**Publishes December 24, 2004
FOR ONLY \$20⁰⁰**

Just complete the form below then bring the form and photo to the Herald no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 17th.

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY & STATE: _____

PHONE: _____

MESSAGE: _____

THE BIG SPRING HERALD
710 SCURRY • 432-263-7331

Scott Lovett
Director of
Institutional Development
Western National Bank

Greg Ochs
Chief Executive Officer

STRENGTH

The Real Measure of Our Bank.

Greg Ochs and Scott Lovett bring strength to Western National Bank.

That's why Chairman of the Board, Clay Wood, has announced their recent election to the Board of Directors.

Greg was recently named as the new Chief Executive Officer of WNB with responsibility for implementing the bank's strategic objectives on a day-to-day basis. At the same time, Scott was promoted to Director of Institutional Development to oversee business development and market expansion.

Greg and Scott are respected for their professionalism and dedication to customer's needs.

Strength.
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WNB
Western National Bank

Member FDIC

www.wnbonline.com 432.570.4181

Midland 508 W. Wall 4101 N. Midland Drive
Odessa 2700 W. County Road 801 N. Texas 2710 N. Grandview
Big Spring 607 S. Scurry

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Our leaders must continue to push in battling AIDS

More people than ever — approximately 40 million worldwide — now live with the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS.

The world is paying a price for its persistent failure to aggressively attack AIDS with well-funded education, prevention and treatment programs. And as World AIDS Day was observed a little more than a week ago, more women and young people are paying the price for the human devastation wrought by the disease.

"Today the face of AIDS is increasingly young and female," according to Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS.

The topic for this year's World Aids Day is — Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS."

About 3 million people die annually from AIDS. An estimated 5 million contracted HIV in 2003, the largest number ever reported in a single year.

More than 20 million people worldwide, including more than 500,000 Americans, have died from AIDS since the first cases were reported in 1981. Millions of children have been orphaned.

Women now make up nearly half of the adults infected with HIV and approximately 57 percent of those infected in sub-Saharan Africa, where seven out of 10 people with HIV live.

An estimated 10.3 million people ages 15-24 are living with HIV/AIDS, and half of all new HIV infections occur among young people, according to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS is greatly increased by oppressively male-dominated societies, poverty, lack of access to family planning services and health care, illiteracy and limited legal rights.

As UNAIDS said in a report, "In many parts of the world, marriage and long-term monogamous relationships do not protect women from HIV."

"In a study in Zambia, for example, only 11 percent of women believed that they had the right to ask their husbands to use a condom — even if he had proven himself to be unfaithful and was HIV-positive."

UNAIDS said that "strategies such as reducing violence against women, protecting property rights, ensuring access to reproductive health care, investing in female-controlled prevention methods such as microbicides and female condoms, keeping girls in school longer and supporting community-based care for people living with HIV, must become part of our HIV prevention effort."

Generally, global funding to fight AIDS has increased, but it is still not enough. In 2003, President Bush commendably called for the United States to commit \$15 billion over five years to fight AIDS and other diseases, but the bulk of that money hasn't yet been appropriated.

In America, annual deaths from AIDS — which totaled 16,371 in 2002 — have dropped as a result of greatly improved drug therapies. But in poor countries, these drugs are much less affordable, and there are far fewer medical facilities and health care professionals to provide treatment.

In many cases, lives of HIV patients could be considerably prolonged at modest cost. For example, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria notes that effective prevention and treatment of tuberculosis would have strongly beneficial results because "TB is a leading killer of people with HIV/AIDS."

Bush and other world leaders must continue to push for greater funding and more effective strategies to combat HIV/AIDS.

It's the humane thing to do. And because of the economic disaster that AIDS wreaks on society, it's the fiscally prudent thing to do. It makes sense all the way around.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM
FORT WORTH

Mine eyes have seen the center stripe

A few weeks ago I was driving on the interstate and thought a slow car was ahead of me, so I pulled over into the passing lane. When I got up to where I thought the car should be, it turned out to be a dark repair patch on the highway. Right then I decided it's time to look into getting some eyeglasses.

I've never worn glasses except to read. Once, I went to an optometrist who prescribed some for me, but I never wore them, thinking my eyes were plenty good without them. This time, though, I realized I needed them.

I went to see my friendly optometrist and he sat me down in the examining chair. He handed me something that resembled a big plastic spoon. "Cover your left eye, Tumbleweed," he said, "and

read me the letters you see."

The entire chart was fuzzy. I couldn't even see the big E at the top. He shut down the projector and turned on the light. "You've got cataracts," he said. "And you need to do something about them if you want to improve your vision."

I certainly did. Not even knowing what cataracts were, I contacted an ophthalmologist and made an appointment. Before I saw the doctor, some aides came by, put drops in my eyes and took a pressure reading.

The doctor shined a very bright light into my eyes and told me I had cataracts in both eyes. They were more prevalent in my right eye, but I also had some in my left eye.

He asked me when could I come in for surgery. I told him the following Tuesday would be fine.

At the surgery center, I took off my shoes and shirt, put on one of those nifty hospital smocks open in back, covered my head with something that looks like a painter's beret and put some paper

shoes over my feet.

I was awake the whole time. The operation took about 15 minutes. The surgery took place about 9 o'clock in the morning. I was out by 10 and was able to drive to a noon meeting. I went back to see him a few days later and he said I was doing fine, that eventually we should do the other eye. I said how about next week.

It is now a few hours after the second surgery. This one was not as easy as the first. It was a little painful and the doctor kept telling me I was not looking in the right direction, that my eyeball was bobbing up and down like a cork and my head was moving around like a balloon. I had some juice and coffee and began to feel better. Right now my left eye is closed with a patch over it. I'll take it off tomorrow.

I am expecting the result in the left eye to be the same as it was for the right one. With it, I can read the eye chart well (at least half a dozen lines down) and I am quite able to distinguish between highway pavement and a vehicle.

TUMBLEWEED
SMITH

There but for the grace of God...

Two extraordinary books make brilliant companion pieces about one of the most disturbing and politically and morally troubling crises in our country. Inner-city poverty is one of those subjects about which too many of us think we already know as much as we need to know.

Minds made up, smug assumptions intact, pat solutions and platitudes — "bootstraps," "enterprise zones," "responsibility," "teen pregnancy," "school vouchers" — endless bromides. "Rosa Lee: A Mother and Her Family in Urban America" by Leon Dash, who won the Pulitzer Prize for the series on which the book is based, and "When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor" by the distinguished sociologist William Julius Wilson take completely different approaches to the same story.

It is hard to think of more radically different perspectives: Dash's book is, as they say, up close and personal, the in-your-face story of one three-generation welfare family. Wilson's book provides the consoling perspective of social science; and yet, with its relentless accumulation of fact, it is in its way the more horrifying of the two books. But because Dash's book is essentially reportage on a hideous situation, in the end, Wilson's book — with its careful, nuanced, scholarly arguments — is the more hopeful of the two.

He sees solutions that are critical for all of us, not just for poor blacks in inner cities. "The problems of joblessness and social dislocation in the inner city are, in part, related to the processes in the global economy that have con-

tributed to greater inequality and insecurity among American workers in general and to the failure of U.S. social policies to adjust to these processes. It is therefore myopic to view the problems of jobless ghettos as if they were separate from those that plague the larger society."

Wilson — like Mickey Kaus and others who study the inner city — believes that JOBS are the single most important answer to the sociopathologies of the ghetto. The ludicrous insanity of telling people on welfare to go out and get a job when they live in areas where every entry-level job has applicants stacked up 10 and 15 deep is something that only Newt Gingrich's Congress could have come up with. In this arid campaign year, devoted to the problems of "soccer moms," Wilson's deep analysis of the problems that paralyze the ghetto — and increasingly the rest of America as well — is as welcome as a slow, soakin' 3-inch rain on a parched prairie.

The story of Rosa Lee Cunningham, her eight children and numerous grandchildren, is a tour de force of a different kind. You want to shake her, you want to scream at her, but most of all, you care about her. Not to coin a phrase, but I couldn't put the book down.

No noble, downtrodden victims in this book — hard-core hell-raisers, people ripping off the system (not to mention every department store in downtown D.C.), crime, drugs, prostitution, AIDS — what a mess. When "Mr. Dash," as Rosa Lee always called him, first ran this story in The Washington Post, a lot of middle-class black folks objected — said it was reinforcing stereotypes, why not write about the success stories, etc. Well, because the success stories aren't the problem. I suppose those who think "values" are the answer to everything could find some reinforcement from this book. But I

think that more perceptive readers will find much more.

Wilson's point about jobs is only indirectly reinforced. The institutional failure that I find most striking in this story is that of the public schools. Not only was Rosa Lee Cunningham illiterate, but so are most of her children. Her whole life centered on her children (and later heroin), so Rosa Lee's slow, hurting realization of how badly she had neglected their education is one of the most painful parts of the book.

"Mr. Dash" also focuses on the two of Rosa Lee's eight children who made it out of the ghetto — both sons. And here all the sociological studies fall away and the mysteries of human development and luck come into play. In both cases, the answer was simple: Somebody helped. A wonderful teacher, a persistent social worker — somebody was there for those two kids at a time when it made a big difference, in early adolescence. The most surprising part of Rosa Lee's story to me was how she herself was shaped: her family's caste and class in rural North Carolina, the source of her own mother's rigid, angry tungsten-toughness — all that might have been in her life.

It has been said that the trouble with liberals is that we are hopelessly nonjudgmental, unable to say, "You are bad." But I do not see how it helps to demonize or dehumanize Rosa Lee Cunningham. It seems to me that we lose something of our own humanity if we do not look at Rosa Lee and think, "There but for the grace of God ..."

To find out more about Molly Ivins 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 Sp
from i

By THOMAS J.

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was killed in a pile-roller accident on U.S. 87 south of Tuesday morning. Susan K. Crawford, 40, of Mountain View, Texas, was killed Tuesday, according to Department of Safety-Corpus Christi Technician Paul Holt said. The accident occurred on Crawford's road, Mercury, west of the roadway. "The car,

SCOUTS

Continued from

"While they are out scouting, a little activity is going on. We're doing a night, so they and their friends are more about social after they scout. Boys will get a movie and have corn and a soda. Cub Scout leaders and their friends earn their fire

TREE

Continued from

ents provide these children arrive at a time with little what they are the time.

"The tree was knocked down Friday, and until Dec. 10 these trees removed, but here sooner than think."

Community



Big Spring woman dies from injuries in rollover

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman was killed in a one-vehicle rollover that happened on U.S. Highway 87 south of Big Spring Tuesday morning.

Susan Kaye Tubbs-Crawford, 41, was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center at 3:25 p.m. Tuesday, according to Department of Public Safety Communications Technician Pat Holt.

Holt said the accident occurred when Crawford's car, a 1994 Mercury, went off the roadway.

"The car, which was

traveling southbound on U.S. Highway 87, went off of the road and into the bar ditch," said Holt. "At that time the car went into a roll. The driver was ejected from the vehicle during the roll. She was not wearing a safety belt at the time of the accident."

Holt said Crawford's failure to wear a safety belt may have contributed to her death.

Funeral services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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

Doctors say breast cancer drug should be first-choice treatment

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**

AP Medical Writer

SAN ANTONIO — A newer drug clearly outperforms tamoxifen at preventing breast cancer from returning and should become the first-choice treatment for most women who have had the disease, doctors are reporting.

The drug, Arimidex, might be able to prevent 70 to 80 percent of the most common type of tumors that occur in women after menopause, compared to the 50 percent that tamoxifen is credited with warding off, their research suggests.

Women who took Arimidex for five years after they were treated for early-stage breast cancer were less likely to have cancer recur, develop in the other breast or spread throughout their bodies than women who took tamoxifen.

"Arimidex is a more effective treatment. This is a better drug,"

said Dr. Aman Buzdar, a specialist at the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He headed the U.S. portion of the study, which involved nearly 2,000 American women and an additional 7,300 from 20 other countries.

It was funded by Arimidex's maker, AstraZeneca PLC. Results were reported Wednesday at a meeting in Texas of breast cancer experts and were published online by the British medical journal The Lancet.

Tamoxifen revolutionized breast cancer treatment when it came into use some three decades ago. It blunts the effects of estrogen, a hormone that promotes the growth of about three-fourths of the tumors that occur in postmenopausal women.

Arimidex, known generically as anastrozole, is one of three newer drugs called aromatase inhibitors, which prevent estrogen from being

made in the first place instead of just keeping it from entering cells. Excitement for Arimidex grew three years ago, when early results from this same large international study suggested it was better at preventing recurrence.

But many doctors were reluctant to recommend it instead of tried-and-true tamoxifen, which has long been available in cheap, generic form, on early results alone. Just last month, the world's largest group of cancer specialists, the American Society for Clinical Oncology, published new guidelines saying aromatase inhibitors were promising drugs that at some point should be part of most breast cancer patients' treatment, but not spelling out which drugs should be used for which women and when.

The new five-year results on Arimidex are the most definitive, finding that the drug improved disease-free survival by 26 percent over tamoxifen.

SCOUTS

Continued from Page 1A

"While they're checking out scouting, we have a little activity set as well. We're doing a movie night, so they can bring their friends and find out more about scouting. And after they sign up, the boys will get to watch a movie and have some popcorn and a soda. Also, the Cub Scout that brings their friend is going to earn their first recruiter

badge."

O'Neill said he believes if the parents and children see what scouting is all about, they will understand its value now and in the future.

"We've done a lot of different studies on the impact of scouting, and having friends involved makes a really big impact on how much the boys enjoy the program," said O'Neill. "Having their best buds along with them and enjoying the outdoors and the activities that

they're involved in is just better for everyone."

O'Neill said the movie night is an effort to change the way the Boy Scouts recruit in Big Spring since the organization is no longer allowed to recruit at Big Spring Independent School District campuses, thanks to a policy change recently passed by the district.

"We've had a steady growth in enrollment over the last five years up until this fall," said O'Neill. "This is the first

time in years we've experienced a drop in membership, and we believe its largely related to the policies that are keeping us out of the schools in Big Spring. That policy change had a huge impact on scouting in Big Spring.

"Every other community I've recruited in this fall had a growth except Big Spring, so the economic times haven't hurt us as much as the new rules that change the way we do recruiting. That's what we're trying to

now — change the way we reach out to the kids and get the word out about scouting."

The event is expected to get underway at 6:30 p.m. at the movie theater located in the Big Spring Mall. Children who join will receive a free movie ticket for the Sponge Bob Squarepants, along with popcorn and a soda. Scouts who bring friends that join will receive a recruiter badge.

"This is a different way to get everyone together in a fun atmosphere," said O'Neill. "It's an opportunity to come watch a movie and find out more about scouting."

For more information, call 263-3407

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

TREE

Continued from Page 1A

ents provide gifts for these children, who often arrive at a foster home with little more than what they are wearing at the time.

"The tree is so full," Knocke said. "We just got it Friday, and we have until Dec. 16 to get all these ornaments removed, but that will be here sooner than you think."

Community members

who want to help can take an ornament from the tree and buy something for the child named. While each child's clothing sizes are listed on the ornament along with gift preferences, it is not necessary to buy exactly what is requested.

"It's not important what is bought or how much," Knocke said. "That should not stop anyone from helping."

Participants should bring the gift items back to the bank, unwrapped, with the ornament

attached. The tree is available in the bank lobby at 400 Main Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

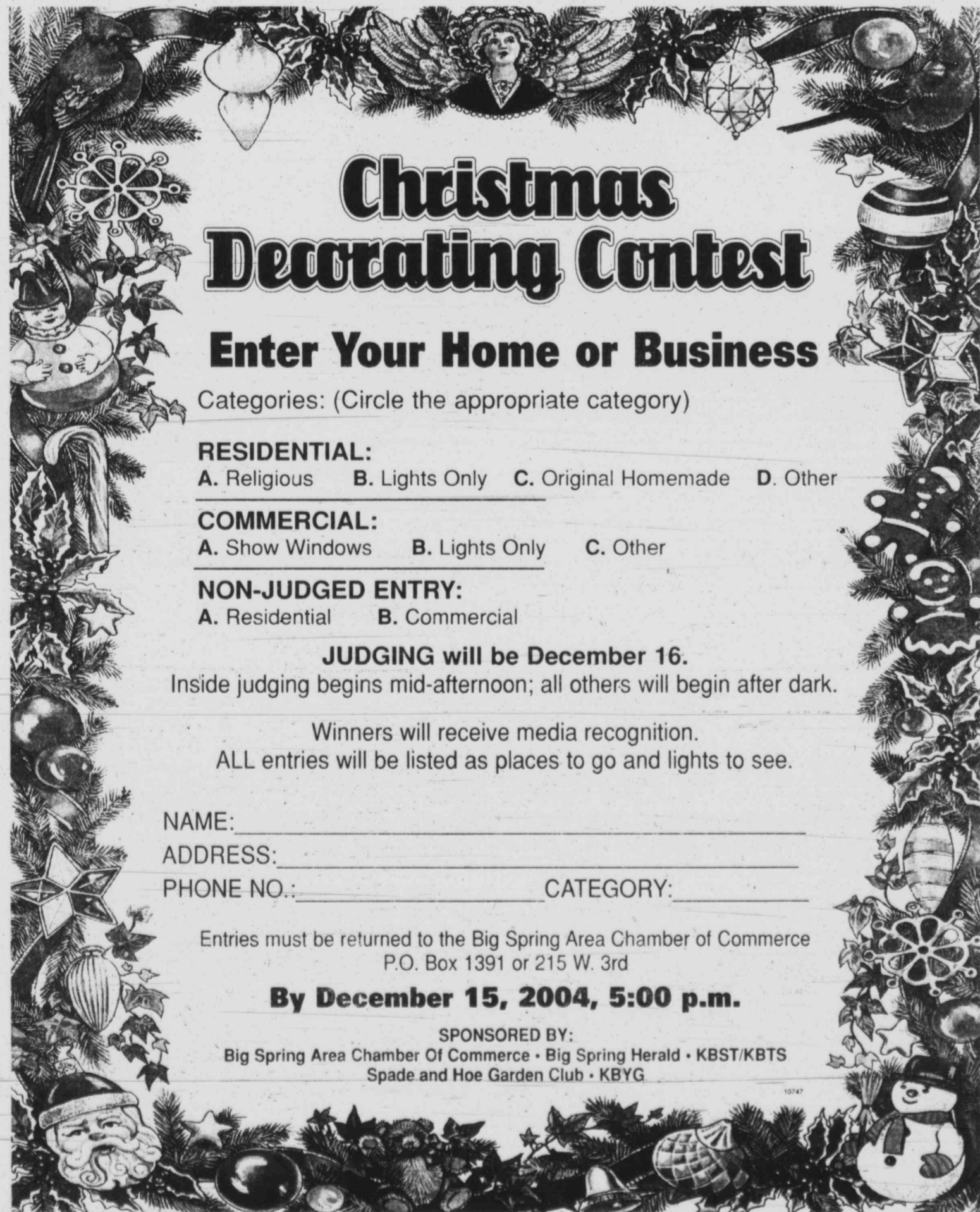
"I have had people ask me whether foster families get paid for taking care of these children, and they do," Knocke said. "But what they receive is to pay for the child's basic needs. Extra things like Christmas presents get left behind when the child has so many other needs."

Participants who take an ornament receive a

flyer explaining the program, along with a coupon donated by a restaurant as a gift to givers.

Knocke said the bank has been pleased to host the tree in its lobby for at least the last five or six years.

"We've always had a good response," she said. "Last year we got down to two ornaments and one man came in and took those. One year a family took the last 6 or 7 that were left. People always come through."



Christmas Decorating Contest

Enter Your Home or Business

Categories: (Circle the appropriate category)

RESIDENTIAL:
A. Religious B. Lights Only C. Original Homemade D. Other

COMMERCIAL:
A. Show Windows B. Lights Only C. Other

NON-JUDGED ENTRY:
A. Residential B. Commercial

JUDGING will be December 16.
Inside judging begins mid-afternoon; all others will begin after dark.

Winners will receive media recognition.
ALL entries will be listed as places to go and lights to see.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NO.: _____ CATEGORY: _____

Entries must be returned to the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1391 or 215 W. 3rd

By December 15, 2004, 5:00 p.m.

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BREAST - BONE IN

49¢ LB.

CREST TOOTHPASTE 8.2-OZ. TUBE	\$1 ²⁹
GIFT WRAP 125-SQ. FT. ROLL	99¢
E-Z FOIL PANS W/COVER ALL SIZES - (WHY PAY \$2.17)	89¢
GUERRO TOSTADAS 32-CT.	2/89¢

GRADE AA
SMALL EGGS

3/\$1⁰⁹ DOZEN

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Library News

The library close will at 1 p.m. Dec. 23 for the Christmas holidays and will reopen at 9 a.m. Dec. 27. We will be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Year. The library will reopen Jan. 3, 2005.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

All of the books reviewed in this column can be found on the New Book Shelf in the McNaughton area.

Tim LaHaye and Greg Dinallo have started a new series that I don't think I have written about before. It is called "Babylon Rising" (also the title of the first book in the series) and can be found on the New Book Shelf.

It is a McNaughton book, with a green strip on the back binding. In "Babylon Rising," LaHaye introduces a terrific new hero for our time. Michael Murphy is a scholar of Biblical prophecy, but not the sedate and tweedy kind.

Murphy is a field archaeologist who defies danger to fearlessly hunt down and authenticate ancient artifacts from Biblical times.

His latest discovery is his most amazing, but it will send him hurdling from a life of excavation and revelations to a confrontation with the forces of the greatest evil. This latest secret uncovered by Michael Murphy accelerates the countdown to the time of the end for all mankind.

In the second book "The Secret on Ararat," he has attracted the attention of a dark, secret organization that wants some of the bibli-

cal artifacts he's been able to discover. In this episode, he's putting together an expedition to find Noah's ark.

He's also trying to figure out who is against him. Once the ark is discovered, people dropping dead all around him. Once the ark is found, it's then a matter of trying to stay alive to get word back out to the world that it's real.

Now, for the first time ever, the Estate of Robert Ludlum has acceded to the demands of readers around the world, turning to bestselling author Eric Van Lustbader to bring Jason Bourne back to life in a thrilling new novel, "The Bourne Legacy."

Jason Bourne is known and feared in the deadly world of covert-ops as one of the most highly skilled assassins for hire. Bourne, however, was merely an identity assumed by CIA agent David Webb.

Years after the events of "The Bourne Identity," Webb is no longer an active CIA agent and is now a professor of eastern studies at Georgetown University, living a quiet life, far from the dangers of his previous life.

Until one day he finds himself the target of an assassin nearly as skilled as himself and is framed for the brutal murder of his best friend and associates and friends.

Fighting for his life against unseen assailants, as well as the full resources of the CIA

that believe he has gone dangerously rogue, the Bourne identity asserts itself, leaving Jason Bourne in control.

Needless to say, this is a fast-paced thriller that will leave you breathless. In Nancy Taylor Rosenberg's new series "Sullivan's Law," parole officer Carolyn Sullivan is struggling with an overwhelming workload, single motherhood and law school.

It only gets worse when she lands two overlapping, high profile cases. The first case is when one of her parole cases rapes and almost murders a young girl.

The second case is a 20-plus year-old murder case, and Carolyn's involvement begins when she starts to think that the parolee might not ever have been guilty after all.

Carolyn feels guilty that because of her heavy caseload, she had not seen the accused rapist for the past year. The case of her newest parolee, a mathematical genius convicted of murdering the son of a local police chief, immerses her in police corruption and cover-ups.

The background of Carolyn's working life are the challenges of single motherhood, a difficult law school curriculum, a past romance with her boss, the career of her artist brother and a new romance with a neighbor. An excellent series.

Here are a couple of audio books that some

may find interesting. Lillian Jackson Braun's Cat series is always fun to read and listen to. In "The Cat Who Went Underground," Quill's plan to spend a quiet summer at his lake cabin goes haywire.

When carpenters begin dying, KoKo's tale goes into high gear. Listen and see who and why the carpenters of Mooseville are murdered.

Barbara Taylor Bradford is a storyteller and it is fitting that her books can also be found as an audio book. In "Three Weeks in Paris," four young women begin as friends, yet end as enemies. In a reunion, again in Paris, wounds are healed, friendships renewed and good times are rediscovered. Narrated by Barbara Rosenblatt.

The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier than the library and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. The library is located at 500 S. Main St.; the phone number is 264-2260; the Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the online catalog should be working; the e-mail address is howard-countylibrary@hotmail.com.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.



Logan and his mom, Jenny Hendrickson, above, and Darby DePauw, below decorate gingerbread houses Sunday at the annual event sponsored by Gale's Sweet Shoppe.



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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

Sounds of the season

Who is the best-selling Christmas recording artist of all time? No, it's not Bing Crosby or Burl Ives. It's Chip Davis, founder of the New Age group Mannheim Steamroller and resident of Omaha, Nebraska. Plus, gifts from the kitchen, Maxie's cookies, and Our Picks.

American Profile
Celebrating Hometown Life

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www.bigspringsymphony.com
bssa@bigspringsymphony.com

Make A Wish request

Craig, a 7-year-old boy, has been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor.

He has contacted the Make A Wish Foundation expressing his desire to be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for collecting the most business cards.

Time is of the essence. Please send your business cards to Craig Sheppard, in care of the Make A Wish Foundation, 300 E. Perimeter Center, Atlanta, Ga., 30346.

Tax preparers needed

Volunteers are needed to help people file tax returns. The Association of Retired Persons tax-aide service provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, disabled and people with low to moderate incomes as well as non-English-speaking persons.

To volunteer, call Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

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CHARGING SYSTEM CHECK \$35.00 WITH COUPON TEST BATTERY & ALTERNATOR INSPECT CABLES & CLEAN INSPECT BELT Not valid with any other offer. See dealer for details. Offer expires 12-30-04.	2005 FARMERS ALMANAC FREE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST PROVIDED BY POLLARD CHEVROLET Not valid with any other offer. See dealer for details. Offer expires 12-30-04.

Goodwrench

S

IN B

Basketball needed for

The Cross is looking for ball officials for upcoming season. For more information, contact Rodriguez or 517-0300.

The game played in such as B Forsan and will be junior high school level.

B.S. football set for next

The Big Spring ball banquet set for Monday p.m. in the Junior Cafeteria. The meal \$10. For more information, call Training Center 3662.

Booster more Lady

The La Booster Club received a grant of \$1,000 for new gear.

The Boosters jacked shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, visors, toe warmers, and T-shirts.

They are offering sizes. For more information, call at 264-0023 or Kerry I 263-6100.

Yao leads win over M

HOUSTON Yao Ming points and rebounds, point guard Barrett scored 14 points in quarter as defeated Tuesday.

Tracy M his second poor shooting including point range with 18 points just 7-of-14 against the scored to play.

The happy with only this season's first quarter were a sea of Rockets of their 30 first tied an opponent low.

Maverick to Minne

MINNEAPOLIS — Dirk scored including one half, Timberwolves game win.

Josh He points and for the Mavericks overcame Nelson bounded 135 to win time in for Kevin G points, 12 five — a Minnesota playing with Latrell Sp Wally S 18 point Wolves, a

IN BRIEF

Basketball referees needed for season

The Crossroads area is looking for basketball officials for the upcoming season. For more information, contact Adam Rodriguez at 263-8731 or 517-0300.

The games will be played in local areas such as Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma and will be for the junior high and high school levels.

B.S. football banquet set for next Monday

The Big Spring football banquet has been set for Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High Cafatorium.

The meal will cost \$10. For more information, call the Athletic Training Center at 264-3662.

Booster Club gets more Lady Steer gear

The Lady Steers Booster Club has just received a new shipment of Lady Steer Gear.

The Booster Club carries jackets, sweat-shirts, long and short sleeve tee's, hats, visors, toboggans and ear warmers.

They are also now offering sweatshirts and T-shirts in youth sizes.

For more information, call Janet Abner at 264-0023 or 466-1711 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-6100.

Yao leads Rockets to win over New Orleans

HOUSTON (AP) — Yao Ming scored 21 points and had nine rebounds, and backup point guard Andre Barrett scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter as the Rockets defeated New Orleans Tuesday.

Tracy McGrady had his second straight poor shooting night, shooting just 7-of-19 — including 1-of-8 from 3-point range — to finish with 18 points. He shot just 7-of-23 Saturday against the 76ers but scored the winning basket with 25 seconds to play.

The hapless Hornets, with only one victory this season, have lost seven straight. Their 16 first-quarter points were a season-low for a Rockets opponent, and their 30 first-half points tied an opponent's season low.

Mavericks put a halt to Minnesota streak

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points, including 23 in the second half, to snap the Timberwolves' five-game winning streak.

Josh Howard had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Mavericks, who overcame the early ejection of coach Don Nelson and outbounded Minnesota 54-35 to win for the third time in four games.

Kevin Garnett had 32 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for Minnesota, which was playing without starter Latrell Sprewell.

Wally Szczerbiak had 18 points for the Wolves, as well.

Steers fall at Greenwood, girls lose at Odessa

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Big Spring girl's basketball team continued to struggle Tuesday as the Lady Steers trailed from the start in a 76-23 loss to Odessa High. The Steers were also in action as they were defeated in Midland by Greenwood, 71-55.

The Lady Steers got behind 23-3 after one quarter and Odessa High never looked back. The Lady Bronchos outscored Big Spring 20-7 in the second quarter and 33-13 in the second half.

"Wow," said Big Spring head coach Tim VanHecke. "Odessa was very good and we weren't. The girls are in a panic mode right now and they played petrified all night."

The Lady Steers were plagued by 27 turnovers and an outstanding disadvantage on the glass.

"I was most disappointed with our rebounding effort," said VanHecke. "Odessa had full court pressure on us the entire game and made a great effort to run up the score. And our girls just ran into its half court trap."

Junior Carmen Lewis led Big Spring (2-7) with five points, six rebounds and three steals, while

junior Raegan Ritchey and Alex Watkins added eight and six points, respectively.

Sophomore Brenna Phermetton scored four points.

The Steers fell behind in their game against Greenwood 25-7 after the

first quarter and couldn't overcome the deficit despite outscoring Greenwood 48-46 in the final three quarters.

"I have to take the majority of the blame for this loss," said Big Spring head coach Jim Kinnear. "With the exception of the first quarter, I thought we outplayed them. I didn't do a very good job of managing this game and didn't provide much guidance, encouragement or leadership when it was needed."

"I was concerned with the few negative aspects and the way the

game was being called, rather than focusing on all the positive things that were taking place, and for that I truly apologize."

Juniors Kalin Whitehead and Kyle Piercefield led the Steers with 14 and 12 points, respectively, while senior Bobby Newton added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Sophomore Ryan Tannehill pulled down nine rebounds and Piercefield grabbed eight.

Addison Stewart led Greenwood with 20 points, while Ryan Beeler added 14.



WHITEHEAD

First quarter deficit too much for 'Kats to handle at home

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — A slow start Tuesday resulted in a tough home loss for Garden City's boy's basketball team as the Bearkats lost to Crane, 42-34.

The Bearkats trailed 12-4 after one quarter as their offense continued to struggle.

Crane pushed its advantage to 11 at halftime and to 12 after three quarters. Garden City outscored the Golden Cranes 18-14 in the final frame, but the early deficit was too much to overcome.

The loss drops the Bearkats' record to 3-4.

Garden City was led in scoring by Chais Goodwin and sophomore Alex Halfmann, who each scored 12 points.

Shane McMeans led Crane with 16 points.

The Bearkats' next game will take place at 3 p.m. Thursday in the O'Donnell Tournament.

The Garden City girl's basketball team (11-1) lost its first game of the season to Crane Tuesday night.

The Lady 'Kats lost, 40-25, and were led in scoring by Megan Niehues and Lauren Plagens, who each scored eight points.

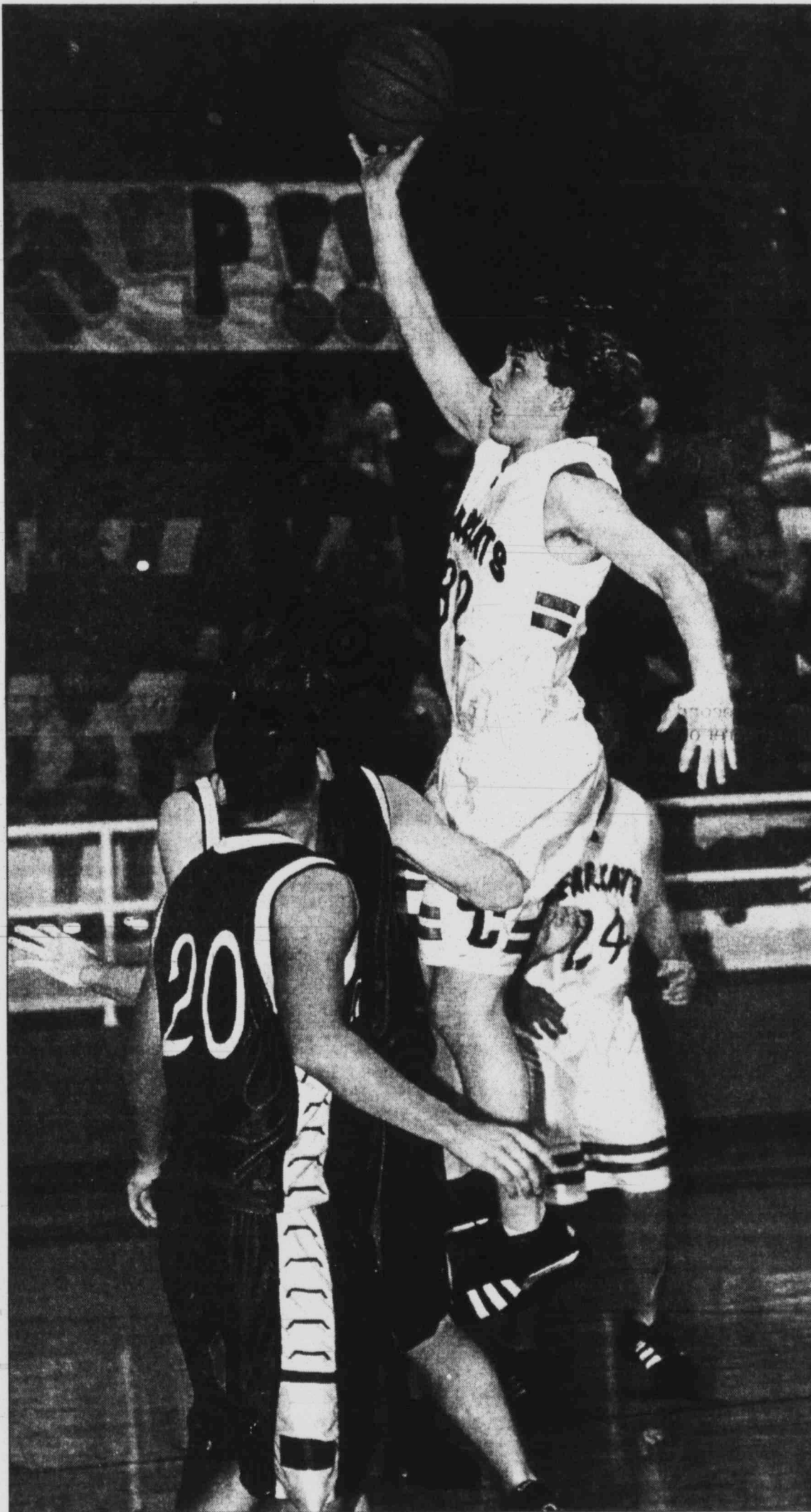
"We just couldn't put the ball in the basket," said Lady 'Kats head coach Brent Kirkland.



HALFMANN



Garden City's Julie Hirt tries to maneuver away from a Crane defender Tuesday during the Lady Kats' battle with the Golden Cranes in Garden City. Crane defeated Garden City, 40-25.



Garden City's Chais Goodwin gets up high for a shot in the lane Tuesday during the Bearkats' home loss to Crane. Goodwin finished with 12 points, but Garden City lost, 42-34.

Big Spring wins three out of four against rival Andrews

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Three out of the four Big Spring girl's junior high teams were victorious Monday against rival Andrews. Both seventh-grade teams and the

eighth-grade 'B' team won, while the eighth-grade 'A' team lost to the Mustangs by nine points.

The eighth-grade 'A' team lost 36-27 as Shelbi Stewart led the team with eight points and six rebounds. Courtney

Strait and Whitney Worthan had seven and six points, respectively.

The eighth-grade 'B' team defeated Andrews 17-14 behind nine points from Mirella Torres. Katie Tompkins added six points, while

Dominique Green scored two points and grabbed five rebounds.

Keonna Ward's 24 points led the seventh-grade 'A' team to a 30-19 win.

Linzee Yarbar scored four points, while Lauren

Porras added two.

The seventh-grade 'B' team defeated Andrews 19-18 and was led by Marina Trevino's 12 points.

Mischa Willard added four points.

Forsan junior high boys teams split against Colorado City

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Forsan junior high boy's team split during action with Colorado City Monday as the eighth-grade boys team won in overtime 40-34 and the seventh-grade boys team lost 31-29.

The eighth-grade team started strong and led 7-6 after the first quarter before going into the locker room at halftime tied 9-9.

The Buffaloes exploded for 20 points in the third period before allowing Colorado City to tie the score at the end of regula-

tion by scoring 16 points. Forsan scored six points in overtime to claim the victory, while holding Colorado City scoreless.

Jeremy Robbins and Jeremy Freitag led the Buffaloes with nine and seven points, respectively. Vince Pinick added five points.

The seventh-grade team's two-point loss came after the Buffaloes were tied with the Wolves at halftime.

Colorado City outscored the Buffaloes 9-5 in the third quarter.

However, Forsan's effort in the fourth quarter brought more points than

Colorado City, but it was not enough to capture the victory.

Evan Burton led Forsan with 14 points, while Jake Moore had seven points. Jarred Smith and Ryan Flores each added four points, as well.

Forsan will play Stanton next Monday in Forsan.

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Dunn sends MCA past Grady

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
MIDLAND — Midland Classical Academy scored 23 points in the third and fourth quarters Tuesday night and blew out the Grady boys basketball team, 71-46 after the Wildcats led by two at halftime.

Grady led 15-13 after one quarter and 27-25 at halftime, but Wally Dunn led MCA back in the second half.

Dunn missed his first eight shots and didn't hit his first basket until late in the second quarter, but connected on 12 of 15 shots in the second half to finish with a game-high 32 points. He also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Freshman Justin Tubbs led Grady (6-3) with 20 points and seven rebounds, but he did not score in the fourth quarter.

Senior Andrew Villa scored eight points, while Clay Mitchell added six (four in final quarter).

Grady was plagued by 29 turnovers.

Chad Madrid also scored 21 points for Midland Classical (7-2), including three 3-pointers.

The Grady girls edged Midland Classical Tuesday, as well.

The Lady Wildcats got off to a 15-8 start and coasted in the final three quarters to win, 37-31. MCA took the lead at halftime, but Grady outscored them 17-9 in the second half.

Kelsey Tubbs and Brittney Rivas led the Lady Cats with 15 points apiece.

Kendal Doan led MCA

with 10 points.

Coahoma boys win at home, girls struggle

COAHOMA — The Bulldogs and Bulldogettes split in action Tuesday against Grape Creek as the boys won and the girls lost.

The Bulldogs trailed by two at halftime, before making adjustments in the second half defensively. Coahoma (4-3) outscored Grape Creek, 22-12, in the second and claimed a 43-35 victory.

Tyler Fowler led the Bulldogs with 14 points, including four 3-pointers, while Isaac Brewer and Adrian Abrego added 12 and seven points, respectively.

The Bulldogettes were outscored 30-17 in the first half Tuesday and lost the game to Grape Creek, 50-33 at home.

Coahoma (2-8) was led by Sterling Gee's 11 points. Lauren Yeater and Mendy Morgan each pulled down nine rebounds, while Sarah Collom added four steals.

Wink comes from behind to beat Stanton

WINK — The Stanton girl's basketball team led by three points after one quarter Tuesday, but couldn't hang on in the end and lost to Wink on the road, 53-47, in overtime.

Wink outscored the

Lady Buffaloes 19-17 in the second quarter and trailed by one at halftime, but then pulled even with Stanton as time expired in regulation. A 6-0 advantage in the overtime period was enough for Wink.

Stormie Duggan led Stanton with 13 points, while Amy Jo Bryand added 11 points. Colby Ringener also added eight points.

Buffaloes, Lady Buffaloes lose at home to Roscoe

FORSAN — Roscoe picked up two wins against the Forsan boy's and girl's basketball team Tuesday.

The Buffaloes lost 47-41 and the Lady Buffaloes were defeated 40-33.

The boys led 14-8 after the first quarter, but Roscoe's 16-12 second quarter advantage cut Forsan's lead to two at the break.

The game was tied after three and Roscoe finished the game with a 16-12 advantage in the fourth.

Tye Baker led Forsan (2-5) with eight points and eight rebounds, while Adam Bailey pulled down a team-high 11 boards. Nine players scored in the game for Forsan, but missed free throws hurt.

The Lady Buffaloes trailed by one at the end of one and by three at halftime. They were outscored by four in the second half.

Casi Graves led Forsan (4-6) with 12 points, while Haylea Belew added eight points.

Coahoma 'A' teams beat Stanton

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The seventh- and eighth-grade Coahoma 'A' teams were both successful against rival Stanton Monday as the seventh-grade team won 24-12 and the eighth-grade team came out on top 43-23.

The seventh-grade team (4-0) got off to a slow start, but picked it up when they had to, according to coach Jennifer Roemisch. "We had a few players

step up and play their best game of the year," she added. "Heather Newton did a good job on the post and K'Leigh Fowler did a good job of handling the ball."

Kylie Gee led the team with seven points, while Newton pitched in with six and Ashley Buske added four.

The eighth-grade team (4-0) found themselves down 10-6 after the first quarter, but held the Lady Buffaloes scoreless in the second period to

take a 14-14 tie into the locker room at halftime.

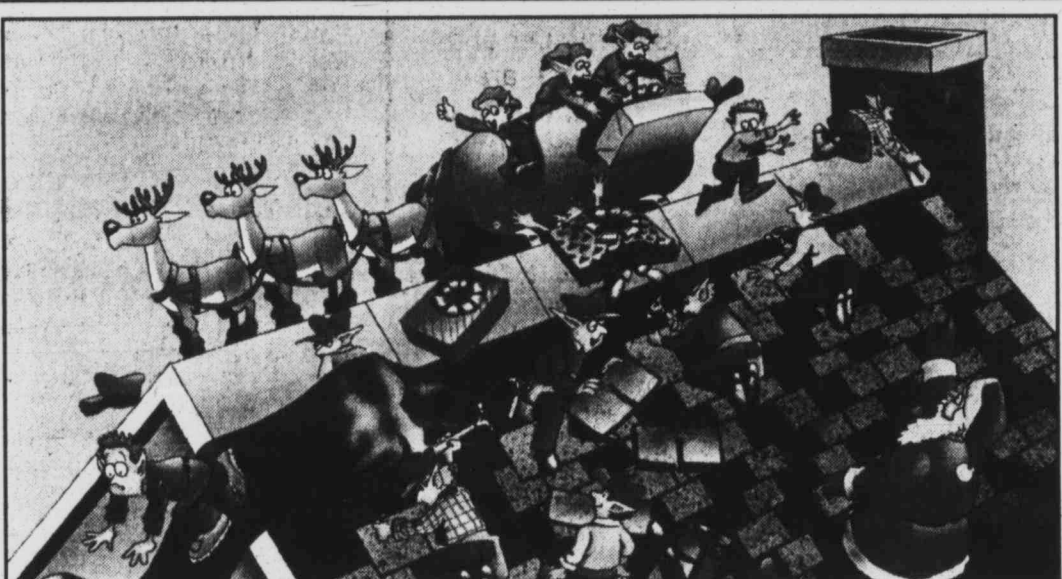
The Bulldogettes took the lead by 10 points after the third quarter and pushed the advantage to 20 at game's end. Laci Sterling led Coahoma with 13 points, while Iden Berkley scored six points.

The seventh-grade 'B' team lost to Stanton, 26-15. The team was led in scoring by Monica Cevallos and Krista Lyons, who each finished with four points.

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FOR SALE by Owner. Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1216 Ridgeroad. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

FOR SALE by Owner. Owner financing provided. Low down payment, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 500 1st St - Coahoma. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

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BY HOLIDAY

The subconscious in its own parallel world. Whether or not we choose to tune in, the characters continue to interact, and the plot continues to weave. But during the Scorpio moon, we're drawn into the can't help real something you was just a h out to be true.

ARIES (Mar 19). A \$1 bill bill are the same pay with the same only difference sage. Make you powerful and the world experience.

TAURUS (A 20). You're no person - not sometimes you only on days

Anr

Dear Annie sister, "Deb confessed to was the one my mother in fraud over 2/ Mom was a served time family was to younger sister sent away to abusive aunt understand w was wrong, si because Dad holic and money from we children thing.

Mom went believing it v er-in-law wh in. I want D what she did family. Alth not help Me wounds, it w rest of us m The worst th later, Dad's committed crime, and D a word.

I am read that if she clean, I will Whatever I honor thy m father? Pleas Baby Sis

Dear Sis: Deb when : Don't you believed sh the right th end result n such a shock explains wh turn in her fearing it cause more confesses, help "make will it simp punish her?"

We under: are angry ar pay for m: mess of you try to forgive late to cha pened, and sure the de on her min Allow Deb decision a clean with If she canr so, please le

Dear Ann my parents rated and st different hc ing with m I feel tra them. When mom, she is to tear do have alw to my fat knows this very rude is always dial to her. Dad nev word abou and I do r why she

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The subconscious is like a soap opera that evolves in its own parallel world. Whether or not we choose to tune in, the characters continue to interact, and the plot continues to weave. But during the Scorpio moon, we're irresistibly drawn into the action and can't help reacting to it. Something you thought was just a hunch turns out to be true.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A \$1 bill and a \$100 bill are the same size on the same paper printed with the same ink. The only difference is the message. Make your message powerful and unique. Let the world experience your value.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not a vengeful person — not usually. OK, sometimes you are, but only on days like today,

when all the wrong people seem to be getting the good stuff. Assign yourself a "time out" to count your blessings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Once you fall into a groove, there's no stopping you. If everyone were as spontaneous, optimistic and energetic, all the work would be done, and you could start your weekend already. Do be careful not to look down on others now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Strange but appealing opportunities seem slightly removed from the real thing. Beware of the lure of rhinestones. This is no time to abandon loyalty and security for potential riches and fame.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're valued for your potential — and you'll certainly live up to it — but pause to be sure it's what you really want. Your talents are varied. Which ones give you the greatest joy? What work doesn't feel like work when you're doing it?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In medieval times, it was believed that one had

to turn pale in the presence of a beloved, eat and sleep very little when vexed by love, and suffer through the excruciating beauty of a loved one. Kinda like what you're going through now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Once again, everyone turns to you to smooth things over. Your deft handling of people is a skill more marketable than you think. Brainstorm how you could be paid more for what comes so naturally to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a whirling dervish, spinning for the sheer spiritual ecstasy of it. Keep this in mind when loved ones challenge you to calm down and have a cup of tea. Your choice is to spin, and there's nothing wrong with that.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Subtle yet powerful factors contribute to your level of satisfaction. You're likely to take to heart what someone says in passing or see an unusual accident as a sign. Good! You're paying

attention!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your love of nature grounds you, and you'll feel relief when wrapped in its beauty. This is something to enjoy privately — others may diminish your experience with their lack of understanding. Except for Virgo, of course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Usually a mellow sort, you're still not immune to the occasional impulse to rage. Take a walk, make a call, or go to the gym. Exhaust all other options before unleashing the furies. Ultimately, you're passionate because you care.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People around you can't help but be influenced, and perhaps a bit intimidated, by your high standards. Let young ones know that it's OK to fail once in a while — in fact, it's an essential part of their development.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm in my mid-20s and a Pisces. My mom is a Leo, and my pop is a Libra. How can I get my way and get what I want

when my mom makes practically all of the decisions for our family?"

I notice that you're writing from the Philippines, where I believe it's customary for a young woman to live with her family for longer than if she lived, for instance, in the United States. So I'm going to assume that the obvious answer of moving out of your parents' house is not an option you're considering now. Leo women can tend to run their households with a benevolent but controlling hand. Because they give so generously to their families, they often feel their wishes regarding the family should be given more consideration than anyone else's. But at the same time, Leo women usually respect and honor the contributions of others. If you contribute more to the household, your mother will believe that you have earned more freedom and decision-making power within your home. When you get a job and contribute monetarily, do more housework, or find

other familial needs you can fill, you'll finally be able to, as you say, "get your way."

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Stars urge the beautiful Kim Basinger to hit the road. A project filmed in another country will be auspicious, allowing Basinger more freedom both in her career and her personal life. Freedom is a magic word for Sagittarius natives. At one time, Basinger suffered from agoraphobia, the equivalent to being paralyzed for this adventurous sign! Unfamiliar territory is the most exciting kind for Sagittarius.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2004 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My oldest sister, "Deb," recently confessed to me that she was the one who turned my mother in for welfare fraud over 20 years ago. Mom was arrested and served time in jail. Our family was torn apart. My younger sister and I were sent away to live with an abusive aunt. Although I understand what Mom did was wrong, she did it only because Dad was an alcoholic and often kept money from Mom even if we children needed something.

Mom went to her grave believing it was her mother-in-law who turned her in. I want Deb to confess what she did to the whole family. Although it will not help Mom heal any wounds, it would help the rest of us make amends. The worst thing is, years later, Dad's second wife committed the same crime, and Deb never said a word.

I am ready to tell Deb that if she doesn't come clean, I will do it for her. Whatever happened to honor thy mother and thy father? Please help me. — Baby Sis

Dear Sis: How old was Deb when she did this? Don't you think she believed she was doing the right thing? And the end result may have been such a shock to her that it explains why she didn't turn in her stepmother, fearing it only would cause more harm. If Deb confesses, will it really help "make amends," or will it simply be a way to punish her?

We understand that you are angry and want Deb to pay for making such a mess of your family, but try to forgive her. It's too late to change what happened, and you can be sure the deed has preyed on her mind all this time. Allow Deb to make the decision about coming clean with your siblings. If she cannot bear to do so, please leave it alone.

Dear Annie: I am 16, and my parents recently separated and started living in different houses. I am living with my dad.

I feel trapped between them. When I am with my mom, she is always trying to tear down my dad. I have always been closer to my father, and she knows this. Mom often is very rude to him, but he is always polite and cordial to her.

Dad never says a bad word about my mother, and I do not understand why she can't do the



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

same. She constantly tells me it was my dad's fault that she left, when really it was hers.

I'd like to have something to say when she bashes Dad so she'll stop. I would also like a way to tell my dad that I don't like spending time with my mom. She is not exactly a fun person to be around these days, and I'm having a hard time dealing with her negative comments. What can I do? — Stuck in the Middle in Washington

Dear Stuck: You can talk to your mother. Tell her, honestly and firmly, that you do not want to hear any more bad things about your father and it is unfair of her to put you in the middle. Try to understand that this separation is difficult for your mother, no matter whose idea it was, so it would help for

you to be less judgmental. Still, Mom needs to see what her bitterness is doing to you. If you are having a hard time getting your message across, give her this letter and tell her you wrote it.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Worried Mom," whose daughter talks to herself. This could affect her socialization and acceptance by peers. Her mother should approach this as a bad habit that requires behavior modification.

I have a co-worker who talks to himself constantly. Some days he mumbles to himself nonstop for eight hours. It is disturbing and distracting. His co-workers fight to avoid sitting next to him. — Going Crazy in Memphis

Dear Memphis: Most self-talk is harmless, and people tend to do it when they are alone. Your co-worker, however, may have a more serious problem than a "bad habit," since he is doing this in public, nonstop. Please be kind.

Dear Annie: My daughter and her three children came to live in our home over a year ago. She told me it would be for only a short time. Now her boyfriend is living here, and they are paying us only \$200 a month, which does not cover utilities and other extras she costs

us. Both my husband and I are on disability.

I am tired of having five extra people in my house with no privacy, and told my daughter months ago to start looking for her own place, but she hasn't budgeted. How do I get them out of my house? I am sick and tired of it. — Desperate, Angry Mother

Dear Mother: Would your daughter be willing to pay more to cover her costs? Would you be willing to let her stay if she did? If not, give her a specific date when she has to be out of the house, and help her look for available rentals.

Some states have regulations that prevent you from throwing someone out of the house, and if yours is one, you will have to see a lawyer to start eviction proceedings. Otherwise, if she makes no effort to move by the deadline, change the locks on your doors and toss her stuff out on the lawn.

Dear Annie: When I married my wife and became a stepfather to her children, she said I had equal say in all things and suggested I spend at least twice as much time listening as I did talking. Here are some things I have found to be true:

1. Don't force things. If and when the children choose to like you, they will. The first week, my

younger stepdaughter announced she was not going to call me "Dad" because I was not her father. I told her that was fine. Don't be confrontational about inconsequential things. Carefully pick the fights you really need to fight.

2. Listen. Communication is a two-way street. If they believe you won't listen to them, they aren't going to listen to you. When kids need to talk about something, it needs to be now, not after the news or at halftime.

3. Communicate with your partner. Particularly when faced with teenagers, a unified front is essential.

4. Never bash the spouse, and if possible, try to have a civil relationship with him/her. Before birthdays and Christmas, my wife's ex calls me for gift suggestions. If you have a civil relationship, everybody wins.

5. Don't look at yourself as a parental replacement. I am a parental supplement. These girls grew up with three parents who love them. If you try to drive a wedge or replace the other parent, you will lose.

6. Tell them you love them, often.

I'm not claiming to have all the answers, but the girls do love me all the time and like me most of

the time. I think it's called being a parent. — Wisconsin Steppad

Dear Steppad: We like your suggestions — they show a great deal of common sense and a loving attitude. Thanks for sharing them with our readers.

Dear Annie: You ran a letter from "Curious on the Internet" who received a scam e-mail from Africa asking for money. This particular scam and all of its spin-offs are known as the "Nigerian Scam."

Please advise your readers not to send any money, no matter what promises are made. May I suggest that the writer contact the U.S. Secret Service? They are the federal agency handling this investigation. — Richard D. Pontes, Board of Directors, Chairperson Scams Committee, Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association

Dear Richard Pontes: Many thanks for your help.

Happy Chanukah to all our Jewish readers.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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Call today

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WEDNESDAY

DEC. 8

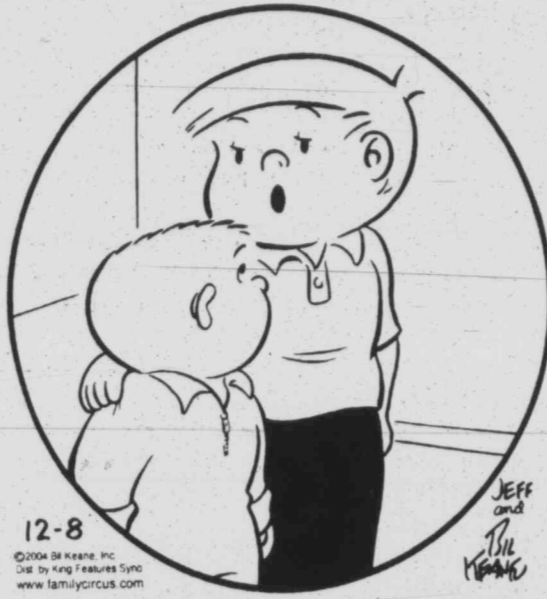
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
5 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anta No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Sam Peak John Hagee	News Lehrer	American Chopper		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Day 2004 Access	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	NFL Live Boxing: 1975	College Basketball:	
6 PM	Just (CC)	Lost (CC)	Rub	The 2004 Billboard Music	60 Minutes (CC)	La Mujer en el Espejo	A Clay Aiken Christmas	The Real Gilligan's Island	Update/Israel Jesse Lee Pe	Rock 'n' Roll Forever: Ed	Nile Land of the Crocodiles	Movie: Addams	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Movie: The Wizard of Oz	The Parkers Girlfriends	Movie: Toothless	Ali vs. Frazier III	Notre Dame at Indiana (CC)	Movie: The Karate Kid (CC)
7 PM	Barbara Walters	Barbara Walters	Amor Real	Awards (CC)	King Center-Univ	Gitanas	The West Wing (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Sullivan's Get Down	Sphinx Unmasked	Family Values	The Club	Coming to the Stage		College Basketball:	College Basketball:		
8 PM	Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	Don Francisco Presenta	Malcolm-Mid 70s Show	CSI: NY (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Law & Order (CC)	Sex and City		Tonight: The Disco	Great Biker Build-Off 3	FilmFakers (CC)	I Hate My Job	15 Movie: The Librarian	Comicview	Lizzie McGuire Sister, Sister	Minnesota at Nebraska	Oklahoma at Purdue (CC)	15 Movie: Rated X (CC)
9 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC)	The Real Gilligan's Island	The Hour of Healing	Explosion (CC)	Nile Land of the Crocodiles	Movie: Addams	MXC MXC	Quest for the Spear (CC)	Nightly News How I'm Living	Even Stevens Boy World	Karate: ISKA Karate: ISKA	SportsCenter (CC)	
10 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	Estamos Unidos	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	(CC) The Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-	Show (CC) Late Night	10 Movie: Pleasantville	N. McBride Joseph Good	Sign Off	Sphinx Unmasked	Family Values	Wildest Police Videos	The X-Files	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	Rodeo: Wrangler	Outside the Lines	15 Movie: The Last Days of Frankie the Fly
11 PM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Mujeres Enganadas	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show (CC) The Insider	Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	(CC) Fraser (CC)	(CC)	Update/Israel Joe McGee		Great Biker Build-Off 3	FilmFakers (CC)	Blind Date Shipmates	The X-Files	Comicview	Kim Possible Lizzie McGuire	National Finals - Sixth Round	SportsCenter (CC)	
12 AM	Carla Winfrey	Paid Program																	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, MISSUS HAMILTON. MY MOM SAID THAT YOU STOPPED HAVING BIRTHDAYS YEARS AGO."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Remind me to tell you about the good old days sometime, PJ."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



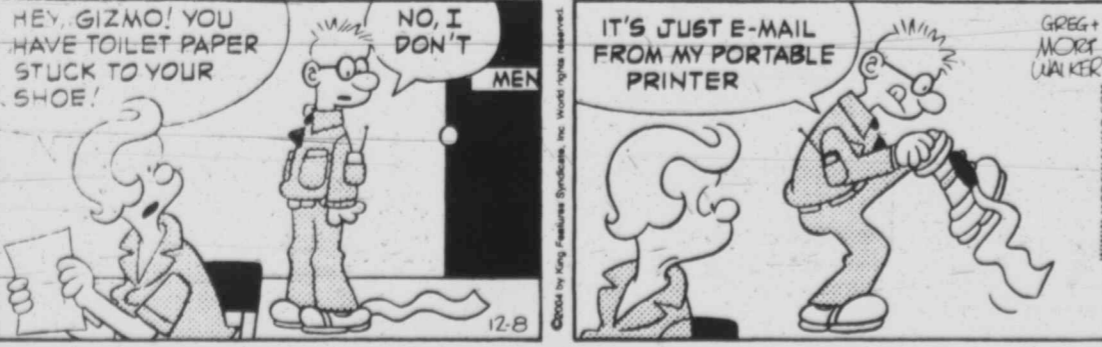
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 343rd day of 2004. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date: In 1854, 150 years ago, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Roman Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for the reconstruction of the South. In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was

founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1978, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir died in Jerusalem at age 80.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1987, the "intefadeh" (Arabic for uprising) by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories began.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed into U.S. law the North American Free Trade Agreement, which went into effect at the start

of 1994.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Richard Fleischer is 88. Actor-director Maximilian Schell is 74. Actor David Carradine is 68. Actor James MacArthur is 67. Flutist James Galway is 65. Singer Jerry Butler is 65. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 62. Actor John Rubinstein is 58. Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 57. Actress Kim Basinger is 51. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 48. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 47. Country singer Marty Raybon is 45. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 42.

Answer to previous puzzle

BELT ERMA PROS
ALOE LOAD EASED
BARNUM AND BAILEY
ELIAS DEER NOSE
NASA DISC
LILT PTS MOOLAH
IDO JULIO LAURA
BIGGER AND BETTER
ROILS SCOLD END
AT COST EMU ISAY
SEED ERIN
APES NEAT LAMAS
BED AND BREAKFAST
CAIRO TERM OAHU
KEYS SAISS GMEN

Newsday Crossword

UPS AND DOWNS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Guitarist Atkins
- 5 Pigs' digs
- 9 Tears down
- 14 Hawaiian port
- 15 Natural emollient
- 16 Dubai dignitaries
- 17 Former shahdom
- 18 Place to wait
- 19 Be up to the job
- 20 Unobtrusive tunes
- 23 Zamboni's milieu
- 24 Bard's "before"
- 25 State without proof
- 29 Normal: Abbr.
- 31 Drinks slowly
- 35 Part of Hispanic
- 36 Novelist Nin
- 38 "Uh-uh!"
- 39 Cost-of-living provision
- 42 Inquire
- 43 Fast-thinking
- 44 Striker's cry
- 45 Two caplets, perhaps
- 47 Fruity drink
- 48 Like quinine
- 49 Barker and Kettle
- 51 Two shakes
- 52 Floors it
- 59 Low on cash
- 60 Mucky stuff
- 61 N.Y. Yankee or K.C. Royal

DOWN

- 1 Windy City, briefly
- 2 Take on
- 3 Carrier to Ben-Gurion
- 4 Vocal quality
- 5 Kingly residence
- 6 Upper crust
- 7 It's verboten
- 8 Palm reader
- 9 Come and go
- 10 Tickles
- 11 Tubular pasta
- 12 Leif's father
- 13 Retired plane
- 21 Night watches
- 22 Battlefield shout
- 25 In the lead
- 26 Oater rope
- 27 Bests, in the schoolyard
- 28 LAX guess
- 29 Dorm annoyance
- 30 Like cranberries
- 32 Alaska native
- 33 Cheap jewelry
- 34 See-through
- 36 Just (not much)
- 37 Water channel
- 40 Pile up
- 41 Tiny tunneler
- 46 Come into view
- 48 Urging
- 50 More fitting
- 51 Scatter about
- 52 Worn out
- 53 Track tipster
- 54 Muscat's land
- 55 "Good going!"
- 56 Canter, for example
- 57 Chorus member
- 58 Religious group
- 59 B'way smash sign
- 62 Greek P

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