

BIG SPRING HERALD



INSIDE

Slow starts
plague
Coahoma
boys and
girls

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Angel Tree selections steady, but slow

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Angel adoptions have been steady, but at its current rate the annual Salvation Army Angel Tree program could once again go down to the last minute.

That's the word from Capt. Russ Keeney, as the local charity does its part to brighten the Christmas season for less-fortunate children in the Howard County area.

"Things have been steady, but

we'd like to see them pick up some," said Keeney. "We really hate to see it come down to the last minute like it did last year. It makes it tough on everyone."

Keeney said area residents have until Dec. 17 to choose an angel card from one of several special trees located in Big Spring.

"We have trees set up at Wal-Mart, the Big Spring Mall, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the TravelCenters of America truck stop," said Keeney. "We also have a special

Angel Tree for our seniors at the Big Spring Herald.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for that child or senior. It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It's very important that they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the

"When we take the toys to a family and there's nothing in the house for Christmas and the child gets a bike, it's just chaotic with excitement. That's what it's all about, helping a child see that somebody out there cares."



Keeney

correct child."

The current angel count is made up of 90 senior angels, 50 teens and more than 300 chil-

dren, according to Keeney, who said the program means a lot to

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Living Tree begins Christmas season for music director

Performances
Saturday and
Sunday at
FUMC here

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

For 27 years, the Living Christmas Tree has been one of Big Spring's surest signals that the holiday season has arrived full force.

The Living Christmas Tree program, presented annually since 1978 by First United Methodist Church, will hold three public programs this weekend. A dress rehearsal will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, with regular nightly performances scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m.

"It starts Christmas for me," said Jim Wright, music director for the church. "I'm an old Scrooge. I wouldn't even start Christmas until the 15th if it wasn't for the Living Christmas Tree."

Free tickets for the event are available at the



church office at 400 Scurry St. No ticket is required for the Saturday afternoon dress rehearsal, but no one will be admitted to the evening performances without tickets, said Nell Burgess, church secretary.

The church, which seats about 1,000, usually fills up quickly for the event, so Burgess urged people to get their tickets quickly.

The program features



Above, Brantley Cahoon and his fellow First United Methodist Church bell ringers will perform during this weekend's presentation of The Living Christmas Tree. Free tickets for the Saturday and Sunday evening performances are available at the church office on 400 Scurry St. At left, music director Jim Wright leads the choir during a rehearsal Tuesday night.

FUMC singers, arranged on a set resembling a giant Christmas tree, performing a variety of Christmas hymns and carols. Among the traditional holiday songs to be performed this year include "Joy to the World," "Let Us Adore Him," "It's Beginning to

Look a Lot Like Christmas," and "The Hallelujah Chorus."

"I just love the music, and the people involved with this," Wright said. "They are just a delight to pull together."

In addition, the singers will be joined by the FUMC Children's Choir

and the church's bell ringers.

For more information, contact the church office at 267-6394.

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

Stalker pleas, sentenced to 15 years

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man admitted to one count of stalking and three counts of violation of a protective order in 118th District Court this week, accepting a plea bargain that will land him in prison for 15 years.

Andres Juarez, 46, currently residing at the county jail, pleaded guilty in return for a sentence of four 15-year terms in prison, set to run concurrently.

Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said the plea bargain was the culmination of several prior convictions that enhanced the charges against Juarez.

"Mr. Juarez had a protective order against him preventing him from harassing or annoying the victim," said Wilkerson. "He had been convicted of breaking that protective order twice in the past, making the third and any further charges felonies."

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Bush: Iraqi security forces in increasing state of readiness

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — President Bush, facing growing doubts about his war strategy, said Wednesday that Iraqi troops are increasingly taking the lead in battle but that "this will take time and patience." He refused to set a timetable for withdrawing U.S. forces.

Bush said the U.S. military presence in Iraq is set to change, by making fewer patrols and convoys, moving out of Iraqi cities and focusing more on specialized operations aimed at high-value terrorist targets.

"As Iraqi forces gain experience and the political process advances, we will

be able to decrease our troop level in Iraq without losing our capability to defeat the terrorists," Bush told a supportive audience at the U.S. Naval Academy. "These decisions about troop levels will be driven by the conditions on the ground in Iraq and the good judgment of our commanders, not by artificial timetables set by politicians in Washington."

Bush's emphasis on the readiness of Iraqi security forces came at a time when continued violence in Iraq and the death of more than 2,000 U.S. troops have contributed to a sharp drop in the president's popularity.

Even before Bush finished speaking, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid

issued a statement claiming that Bush "recycled his tired rhetoric of 'stay the course' and once again missed an opportunity to lay out a real strategy for success in Iraq that will bring our troops safely home."

The Nevada senator charged that Bush failed to meet a call by the Senate to tell Americans the administration's strategy for success in Iraq.

With lawmakers and others calling for a more sober assessment of the situation in Iraq, Bush acknowledged setbacks in the training of Iraqi forces. He recalled a time when Iraqi soldiers ran from battle, and said the United States has made



KRT photo/Chuck Kennedy

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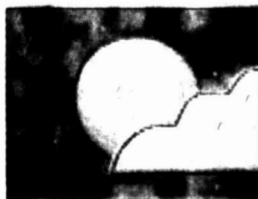
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COLLEGE LUMINARIA

Howard College will present its Christmas gift to the community at 6 p.m. Thursday.

That's when college officials will hold their annual luminaria lighting ceremony in the courtyard in front of the administration building located just off Birdwell Lane.

Santa Claus will be present for the occasion, a choral group will offer a selection of Christmas songs and refreshments will be served during the event, said Shirley Lee, a spokesperson for the college.

Howard College has lined the campus with luminarias each Christmas season for more than 25 years, Lee said.

AIDS DAY CEREMONY

The West Texas VA Health Care System will have a World AIDS Day ceremony at 9 a.m. Thursday in the hospital chapel.

The VA Hospital is located at 300 Veterans Blvd.

The ceremony is open to all members of the community and surrounding guests. There is no charge.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, participants will place ribbons and memorials on the AIDS memorial tree located on the grounds of the hospital.

For further information, contact Iva Jo Hanslick, community relations coordinator, at 264-4824.

25 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT



News briefs

Woman's boyfriend and ex-husband kill each other in San Antonio apartment

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A recently divorced man and his ex-wife's new boyfriend killed each other in an early morning brawl, authorities said.

The men died Tuesday after Antonio Harris, 29, attacked the boyfriend with a knife, a rifle and a retractable baton, police spokesman Joe Rios said. Officials said Harris stabbed the other man in the arm, possibly severing an artery, before the boyfriend grabbed the rifle and shot Harris several times.

Harris died at the scene and the boyfriend died later at Brooke Army Medical Center, officials said. His name was not immediately released.

Sarah B. Harris, 21, told police that the couple's divorce was finalized three weeks ago. She was sleeping Tuesday morning in her boyfriend's apartment when her ex-husband arrived, police said. Investigators believe he may have entered the unit through an unlocked door.

Suspect shoots officer, holds woman hostage before surrendering

FORT WORTH (AP) — A man critically wounded a Fort Worth police officer Tuesday and held a woman hostage for hours before finally surrendering to police, officials said.

Officer Henry "Hank" Nava, 39, was shot in the head while trying to serve a warrant at a mobile home about 2 p.m. in a growing suburban area of northwest Fort Worth, police said.

He underwent surgery at Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital and remained in "extremely critical" condition Tuesday night, police spokesman Lt. Dean Sullivan said.

After the shooting, suspected gunman Stephen Lance Heard, 39, fled the home where the warrant was being served and went to another nearby home, Sullivan said.

Sullivan said one person in that home escaped and called 911. But the suspect held 26-year-old Sou Chandovang hostage until about 4:30 p.m., when he released her as police negotiated with him by phone. Heard surrendered about half an hour later.

Sullivan said Heard would be charged with attempted capital murder and other charges following the shooting and standoff.

Governor spares life of man set to become 1,000th person executed in U.S. since 1976

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A day before Robin Lovitt was to become the 1,000th person executed since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976, Virginia's governor spared the man's life.

Lovitt's sentence on Tuesday was commuted to life in prison without parole for stabbing a man to death with a pair of scissors during a 1988 pool hall robbery.

Gov. Mark R. Warner said evidence from Lovitt's trial had been improperly destroyed, depriving the defense of the opportunity to subject the material to the latest in DNA testing.

"The commonwealth must ensure that every time this ultimate sanction is carried out, it is done fairly," said Warner, who had never before granted clemency to a death row inmate. The 1,000th execution is now set for early Friday in North Carolina.

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1A

several changes reflecting lessons learned from early mistakes in how Iraqis were trained.

"Some critics continue to assert that we have no plan in Iraq except to 'stay the course,'" Bush said. "If by 'stay the course' they mean we will not allow the terrorists to break our will, they're right. If by 'stay the course' they mean we will not permit al Qaida to turn Iraq into what Afghanistan was under the Taliban, a safe haven for terrorists and a launching pad for attacks on America, they're right as well. If by 'stay the course' they mean that we're not learning from our experience or adjusting our tactics to meet the challenges on the ground, then they're flat wrong."

He did not say that the terrorists now in Iraq had anything to do with the 2001 terror attacks in the United States, but he powerfully linked the two, saying they "share the same ideology."

Bush said many Iraqi forces have made real gains over the past year.

"As the Iraqi forces grow more capable, they

are increasingly taking the lead in the fight against the terrorists," Bush said. "Our goal is to train enough Iraqi forces so they can carry the fight against the terrorists."

Bush's speech did not break new ground or present a new strategy. Instead, it was intended to bring together in one place the administration's arguments for the war and explain existing strategy on a military, economic and political track. The president's address was accompanied by the release of a 35-page White House document titled "National Strategy for Victory in Iraq."

"Americans should have a clear understanding of this strategy," Bush said. He said the document was an unclassified version of the strategy that was being pursued in Iraq.

Bush said that Iraqis



Tai Shan, the baby giant panda born in captivity at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., tries to climb a rock in his indoor exhibit Tuesday. It was the first press preview for the new panda who was born July 9 and now weighs 21 pounds. Tai Shan is the sixth giant panda cub born at the National Zoo but the first to survive longer than four days. His mother, Mei Xiang, was artificially inseminated after no successful natural mating occurred between her and mate Tian Tian.

KRT photo/Pete Souza, Chicago Tribune

Supreme Court steps into abortion rights case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is considering its first abortion rights case under the leadership of Chief Justice John Roberts, with an unpredictable outcome because of the court's changing makeup.

The stakes are significant in the dispute over a New Hampshire law requiring minors to tell a parent before ending a pregnancy, although the case does not challenge the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that said abortion is a fundamental constitutional right.

The outcome is likely to signal where the high court is headed on an

issue that has been emotional and divisive among the justices and around the country.

Abortion was a prominent subject in Roberts' confirmation hearings and has emerged as a major issue in President Bush's nomination of appeals court Judge Samuel Alito to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. O'Connor has been the swing vote in support of abortion rights.

If Alito is confirmed by the Senate early next year, his vote could be needed to break a tie in the New Hampshire case being argued before jus-

Abortion cases generally draw large crowds at the Supreme Court, but buzz around Wednesday's argument was particularly frenzied because the court until this fall had no turnover for 11 years.

New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte told justices in a filing that the law "provides pregnant minors with the benefit of parental guidance and assistance in exercising what is undoubtedly a difficult choice."

O'Connor, a supporter of Roe v. Wade and the first woman named to the court, is retiring after 24 years and will likely leave

the court before the case is decided. A Senate vote is planned for January on Alito, who is expected to be more receptive to abortion restrictions.

It is unknown how Roberts or Alito would vote on a rollback of Roe v. Wade.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Jose A. "Joe" Torres, Sr., 83, died Saturday. Funeral Mass will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Oleta Clark, 86, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at the Dumas Cemetery.

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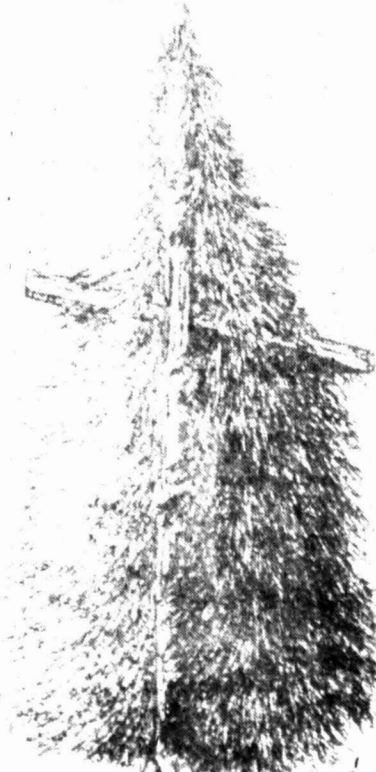
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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

This season, let's be certain that we remember others

This is the season. Thanksgiving is gone for another year and residents of the Crossroads area, like everyone else across the nation, begin to turn their thoughts to Christmas. And that means it's time to begin remembering the various charitable drives that take place every year here in Big Spring.

While there's about a month of shopping days each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there's less time to help out charities.

Now is really the time to take a few minutes and remember those less fortunate than ourselves. And to remember the spirit of giving far outweighs that of getting. It's a message we preach to our children at an early age during the Christmas season.

And this Christmas, as is always the case, there are a number of agencies that need our help.

We would also ask our readers to remember that for children, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy.

The Herald and the Salvation Army want to make sure no child in Big Spring has to experience that feeling this Christmas season, and that's why we'll again be partnering a joint toy drive.

Again this year and we're concerned that not all the children will receive a gift. So, if you can, please heed the call. We'll have the doors open here at the Herald every Monday through Friday morning at 8 a.m. and will be here until 5 p.m. on those days for those wishing to donate to the drive.

The toys will be taken to the Salvation Army and distributed on Dec. 23. Help us make sure they can give every child in need at least one new toy this Christmas.

And don't forget, the Salvation Army's Angel Trees have the Christmas wishes of many needy children and elderly citizens on them as well this season.

The Angel Trees are within easy reach, located at the Big Spring Mall, Wal-Mart and Scenic Mountain Medical Center. In addition, the tree for seniors located here at the Herald.

There's also still time to help out the Giving Trees project in Big Spring.

Child Protective Services annually sponsors a Giving Tree in the lobby of Wells Fargo Bank. The tree is trimmed with paper ornaments, each bearing the name of a child who has three wishes for the holidays. People purchase the gifts indicated on those ornaments and return them, unwrapped to the tree. Each ornament is marked with the child's shoe and clothing size.

So, if you can, take a few minutes to drop by Wells Fargo Bank and pick an ornament off the Giving Tree and make this a special Christmas for a special child.

Let's all be able to say we did our best to make it a joyous holiday season throughout Big Spring and Howard County.

Remember, the feeling you will receive from helping others is truly what is meant by the Christmas spirit.

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@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Anytime is the right time for us to come to You, Lord.
Amen

Celebrating all of our Thanksgivings

I waited until after Thanksgiving because I didn't want to cause anyone to choke on their turkey, but in giving thanks with Native Americans, the Spanish beat the Pilgrims by more than 50 years.

Let's talk turkey: Contrary to popular wisdom, there were at least two Thanksgiving ceremonies on U.S. soil many years before the Pilgrims feasted in Plymouth, Mass., in 1621.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in St. Augustine, Fla., on Sept. 8, 1565. That's when 800 Spanish settlers led by Pedro Menendez de Aviles invited the natives to a Thanksgiving meal. Historians believe they ate salted pork, garbanzo beans and biscuits.

The second Thanksgiving with Native Americans was on April 20, 1598 near El Paso, Texas. That's when some 600 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Onate reached the Rio Grande and ate duck, geese and fish to celebrate the end of a grueling expedition through Mexico.

This event, later recognized as the "Texas Thanksgiving" by that state's legislature, was described

by an expedition member, Capt. Gaspar Perez de Villagra in an epic poem: "We built a great bonfire and roasted the meat and fish, and then all sat down to a repast the like of which we had never enjoyed before."

In fact, Spanish explorers held a Thanksgiving celebration every time they landed in North America, starting in 1513 with the Juan Ponce de Leon expedition. And there may have been many other Spanish celebrations with Native Americans.

And yet Plymouth Rock in 1621 is the only Thanksgiving most of us recognize and celebrate. It's the only one most Americans are taught!

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. No one should try to replace it.

For most Latinos, especially immigrants, it is a time to say "gracias" for the privilege of living in the world's greatest nation. Indeed, because they came here in search of religious, political and economic freedom, many Latinos identify with the Pilgrims.

But it wouldn't hurt to make Thanksgiving more inclusive — and more reflective of our true history.

The Spanish Thanksgivings are overlooked because history is written by the winners. England beat Spain in gaining control of North

America, and it was the British Americans who established the traditions and holidays.

But the true history of North America, especially the century of Spanish contributions before the Mayflower arrived, can no longer be ignored.

A little history doesn't hurt, especially to put things in the right perspective for those who constantly choose to ignore North America's deep Spanish roots — those who like to treat Latinos as "aliens."

I say, America should be thankful for our Spanish colonists, just like we are for our Pilgrims. Our history — and our holiday — should make room for them all.

And it will happen. Demographics clearly indicate that someday Latinos will have enough voters to level the playing field in every component of American society — including the history books.

Someday, in a truly diverse America, we will celebrate all of our Thanksgivings.

To find out more about Miguel Perez, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



Memories of his father's store

My father had a corner grocery store in Fort Worth. Growing up, I worked there when I wasn't in school or sleeping. Our lives revolved around the store.

My dad was a fabulous meat man. He could make choice taste like prime just the way he sliced off a steak or roast. He was an artist with a butcher knife. It was fascinating to watch him stand at the meat block and work. He did lots of cutting up. He told me he had butchered about 10,000 head of cattle. He had the strongest right arm I've ever known about. It got that way by using a hand meat saw for decades.

Customers came from as far away as Austin to buy his meat. The store carried a complete line of groceries and produce, but about half the income came from the meat market. That's where the action was. When salesmen came in, my dad just kept right on

working at the meat block, talking and answering questions just like he was giving the salesman his full attention.

My dad was a philosopher and a poet. He had the unique ability to make people feel good. State legislators came to the store and leaned over the meat counter for advice and counsel, to hear a story or joke and get their batteries charged.

He was pre-med at Baylor, but left after two years to tend to business and raise a family. He quoted poetry that suited the occasion, no matter what the occasion was. He was a Kiwanian and served as lieutenant governor for the Texas-Oklahoma district. He also served on the school board and taught a Sunday school class.

He always wore a dress shirt and tie while working in the store and seldom walked out the front door without a coat and hat.

He always enjoyed a certain status. He was valedictorian of his high school class at Athens. He was so popular that once he exploded a firecracker in a classroom and nobody would tell the teacher who did it.

When he and my mother began

to travel, I came home and managed the store and its dozen or so employees. I loved the constant parade of characters that came in, especially the ones from across the street that walked over just to visit. My dad discouraged that, but I thought they provided the most interesting part of the day.

My dad got up at 4 or 4 on Saturday mornings to get the meat counter ready for the biggest day of the week. A few days after I got back from an Army tour in Europe, the two of us sat on meat blocks one Saturday morning and just talked. It meant a lot to me because I was 25 years old and wasn't sure just what I was going to do with the rest of my life. That was a very special time for me, especially knowing how valuable time was on Saturday mornings.

My dad passed away in 1975 at the age of 64. He always had a goal of doing \$5,000 worth of meat business in a single day. I was taking care of the store while he was in the hospital near the end of his life.

One Saturday night I took the adding machine to his hospital bed and showed him the bottom number. It was \$5,000.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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ANGELS

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him and the rest of the Salvation Army staff.

"This program is extremely special to me," said Russ Keeney. "Of all the programs that we do, this one is my heart because of the people it helps," said an obviously emotional Keeney. "When we take the toys to a family and there's nothing in the house for Christmas and the child gets a bike, it's just chaotic with excitement. That's what it's all about, helping a child see that somebody out there cares."

Keeney said he hopes the Angel Tree program will be as successful as the local Salvation Army's recent Thanksgiving effort, which he described as "awesome."

"It was just amazing," said Keeney. "We served Thanksgiving meals to 575 people in the community. Some 310 of them were delivered, while the rest were either take-out or enjoyed right here at our office. That's the most dinners we've served since my wife and I have been in Big Spring."

"It was an awesome day. The volunteers really stepped up and did it all. We couldn't have asked for better help."

And while there seems to be little respite between the two holidays for the Salvation Army staff, Keeney said it's an amazing time of the year for the local charity.

"We have so much going on right now," said Keeney. "Our kettle program is going on right now. It's a little down compared to last year, but we sort of expected that with all of the hurricane relief efforts this year."

"We're also in the midst of our annual canned food drive. Our goal this year is to collect 24,000 cans. Last year we collected approximately 22,000 cans of food, and right now the cupboards are bare. Every bit of the food we raised last year has been used. We're wiped out."

Keeney said Big Spring High School will also be helping out this year.

"Big Spring High School will be putting on a winter concert Dec. 15 and they're dedicating that performance to the Salvation Army. They're asking for people who attend to bring at least one can of food, and they will have a table where cans can be dropped off."

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

PLEA

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Wilkerson said the charges against Juarez were further enhanced by past felony convictions from the 1990s.

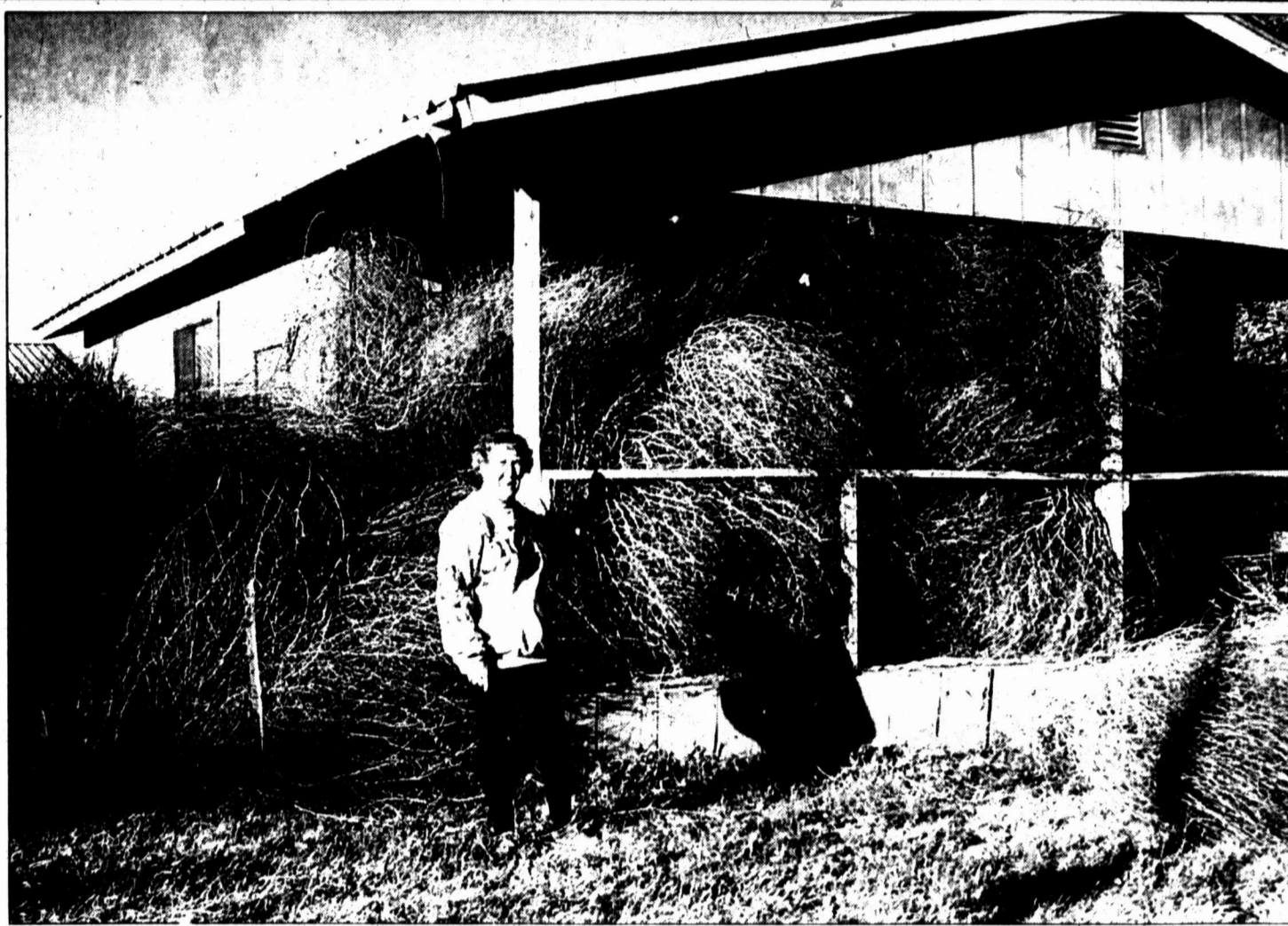
"He just couldn't seem to stop doing what he was doing," Wilkerson said.

Shann Thomas, director of Victim Services of Big Spring, said the conviction should serve as a very important reminder to anyone who has a protective order filed against them.

"Protective orders are to be taken seriously," said Thomas.

"I want anyone who has a protective order filed against them to take heed of this because they will be prosecuted."

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



Herald photos/Marsha Sturdivant

Nila Allen, who lives north of Big Spring near the Big Spring State Hospital, points out some of the giant tumbleweeds that covered her home and cars Sunday during the high winds experienced throughout the county. The tumbleweeds, some that are more than 6-feet in diameter, covered the front of her home, preventing her and her husband, Lawrence from using the front door. The tumbleweeds came from an empty lot across U.S. Highway 87 North and Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief said his force will assist the Allens with removal, as the dead foliage poses a fire risk. The tumbleweeds nearly covered a 20-foot tree in the back yard, left, as well as covering a house, above, that sits in the back of her property. She said her car was scratched by the tumbleweeds and her daughter-in-law, Tammi Allen, was able to capture on video some of the bushes as they rolled across the highway. She said in all the years she's lived in Howard County, in this house or the one next door where Tammi and Mark Allen live, she has never seen such big tumbleweeds or as many as blew into her property Sunday.



31st Annual Christmas Bazaar

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You, too can take the TAKS

Today we hear a lot about the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test.

Parents know that the subject areas tested are: Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. However, many parents still have little knowledge of the actual test.

In this edition of Parent's Corner, I would like to give some examples of prior TAKS test questions allowing you to "take the test."

Answers will be located at the end of the article.

This exercise will assist you in understanding what your child is required to do. I will include a sample question each week in the Parent's Corner.

I hope you will enjoy this exercise. The following are questions from former TAKS tests at the grade levels noted:

Grade 3 test

School is out at 2:45 p.m. It takes Kip 30 minutes to walk to his house. At what time will he arrive at his house?

- A. 2:15 p.m. B. 3 p.m.
- C. 3:15 p.m. D. 3:30 p.m.

Grade 5 test

On a class field trip, there was one adult for every eight students. If a total of 54 students and adults went on the trip, how many were students?

- A. 46 B. 47 C. 48 D. 62

Grade 7 test

Which of the following represents the greatest percent of change?

- A. A tree grew from 8 feet to 12 feet in one year.
- B. An aquarium that was originally priced at \$80 is now \$60
- C. A person whose salary was \$100 per week is now earning \$120 per week
- D. A baby who weighted 7 pounds at birth now weighs 16 pounds.

Answers: Grade 3 is C; Grade 5 is C; Grade 7 is D

Darrel Ryan is director of curriculum for Big Spring Independent School District. You may contact him at 264-3600.

Santa Claus is coming to town

The jolly old elf from the North Pole will be at the Big Spring Mall Dec. 10-11 for his first appearance in Big Spring, with a return engagement slated for Dec. 16-23.

On Dec. 10 Santa will be at the mall from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. the following Day.

Dec. 16-17 Santa will be available from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m., and on Dec. 18 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Dec. 19-23 Santa will only be available in the evenings from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the Big Spring Mall at 267-3853.

Amy E. Reese
D.D.S., P.C.
432-267-4102

AG: Wedding would violate nepotism laws

County tax assessor must wait to wed tax appraiser

"Isn't that crazy? We thought it was funny that we had to wait for an attorney general's opinion to tell us whether we could or couldn't. I bet that's never happened before."

*Paula Rector,
Kerr County
Tax Assessor-Collector*

AUSTIN (AP) — When Kerr County Tax Assessor-Collector Paula Rector decided to get married, she sought permission — not from family or friends, but from the state attorney general. And she didn't get it.

Rector, 54, wanted to marry one of the district's tax appraisers. But the couple worried that their marital union would violate the state's nepotism law, so they brought the case before Attorney General Greg Abbott.

In an opinion released Tuesday, Abbott confirmed their fears, ruling that the couple could not marry and simultaneously retain their positions.

"Isn't that crazy? We thought it was funny that we had to wait for an attorney general's opinion to tell us whether we could or couldn't," Rector told the *Houston Chronicle* Tuesday. "I bet that's never happened before."

Rector could not resign from the appraisal district board or appoint someone to replace her because the position must be held by the tax collector, according to state law. But she highlighted the fact that she does not vote on how appraisals are set,

nor does the board make any hiring or firing decisions outside of the job of chief appraiser.

"It doesn't affect his appraisals, and I don't get a percentage of what I collect," Rector said.

Kerr County Attorney had argued in a letter to Abbott that the couple's plight did not squarely fit inside the law's provisions.

"This unfortunate situation is an unintended consequence of a well-meaning statute, and it is urged that the nepotism laws should not be applied in this

case," Emerson said.

"Nepotism laws are designed to prevent a public officer from serving his or her personal interest in full employment for felicitous instead of the public interest in hiring the best qualified employees," Emerson said.

"The (tax assessor collector) lacks a voice in employment matters."

But Abbott ruled that state law trumps love.

"The employee may retain his employment until the end of his contract with the appraisal district, or if the employee is employed at-will, he may retain his employment until the end of the pay period during which his marriage occurs," Abbott said.

Rector said she was disappointed with the ruling but would wait until her retirement to marry her fiancé.

She has served five terms as tax assessor-collector and said she may not seek reelection when her current term ends in three years.

CAREGIVERS HONORED



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Danielle Strickland, left, a junior volunteer with Home Hospice, Maidee Wells, the certified nurse's aide coordinator and volunteer Koila Strickland prepare special goodie bags that were distributed to caregivers in honor of National Caregiver Week. More than 750 bags were presented to caregivers who serve in nursing homes, caregivers providing home care, those providing care in assisted living facilities as well as the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Veterans Home, all within the Home Hospice of Big Spring service area that extends to Sterling City, Loraine, Snyder, Colorado City, Westbrook, Garden City and Lamesa.

Vital statistics fees to increase, clerk says

Texans are about to pay more for copies of birth and death certificates.

Howard County Clerk Donna Wright said that fees for those certificates will increase substantially effective Thursday.

Birth certificates will cost \$23 per copy, an increase of \$11, Wright said.

Death certificates will increase in cost from \$10 to \$21 for the first copy, and \$4 for each additional

copy, Wright noted.

"When you compare (the rates) to other states, it's not that high, but for a one-time jump, it is pretty high," Wright said of the increases about to take effect.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Growing Christmas trees

Each year about 25 million fresh-cut Christmas trees are purchased in the United States. Did you ever stop to think where these beautiful, conical-shaped symbols of the holiday come from and who grows them? Plus, Santa Claus, Ind., and pork pigs.

American Profile

Celebrating Houston's Life

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Library News

Last week we talked about some of the new juvenile books; this week I would like to mention some of the new Young Adults books we have received.

This has been a really big month for movies that have been made from books.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is sure to be a hit. We have several copies of each of the Harry Potter books. Some are in the children's side of the library and some are on the adult's side as well. The Harry Potter books continue to be a favorite with all ages.

The popular books, "The Chronicles of Narnia" have been remade as well.

"The Chronicles of Narnia," by C. S. Lewis are wonderful to read. They are full of fun, fantasy and adventure. There are actually seven books in the Chronicles. This is Lewis' preferred reading order; the first is "The Magician's Nephew." This story tells how Aslan created Narnia and gave the gift of speech to its animals.

The second book is "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." This one is about how Aslan, the noble lion, freed Narnia from the spell of the White Witch.

"The Horse and His Boy" is next and it is about how a talking horse and a boy prince saved Narnia from invasion. The fourth, "Prince Caspian," tells about how good Prince Caspian and his army of Talking Beasts conquered the Telmarines.

Fifth is "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader." In this book it tells about how King Caspian sails through magic waters to the End-of-the-World.

"The Silver Chair" is the sixth book. This book covers how captive Prince Rilian escaped from the Emerald Witch's underground kingdom.

Finally is "The Last Battle." This one tells how evil come to Narnia and Aslan led his people to a glorious new paradise. I don't know which of the books will be covered in the movie, but any one or more of the books would make a fantastic movie.

We have all of the books and we recently received

Herald's features holiday deadlines set

December 19 is the deadline for all submission for the Dec. 24-25 weekend edition of the *Big Spring Herald*, as well as Church News and Club News that publishes Dec. 23.

For the New Year holiday, all articles to be published in the weekend edition of the *Herald* Dec. 31-Jan. 1 are due in the newspaper office by Dec. 26.

Only for the two weeks prior to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the deadline for all submissions for the Life! section is changed from noon Wednesday to 5 p.m. Monday to allow for an early press run.

This includes all wedding, engagement anniversary, birth and quinceañera announcements, as well as Who's Who with photos.

For more information, call 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com

one in the YA section that includes all the books in the series in one volume. That way you know that you are going to have all of the books at the same time and not have to wait.

"All Rivers Flow to the Sea" by Alison McGhee is one of our new books. Seventeen-year-old Rose Latham relives the night she and her sister, Ivy were in a car wreck, a wreck that left Ivy almost brain-dead and living by means of machinery only.

The book is mostly told in a stream-of-consciousness style that tells how Rose deals with the pain and loss after her sister is critically injured and the choices Rose makes.

"Silent to the Bone," by E. L. Konisburg is an interesting book with many twists and turns.

A thirteen-year-old boy, Bran is suddenly struck speechless when his baby stepsister is mysteriously injured while he is with her.

He is put in a mental hospital and could possibly face charges of manslaughter if his sister dies. Did he do it? What

about the strange actions of the British nanny, could she possibly be guilty and just letting Bran take the blame? If so, why won't Bran tell anyone? Is it because he can't or because he won't?

"Vampire High," by Douglas Rees is a wild read. Talk about segregation, discrimination and prejudice; this book has it all.

When ninth-grader Cody Elliot has to choose between two new high schools, Our Lady of Perpetual Homework or Vlad Dracul High, he chooses the path of least homework, or so he thinks.

The only problem is, you have to have really good grades to get into Vlad Dracul or a letter of recommendation. Cody has neither, till his dad co-worker, Mr. Antonesque, gives Cody a letter of recommendation that gets him into Vlad Dracul.

The story only gets stranger from there. Most of Cody's new classmates are extremely tall, pale, quiet, smart and wear

sunshades in school! Cody finds out that he is put on the school's water polo team and is guaranteed good grades and a scholarship to any college he chooses. All he has to do is show up for the games.

This becomes a little clearer to Cody when he realizes that most of his classmates are vampires. Wow, what a year he is going to have!

We have some books that are definitely worth

a look and a read. There are many more that are in the YA section that are interesting. There are all different genres for you to choose from. And don't think that just because these are YA books that adults can't read them.

They are for the "young at heart" as well. I'll see you at the library.

The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.,

Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday.

The Internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is online.

Janet Osborn is the Howard County children's librarian.

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Sports

IN BRIEF

HC men climb to top of NJCAA rankings

The Howard College men's basketball team has moved up to No. 4 in the nation this week after winning the Odessa College Thanksgiving Tournament.

The Hawks defeated Hill College in the first round, took down rival and then No. 10 ranked Midland in the semifinals and blew out Lee College in the championship game Saturday night.

Howard is 10-0 on the season and has taken first place in both tournaments its played in.

Chipola College remained No. 1 this week, while Mineral Area College move up to No. 2 after sitting at No. 6 last week. Cochise remained No. 3 and Howard moved up five spots from No. 9. Midland College dropped out of the top 20 but is still receiving votes on the outside looking in.

Lady Steers set to take part in parade

Members of the Big Spring Lady Steers basketball program will be selling coffee, hot chocolate and homemade baked goods in front of the Heritage Museum during the Christmas parade Dec. 3.

Sign-ups for YMCA basketball underway

Registration for the Big Spring YMCA youth basketball league is taking place now until Dec. 3.

The league is for boys and girls ages 5-12. Some 13-year-olds may play depending on their date of birth.

Practices are scheduled to begin Dec. 19. Kids who played last season may play on the same team from last year.

All games are scheduled to be played Saturdays beginning Jan. 7.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring sets volleyball clinic

A volleyball clinic for girls aged third through eighth grade has been set up for Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The clinic will take place at the B.S. Junior High and it will be instructed by J.E. Thomas, who is the Midland College assistant coach.

For more information, contact Della Partee at 267-4038.

Rams coach Martz wants to return

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Rams coach Mike Martz wants to return to the field after missing the last six games with a heart ailment.

Martz said he would ask his doctor for permission to return to his job. The Rams are 3-3 under interim coach Joe Vitt since Martz stepped down in October with endocarditis.

Steers, Lady Steers can't find win column on road

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
LAMESA — Big Spring's varsity basketball teams ran into trouble on the road against Lamesa Tuesday. The Lady Steers were able to score points, but lost, 68-63, while the Steers played their first game with the athletes from the football team and lost, 65-49.

Big Spring girls 63
Lamesa girls 68
Senior Raegan Ritchey

scored 20 points, but it was not enough to give her team the victory in Lamesa. The Lady Steers trailed by six after one quarter, but outscored Lamesa 29-19 in the second quarter and grabbed a four-point lead at the break.

Lamesa scored 18 points in each of the third and

fourth quarter and held Big Spring to just nine points in the third quarter, which was the difference in the game.

Seniors Carmen Davis scored 13 points, while Jaleaza Terrell added 10 points. The Lady Steers were plagued at the free throw line as they made just 15 out of 29.

Lamesa made 21 free throws and was led by Katy Pierce's 15 points. Bailee Harris added 14 points.

The girls will compete

in the San Angelo Tournament this weekend.

Big Spring boys 49
Lamesa boys 65

A slow start by the Steers was too much to overcome Monday against the Tors. Lamesa jumped out to an 18-9 lead after the first quarter and cruised to a 65-49 lead.

The Tors scored 20 and 18 points in the second and third quarters, respectively, before Big Spring held them to just

nine in the final quarter.

Junior Ryan Tannehill led Big Spring with 16 points, while senior Tannehill Kyle Piercefield added 13 points.

Brady Free led Lamesa with 18 points.

The boys will participate in the Andrews Tournament this weekend.



Hirt leads Lady Kats to big win

• Grady girls shut down No. 10 Witharral

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
GARDEN CITY — Erin Hirt's 18 points led the Garden City girls' basketball team to a victory over No. 5 Sterling City (4-3) Tuesday. The Lady Kats won their fifth straight game, 45-33.

The game was tied after one quarter and Garden City only led by three points at halftime, but a 17-9 third quarter advantage propelled the team to victory.

Brittany Chudej added eight points for Garden City (6-1), while Lauren Plagens and K'Lann Niehues each scored six points.

Garden City boys 56
Sterling City boys 63

GARDEN CITY — Free throw shooting plagued the Bearkats in their first game of the year Tuesday as the Garden City boys lost to Sterling City, 63-56.

Seniors Cory Multer and Colton Schwartz each reached double-figures with 19 and 11 points, respectively, but the Bearkats went 4-for-17 from the foul line.

Junior Alex Halfmann added nine points in the game.

The Sterling City advantage was grabbed in the first half as the Eagles led 33-24 at the break.

The Bearkats played without junior Taylor Niehues, who is still recovering from a hand injury suffered during football season.

Grady boys 47
Witharral boys 50

LENORAH — The Grady boys lost a close battle with Witharral Tuesday at home. The Wildcats played even in the first half, but the difference came in the third quarter where Witharral outscored Grady 14-10.

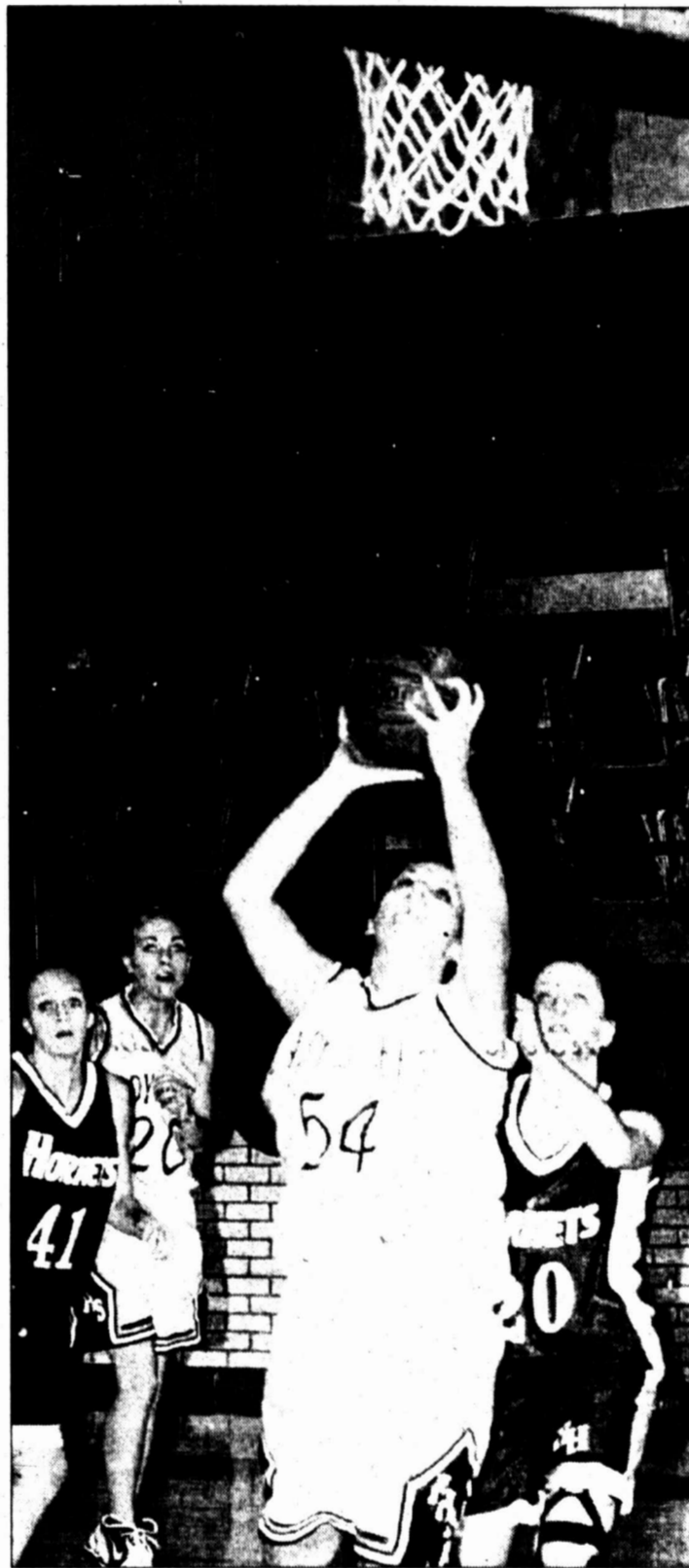
Juniors Clay Mitchell and Taylor Fields had 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Grady girls 38
Witharral girls 28

LENORAH — The Lady Cats got a win against No. 10 Witharral Tuesday at home.

Grady played tough defense and used big first and third quarters to get the victory, 38-28.

Kenzie Madison led the Lady Kats with 11 points, while Taylor Woolfork and Sandi Cox each added nine points. Kandace Schuelke hit a big half court shot at the end of the first quarter, as well.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Forsan's Alyssa Hodnett puts up a shot in the lane Tuesday against Highland. The Lady Buffs lost to the Lady Hornets 45-41.

Lady Buffaloes fall at home to Hornets

BY JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald
FORSAN — The Forsan Lady Buffalo varsity basketball team returned to the hardwood Tuesday night, losing a close contest to the Highland Hornets, 45-41.

The Lady Buffs were without senior Tessa Montgomery, who was out with an illness, but welcomed back Caylee Eggleston from injury.

"We knew we were shorthanded with Tessa out," said head coach Robert Hillger, "but we got Caylee back after missing the last two games and we were rested and ready to play."

Forsan got into foul trouble early in the first quarter as Alyssa Hodnett picked up three quick fouls.

But Hodnett was able to help keep pace with Highland as she and Kaylon Stanley combined to score 10 points in the period and earn a 12-12 tie after one.

In the second both teams scored in spurts with the lead changing hands four times.

Toward the end of the quarter, Kelci Owens went on her own mini-run, scoring six straight points and giving Highland a 21-16 lead.

Forsan answered back with a 7-0 run, sparked by a Kimmy Berry 3-pointer to end the half as the Lady Buffaloes reclaimed

the lead, 23-21.

The Lady Buffs struggled to find any rhythm in the third quarter and Highland took advantage. The Lady Hornets went on a 10-0 run and enjoyed an eight-point lead late in the period.

Freshman Tori Gauer nailed a jumper from the baseline and Stanley

completed a 3-point play to draw to within three points before Highland's Danielle Bryant ended the third with a bucket and grabbed a 33-28 lead heading into the final period.

Bryant led all scorers on the night with 19 points and began the fourth with a jumper, giving Highland a seven point lead.

Forsan drew to within two as Hodnett returned to ignite an 8-3 run by the Lady Buffs.

With just under 3 minutes to go, Highland had a 38-36 lead and was able to extend that lead to six points as former Lady Buffalo, Jade Hughey, scored two quick buckets.

Cassie Wash helped Forsan gain some momentum, scoring three straight, but two Lady Buff turnovers in the final minute damaged their bid at a late comeback.

With 7.9 seconds left to play, Bryant made two free throws to give the Lady Hornets a 45-41 lead.

See FORSAN, Page 2B

Reagan County takes down Coahoma

• Slow starts hurt Bulldogs at home

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
COAHOMA — The Bulldogettes rallied from a 17-point deficit Tuesday night at home, but fell short in the end against Reagan County, 53-45.

Reagan County's full court pressure took the Bulldogettes out of their game in the first half. Coahoma trailed 17-8 after the first quarter and Reagan County pushed its advantage to 12 at halftime.

The Bulldogettes slowly got back into the game in the third quarter.

Senior Kali Roberts and freshman Laci Sterling went to work for Coahoma in the period. Roberts scored the team's first four points and trimmed the lead to 15 and then a Sterling basket cut it to 13.

The Reagan County lead was 10 near the end of the third quarter, but Coahoma rolled off six straight points and cut the deficit to six with one frame to go.

Roberts scored three of the six points, while sophomore Christie Rich scored a basket and got fouled, but missed the free throw.

Roberts began the final quarter with three straight points as the Reagan County advantage was just three points early in the quarter. Reagan County responded though and pushed the lead back to 10 after two missed free throws from Sterling.

The Lady Owls pushed it back to 13 before Sterling connected on a shot inside, got fouled and made the free throw with 2:30 to play. That sequence cut the lead to 10.

Roberts scored Coahoma's final four points, but the Bulldogettes couldn't get closer than eight points.

Roberts led Coahoma (2-2) with 20 points, while Sterling added 14 and Rich scored eight points. Coahoma went 19-for-34 from the foul line.

Keli Davidson led all scorers with 22 points.

See COAHOMA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma senior Cody Griffith loses his footing, but still manages to keep the ball alive Tuesday in Coahoma during the Bulldogs' loss to Reagan County.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

On the eve of the new moon and on the final day of the month, our ideas about what to do next are percolating. Plan nothing. Leave these brain and soul impulses to churn, bubble and dance with each other while you engage in some kind of mundane activity. The next chapter of your life is being sketched out while you sweep the floor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A baffling relationship and a silly turn of events are featured. Through it all, you stay on your toes, ready to be witty, defensive, understanding, generous ... whatever is needed to make the situation work for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Most people don't know their problem. But

you know yours, and because of this, you're already halfway to the solution. The specific question you ask out loud helps you begin to see the way out!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The wrong associations drag you down, and the right ones help you fly. Knowing the difference is the key to staying upbeat. Contact someone who may be willing to accompany you on a shared odyssey.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Work from your strong suits. You may have temporarily forgotten what they are. Good friends and colleagues can remind you if you dare to ask. Or, look in the mirror, and ask yourself, "What am I best at?"

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may have no glamorous occasion to celebrate, no fantastic meeting to look forward to and nothing special in mind for lunch, but it's a beautiful day. Enjoy every magic minute.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22): What poise! What grace! What kindness and philanthropy! You're given "props" from people (other than your newspaper astrologer), and yet you're still underappreciated. Take it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Overthinking your situation is usually counterproductive, but today, it's your secret to success ... as long as you're plotting your plan on paper. With a few more tweaks, this could be a sketch of your business plan!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Reinventing yourself is only half the fun — the other half is seeing whom you attract with your newfound self. You won't agree much with a Leo, but you'll sure be glad this person is around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Goodbye doesn't mean forever. Close the chapter on an old situation, and a new level of freedom and energy takes hold. A fabulous offering is presented to you before the sun goes down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Jealousy teaches you what you really want out of life. So when you have an emotional reaction to a friend's news, go inward and listen up. What is that knot in your stomach trying to tell you?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Money isn't the answer to making your dreams a reality, but it sure helps! When your team gets rich, so do you. Focus on a venture that will be lucrative for all involved.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). One size does not fit all. What you need is different from what your colleagues, siblings and loved ones need. Speak up, and let them know what that is because they'll never guess!

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My husband, a Libra, won't work. He's a lawyer, and he's had many jobs, but nothing now. Lately, I've been the breadwinner of the family, and it's getting old. Also, I brought a lot more into the marriage finan-

cially from the beginning. My husband has a history of emotional problems, so I don't want to push him too hard either. What is a Virgo to do?"

I believe you have some financial karma to clear up — the money you brought into your marriage with your Libra husband is money that you don't completely feel you deserve. I'm sensing that you inherited the money because of a death in your family or if it was your divorce settlement from a previous marriage. But either way, part of you feels you don't deserve the money, and therefore, you are subconsciously creating a situation in which you are forced to share. So recognize your part in this dynamic — your husband is actually helping you alleviate your guilt. Come to terms with your guilt, a favorite Virgo emotion, and your husband will work again and make terrific money, too. There is no better sign for practicing law than Libra, the

sign of the scales of justice!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Amy Grant has crossed into television with her series "Three Wishes." Crossing barriers is a favorite Sagittarian pastime — Grant first broke barriers between Christian radio and pop radio, and since she did, many other artists have followed suit. Sagittarians are even more satisfied with success in other markets than they are with accomplishing the goal they originally set out to conquer.

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Several months ago, a family with four young children moved next door to us. The kids are supposedly home-schooled, but they spend hours each day riding their scooters, completely unsupervised, and spend much of their time poking into the neighbors' business, peeping and eavesdropping.

I have had at least three neighbors tell me that the 13-year-old boy stares into their houses with his face pressed up against the window. I also have noticed that when I am talking to others in my yard, these children will eavesdrop, and then offer comments and ask questions about our conversation.

The behavior that I am most concerned about is the way this same boy treats animals. I have a dog that was abused as a puppy before we adopted her from the shelter. She is deathly afraid of flashing lights, and I mentioned this to the family, asking them to please not shine flashlights or headlights at her. However, twice my dog came home shaking, and a neighbor told me this boy was purposely shining a light in my dog's face "just to mess with her." Another neighbor has a dog with an injured paw, and the boy told her to put the dog to sleep because "it's no good to anyone."

Are we wrong to be concerned? We have not talked to the parents because we aren't sure we should. What do you think? — Concerned in Los Angeles

Dear Concerned: That these children spend a lot of time riding their scooters does not mean they are not being properly educated at home. However, the fact that they are getting into the neighbors' business is a problem that absolutely should be discussed with the parents. And we worry about any 13-year-old who cannot treat a dog with basic kindness.

You and the other neighbors should approach these people calmly and kindly, explaining that you know children are naturally curious, but you hope they will discourage them from peeking into your homes or abusing your pets. If that doesn't help, feel free to tell the kids to get out of your yard, stop staring into your windows and leave the dog alone, or you'll call the police. Consider it "home" schooling.

Dear Annie: I have been



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

married for almost five years to a wonderful man I love very much. However, lately, I have been having a lot of recurring dreams where I am with other men. Most of the time, I dream about my former boyfriend, but not always. It's not necessarily sexual — just dreams about getting back together again.

In the dreams, I feel great, and then I wake up and feel weird and guilty that I was so happy. I would never do anything like this in real life and don't understand it. I haven't told my husband because I don't want him to be upset. Is my subconscious trying to tell me something? — Sleeping Beauty

Dear Sleeping: Your subconscious may be working through some stress. Has Hubby been distracted lately? Is your job a problem? Are you pregnant?

If you are happy with your husband, these dreams do not signify anything threatening to your marriage. Rest easy.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Tired of It," whose boss kept staring at her breasts. There was a married man at my job who would never look me in the eye. He would talk to my chest. The third time it happened, I started to swipe at my chest violently as if I had something on it. I said, "WHAT? WHAT?" He was so embarrassed, it never happened again.

I don't mean to make light of what is a real problem for many women, but his response was hilarious. — Don't Talk to My Chest

Dear Don't: We admire the woman who can figure out her own solution to these pesky problems. Thanks for writing.

Dear Annie: I'm married to a wonderful woman, and we have a young son. My wife has a mentally challenged sister, "Jane," who recently was diagnosed as being legally blind. Jane lives with my

mother-in-law. I've tried to get my wife to convince her mother to get Jane into a program for the visually impaired, but Mom refuses. Neither my wife nor my mother-in-law is willing to take the necessary steps to help Jane become somewhat independent, and this is the problem.

I want to prepare Jane for a group home or assisted living, but my wife wants Jane to live with us when her mother dies. Annie, I would love to spend my older years with my wife — vacations, long weekends, going to the mall, etc. If Jane lives with us, none of these things will be possible without having to

take Jane along everywhere we go. I love my wife, but I don't want a lifetime commitment to Jane.

Please help. Counseling hasn't worked, so some direction would be greatly appreciated. — Jane's Brother-in-Law

Dear Brother-in-Law: It's wonderful that your wife is willing to care for Jane, and you do have an obligation to your sister-in-law that is ongoing. However, it is unfair to Jane to keep her so dependent if she is capable of more. In fact, Jane could outlive you and your wife, and then what?

We suggest you ask Jane's doctor to talk to the family about Jane's capa-

bilities and what's best for her. You need to reassure your wife that you will not neglect her sister, while making it clear that Jane should make the most of her life.

Dear Annie: Several months ago, my mother-in-law passed away in another state. Shortly before her death, she told my husband that she had a safe deposit box at a certain bank, which contained her expensive jewelry. However, when we contacted that bank, we were told that she did not have a box there.

We have been through most of her records and cannot find a receipt, but did find two safe deposit box keys. Mom lived in

three states in the last five years and used at least eight different banks. I have contacted all the ones we are aware of, and not one of them even has safe deposit boxes.

Can you point us in the right direction? — J.K.

Dear J.K.: Go back to the original bank, bring the keys, and explain the problem. If the keys match their boxes, they may be willing to look into it more thoroughly. If that doesn't help, contact your state unclaimed property office or the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators at missingmoney.com or unclaimed.org.

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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2005. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 30, 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

On this date: In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.

In 1804, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase went on trial, accused of political bias. (He was acquitted by the Senate).

In 1936, London's famed Crystal Palace, constructed for the International Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire.

In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland.

In 1962, U Thant of Burma was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations, succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjöld.

In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.

In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Brady bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

One year ago: "Jeopardy!" fans got to see Ken Jennings end his 74-game winning streak as he lost to real estate agent Nancy Zerg.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Gordon Parks is 93, Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr. is 88. Actor Robert Guillaume is 78. TV personality and producer Dick Clark is 76. Radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy is 75. Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 68. Movie director Ridley Scott is 68. Singer Rob Grill (The Grassroots) is 62. Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 62. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 60. Playwright David Mamet is 58. Actor Mandy

Nations, succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjöld.

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In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Brady bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

One year ago: "Jeopardy!" fans got to see Ken Jennings end his 74-game winning streak as he lost to real estate agent Nancy Zerg.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Gordon Parks is 93, Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr. is 88. Actor Robert Guillaume is 78. TV personality and producer Dick Clark is 76. Radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy is 75. Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 68. Movie director Ridley Scott is 68. Singer Rob Grill (The Grassroots) is 62. Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 62. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 60. Playwright David Mamet is 58. Actor Mandy

Patinkin is 53. Country singer Jeannie Kendall is 51. Singer Billy Idol is 50. Rock musician John Ashton (The Psychedelic Furs) is 48. Football and baseball player Bo Jackson is 43. Rapper Jalil (Whodini) is 42. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 40. Actress Sandra Oh is 35. Country singer Mindy McCreech is 30. Actress Elisha Cuthbert is 23. Actress Kaley Cuoco is 20.

Thought for Today: "No particular man is necessary to the state. We may depend on it that, if we provide the country with popular institutions, those institutions will provide it with great men." - Thomas Babington Macaulay, English historian (1800-1859).

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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with letters placed in some cells.

Newsday Crossword

JOIN THE CLUB by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Bad actor, 4 Sir, in India, 9 Military student, 14 Presidential nickname, 15 Ouzo flavoring, 16 Whirlpool competitor, 17 Large glass alcove, 19 Nash output, 20 Just right, 21 Complain about, 23 Danson and Kennedy, 24 Trunk contents, 26 Complacent, 29 Stiff straw hats, 31 _ whim, 32 Get cozy, 36 Heaps kudos on, 38 Vague discomfort, 39 Get going, 41 Skips past, 42 Baseball feature, 43 Countdown number, 44 Writers on glass, 47 Margin, 49 Hold the floor, 50 Bouquet holder, 54 Hair dryer, 56 Pulitzer poet Conrad, 57 Expect, 59 Gum flavor, 62 Saguaro, 63 Short-winged, 64 Swimming-pool tester, 65 Little kids, 66 Ginger cookies, 67 Be off base, 11 New Hampshire school, 12 USNA grad monogram, 13 Menlo Park, 18 Did exist, 22 Cousteau's domain, 24 Heirs, often, 25 Stride, 27 Not deserved, 28 Shocked reactions, 29 Oregon Trail town, 30 Wooden strips, 32 Chew the scenery, 33 Put the finger on, 34 Woman's shoe, 35 Household leaper, 37 Fly-ball path, 39 Dele canceler, 40 Get tucked out, 42 Improve, as skills, 45 Wrecker's job, 46 Wave heights, 48 Upper-crust, 50 Spirit, 51 "Go fly _", 52 Sir, in Seville, 53 Put in a log, 55 Singer Redding, 56 Warmonger of myth, 57 Circus routine, 58 Customary manner, 60 Geologic division, 61 African viper

A crossword grid with starting numbers for clues.

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the ad and run it again for you at
no additional charge. If your ad is
inadvertently not printed advance
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will be for only the amount
received for publication of the
advertisement. We reserve the
right to edit or reject any ad for
publication that does not meet our
standards of acceptance.

"It Pays To Read
Big Spring Herald
Classifieds"

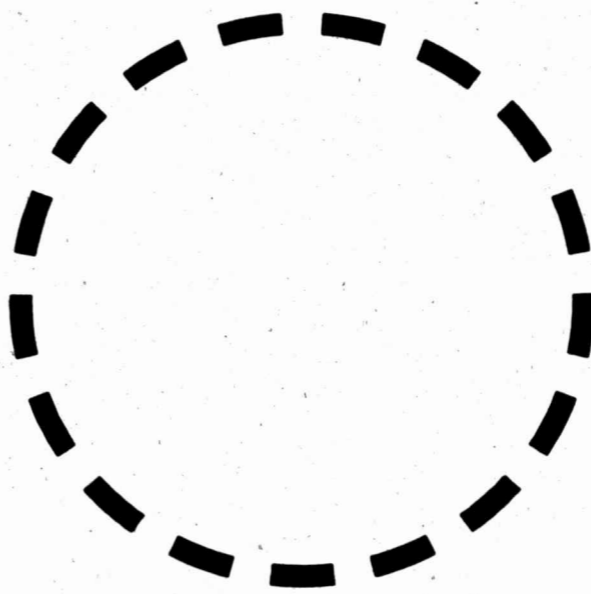
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Rape Crisis Services
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**PUT YOUR
COFFEE CUP
RIGHT HERE.**



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

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

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



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Call today
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A USER'S GUIDE TO

THE

BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is \$93.42 per year or \$8.65 per month.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 236.

HOW TO

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Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

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Call us at 432-263-7331
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