

MONDAY

December 20, 2004

## WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW  
33°-36° 51°-54°

## BRIEFLY

### HC trustees set to award bid for arts center

A four-year effort to construct a new Performance Arts Center at Howard College is about to become reality.

College trustees are expected to award bids for construction of a new Visual and Performance Arts Center during their regular meeting today at 12:30 p.m. today at the Dora Roberts Student Union Building.

Howard College President Cheri Sparks said that efforts to replace the college's old auditorium began in earnest two years ago, after it was decided that renovating the building was not feasible.

"We discovered that the cost for renovating the old auditorium was comparable to construction of a new building," Sparks said. "By the time we looked at all of it, the cost for a new building was virtually the same."

Trustees originally looked into the idea of renovating the old auditorium in the Spring of 2000, Sparks said, before deciding to demolish the old structure two years later.

Temple Construction, which has consulted the college during the bid-letting process, will announce the bids during today's meeting.

Also today, trustees are expected to establish a Rural Community College Initiative in conjunction with the Texas A & M Extension Service. Sparks said the program will provide workforce training assistance to 12 of the college district's 13 counties, as well as assisting area extension agents in other matters, as well.

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## Leadership Big Spring applications available

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN  
Special to the Herald

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for the Leadership Big Spring program set to begin Jan. 13, 2005. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. on Dec. 28.

Debbie Valverde, chamber executive director, said the program is designed to help participants develop and increase leadership skills while they learn more about the community. "It helps people see what they



VALVERDE

can do to make Big Spring a better place," Valverde said. "Hopefully they find an area where they can serve the community and start a habit that will continue for a long time."

Participants meet the second Thursday of each month for nine months. They hear presentations from community leaders and business people, tour local industries and educa-

tional facilities, and study the most current management theories. JoAnn Knox will teach the leadership skills portion of the program.

Valverde said Leadership Big Spring is designed for people who have demonstrated management and leadership ability, shown an interest in community affairs, and have time and talent to offer. They must be willing to give one day out of each month, January through May and August through November, for

the program.

Tuition fee is \$300, which includes transportation, meals and materials. The program is limited to 25 participants.

Valverde said Leadership Big Spring, which has a long history in the community, has provided a number of dedicated citizens for various service organizations and boards.

Part of the requirement for Leadership is that participants attend several meetings of gov-

See LEADERSHIP, Page 3A

## 'Express' a major success

By DEBBIE JENSEN  
Special to the Herald

All aboard! Coahoma Elementary School students have spent six weeks working together on a study of the popular Christmas story, "The Polar Express," and it's paid off, in terms of education, fun and funds for the school's playground.

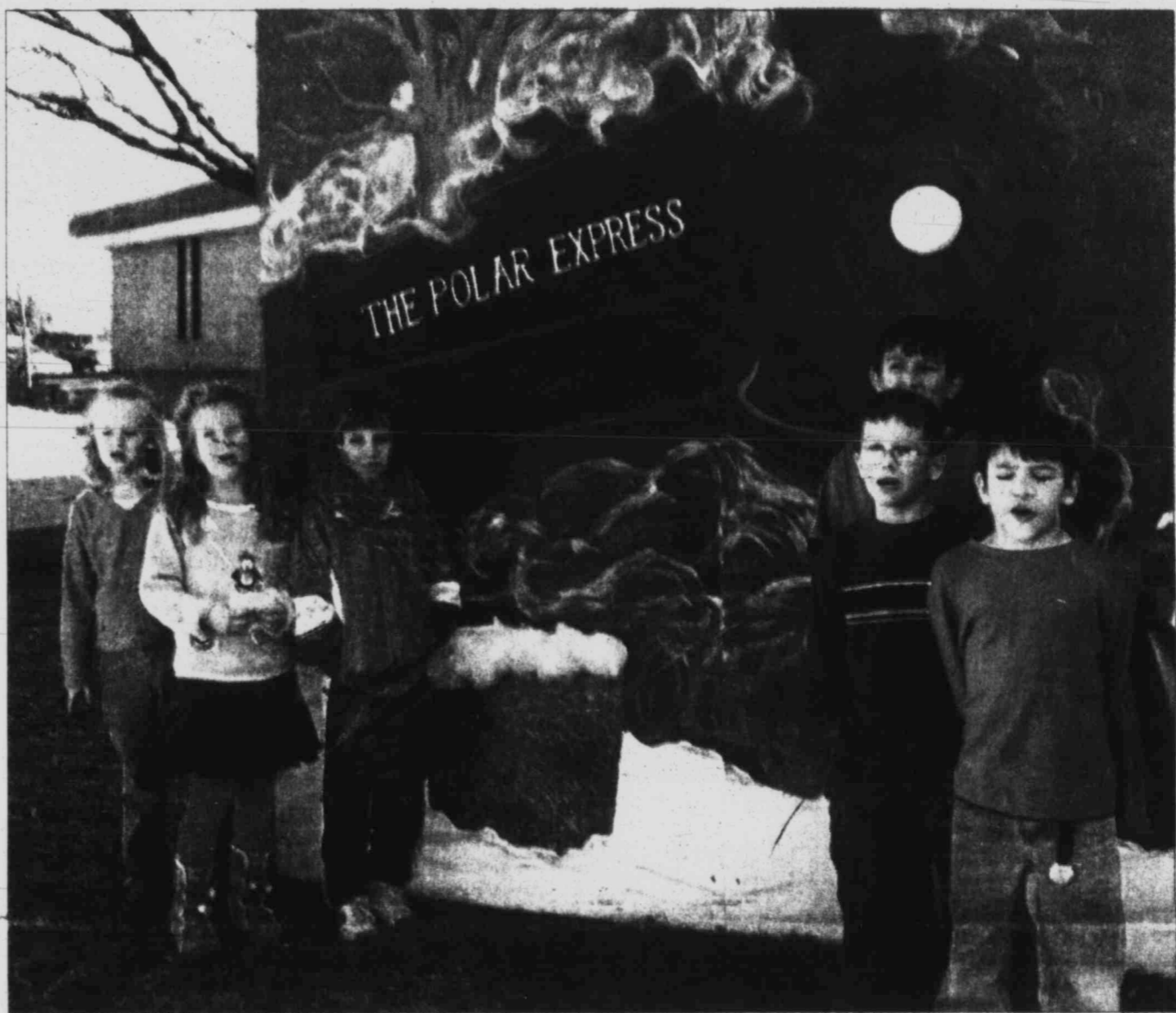
Students from prekindergarten through sixth grade have been studying the story and completing various activities related to it. The project culminated last week at their "Polar Express Drive-Through."

"We started with the book," explained principal Patricia Bennett, who learned about the idea of a school-wide book study at a conference. "The grade levels did different activities based at each one's level."

Sixth graders, for example, designed and created games, playing them with the younger kids. Third graders stud-



BENNETT



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Coahoma Elementary School students, from left, Katie Kling, Alex Gibbs, Coley Rinard, Richie Ewing, Trenton Crenshaw and Namen McCullough sing Christmas carols in front of a backdrop depicting the Polar Express train. The second graders participated with the rest of their schoolmates in a six-week book study and various activities about the book and movie.

See EXPRESS, Page 3A

## A little at a time, FHS band raising funds for D.C. trip

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN  
Special to the Herald

A little piggy went to market, and raised more than \$2,000 for the Forsan High School Band's planned trip to Washington, D.C.

Early last week, the band gave away a butchered hog and a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card at its Christmas concert. That followed closely on the heels of seasonal sales of both poinsettias and Christmas cards, from which money is still trickling in.

And it's a good thing that band members, their families and supporters have been busier than Santa's elves in the last few months. The group needs to raise an estimated \$145,000 to send 120 students to represent



RHODES

Texas in the Independence Day parade on July 4. While there, the students and 30 adult sponsors will make side trips to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian, the Capitol Building and several national monuments.

Fund-raising began shortly after the band's announcement of its plans in August, and projects have taken various forms.

"It might have slowed down a little bit here after that first big burst at the beginning," said band director Jim Rhodes. Then, listing the group's recent fund-raising activities, he changed his mind. "Actually, it hasn't slowed down much at all," he laughed.

Students may get a short break during the holidays, but as the new year begins, so do a host of new fund-raisers.

*The band has an account set up at First Bank of West Texas for those who would like to donate.*

Organizers have been talking to Gale's Sweet Shoppe about selling cookies for Valentine's Day, and an auction of celebrity and sports items is planned for some time in April.

Although no date is set for the auction, the band already has a violin autographed by Charlie Daniels; items from popular sports figures are being collected now.

Throughout basketball season, the band has been auctioning baked goods and running concession

See BAND, Page 3A

## Herald website becoming subscription service

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
Managing Editor

Beginning this week, those who frequent the Big Spring Herald's website will find major changes have taken place with the newspaper's on-line edition.

What will probably be most noticed by on-line readers, according to Herald Publisher Susanne Reed, is that those wishing to access the website's stories will have to subscribe to the ser-

vice. "This was something we looked long and hard at," Reed said of the decision that requires on-line readers to subscribe just like those who have the paper home delivered. "The bottom line, however, is that we can't make the improvements we want to make to the website and provide on-line readers with a complete news package while continuing to offer access to the site for free."

Reed said those who subscribe to the on-line edition will begin to see changes in the site almost immediately.

"Our website is going to be changing," she explained. "We'll be providing a much wider range of news that includes major state, national and international stories, as well as several locally-generated items that appear in our print edition that readers have requested be included on the website."

"Obviously those changes are not going to be made over night," Reed added, "but we will be implementing them as quickly as possible. Some will probably even show up in today's on-line edition."

Reed noted that visitors to the site will be able to access all advertising on the site, including classifieds, without subscribing. But when visitors to the site

See WEBSITE, Page 3A

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## Obituaries

### Billy Ray Brooks



Billy Ray Brooks, 71, of Big Spring died Friday evening, Dec. 17, 2004, in Canyon Lake. Funeral service will be at 7 p.m. today, Dec. 20, 2004, at Myers & Smith Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Colorado City Cemetery.

He was born April 6, 1933, in Big Spring to Jimmy and Ruby Brooks. He had been employed by Cosden, later by Fina, for 38 years. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was a Methodist.

He is survived by two sons, Brent Brooks and his wife, Mary of Canyon Lake and Noel Brooks and his wife, Marsha of New Braunfels; one daughter, Markay Brashears and her husband, Maxey of San Marcos; two sisters, Mackie Hays and her husband, Clarence of Big Spring and Belva Hebert and her husband, Curtis of San Angelo; six grandchildren, Brien Brooks, Robin Hoffman, Richele Ann Brooks, Lori Kading and her husband Todd, Matthew Brashears and Shelle Brashears; four great-grandchildren, Marisa and Sara Brooks, Bradley Hoffman and Katy Wet.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Monty Stallcop

Monty Stallcop, 62, died Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, in a Fort Worth hospital.

Services were at 1 p.m. today, Dec. 20, 2004, in Fort Worth.

He was a professional snake handler and directed the programs at the Ambucs Rattlesnake Roundups. He was also the snake demonstrator for Big Spring area schools.

### Marion Cauley

Marion Cauley, 86, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, in a Lubbock hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Estella Barber

Estella Barber, 86, of Midland, formerly of Stanton, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, in an Odessa care facility. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

## Take note

CHRIS' CROSSES will be for sale at Wal-Mart's east door from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday to benefit the Hospice Halos, the Home Hospice Relay for Life team. Call Sherry or Rose Ann at 264-7599 for more information.

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.

LETTERS FROM SANTA ARE AVAILABLE FROM SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER as a Relay For Life fund-raiser. Each letter will have a North Pole postmark for a \$5 donation: Contact Amber Rich at 263-4960 for more information.

AN ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT TRISTIN RANGEL, son of Ione and Tim Rangel, has been set up at the Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 2204 Gregg St., account No. 529903, to help with medical expenses. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is in a Lubbock hospital.

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA is giving away an autographed photograph of Michael Jordan, along with two other Jordan magazine covers, to help with medical costs of 12-year-old Sage Gibson, son of Big Spring Junior High School assistant principal Tommy Gibson, who has been diagnosed with a tumor. For an update on Gibson's condition visit [www.carepages.com/ServeCarePage?cpn=Sagepage&uniq=923947](http://www.carepages.com/ServeCarePage?cpn=Sagepage&uniq=923947). For more information about the Buffalo Fina fund-raiser call 267-5050.

THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL STEADHAM is in need of help to pay for his funeral expenses. Friends of the family say he had no insurance and died suddenly. An account has been established at the Cosden Federal Credit Union for those wishing to help the family. For more information, call 264-0838 or 264-2600.

THE BIG SPRING WEST TEXAS GIRL SCOUTS COUNCIL SENIOR TROOP 266 is collecting stuffed animals for Scenic Mountain Medical Center's emergency room. A collection box for the stuffed toys will be at Seams-So-Nice in the Big Spring Mall. Or call Laurie Peterson at 432-267-9773.

## Police blotter

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

- MARVIN LAMAR FRIDDLE, 19, 2514 Broadway, was arrested on a charge of Assault/Family Violence.
- GREGORY MCDANIEL, 35, 704 Borden Rd., was arrested on local warrants.
- FRANKIE JUAREZ, 35, 1008 N.W. 2nd St., was arrested on a Dallas County warrant.
- RICKY DALE MARTIN, 50, Sycamore Street, was arrested on a charge of Criminal Mischief.
- REYES CASTANEDA, 45, 2000 S. Runnels St., was arrested on a charge of Possession of Marijuana less than two ounces.
- ALBERTO FRANCO, 52, 1112 Mulberry Dr., was arrested on a charge of Possession of Marijuana less than two ounces.
- JOE DIAZ JR., 36, 1306 Stanford St., was arrested on a charge of Public Intoxication.
- KEVIN RUTLEDGE, 24, 2617 Langley St., was arrested on a charge of Theft over \$50 but less than \$500.
- ROBBY ATKINSON, 33, 3405 E. Hwy. 350, was arrested on a charge of Theft less than \$50.
- ASSAULT BY THREAT was reported on the 1600 block of State Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported on the 1200 block of Mulberry Street.
- FLEEING A POLICE OFFICER WITH SERIOUS BODILY INJURY was reported on the 1300 block of Utah Street.
- THEFT was reported on the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway (twice); the 2000 block of Gregg Street; the 2300 block of Wasson Drive; the 900 Block of Willia Road (twice); and the 200 block of FM 700.

## Sheriff's report

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

- JOSE LUIS DELACRUZ, 43, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department Saturday following his arrest on a charge of Stalking.
- MATTHEW JAMES MCCOY, 26, was transferred from the BSPD Saturday following his arrest on a charge of Evading Arrest or Detention.
- ROBERT FRANKLIN was transferred from the BSPD Sunday following his arrest on a charge of Possession of Marijuana less than two ounces.
- WILLIAM CLARENCE LANGLEY, 23, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety Sunday on charges of Abusive Calls to 911 Service and Possession of Marijuana less than two ounces.
- REYES CASTANEDA, 45, was transferred from the BSPD Sunday following his arrest on a charge of Possession of Marijuana less than two ounces.

## Weather

Today — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.  
 Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds near 10 mph.  
 Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. North winds 5 to 15 mph.  
 Tuesday night — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows near 30. Northeast winds near 10 to 20 mph.  
 Wednesday — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
 Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows near 20.  
 Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs near 30.  
 Thursday night — Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 15 to 20.  
 Friday — Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s.  
 Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows near 20.  
 Christmas Day — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-18-20-37-40. Bonus Ball: 44.  
 Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.  
 Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$32 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-10-13-19-36.  
 Number matching five of five: 0.  
 Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 7-9-5

## Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association will not meet today. They will resume regular meetings Jan 17.
  - Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
  - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
  - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
  - Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
  - DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
  - Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

- TUESDAY**
- Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
  - Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
  - A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
  - Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
  - Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with a meeting to follow at 1st and Goliad streets. All Masons are welcome to attend.
  - Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
  - Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
  - Big Spring Chapter 67 Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main St.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
  - Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
  - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
  - Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
  - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
  - Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
  - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
  - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
  - Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.
  - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

**FRIDAY**

- Christmas Eve.

**SATURDAY**

- Christmas Day

## Christmas Holiday Hours

The Big Spring Herald office will be closed Friday, December 24, 2004 in observance of the Christmas Holiday.



Please Expect Your Sunday paper to be delivered by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning!

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINES ARE ADJUSTED AS FOLLOWS:

- Deadline for Friday's paper, Thursday 12:00 noon.
- Deadlines for Sunday's paper, Thursday 3:00 p.m.
- Deadlines for Monday's paper, Thursday 4:00 p.m.

### RETAIL ADVERTISING DEADLINES ARE ADJUSTED AS FOLLOWS:

- Deadline for Friday's paper 12:00 noon Wednesday
- Deadline for Sunday's paper 4:00 p.m. Wednesday
- Deadline for Monday's paper, 12:00 noon Thursday

## TEXAS NEWS

### Jury's deliberations in human smuggling case

HOUSTON (AP) — A trial connected to human smuggling and the death of a child is continuing. Jurors deliberated on the case of Victor Jesus Giovanni Garcia, who is accused of taking part in the prosecution of an illegal immigrant tractor-trailer from South Texas in 2003.

The trailer was stopped near Victoria, southwest of Houston, and the driver, Garcia, was arrested. He was charged with the death of a child inside the trailer.

Jurors got the closing argument from defense attorneys and prosecutors. The trial is expected to last about an hour and a half on Friday afternoon, according to court officials.

Each man faces a charge of transporting a child across state lines without proper documentation. Garcia-Toba is accused of hiring a trucker to transport the child to his home in Texas.

Defense attorneys for Garcia-Toba and his wife, either did not or were accused of putting the child in the trailer or were accused of putting the child in the trailer.

Garcia-Toba is accused of hiring a trucker to transport the child to his home in Texas. Rodriguez is several immigrants with his parents taken to a house in Texas.

The judge Thursday again said Villa, 36, said he wanted to prove that prosecutors were legal options. Carrizales, from see if she will.

Tyrone Will N.Y., is the only one indicted in the death penalty case. His trial is set for next week.

His attorney said he will appeal the conviction. He is accused of hiring a trucker to transport the child to his home in Texas.

Prosecutors say the child was found dead in the trailer. The judge Thursday again said Villa, 36, said he wanted to prove that prosecutors were legal options.

Carrizales, from see if she will. Tyrone Will N.Y., is the only one indicted in the death penalty case. His trial is set for next week.

## WEBSITE

Continued from page 2. click on a name they'll see only and two or three graphs of the lowed by a hot the reader if they see the entire

## EXPRESS

Continued from page 2. died the Police investigating the deaths could live elementary schools made a special movie theater movie, starring Hank.

After that, they compared and the movie a Bennett explained. As time for through the scenes were constructed a by many Bennett said he

## BAND

Continued from page 2. stands. They had to grant them they've asked nesses to donate. The program Monday night

## LEADER

Continued from page 2. ernmental agencies as the school county commission and service as the chamber. "Leadership often asked boards through community," said. "It's when our new members come from. In addition, classes since

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Jury's deliberations continue in human smuggling trial

HOUSTON (AP) — Jurors in the first trial connected to the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt resumed deliberating the fate of two men today.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar are accused of taking part in a smuggling ring that prosecutors say packed more than 70 illegal immigrants into a hot, airless tractor-trailer and tried to take them from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston, after the immigrants began succumbing to the deadly heat. Seventeen immigrants were found dead inside the trailer. Two died later.

Jurors got the case late Thursday after closing arguments by prosecutors and defense attorneys. The jury of eight women and four men deliberated for about an hour before stopping and took Friday off. The trial began in late November.

Each man faces 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants. If convicted, each could get up to life in prison.

Defense attorneys for Rodriguez, 38, and Garcia-Tobar, 25, say their clients either did not have direct responsibility for putting the immigrants in the trailer or were accused by unreliable witnesses.

Garcia-Tobar, from Guatemala, is accused of helping load illegal immigrants into trailers or transport them to loading sites and of helping recruit truckers to haul them.

Rodriguez is accused of picking up several immigrants who had arranged with his parents to be smuggled and taken to a house belonging to his father.

The judge dismissed charges Thursday against Claudia Carrizales de Villa, 36, saying prosecutors had failed to prove the case against her. Prosecutors said they are reviewing all legal options in her case. Lawyers for Carrizales, from Mexico, are waiting to see if she will be deported.

Tyrone Williams, from Schenectady, N.Y., is the only one of 14 defendants indicted in the case who could face the death penalty if convicted. Authorities say he drove and abandoned the trailer. His trial is set to begin Jan. 5.

His attorney is accusing the federal

government of seeking the death penalty because his client is black.

The trial of another defendant is on hold. Five others previously pleaded guilty. Four were arrested in Mexico and face trial there.

State doesn't use own test data to track possible TAKS cheating

DALLAS (AP) — State regulators who are investigating allegations of cheating on academic achievement tests in three Texas school districts following a newspaper's investigation say they do not usually initiate such inquiries.

The Dallas Morning News' analysis of test scores found suspicious gaps and unlikely one-year swings in the performance of more than 200 Texas public schools on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills and other standardized tests. The newspaper analyzed scores from 7,700 Texas schools, seeking unusual performance gaps between grades or subjects.

Texas Education Agency policy is to investigate cheating allegations only when a district requests it or when it receives credible eyewitness evidence of cheating.

"Typically, school districts police themselves," Lisa Chandler, TEA director of assessment, said in the newspaper's Monday editions. "We trust educators to educate our kids."

Firsthand evidence can be hard to find, with most cheating occurring behind closed doors in a testing classroom.

"Circumstantial evidence just doesn't cut it," said TEA spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe.

While some of the schools identified in the newspaper's analysis may have legitimate explanations for their unusual score patterns, experts say that the gaps in other cases are so wide that it's difficult to imagine a cause other than cheating.

At Sanderson Elementary in Houston, fourth-graders finished in the bottom 2 percent of the state but fifth-graders had Texas' best scores, with most students receiving perfect marks.

The Houston Independent School District, as a result of the newspaper investigation, asked TEA to investigate scores at Sanderson. Superintendent Abe Saavedra said Principal James Metoyer asked to be reassigned during the inquiry. Both of the school's fifth-grade teachers were also reassigned.

The state performs an erasure analy-

sis on every TAKS answer sheet but, under TEA policy, nothing is done with the information produced.

Chandler said erasure information is only used if the agency receives a separate complaint alleging cheating. The agency may then check results of the erasure analysis to see if they support the allegations.

Paralyzed teen's mom hopes for homecoming with son soon

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas student who was left paralyzed in an Oklahoma hit-and-run wreck that killed an East Central University football player is gaining strength and could come home soon, his mother says.

Dennis Scales, of Mansfield, Texas, is now able to talk even though there is a ventilator tube connected into his throat to help him breathe.

"All this has made me appreciate my life," said Scales, 18, at HealthSouth Medical Center in Dallas. "Because I'm not really supposed to be here."

Scales was critically injured and left paralyzed from the chest down on Sept. 19, when the pickup truck in which he and several other East Central University students were riding was rammed by another pickup near the South Canadian Bridge on State Highway 99 in Pontotoc County north of Ada, Okla. The crash killed Joseph Tusan, 18, of Arlington, Texas.

Ammon Dean Reich, 43, of Konawa, Okla., is charged with one count of first-degree murder and nine counts of assault and battery with a deadly weapon involving the injuries of nine others. Reich has been free on \$125,000 bond while federal officials investigate the case as a possible hate crime. Reich is white and Tusan was black.

Scales, who graduated this year from Skyline High School in Dallas, had earned a football scholarship to East Central but also wanted to learn a career, said his mother, Danae "Dee" Wright.

She said she hopes her son will be home for Christmas and then continue his rehabilitation therapy at HealthSouth as an outpatient after making progress recently.

"It's what we've been praying for," said Wright. "It's what a lot of people have been praying for."

The Rev. Dorothy Moore, executive director of Reconciliation Outreach in East Dallas, credited Wright for much of the progress Scales has made since

he was injured and medical bills began to mount.

Woman escapes blaze only to return into apartment to die

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman who fled from a burning apartment re-entered the building and was killed trying to save her son, who had escaped by himself earlier, firefighters say.

Blanca Machon believed that her 6-year-old boy was still inside the apartment Sunday morning, relatives said.

Machon, 45, was burned to death.

"My aunt went back inside, she didn't listen to her husband," said Johnny Casimiro, Machon's 11-year-old nephew. "She thought her son was still inside, but he was already out."

He said he didn't know what could have sparked the fire that left him and five family members homeless. He awoke when he began breathing smoke, called for his brother and ran outside.

Relatives attempted to comfort the boy who watched helplessly as his aunt ran into the flames.

"She was burning," he said, crying.

Eight units of the Ivy Club Apartments were destroyed in the blaze, which took 70 firefighters more than an hour to contain, said Houston Fire Department Capt. Gilbert Bennett.

He said the blaze that began about 7:30 a.m. spread quickly through the 12-unit, two-story building. Dozens of people were forced to evacuate their apartments. The blaze's cause remained under investigation.

Convicted killer gets death penalty for shooting six

EDINBURG (AP) — A jury decided on the death penalty for a man convicted over his role in drug-related shootings that killed six people.

Juan Raul Navarro Ramirez, 20, was the first of 12 suspected gang members to be tried in the January 2003 attacks at two Edinburg homes.

Jurors on Wednesday convicted Ramirez of two counts of capital murder. The penalty phase started Thursday.

Jurors late Saturday ordered the death penalty for Ramirez.

The victims were: brothers Jerry Eugene Hidalgo, 24, and Ray Hidalgo, 30; Jimmy Edward Almandariz, 22; brothers Juan Delgado Jr., 32, and Juan Delgado III, 20; and Ruben Rolando Castillo, 32.

WEBSITE

Continued from Page 3A

click on a news story, they'll see only a headline and two or three paragraphs of the story, followed by a hot key asking the reader if they want to see the entire story.

Clicking on that key will immediately send them to the registration page where they can subscribe using a credit card.

The price of a website subscription is the same at home delivery of the Herald's print edition in Big Spring, \$8.65 per month. A subscription to

both the print edition of the Herald and its website for those receiving home delivery will be \$11 per month.

Those with mail subscriptions in Howard and Martin counties that wish to subscribe to the website will pay \$14.85 per month, while mail sub-

scribers elsewhere in Texas and out-of-state will pay \$15.60 monthly.

In addition to the website's advertising, Reed said there will be a few features of the site that can be used without having a subscription.

"People will still be able to leave a message on the

website's guest book and be able to express their opinion on the weekly poll question," she explained. "And they'll also be able to access dot-photo.com and order prints of pictures our staff has taken."

"We're really excited about the changes we

have planned for the website and we think our readers will be pleased as bigspringherald.com evolves," Reed concluded.

Managing Editor John A. Moseley can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com

EXPRESS

Continued from Page 1A

ied the Polar Region, investigating what animals could live there. The elementary students all made a special trip to the movie theater to see the movie, starring Tom Hanks.

After that, the students compared and contrasted the movie and book," Bennett explained.

"As time for the drive-through drew near, scenes were designed, constructed and painted by many volunteers. Bennett said her staff and

their helpers put in many extra hours on the projects.

Then the big day arrived, and — as cars slowly drove through the scenes — students acted out parts from the book in front of the colorful backdrops.

In "The Polar Express," written in 1985 by Christ Van Allsburg, a young boy and his sister learn from their friends that there is no Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve, however, the boy hears a distant whistle and sees a locomotive pull into his front yard. He boards it and is on a journey to the

North Pole. Through the events of that night, the boy discovers the spirit of Christmas that he will never forget.

The original book has been followed with a series of new stories, creating more reading material for the kids on their project.

Bennett said the school-wide book study was such a success, Coahoma Elementary hopes to do one like it every year.

The drive-through display served a dual purpose as donations were accepted to go toward the school's new playground.

"It was fantastic," said

Bennett. "It was beyond anybody's imagination."

Bennett said that traffic was backed up to Interstate 20 just to see the drive-through.

"We estimate we had more than 300 cars," she said.

Coahoma Elementary needs about \$50,000 for the new playground equipment, and several fund-raising activities are planned.

The drive-through raised about \$1,500, which adds to a teacher variety show in October that netted \$1,000.

The PTA is planning a donkey basketball game

in February.

"We'll be adding equipment as we get the money," said Bennett. "We won't be waiting until \$50,000 is collected. We'll be doing things at the play ground as the money comes in."

Anyone wishing to donate to the playground fund can call the school's office at 432 394-4419 or donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 110, Coahoma, 79511.

The Polar Express drive-through involved not only teachers, parents and staff, but also junior high and high school students, and families of

teachers.

"This one has been so much fun," Bennett said. "And it has been amazing to see all the work people have put into it. All you have to do is say, 'Help!' and people come out and do everything they can."

BAND

Continued from Page 1A

stands. They have applied for grant money and they've asked local businesses to donate.

The program from Monday night's concert

lists businesses and individuals who have already contributed to the band's trip.

Forsan's administration and board of trustees are fully in support of the trip, which will they expect to be educational as well as exciting for students.

Donations are accepted any time and in any amount through the band's account at First Bank of West Texas, 1810

FM-700.

Those who can help the band in other ways are asked to call Rhodes, Assistant Director

Jeremy Higginbotham, or Forsan Independent School District Superintendent Randy Johnson at 457-2223.

LEADERSHIP

Continued from Page 1A

ernmental agencies such as the school board or county commissioners, and service groups such as the chamber board.

"Leadership alumni are often asked to serve on boards throughout the community," Valverde said. "It's where many of our new community leaders come from."

In addition, Leadership classes since 2003 have

completed service projects together, such as landscaping at the Westside Day Care Center and work at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center.

"Each class does this project on their own, from choosing the work they will do and how to fund it," Valverde said.

Applications are available at the chamber office, 215 W. Third, or chamber staff can send them to interested people by fax or e-mail. For more information, call 263-7641.

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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

## OUR VIEWS

Let's remember  
the true reason  
for this season

What a wonderful time of year the Christmas season is ... the parties, parades, carols, the gathering of families and giving and getting of all those gifts. There's absolutely no surprise that most people will tell you this is their favorite time of the year.

But enjoying what is for most of us our favorite time of the year, we need to remember the "reason for the season."

Every year on Dec. 25 we Christians celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, we know there are a great many "educated" people who want to remind us that the winter solstice has been a celebrated pagan holiday since time immemorial.

Some Christians are even ready each year to remind us that Dec. 25 wasn't the date of Christ's birth. And that's true. The date of Dec. 25, roughly corresponding to the date of the winter solstice, was chosen as the "traditional" birthday of Jesus by early Christians for no other reason than to appease pagan tribesmen. The Christmas tree, the Yule log, the wreath and countless other Christmas traditions come directly from pagan celebrations and ceremony.

But that makes little difference today.

Christmas is not a few days off from school or work. It is not the giving and receiving of material gifts. The true meaning of Christmas is not even found in the opportunity for families to come together and fellowship. It isn't found in Dickens' "Christmas Carol," the songs about "Frosty the Snowman" or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" or even in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" penned by good old Dr. Seuss.

All of those things have become Christmas traditions and we should cherish them.

What we must not forget, once again, is that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ.

We Christians know why that is important. The real reason for the season is to remember what His immaculate birth represents for all of us.

Yes, we believe that Jesus is the reason for the season. More importantly, we think, He is the reason for every season.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## The English: Exploding the myths

Having just returned from London, I today explode four myths about the English.

Myth One: The English are quiet and reserved.

People believe this because they see members of the royal family on TV mumbling something low and semi-intelligible. But ordinary English people are actually quite boisterous and noisy.

Take firecrackers. In the United States, we set off firecrackers one day a year (where they are still legal): the Fourth of July. In England, I am told that virtually every child's birthday party is accompanied by the explosion of firecrackers.

In the United States, firecrackers are considered pretty much an outdoor entertainment. But at dinner one night in a posh Soho restaurant, I found out that the English like firecrackers indoors, too. (In New York, Soho stands for "South of Houston." In London, Soho — which in the middle ages was a hunting park — gets its name from the hunting cry, "So-ho!" Or at least that's what the guidebooks say. But they could be making it up.)

At the table next to us, about 10 people were wearing party hats and setting off round after round of indoor firecrackers (those little champagne bottle replicas where you pull a string, and it makes a bang and shoots out ribbons of

streamers.) After setting off about 12,000 of them, they seemed to be satisfied and settled down to just roaring at the tops of their lungs for the rest of the evening.

Which didn't bother anybody, because you could barely hear them over the roar of the table of 20 that was screaming what sounded like football (i.e., soccer) chants and the table of businessmen, dressed in their London uniform — shiny black suits, suspenders and big bellies pushing against white shirts — who were shouting something unintelligible, but quite loud.

Which is another way of saying food is not the point in some London restaurants. Bellowing is.

Myth Two: The English are unfriendly.

Not a bit. My wife and I went to the Imperial War Museum, an absolutely swell place stuffed with huge objects like tanks, V-2 rockets and fighter planes. We saw a sign that said there was a painting upstairs by John Singer Sargent, the famous American ex-patriot painter. It is called "Gassed," it is 9 feet high and 20 feet long, and is an incredibly powerful and moving work. (Look it up on Google.)

Unfortunately, when we got to the gallery that houses the painting, it was closed for some repairs. But when we asked a guard about it, he said: "You're Yanks, right? Yanks always ask about the Sargent. We've only got the one, but it's a big un!" And with that, he unlocked the gallery and lets us in.

A friendly museum guard? What will they think of next?

Myth Three: The English are smarter than us.

Actually, they just sound that way because of their accents. While at the British War Museum, my wife found an exhibit that claimed Neil Armstrong landed on the moon on "July 20, 1963."

Huh? 1963? No bleedin' way, luv! It would have been nice if President Kennedy had been alive to see what he started, but he wasn't. The year of the moon landing was 1969.

So she went down to the reception desk and told them they were off by six years. They were very contrite and promised to change it.

So check up on them next time you are there, and make sure they did.

Myth Four: The English don't know how to have fun.

Wrong! The most fun I had the entire trip came at the very end, when I went through security at Heathrow. In America, I always have to take off my shoes. But at Heathrow, they told me not to bother.

And so I walked through the metal detector with my shoes on, and it didn't set off anything!

"That was fantastic!" I said.

"Can I go through again?"

Maybe I amuse easily.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## ADDRESSES

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

• **JOHN CORNYN**  
U.S. Senator  
Washington, DC 20510-4305

Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**  
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)  
1510 Scurry  
Big Spring  
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• **RICK PERRY**  
Governor  
State Capitol, Room 2S.1  
P.O. Box 12428

Austin, 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922

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Texas 85th District  
P.O. Box 2910

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Phone: (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**  
State Senator  
401 Austin, suite 101  
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## The Bush Empire: Reality in denial

"The aide (a senior adviser to President Bush) said that guys like me were 'in what we call the reality-based community,' which he defined as people who 'believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality.' I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off. 'That's not the way the world really works anymore,' he continued. 'We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you're studying that reality — judiciously, as you will — we'll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that's how things will sort out. We're history's actors ... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.'" — Ron Suskind, *New York Times Magazine*, Oct. 17, 2004.

This is the quote that now has some noted bloggers identifying themselves as, "Proud

Member of the Reality-Based Community."

Of all the problems that arise from having an administration that chooses not to believe in reality, the one most likely to have irretrievably disastrous consequences is environmental.

The Bush solution to global warming is to declare it does not exist. While this solves the problem for him in the short term, global warming is highly unlikely to be impressed by the news that we are now an empire and can change history.

Just lately, "history's actors" have made a couple of singular contributions to our future that we in the reality-based community will doubtless be studying for some time to come.

The first allows sewer operators to dump inadequately treated sewage into the nation's waterways. The Environmental Protection Agency (a name that becomes more ironic daily) currently requires sewer operators to

fully treat their waste in all but the most extreme circumstances, like during a hurricane. The new plan will allow operators to dump sewage routinely any time it rains.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council: "For the last 50 years, standard sewage treatment has involved a two-step process: solids removal, and biological treatment to kill bacteria, viruses and parasites. The new policy allows facilities to routinely bypass the second step and to 'blend' partially treated sewage with fully treated wastewater before discharging it into the waterways."

NRDC predicts more Americans — especially the elderly, very young and those with weakened immune systems — will get sick and die. That's on account of the fact that bacteria, viruses and parasites are also part of the reality-based community and have no respect for history's actors or empires.

Next, in one of those under-the-radar moments so beloved of the Bushies, the Pentagon has simply exempted itself from environmental law. A new Department of Defense directive changes a Clinton-era order on "Environmental Security" by eliminating the following policies:

— Reducing risk to human health and the environment by identifying, evaluating and, where necessary, remediating contamination resulting from past DoD activities.

— Protecting, preserving and, when required, restoring and enhancing the quality of the environment.

— Conserving and restoring, where necessary, the natural and cultural heritage represented on DoD installations within the United States.

There has been no public debate or congressional review of the new policy. The policy was written by the man who watched the looting of Baghdad and said, "Stuff happens."

To add to the global warming festivities now comes a new novel by Michael Crichton, who has made a fortune by scaring us

about nonexistent threats — the Japanese taking over the world, rampant sexual harassment by predatory females and dinosaurs recreated by insane scientists. This time, Crichton claims to be working against the fear-mongers, because the premise of his new novel is that global warming is much overrated and actually the product of a sinister group of villains — the environmentalists. Enviros, by and large a pacific bunch of vegetarians and birders, must make unsatisfactory villains (I haven't read the book).

But in fact, the "villains" in global warming are not environmentalists, but scientists. They are the ones trying to "scare" us by making us aware of the problem, which is reality-based. Yet another study — by 300 scientists with the International Arctic Science Committee — finds:

— Average winter temperatures in the Arctic are up by 4 to 7 degrees over the past 50 years and now projected to rise by 7 to 14 degrees over the next 100 years.

— Polar ice during the summer is projected to decline by 50 percent by the end of this century.

— Warming over Greenland will lead to substantial melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet, contributing to global sea level rise at an increasing rate. Greenland's ice sheets contain enough water to raise the sea level by about 23 feet.

Scientists, a reality-based bunch of empiricists if ever there was one, are in no doubt about global warming. The only question is about how fast it's happening. And many of the small minority who argue it is coming slowly are themselves in the pay of oil companies and industry groups.

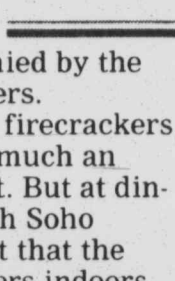
As Upton Sinclair observed, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it." And that is not conspiracy-mongering. That is reality.

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](http://www.creators.com).

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ROGER SIMON



MOLLY IVINS

## Analysis

By TONY PUGH  
and

SETH BORENSTEIN

KRT News Service

WASHINGTON) Thousands of Americans are getting sick, are dying each prescription drug were pushed on market ahead of the world.

A Knight Ridder study shows that number of new given first to has increased, of drug-induced have soared. Yet the deaths and have increased, and Drug Administration has never insisted aggressive safety track the safety, once they're or ket.

On Friday, of the painkiller and the attention remedy Strattera consumers the problems associated the drugs had requiring their use. B introduced first United States, 1998, Strattera.

Nearly 60 per the 'genuinely' sold in the wo

— those with ailments never b keted — were pensed in America up from about 20 years ago. drugs were f duced abroad, approval procedure countries is n stringent than United States.

"We're the g in the sense of population said Dr. Reidenberg, a pharmacology, and public Cornell Medical School New York City.

FDA official deny that the monitoring system and say it's most new drugs their debuts here.

"Lives are suffering is the U.S." because for cancer, di other ailment released here Dr. Steve G FDA's acting the Center Evaluation and which oversee ty.

Knight Ridder that in 1992, Congress did FDA to speed approvals, th

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# Analysis: Americans suffering as more new drugs debut in U.S.

By TONY PUGH  
and  
SETH BORENSTEIN  
KRT News Service

WASHINGTON — Thousands of Americans are getting sick and many are dying each year from prescription drugs that were pushed onto the U.S. market ahead of the rest of the world.

A Knight Ridder analysis shows that as the number of new drugs given first to Americans has increased, the reports of drug-induced ailments have soared. Yet, even as the deaths and damage have increased, the Food and Drug Administration has never instituted an aggressive system to track the safety of drugs once they're on the market.

On Friday, the makers of the painkiller Celebrex and the attention disorder remedy Strattera warned consumers that health problems associated with the drugs had surfaced, requiring changes in their use. Both were introduced first in the United States, Celebrex in 1998, Strattera in 2002.

Nearly 60 percent of all the genuinely new drugs sold in the world in 2003 — those with active ingredients never before marketed — were first dispensed in America. That's up from about 3 percent 20 years ago when most drugs were first introduced abroad, where the approval process in many countries is much more stringent than in the United States.

"We're the guinea pigs in the sense of extensive population exposure," said Dr. Marcus Reidenberg, a professor of pharmacology, medicine and public health at Cornell University Medical School in New York City.

FDA officials strongly deny that their safety monitoring system is broken and say it's great that most new drugs make their debuts here.

"Lives are saved and suffering is reduced in the U.S." because drugs for cancer, diabetes and other ailments are released here first, said Dr. Steve Galson, the FDA's acting director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, which oversees drug safety.

Knight Ridder found that in 1992, just before Congress directed the FDA to speed up drug approvals, there was an



KRT photo/ Phil Sears  
Patricia "Pat" Peebles and her husband of 22 years, Henry Peebles, sit on their porch in McDavid, Fla. Pat, who had been prescribed Vioxx by a physician in 2001, collapsed from a heart attack on her bathroom floor on Sept. 23, 2003, two hours after taking a Vioxx pill. After surviving the near-death experience, her faith in US-approved drugs has been shaken.

average of one adverse drug reaction for every 16,300 prescriptions filled. In 2003, adverse reactions — of all drugs, no matter where they debuted — hit one in 9,000.

While the FDA has no official estimate on the number of people killed by these drugs, the agency says 106,000 people a year die from all types of drug reactions. One new drug, the painkiller Vioxx, which was pulled from the market this fall, may have caused 55,000 deaths, a top FDA scientist said recently.

Prescription drug safety is under severe pressure because of several factors:

- The 12-year-old law that cut drug approval time nearly in half.
- Price controls in many other countries that make the U.S. market, the world's largest with sales of \$216 billion in 2003, much more profitable and attractive to drug makers.
- Widespread consumer advertising for prescription drugs in the United States that puts public pressure on regulators and physicians.

These problems worry FDA scientists. A FDA survey of agency scientists, released last week by a public interest group, found that 66 percent of respondents were less than fully confident in the FDA's ability to monitor the safety of drugs being given to consumers.

"We believe very strongly that, overall, the fact that drugs are (first introduced here) is a very, very strong positive benefit for the public health of America," the FDA's

Galson said. But on Friday, one of those drugs, Celebrex, was found in one study to increase the risk of heart attack. FDA officials advised doctors to minimize its use.

Vioxx and Celebrex are in a class of painkillers known as cox-2 inhibitors, which are popular with arthritis patients because they are easier on the stomach than previous pain medications. Consumer advocates have railed for years that the FDA has failed to act aggressively after numerous studies linked cox-2 drugs to heart problems.

Vioxx and Celebrex were sold in the United States before they were sold in Europe.

In 1998, the United States surpassed Europe and Japan as the world leader in the introduction of unique medicines.

Knight Ridder's analysis found that 72 percent of unique new drugs approved by the FDA in the last six years were sold in America before they were sold in Europe. In the 1980s, most were launched in Europe.

Europeans adopted more aggressive ways to evaluate the safety of drugs already on the market. Great Britain, for example, keeps track of all drugs and how patients react to them and looks for emerging problems.

"You know their (monitoring) system would have picked up a problem earlier than ours would have," said former FDA Commissioner and Stanford University presi-

dent emeritus Donald Kennedy. "Because (Europeans) are better than us — way better."

That may help explain why the number of Americans reporting adverse drug reactions is soaring. The 357,392 bad reactions reported to the FDA in 2003 is more than double 1995's figure and more than four times higher than those reported in 1990.

The FDA's Galson said the increase may reflect the fact that more Americans — roughly 44 percent — now take prescription drugs.

But the number of adverse drug reactions is growing more than twice as fast as the number of prescriptions being filled in the United States. From 1994 to 2003, the number of bad drug reactions reported jumped 145 percent while the number of prescriptions filled increased 59 percent, Knight Ridder found.

The FDA estimates that about 390,000 adverse reactions will be reported this year. Yet the FDA cautions that the actual number is likely to be between 10 and 100 times higher because of under-reporting.

The issue of drug reaction and monitoring is a simple case of numbers. Before the FDA approves a drug as safe for sale, it's tested on a few thousand people. It's enough of a sample to find big and obvious side effects, the kind that hit maybe one out of every 100 users.

But when drugs are sold commercially and used by millions of patients, rare side effects can show up,

some with deadly consequences. A rare side effect that would hurt maybe one person in 10,000 wouldn't show up in the initial study, but it would in the mass marketplace. That's what happened with Vioxx.

"We launch into overuse of these drugs when we don't know their effects," said Dr. Brian Strom, a University of Pennsylvania public health and preventive medicine professor.

That means consumers should be wary.

"If you don't want to be a guinea pig, don't take them for the first couple of years after they've been approved," said Sean Hennessey, a University of Pennsylvania professor of pharmacology and epidemiology. "It's a common teaching in clinical pharmacology that it's never good to be the first person to use a new drug."

Pat Peebles, a 60-year-old retiree in McDavid, Fla., started taking Vioxx in 2001 for arthritis. She figured it was safe because the government approved it.

Pat Peebles, a 60-year-old retiree in McDavid, Fla., started taking Vioxx in 2001 for arthritis. She figured it was safe because the government approved it.

But on the night of Sept. 23, 2003, Peebles began to sweat profusely. She felt pain in her stomach, then fell to the floor. Her heart stopped, and paramedics spent 45 minutes reviving her.

By then, experts knew something was amiss as studies and international alerts linked the drug to heart problems. By 2001, Vioxx was the No. 1 prescription drug problem in the FDA's adverse effects reporting system.

"I'm more cautious because of that night that I died," said Peebles, who's now on other medications. "... When (drug companies) come up with these new drugs and say the government approved it, I wonder if it's going to be safe down the road."

The United States became drug makers' choice for new drug debuts after Congress passed the Prescription Drug User Fee Act in 1992. The law allowed drug companies to fund most of the FDA's costs for approving new drugs. In return, the FDA pledged to cut sharply drug approval times.

Faster approval of HIV drugs — the legislation's

goal — was the first result. Then came a rash of new U.S. drug applications that shifted from Europe and Japan, where approval was relatively slow.

"There's more money here, a bigger market, less price regulation than anywhere else in the world," said Stephen Schondelmeyer, a professor of pharmacy at the University of Minnesota.

Maintaining drug safety while approving more drugs, according to the FDA's Galson, "means that we have to have a robust post-approval program" to detect problems once drugs are on the market.

That's not what the FDA has, says Dr. Wayne Ray, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. The system, he said, "is broken."

The system is designed to be passive: Doctors, drug companies and patients report adverse reactions to the FDA, which keeps the records in a giant database. What's needed — but not done — is active searching of these records and other databases for patterns of problems and any side effects from new drugs, said experts.

In fact, so few doctors or patients submit adverse reaction reports and drug company submissions are so spotty that the database is little more than a collection of anecdotes, said Pennsylvania's Hennessey.

In addition, most of the 300,000-plus adverse reaction reports that the FDA receives annually are on paper, said Galson, and computerizing them is "a very time-consuming process."

Complained Strom: "We shouldn't be relying on this 1950s system as our way of discovering adverse reactions."

The FDA does offer doctors an electronic reporting system for adverse effects, called Medwatch, but the agency does little to promote it, said Dr. Mary Frank, president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. "I can tell you as a physician in practice for 26 years that I have never heard from the FDA about that."

It's not a new problem. Twenty-five years ago next month, Congress' Joint Commission on Prescription Drug Use offered this as its top recommendation: "A systematic and comprehensive system of post-marketing

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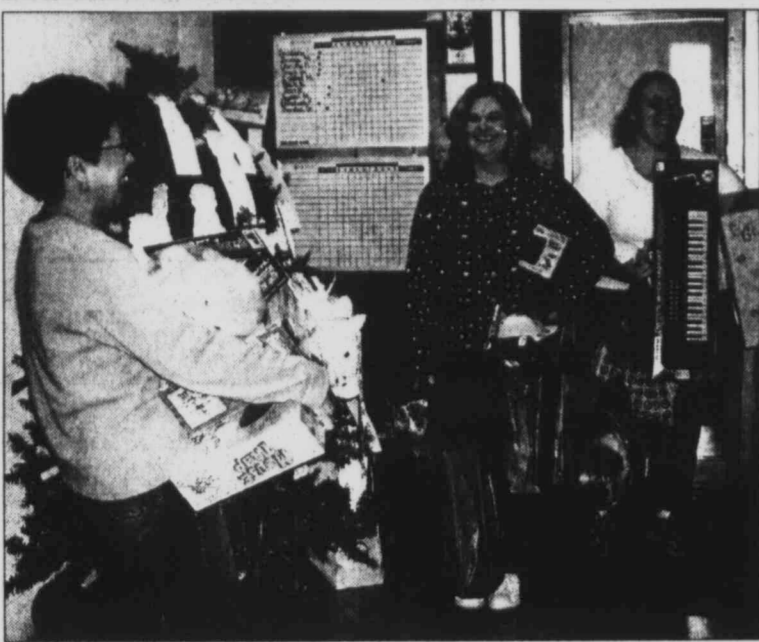
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Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant  
Elizabeth Flores and Ellen Talbot, *Big Spring Herald* employees, help Sarah Gottlich, a Salvation Army assistant, load toys and food collected for the Big Spring Herald/KBYG/Salvation Army Children's Christmas Toy Drive.



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen  
Workers for the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights stop hanging lights briefly to pose for a commemorative photograph near the historic spring.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Students at Lakeview Head Start help bring in the holiday cheer. The students presented the school's annual Christmas program last week.



Courtesy photo  
Earl Hudgins, vice president of special projects with the Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Authority, presents a \$3,000 check to be used for scholarships to Howard College. Pictured, from left, are: Javier Flores, administrative dean of Student Services; Margaret Cervantes, director of Financial Aid; Ann Duncan, director of Enrollment Management; and Hudgins.

### BSHS Speech and Debate Team ends fall competition with powerful showing

Special to the Herald

The Big Spring High School Speech and Debate Team finished the fall semester portion of its schedule by doing well in back-to-back tournaments.

December 3-4, the team traveled to the Seminole Speech and Debate Tournament and brought home a sweepstakes second.

"Because of other things going on that weekend, we only had a handful of upperclassmen at the tournament," said Jennifer Adams, speech coach. "Coming in second to a large Midland Lee team is a good showing for our students."

Students placing at the Seminole Tournament included Logan Churchwell and Malle Carrasco, who placed first in cross-examination debate. Carrasco also placed seventh in humorous interpretation while Churchwell placed fourth in domestic extemporaneous speaking. Corey Green placed second in domestic extemporaneous speaking and fifth in dramatic interpretation, impromptu speaking and

humorous interpretation. Matt Soto placed third in poetry and fifth in duet acting with Scott Thomas, who also placed eighth in humorous interpretation. Rounding out the placers was Lara Breckenridge, who placed eighth in dramatic interpretation.

The team then traveled to Lubbock to participate in the Lubbock High Speech and Debate Tournament. At full strength, the team brought home its fourth sweepstakes first award of the year.

With first place wins in both prose interpretation and original oratory, Tapley Holguin lead the squad. Holguin also placed third in poetry and tied for first in humorous interpretation with Manoj Thangam. Thangam also placed first in Student Congress and second in foreign extemporaneous speaking. Laura Fitzgibbons qualified for the Texas Forensic

Association State Meet with a first place finish in dramatic interpretation. Corey Green placed first in domestic extemporaneous and eighth in humorous interpretation. Josh Acuff placed sixth in foreign extemporaneous and eighth in dramatic interpretation.

The team of Logan Churchwell and James Clark placed second in CX debate with Churchwell also placing third in foreign extemporaneous and Clark placing sixth in humorous interpretation.

The team finished the fall semester with 21 Texas Forensic Association State Meet qualifications.

Next up for the BSHS Speech and Debate team is the fourth annual Big Spring Speech and Debate Tournament Jan. 7-8. Donations and help judging are greatly appreciated. If you are interested, call 264-3641 ext. 151.

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HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen  
Andrew Shafer, left, and Brady Weber eat goodies from other countries at Kentwood Elementary School. The third- and fourth-grade classes all participated in a study of Christmas Around the World last week.

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### IN B

#### Basketball needed for

The Cross is looking for a ball official for upcoming season. For more information, contact Rodriguez at 264-0023 or 517-0300.

#### Booster Club more Stee

The La Booster Club received a grant of \$1,000. The Booster Club carries jackets, long-sleeve T-shirts, visors, toboggans, ear warmers. They are offering T-shirts in sizes. For more information, call J at 264-0023 or Kerry F 263-6100.

#### Tomlinson Bolts to v

CLEVELAND, Ohio - San Diego have turned away around 1. A D a Tomlinson 111 yards touchdown. Gates tied with his 12 season and captured a title on Sunday through the 21-0 win. Cleveland. One season were a lead 12, the Ch won the straight their first berth. They're a champion time since ing the to Denver 10 Kansas City San Diego its longest streak ignored t snow, a temperatu a subzero post their since 1990 handled th 11), who eighth str Tomlinson a pair of his 15th a this season tied a le season re catches b with a 72-second qu

#### Botched helps Mi

DETROIT - Detroit extra-point seconds would've game, Minnesota for a victory. The Lions yards in within a Harrington Williams. Muhlbach bounced t Harris, w led before the footba kicker Ja Despite their pr games, M can win t with a v at home Bay Washington

# Sports

BIG  
SPRING HERALD

Page 1B  
Monday, December 20, 2004

## 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.

### Booster Club gets more Steer gear

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

The Booster Club carries jackets, sweatshirts, long and short sleeve T-shirts, 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.

### Tomlinson leads Bolts to victory

CLEVELAND — The San Diego Chargers have turned it all the way around.

L a d a i n i a n Tomlinson rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns, Antonio Gates tied a record with his 12th TD of the season and San Diego captured the AFC West title on Sunday, leading through the snow for a 21-0 win over the Cleveland Browns.

One season after they were a league-worst 4-12, the Chargers (11-3) won their eighth straight and earned their first postseason berth since 1995. They're also division champions for the first time since 1994, clinching the top spot when Denver lost 45-17 in Kansas City.

San Diego, which has its longest winning streak since 1987, ignored the blowing snow, a game-time temperature of 18 and a subzero wind chill to post their first shutout since 1993 and easily handled the Browns (3-11), who lost their eighth straight.

Tomlinson scored on a pair of 1-yard runs, his 15th and 16th TDs this season, and Gates tied a league single-season record for TD catches by a tight end with a 72-yarder in the second quarter.

### Botched extra-point helps Minnesota

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit botched an extra-point kick with 8 seconds left that would've tied the game, allowing Minnesota to hang on for a much-needed victory.

The Lions went 80 yards in 1:29 to pull within a point on Joey Harrington's second touchdown pass to Roy Williams. Then, Don Muhlbach's snap bounced to holder Nick Harris, who was tackled before he could get the football spotted for kicker Jason Hanson.

Despite losing five of their previous seven games, Minnesota (8-6) can win the NFC North with a victory Friday at home over Green Bay and at Washington.

## Philly's defense good enough against Dallas

By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The road to the Super Bowl in the NFC again goes through Philadelphia.

Dorsey Levens' 2-yard touchdown run with 1:57 left helped the Eagles clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with a 12-7 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

But the win was costly for Philadelphia, which lost star wide receiver Terrell Owens to an ankle injury. Owens didn't return after spraining his right ankle early in the third quarter. X-rays on the ankle were negative, but Owens' status wasn't immediately known. Philadelphia plays its first playoff game on Jan. 15 or 16.

The Eagles (13-1) set a franchise record for regular-season victories. They've finished first in the conference three straight years, but couldn't take advantage of playing at home in the last two NFC championship games, losing to Tampa Bay and Carolina. The Eagles lost the NFC title game in St. Louis in 2002.

Donovan McNabb threw for 223 yards and one TD, but was intercepted twice. Brian Westbrook caught eight passes for 78 yards.

Vinny Testaverde also was intercepted twice, including a pick by Lito Sheppard on Dallas' final drive. Keyshawn Johnson had a TD catch for Dallas (5-9).

After Billy Cundiff missed a 46-yard field goal with 6:03 left, the Eagles got the ball at their 36. Then McNabb took over. He completed a 13-yard pass to L.J. Smith and ran for 12 and 19 yards — his first carries of the game.

On third-and-9 from the Cowboys 19, McNabb threw 11 yards to Westbrook. Levens ran 6 yards on the next play, setting up his go-ahead score.

The Eagles beat the Cowboys 49-21 in a Monday night game last month. But Dallas kept this one close.

After Greg Ellis sacked McNabb to force a fumble recovered by Eric Ogbogu, the Cowboys started their only scoring drive at Philadelphia's 23 in the second quarter.

Four runs by Julius Jones got Dallas to the 7, before Testaverde connected with Johnson for a 7-yard TD, giving the Cowboys a 7-6 lead.

McNabb found Chad Lewis in the corner of the end zone for a 2-yard TD pass that made it 6-0 in the second period. David



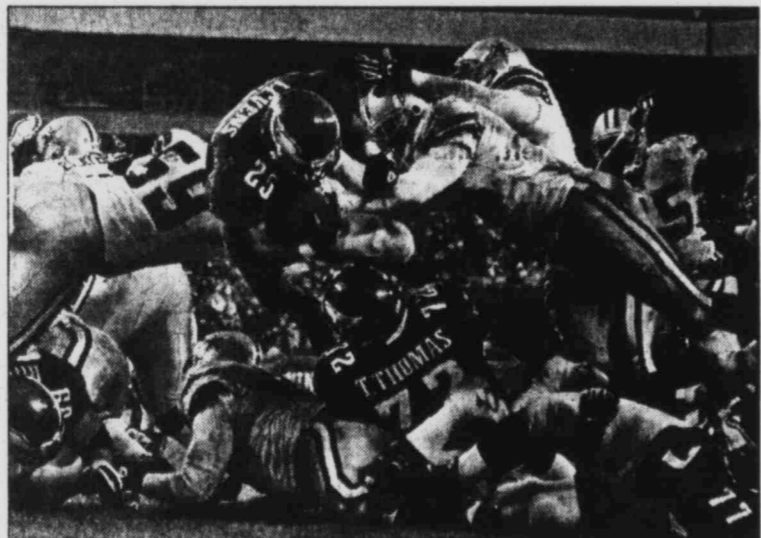
An end zone pass intended for Philadelphia Eagles receiver Greg Lewis is deflected by Dallas Cowboys safety Roy Williams (31) in the third quarter. Dallas lost to the Eagles Sunday, 12-7.

Akers' extra point was blocked by Kurt Vollers, ending Akers' club-record string of 153 successful conversions.

Philadelphia drove inside Dallas territory five consecutive series without scoring. The Eagles had the ball at the Cowboys 31 in the third quarter, but a penalty moved them out of field-goal range.

They got to the Cowboys 31 again on the next possession, but McNabb was intercepted by Roy Williams.

If Owens doesn't return for either of the final two regular-season games, he'll finish with 14 TD catches, one short of winning his bet with Andy Reid that would've required the coach to wear black, spandex tights.



Philadelphia Eagles running back Dorsey Levens dives past the Dallas Cowboys defense and into the end zone to score the game winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The Eagles defeated the Cowboys, 12-7, in Philadelphia, Penn., Sunday.

## Baer's four TDs leads Shiner past Stratford in 1A title game

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — Chris Baer ran for 128 yards and three touchdowns and added an 88-yard kickoff return for a score to lead Shiner to a 33-19 win over Stratford in the Class A state championship game on Saturday night.

The Comanches, which lost the title game by one point to Windthorst last year, completed a perfect 16-0 season with the win.

After the Elks (13-3)

took an early 7-0 lead on an 88-yard pass from Josh King to Tony Ruiz, Baer got it right back with his 88-yard kickoff return.

He also had touchdown runs of 1, 6 and 28 yards.

Baer, who doubles as a linebacker on defense, also had a big night on the other side of the ball with eight tackles, including a pair of sacks.

King figured into all of Stratford's scoring. To go along with the long touch-

down pass to Ruiz, the Elks' quarterback had TD runs of 8 and 3 yards.

Shiner only threw three passes in the game, but the only completion of the night was a 36-yard scoring strike from Trey Curtis to Nick Evans.

Stratford suffered four turnovers.

Dustin Pohler led the Comanches defense with 10 tackles, including three sacks, and also forced a fumble.

## Majerus backs out of USC position

By BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES

Three days after being hired as the new basketball coach at Southern California, Rick Majerus backed out of the deal and will stay at ESPN as a college basketball analyst.

"Rick expressed to us that he had a change of heart and wondered if the possibility still existed for him to work for ESPN. And it does," ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said Saturday night. "We told him he could (return)."

Majerus, who cited health reasons when he retired in January after 15 seasons as Utah's

coach, was announced as the Trojans' incoming coach Wednesday. He was to assume the post April 1.

Majerus did not immediately return phone messages Saturday night.

"We plan to meet with Rick on Monday. Until then, there's really nothing we can say," USC athletic director Mike Garrett said.

At a campus news conference following his hiring, the 56-year-old Majerus said he wasn't worried about his health. "My health is good or I wouldn't do this," he said. "Both my doctors encouraged me to do it. I wouldn't put anyone, least of all

myself, in harm's way." Saia last saw Majerus over dinner Wednesday night, when they discussed the program's future.

Majerus had soup and salad for dinner and kept apples in his hotel room, Saia said.

But something apparently changed overnight Wednesday.

Majerus canceled a Thursday morning meeting with assistant coach Bob Cantu, then canceled dinner that night with assistant Eric Brown, Saia said.

On Friday, Majerus canceled a meeting with the players who would still be eligible next season.

## Texans fight cold, register sixth win

By RICK GANO

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Instead of freezing up in the cold, the Houston Texans seemed right at home.

The Texans (6-8) allowed the fewest points in their three-year history and got four turnovers Sunday to beat the stumbling Chicago Bears 24-5.

With the temperature 9 degrees at kickoff and the wind chill 10 below zero, it was the Texans who handled Soldier Field's frigid conditions better than the Bears.

David Carr threw a TD pass to Corey Bradford and also set up a field goal with a 69-yard toss to Jabar Gaffney. Domanick Davis scored on an 11-yard run in the fourth quarter and Charlie Anderson capped the victory by returning a fumble 60 yards for a TD with 2:37 left.

The Bears (5-9) failed to score a touchdown for the second straight game and their bundled-up fans booed at another inept performance by the NFL's worst offense.

Carr lifted a perfect 37-yard TD pass to Bradford with 27 seconds left in the second quarter to give the Texans a 7-0 halftime lead. After his over-the-shoulder grab, Bradford fell into the end zone and then got up and fired the football into the stands, drawing a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Trailing 7-0, the Bears' defense got them some points.

As Carr tried to scramble in the back of the end zone and avoid the rush of Adewale Ogunleye and Tank Johnson, he let loose a pass with no receiver close and was called for intentional grounding — giving the

Bears a safety with 4:06 left in the third.

After a short Houston punt into a 17 mph wind a series later, the Bears got into position and Paul Edinger made a 43-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

But moments later on a third-and-7 from his own 24, Carr moved up in the pocket and found a streaking Gaffney for a pass-and-run play to the Bears 7. Kris Brown's 20-yard field goal made it 10-5.

Davis' TD run with 4:23 left came after the Bears declined a penalty when the Texans were called for delay of game on fourth-and-7. Instead of punting, the Texans decided to go for it and Carr's 8-yard pass to Bradford kept the final 56-yard drive going.

Rookie Dunta Robinson, whose sixth interception of the season kept the Bears out of field goal range late in the first half, knocked the ball loose from Chad Hutchinson on a blitz and Anderson picked it up with clear sailing to the end zone in the closing minutes.

Hutchinson, under a heavy rush all day, finished 17-of-34 for 168 yards. Carr was 13-of-28 for 220.

The Bears couldn't get anything going in the first half.

Thomas Jones fumbled to stop an opening drive that had reached the Texans 20. Edinger threw an interception on a fake field goal and later missed an attempt from 39 yards after the Bears had been called for a penalty on a third-and-1 at the Houston 19.

There were 17,763 no-shows at 62,122-seat Soldier Field.

### Other NFL final scores from weekend

**Saturday's finals**  
Pittsburgh 33, New York Giants 30  
Washington 26, San Francisco 16  
Atlanta 34, Carolina 31 (OT)

**Sunday's finals**  
Buffalo 33, Cincinnati 17  
Minnesota 28, Detroit 27

**Sunday continued**  
New York Jets 37, Seattle 14  
Kansas City 45, Denver 17  
Philadelphia 12, Dallas 7  
Houston 24, Chicago 5  
San Diego 21, Cleveland 0  
Tonight's game  
New England @ Miami

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**IN BRIEF**

**South Carolina falls short of major upset**

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Russell Robinson scored four points in the final 36 seconds, allowing Kansas to escape with the win over a South Carolina team that led most of the game.

The unranked Gamecocks (5-2), 17-point underdogs in their first road game, came out with a full-court pressure defense and seized an 11-0 lead over the fumble-fingered Jayhawks.

Kansas (7-0) had five turnovers and a blocked shot in its first six possessions, and did not get its first lead until Keith Langford fed Christian Moody inside to make it 54-52 with 5:03 to go.

Wayne Simien had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Kansas, despite leaving the game for about 5 minutes in the second half after injuring his right thumb. He returned with the thumb heavily taped.

**Atlanta wins, snaps Carolina's streak**

ATLANTA — Michael Vick scored the tying touchdown on a 12-yard run with less than two minutes to go in regulation, then Jay Feely kicked a 38-yard field goal in overtime, helping Atlanta snap Carolina's five-game winning streak.

The Panthers (6-8) were as resilient as ever, recovering from a pair of double-digit deficits.

Carolina went ahead for the first time with a 21-point fourth quarter, only to have the Falcons (11-3) show they know a thing or two about bouncing back.

Dez White got the Falcons in position for the tying score with a dazzling 54-yard reception.

The Falcons got down to their final play — fourth-and-goal from the Carolina 12.

Vick spotted an opening up the middle and took off for the end zone, diving across with 1:37 remaining. The officials reviewed the play to see if Vick went down before he crossed the goal line, but replays showed that he somehow kept his left knee suspended about an inch above the turf as he stretched out for the end zone.

Carolina won the coin toss in overtime, only to have Jake Delhomme overthrow Ricky Proehl down the middle.

Aaron Beasley made the interception and returned it 30 yards to the Carolina 23.

A couple of safe runs into the middle of the line set up Feely, who connected on third down to put the Falcons on the brink of clinching the No. 2 seed in the NFC.

Vick had an erratic game, completing just 11-of-28 for 154 yards with a couple of interceptions.

He threw a pair of TD passes and ran eight times for 68 yards.

Delhomme was 24-of-35 for 340 yards, but he had two big fumbles and the game-deciding interception.

Muhsin Muhammad had 10 receptions for 135 yards.

**Ortega's last-second kick leads Carroll to title**

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

Associated Press Writer  
IRVING — Southlake Carroll's Kevin Ortega had a lot to think about as he lined up to kick the game-winning field goal for the Class 5A Division II championship Saturday.

At the forefront of his thoughts was Carroll's beloved former defensive coordinator Charlie Stalcup, who died of skin cancer five weeks before the season.

"I couldn't stop thinking of him," said Ortega, who hit the 41-yarder as time expired to give Carroll a 27-24 win over Smithson Valley for the Dragons' second title in three years. "He's a big motivation and it's all for him."

The Dragons (16-0) dedicated their season to Stalcup, memorializing him on their programs

and championship game T-shirts. After the game, fans joined players and coaches in chanting, "Charlie, Charlie, Charlie ..."

"We did this for Charlie Stalcup," Dragons coach Todd Dodge said through tears.

Chase Daniel found Clint Renfro on a 16-yard pass with 6 seconds left that set up the winning kick for Southlake, the top-ranked team in the state and No. 1 in the nation according to USA Today's Super 25.

It was the second time the Dragons beat Smithson Valley (13-3) for the title. Southlake Carroll won 45-14 in 2002 and has won five championships, including three in Class 3A. Since moving up to the state's largest classification, Carroll is 47-1.

Southlake Carroll lost to Katy 16-15 in last year's Division II game.

Dodge said he was proud of how his players handled the pressure of the rankings and national attention.

"Our kids have been through so much this year," Dodge said. "The pressure they dealt with was so intense. I've never had a team that had to deal with so much. It's great that we were able to get this done."

Southlake Carroll trailed most of the second half, going down 24-17 early in the fourth when Eryk Anders blocked a punt and returned it 24 yards for a TD. But then Carroll tied the score 22 seconds later when Daniel hit Kenton Gedwed on a 65-yard touchdown pass.

Daniel, the two-time Associated Press 5A offen-

sive player of the year, finished with 290 yards passing and 89 yards rushing.

He had a slow start though after fumbling twice and being sacked once in the first quarter. On Carroll's first drive, Daniel was dropped for a loss on a keeper, sacked and threw an incomplete before a bad punt gave Smithson Valley the ball on the 21-yard line.

Smithson Valley led 14-10 at halftime on Cody McKinney's 3-yard TD run with 1:01 left in the second quarter.

It was the first time the Dragons had been behind at halftime break since October.

Southlake Carroll regained the lead in the third when Aaron Luna barreled in from 17 yards out to make the score 17-14. Luna ran for 66 yards

and two touchdowns. His first score came on a 15-yard run that tied the game late in the first.

Smithson Valley tied it at 17-17 when David Sweet hit a 44-yard field goal that bounced off the left upright near the end of the third quarter.

Zach Bailey had 151 yards passing and ran for a 1-yard touchdown that was the first score for Smithson Valley, which has never won a title game. Keeping the game close was no consolation to Smithson Valley.

"We didn't come up here to see if we could stay in the game with somebody," Smithson Valley coach Larry Hill said.

The Rangers lost a 42-35 overtime decision to Denton Ryan in the 2001 Class 4A Division I title game.

**Kilgore needs 2 OTs to take Class 4A title**

WACO (AP) — Nick Sanders blocked a field goal and returned it 70 yards for touchdown, giving undefeated Kilgore a 33-27 double-overtime win over Dallas Lincoln in the Class 4A Division II state championship game on Saturday.

"I got a good jump off the ball and laid into it and hit it. I saw the ball and just took it to the house," Sanders said.

Dallas Lincoln appeared in command after Courtney Herndon blocked a Kilgore punt and Bronson Garrett returned it 38 yards for a touchdown and a 20-10 third-quarter lead.

But on Kilgore's next series, quarterback Chase Fisher found Courtney Thomas down the left sideline for a 71-yard touchdown pass, cutting the margin to 20-17.

With just over two minutes remaining, Kilgore (16-0) tied the contest 20-20 on Rudy Galvan's 39-yard field, his second of the game. Dallas Lincoln moved to midfield, but Kilgore held and forced a Tigers punt. Fisher took a knee to end regulation play.

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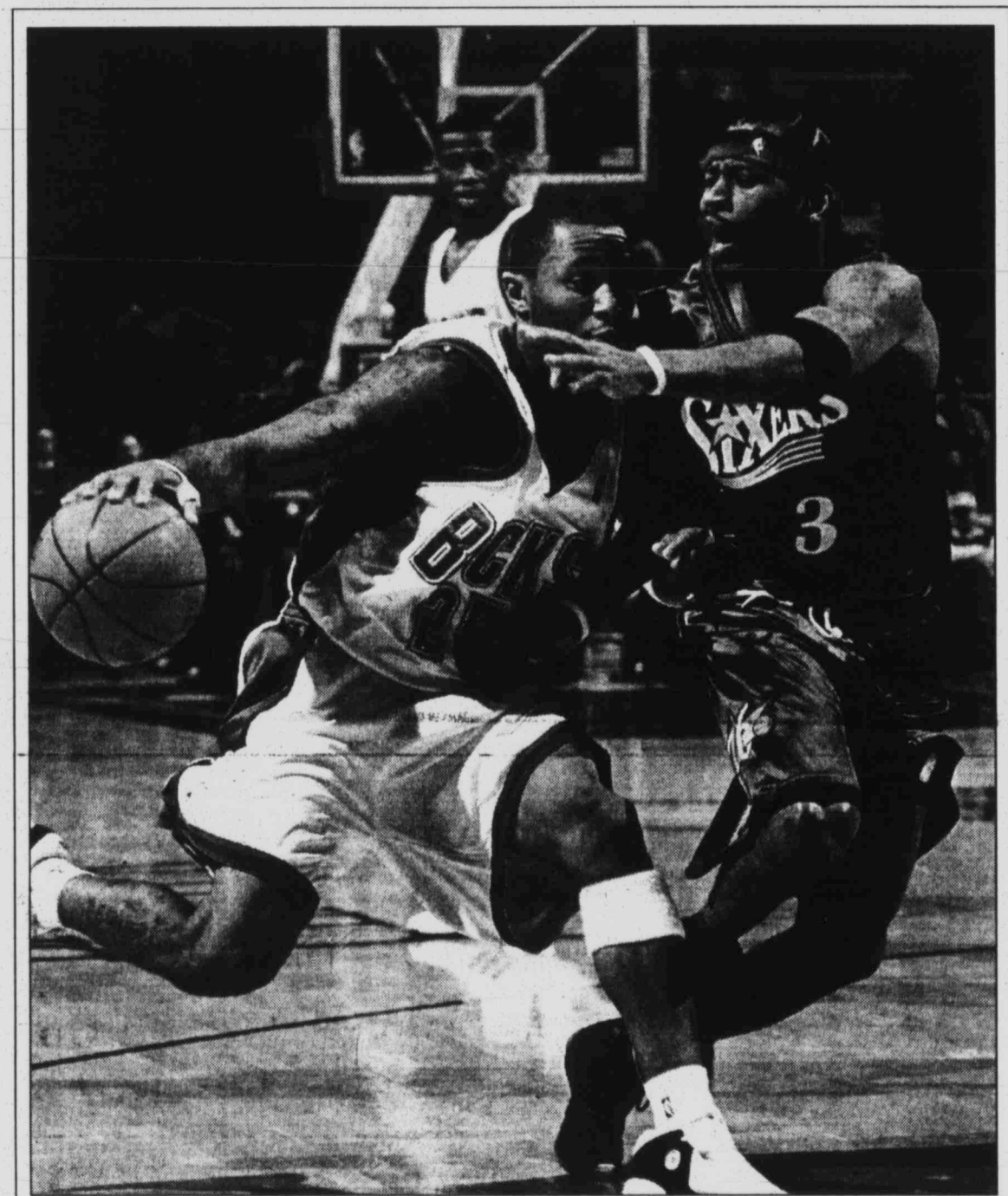
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Dallas Lincoln (13-2) won the overtime toss and elected to play defense. On the third play of the opening OT possession, Kilgore's Keith Gilliam burst through the middle for an 18-yard touchdown. Then Dallas Lincoln matched the score with Bryon Eaton scoring from 16 yards out to tie the game 27-27. That was the score at the end of the first overtime.

In the second overtime, Dallas Lincoln went on offense but faced fourth-and-10 at the Kilgore 25 when the Tigers attempted a 42-yard field goal. But Sanders' play ended the chance for Dallas Lincoln to become the first Dallas ISD team to win a UIL state football championship since 1950. Dallas Carter won in 1988, but the title was stripped for using an ineligible player.

"This game showed what these Kilgore Bulldogs have been about all season," Kilgore coach Mike Vallery said. "We've come from behind, we've won in overtime, we've won games every way you can win a football game."



KRT photo/Kaern Sherlock, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel  
Milwaukee Bucks' Mo Williams (25) tries to push past Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson (3) at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee, Saturday. Iverson scored an NBA season-high 54 points in the Philadelphia victory.

**Gilmer scores 49 in 3A championship win over Jasper**

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — Manuel Johnson threw for 308 yards and three touchdowns, including a 65-yard score midway through the fourth quarter, as Gilmer held off Jasper 49-47 Saturday night for the Class 3A Division II state title.

It was the first state title in two appearances for

Gilmer (16-0), which stopped Jordan Patton inches from the goal line on a 2-point conversion attempt that would have tied the score at 49 with 4:15 left. Patton had just scored his third TD on a 12-yard run for Jasper (12-4).

Johnson threw first-half touchdown passes of 14

yards to Terrance Lovely and 17 yards to Willie Darden as the Buckeyes took a 28-6 lead.

But Jasper, which had held 11 opponents to 20 points or fewer, got back into the game behind quarterback Gilbert Moye.

Moye rushed for 246 yards on 26 carries and

scored on a 12-yard run late in the third quarter to cut the deficit to 42-35. Then Edrick Bronson added a 3-yard scoring run for Jasper early in the fourth but Alex Padgett's extra point hit the right upright and bounced out.

Johnson then hit Tay Bowser for the 65-yard

score to put Gilmer up 49-47 with 6:54 remaining.

After Patton was stopped on the 2-point try, Jasper got the ball back but only made it to its own 35 when time expired.

Patton rushed for 69 yards on 10 carries, including touchdown runs of 3, 24 and 12 yards.

**Christian leads Crawford past Troup in 2A Division II title game**

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS (AP) — B.J. Christian rushed for 94 yards and two touchdowns as Crawford beat Troup 28-14 for the Class 2A Division II state championship Saturday night.

It was the first state title for Crawford (16-0), which broke open a close game late in the third quarter when Jad Tawater's 24-yard TD catch from Lee

Murphy made it 21-14. Christian then added his

second score, a 13-yarder early in the fourth quarter, to put the game away. Troup (14-2) was making its second title game appearance.

The Tigers won their only other appearance, in 1973 as a Class A school.

Crawford jumped to a 14-0 lead before Troup came back to tie it up.

First Antwan Lydia caught a 30-yard pass from Bo Steele, but the extra point failed. Jarriel

Norman, who rushed for 104 yards on 21 carries, tied the score in the third on a 2-yard run and a 2-

point conversion.

But then Murphy connected with Tawater, who wrestled the ball from

Jarriel Norman in the end zone.

From there, Troup had just 59 yards of offense.

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ASSISTANT MANAGER needed at local Fe pany. Salary, health and 401k. Average weekly including ni 7:00 pm. with alterna ends. Please send and References to: 462, Big Spring, Tx. 7

Assistant Manager Must have good drive 21 yrs old, motivated, cations, retirement, surance, salary. Appl son, Credit Wor Gregg. No Phone Cal

**PHYSICIAN'S I**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 10A  
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**Help Wanted**

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** needed at local Retail Company. Salary, health insurance and 401k. Average 48 hrs. weekly including nights until 7:00 pm. with alternating weekends. Please send Resume and References to: P.O. Box 462, Big Spring, Tx. 79721.

Assistant Manager trainee. Must have good driving record, 21 yrs old, motivated, paid vacations, retirement, health insurance, salary. Apply in person, **Credit World**, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls Please.

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Covenant Home Health Care of Big Spring is currently hiring for the following position:  
**Registered Nurse - Full-time**  
Home health experience preferred but not mandatory. Interested individuals should call Vicki Golleher at (432)263-6816 or send resume to 2000 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 25 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**Help Wanted**

**DO YOU** enjoy working with the elderly and want to be part of a growing challenging industry? If so, we invite you to inquire about a position in our nursing department.

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**HILLCREST CDC** is looking for part time Caregivers. Hours are 3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700.

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**LOOKING FOR** office help experienced in oil/gas lease terminology. Prefer someone with oil/gas accounting experience. Computer knowledge a must. Please send resume to attention: Office Manager, P.O. Box 2770, Big Spring, TX 79721.

**MITCHELL COUNTY** Hospital District is taking applications for:  
LVN - 7AM to 7PM at Mitchell County Hospital  
RN - Weekend Coverage at ER at Mitchell County Hospital  
RN - 7PM to 7AM at Mitchell County Hospital  
LVN - 3 PM to 11PM - Wallace Medical Prison Unit

These are full-time positions with benefits. Pick up an application at Mitchell County Hospital at 997 West I-20. See Sandra Sullivan, Human Resources or call 325-728-3431, extension 7105.

**NEED SECRETARY** for insurance agency. Experience preferred. Full or part time. Send resume: Churchwell Insurance, 2303 Goliad, Big Spring, TX 79720.

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**NEEDED CHILDREN'S** Librarian: must have a sound knowledge and understanding of children's literature, reading interests, age appropriateness, child development and learning theory, collection management theory and trends. Will plan and coordinate children's services and programs; present a weekly story time; plan & implement special summer reading program and special events. Must have the ability to: select appropriate children's and Young Adults materials in all formats, develop and manage materials budgets. Applications may be picked up at Howard County Library during library hours. Application period closes December 20.

**NOW HIRING** spray applicator driver. -Class A-CDL license and farm experience helpful. Excellent benefits. Excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena Chemical Company, 100 S. St. Peter, Stanton, Tx.

**Help Wanted**

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MONDAY DEC. 20

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid-Raymond	News Ent Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Monster Nation (CC)		CSI: Crime Soene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BEToom Court	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	College Basketball: Monday Night		
7 PM	TV Guide: Greatest Mom	TV Guide: Greatest Mom	Rub	The Swan (CC)	Still Standing Listen Up	La Mujer en el Espejo	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Antique Roadshow	Monster House (CC)	Movie: Final Analysis	CSI: Crime Soene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Prison Song	Inspector Gadget 2	Princeton at Temple (CC)	Countdown (CC)	Movie: Bugsy (CC)
8 PM	NFL Football: New England	NFL Football: New England	Amor Real		Raymond Two-Hall Men	Gitanas	Las Vegas (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage (CC)		WWE Raw (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)		45 Movie: Pool	Billiards: Pool	Movie: 3 (CC)	
9 PM	Patrols at Miami Dolphins (CC)	Patrols at Miami Dolphins (CC)	Cristina	Malcolm-Mid-70s Show	CSI: Miami (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Las Vegas (CC)	Friends (CC)		Miss America	American Chopper	Movie: The Last Seduction	Spike TV's Video Game Awards 2004	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers The Parkers	Inspector Gadget 2	Billiards: Pool		Movie: The
10 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Estamos Unidos	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	The Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rojo Vivo	Show (CC) Late Night	Seinfeld (CC) 25 Movie	Booker Scrivner	Sign Off	Monster Garage (CC)	Movie: intersection	Blind Date Blind Date	NYPD Blue (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	NBA Fastbreak NFL's Greatest	SportsCenter (CC)	Scarlet Letter (CC)
11 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	Alma Rebelde	Spn City Dharma-Greg	Show (CC) The Insider	Mana Celeste Corte-Famila	Fraser (CC)	Demolition Man (CC)	Update/Israel N. McBride		American Chopper			NYPD Blue (CC)	Club Comic View	Kim Possible Lizzie McGuire	Moments NFL's Greatest	Outsides-Lines SportsCenter	Movie: Naked Lies (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



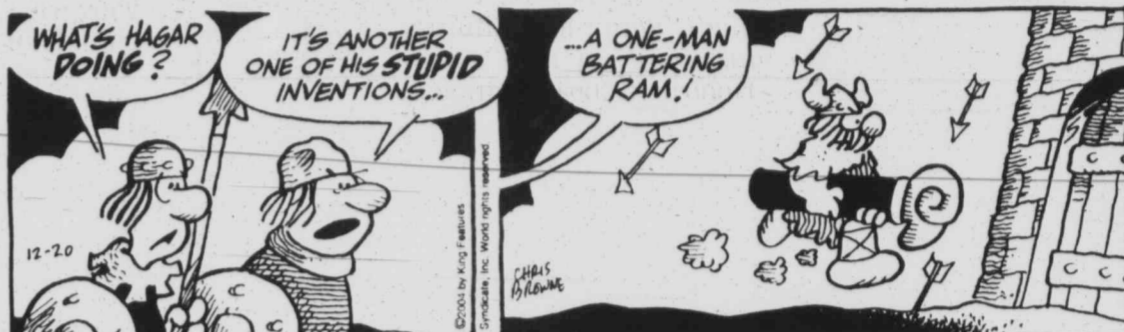
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This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 20, the 355th day of 2004. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

On this date:

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1879, Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced

the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1968, author John Steinbeck died in New York at age 66.

In 1976, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died at age 74.

In 1987, more than 3,000 people were killed when the "Dona Paz," a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker "Vector" off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation "Just Cause," sending troops into Panama to topple the government of General Manuel Noriega.

In 1998, Nkem Chukwu gave birth in Houston to five girls and two boys, 12 days after giving birth to another child, a girl. (However, the tiniest of the octuplets died a week later.)

Ten years ago: Former President Jimmy Carter succeeded in getting

Bosnia's warring factions to agree to a temporary cease-fire.

Today's Birthdays:

Actress Audrey Totter is 87. Comedian Charlie Callas is 77. Actor John Hillerman is 72. Rock musician Peter Criss is 59. Psychic Uri Geller is 58. Actor John Spencer is 58. Singer Alan Parsons is 55. Actress Jenny Agutter is 52. Actor Michael Badalucco is 50. Actress Blanche Baker is 48. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 47. Rock singer-musician Mike Watts (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 47. Country singer Kris Tyler is 40.

Answer to previous puzzle

DISARMS FOREVER  
INONESSPARETIME  
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USO JONI PULERS  
TELLONESFORTUNE  
HAVINGITALLOVER  
STENGEL BASSERS

Newsday Crossword

TAKE THE CAKE by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 \_\_\_ of Riley (ease)
  - 5 Cincinnati baseballers
  - 9 Rotini or rigatoni
  - 14 Sandwich cookie
  - 15 Director Kazan
  - 16 Speedy
  - 17 Keyboard symbol above "3"
  - 19 Wear away
  - 20 Conclusion
  - 21 Henhouse perch
  - 22 Ice-cream holders
  - 23 Work in the mailroom
  - 24 Baker's topping
  - 26 Perfume feature
  - 28 Southwest art center
  - 29 Air-quality org.
  - 32 Seacoast
  - 33 Cruel character
  - 34 Crashing sound
  - 35 Spat
  - 36 Bandleader's stick
  - 38 Have the courage
  - 39 Comic-strip bark
  - 40 Manuscript mailing enclosure: Abbr.
  - 41 Interrupt, on the dance floor
  - 42 Map line: Abbr.
  - 43 Avoid an F
  - 44 Draggy feeling, with "the"
- DOWN**
- 1 Easy stride
  - 2 Remove wrinkles
  - 3 Long-running quarrel
  - 4 Very long time
  - 5 Vacation spot
  - 6 Poet T.S.
  - 7 Uses a shovel
  - 8 Capital of Chile
  - 9 Exact
  - 10 Spelling or Burr
  - 11 Patient's washup
  - 12 Ocean motion
  - 13 Fruity drinks
  - 18 Male bee
  - 23 Feudal worker
  - 25 Crop on stalks
  - 26 T or polo
  - 27 Small eatery
  - 28 Lugs around
  - 30 Eiffel Tower city
  - 31 Prayer's end
  - 32 Movie rating symbol
  - 36 Lambs' sounds
  - 37 Levied, as taxes
  - 38 Twofold
  - 40 Practiced some punches
  - 41 Mr. Eastwood
  - 44 Winemaker's container
  - 46 Singer Della
  - 47 Stop a squeak again
  - 48 Short golf stroke
  - 49 Workplace safety group: Abbr.
  - 51 Drive-\_\_\_ window
  - 52 Slow-cooked meal
  - 53 Pulled apart
  - 54 Potato, slangily
  - 57 Fitness center

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