



INSIDE
Student athlete has bright future
Page 1B

BSHS laptop plan to cost \$1.4 million

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Some potential problem areas still need to be smoothed over, but it appears that each student and teacher at Big Spring High School will be given a laptop computer starting next school year.

Big Spring school trustees heard an update of district plans to provide the laptops to BSHS students and faculty during their regular meeting Thursday evening at the high school board room.

Corey Wood, technology director for the school district, said it will cost about \$1.4 million to provide the laptop and related accessories, software, service plan and insurance.

Students and faculty would be provided the laptops with the start of the 2007-2008 school year and would be serviced and eventually replaced in staggered

"We'll have a parts store on site, we'll have a technician on site and we'll have spare units on site."



Wood

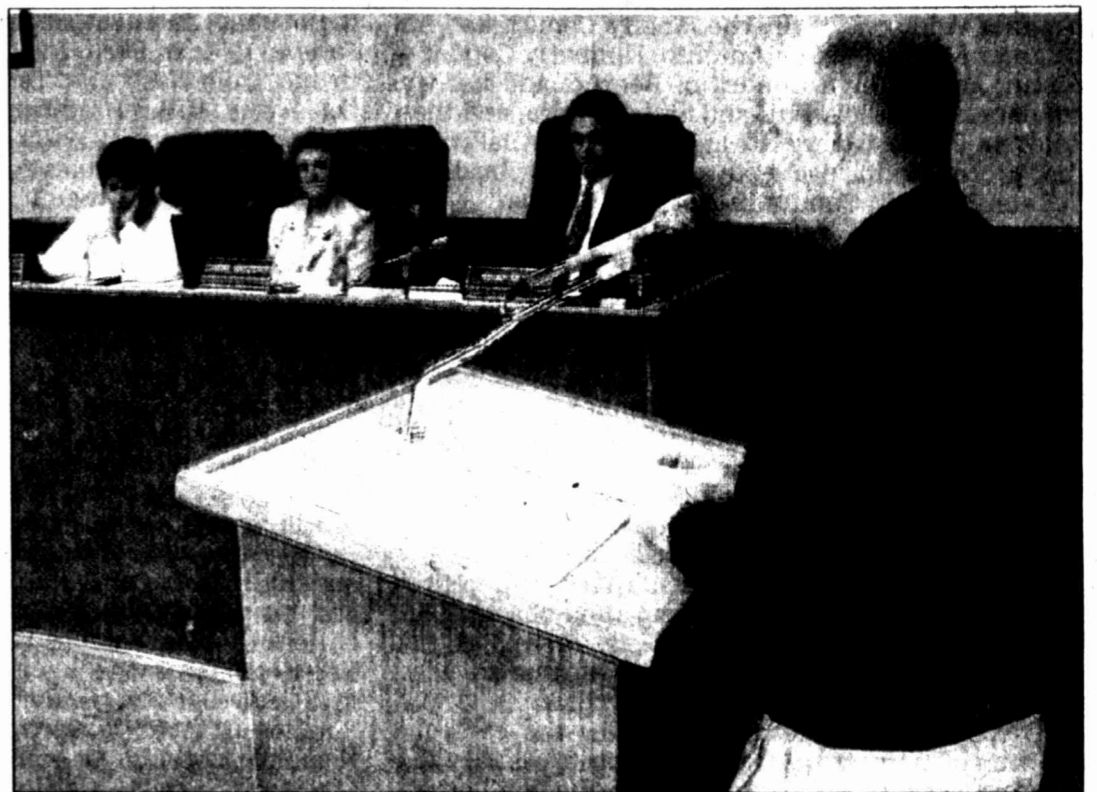
four-year cycles, Wood said.

While several other school districts in Texas provide laptops to their students, BSISD would be the first school district in the West Texas area to do so.

Students have been overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal, Wood said. "Almost to a person, they've said, 'Hey, give me a laptop,'" he noted.

Parents and teachers, on the other

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Corey Wood, right, director of the Big Spring Independent School District technology department, discusses plans to provide laptop computers to Big Spring High School students and teachers during the BSISD school board meeting Thursday night.

Track, parking lot repairs higher than projected

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A few renovation projects on Big Spring Independent School District's "wish list" will probably have to remain wishes, at least for the time being.

Higher than anticipated repair costs and other factors may cause the delay of some

long-anticipated repair projects at BSISD campuses, trustees learned during their monthly meeting Thursday night.

Two projects in particular were discussed — planned resurfacing of the track at Blankenship Field and repair of the high school parking lots.

When trustees approved this year's budget, they earmarked

\$95,000 for track resurfacing and \$237,000 for parking lot repair. Both amounts will be inadequate, Assistant Business Manager Tommy Gibson said.

Architectural engineers who surveyed the Blankenship track said it could cost between \$110,000 and \$240,000 for resurfacing alone, depending on what materials the district

uses.

Also, the track has problems that preclude simple resurfacing. Gibson told trustees that newly discovered problems with the track base mean additional repairs are needed, driving estimated repair costs up to the \$300,000 range.

Even that may not meet the district's needs, officials said.

Superintendent Michael Downes said the district wants to host district and regional level track and field meets here in Big Spring, something that is not feasible at the existing track.

For starters, the Blankenship track only has seven lanes,

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce President Virginia Belew, left, gathers with Leadership Big Spring graduates Patsy Edmonds, Debbie Wegman, Ken McIntosh, Lauri Phillips, Rebecca Pritchett, Darren Byrd, Donna Gannaway, Kara Smith, Sylvia Miramontes, Ralph Rollins, Patsy Rodriguez and Janie Rodriguez. Not pictured are Pete Busky, Katherine McGee and Justin Myers.

Leadership Big Spring graduates find course interesting, resourceful

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce wrapped up another year of its Leadership Big Spring course Thursday night, as more than a dozen local residents

received their certificates of completion at a special graduation ceremony at Dora Roberts Community Center.

The program, which teaches leadership skills through a series of courses and tasks, is older than

many people might realize, according to Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

"I've been with the chamber for 16 years, and this program was

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Stepping up to a challenge

'Nutcracker' to come alive on stage here Saturday

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

It's called stepping up to a challenge.

The Big Spring Symphony will do just that when it renews a holiday tradition Saturday with its presentation of "The Nutcracker" — a ballet featuring the music of Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

For several years, the symphony joined with the Lubbock Ballet in presenting the traditional holiday production, but had opted for providing other programs for the last few seasons.

This year, however, "The Nutcracker" is returning to Big Spring when the orchestra and the Midland Festival Ballet combine to present a performance set for 8 p.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

Returning



Keith Graumann has considered for some time.

"I'd been thinking of a 'Nutcracker' performance for a while," Graumann said. "We've presented a variety of Christmas season concerts in the past and all were well-received. Our variety show called 'The Symphony is Christmas' that we presented several times, as well as our performance of Handel's 'Messiah' two years ago were huge successes. The time just seemed right to explore the possibility of presenting 'The Nutcracker.'

"In the last few years,

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Final push on for Salvation Army's Angel Tree project

Gifts will be picked up Monday and handed out Wednesday.

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents hoping to participate in the annual Salvation Army Angel Tree program will have one last chance this weekend, as the local charity prepares to wrap up the holiday effort next week.

"We're hoping to finish collecting all

the gifts by the end of the day Monday," said Capt. Russ Keeney. "We still have a lot of gifts for angels that have already been adopted floating around out there, so we're really concentrating on getting those in before distribution, which is set for Wednesday."

Keeney said the annual program, which collects gifts for area low-income children, has been moving at a medium

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NUTCRACKER

Continued from Page 1A

I'd received inquiries from several ballet companies asking if we were interested," Graumann continued. "After correspondence with these companies, I took the idea to the Symphony Board's Artistic Advisory Committee. I actually received a mixture of responses. While most were favorable, their question for me was, 'Did I really want to take on such a challenging artistic and logistical

endeavor?" "When I said I did, the Symphony's board gave preliminary approval to go ahead," he added. "After considering several companies and trying to find dates for a performance, Susanne Reed, our board's vice president, and I met and negotiated with the Midland Festival Ballet. Although I hope to involve some of our community's dancers in any future 'Nutcracker' performance, we negotiated for them to bring everything — dancers, stage sets, costumes and all their technical people. Last spring,

both our board and the ballet company approved the endeavor. So, as you can see, it was quite an undertaking before we even began preparing for the actual performance." In 1892, Tchaikovsky composed "The Nutcracker" and it was first performed at Russia's famous Maryinsky Theatre, today's home of both the Kirov Ballet and the Kirov Opera. The ballet has been trilling audiences during the Christmas season ever since. "We are excited that we're once again going to present what may be the world's most

well-known ballet," Graumann said. "Much of the music is very difficult, but our orchestra is very capable and anxious to perform it for the community. And exposing the wonderful plot onstage through dance will definitely make for a memorable evening. It is a show that's nothing short of magical." Corporate sponsors — Citizens Federal Credit Union, Alon USA and an anonymous private donor — have helped make the show financially feasible, Graumann added. "And as always," he continued, "we

owe a debt of gratitude to the Dora Roberts Foundation for its help in making our entire symphony season possible." Tickets for the show — priced at \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students — are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, the Heritage Museum, Blum's Jewelers, the First Bank of West Texas and the *Big Spring Herald*.
To contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley, call 263-7331, ext. 230, or e-mail him at editor@bigspringherald.com

LEADERS

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going long before I became a part of it," said ValVerde. "The program itself has been a part of the Big Spring Chamber for at least 25 years, maybe even more. "The class has evolved over the years. We've started asking our participants to be a part of the community by going to local government and school board meetings, and we get their input from what they see and what they have gotten out of the meeting. They go on police rides and through the Boy Scouts COPES Course, and it really bonds the



ValVerde

group. They get to know each other better and become a team." ValVerde said the program, which began its 2006 course in January with only two months off for the summer, not only teaches its class members how to lead, but how to have a positive impact on the community. "That's what this is all about. It takes teamwork to be a leader," said ValVerde. "You can't have a room full of chiefs and no Indians. You have to be able to work together toward a common goal, and that takes a great deal of teamwork. "Each year we ask them to do a community project, and this year the class is putting a bench in the Heart of the City Park, similar to the ones Keep Big Spring Beautiful provided for the courthouse square. We expect

that to go up around the first of the new year. The class has to fund it, whether they get sponsorships or pay for it themselves. It teaches them how to get out there and get other people and businesses to help support worthwhile projects." ValVerde said the program will start a new schedule in 2007, starting in September and continuing through May of 2008. Donna Gannaway, who was sponsored by Culligan Water Conditioning and one of 14 graduates who completed the program, said there was no lack of excitement during the year-long course. "Each month was different because we focused on a



Gannaway

different part of the community, so it was always very interesting," said Gannaway. "You never knew what you were going to see. I highly recommend it. I was raised here and still learned things I didn't know about, even though I've lived here most of my life. "The most surprising part of the course for me was the police ride. I've always had respect for police officers, but when you're with one at night and you come to a stop and you don't know what's waiting for you under the cover of darkness, it gave me an even deeper respect for them and what they do to protect us. I think I learned more from that than any other thing." Janie Rodriguez, an employee with the Big Spring Federal Corrections Institute, said

she recommends the class, as well. "It was very, very interesting. I was born and raised in Big Spring, but I got to learn more about the community and what's available here," said Rodriguez. "It really made me appreciate Big Spring more. "I really enjoyed the COPES course. We did things we didn't think we could do. The zip line was probably the most challenging thing we did. We also had to fall off a brick wall and let our teammates catch us, which was also pretty tough. It



Rodriguez

was all very challenging." Also graduating were Pete Busky, Patsy Edmonds, Katherine McGee, Sylvia Miramontes, Lauri Phillips, Rebecca Pritchett, Patsy Rodriguez, Kara Smith, Darren Byrd, Ken McIntosh, Justin Myers, Ralph Rollins and Debbie Wegman.
Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

ANGELS

Continued from Page 1A

pace this season, with plenty of chances to help out still available. "Things are moving along well. This is kind of a crazy time right now because we're spending so much time at the distribution center getting things ready for Wednesday," said Keeney. "There are still quite a few angels on the trees, so we're really hoping shoppers will pick them up this weekend and help with the program." With Angel Trees located at the Big Spring Mall, the *Big Spring Herald*, Maurice's, Gayle's Sweet Shoppe, Travelcenters of America truck stop, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Wal-Mart, Keeney said adopting an angel is easy. "They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for that child or senior," said Keeney. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they



Keeney

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 correct child. Keeney said the demographics for this year's program are slightly different than last year's effort. "We have more teen and senior angels this year," said Keeney. "Luckily, we have the tree for the seniors at the *Herald*, and the Community Angels program is taking care of our teens once again this year." With more than 135 applications for assis-

tance through the local charity's Angel Tree program — some applications including several children — Keeney said he and his staff are doing everything they can to keep distribution of the gifts in order. "We've asked the parents of the children to leave them at home when they come pick up the gifts Wednesday," said Keeney. "It's usually total chaos in the distribution center — which will once again be the I.O.U.E. Union Hall near Alon USA — so that will help. It also diminishes the experience of receiving the gift for the children." Keeney said Distribution will take place between 9 a.m. and

noon. For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth Street.
Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Freyda Griffin, 70, died Tuesday. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM Friday at First Baptist Church in Coahoma. Graveside services will be at 4:00 PM Friday at Silver Valley Cemetery in Coleman.
William Charles "Bill" Forshee, 71, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 8:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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.

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Brittany Camden for her gift of life — a kidney — to her father, Terry Camden. We wish you both the very best.

- Everyone who has taken the time to select an "angel" from one of the Salvation Army Angel Trees, and those who have brought toys to the Herald for our annual Toy Drive. The toys are given to the Salvation Army for Christmas distribution. If you'd like to help there is still time but the Angel Tree drive ends Monday so time is running short. Trees are located at the Big Spring Mall, the Big Spring Herald, Maurice's, Gayle's Sweet Shoppe, Travelcenters of America truck stop and Wal-Mart. The Herald Toy Drive also concludes at the close of business Monday.

- Speaking of gifts, hat's off to the Big Spring Rotary Club, which presented third graders at all five Big Spring elementary schools with a personalized dictionary this week. What a great idea!

- Big Spring Independent School District on its announcement that it may have to add teachers because of an increase in enrollment. That's a problem we absolutely will not complain about!

- Alon USA employees from the Big Spring Refinery who helped wrap presents for the 200 patients at Big Spring State Hospital. Its an annual "gift" to the hospital by the employees.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we thank You every morning for the beautiful day, Lord.

Amen

Something new from California?

The latest trend from California could be non-marriage marriage — thanks to a new bill sponsored by state Sen. Carole Migden to expand civil unions to heterosexual couples.

You've heard straight supporters of same-sex marriage quip before: How can same-sex marriage affect their heterosexual unions? Unwittingly, Migden has given ammunition to those who argue that same-sex unions will change the institution of marriage for everyone, as she works to offer all heterosexuals Marriage Lite.

Migden is the author of the 1999 civil union bill that allowed same-sex couples to register with the state as domestic partners. Unfortunately, no state bill can offer same-sex couples all the protections of marriage, such as Social Security survivor benefits — and that should change.

The 1999 bill also allowed heterosexual couples with one partner older than 62 to register as domestic partners — in order to allow seniors to protect their pensions while enjoying some benefits of marriage. Migden had wanted civil unions to apply to straight and same-sex couples of all ages, but agreed to the over-62 compromise. Now with Senate Bill 11, she is pushing to extend the benefit of having it both ways to all heterosexual couples.

Migden's rationale? More than half of couples in the United States are living together without getting married. Migden, in a telephone interview, cited a New York

Times article that reported on heterosexual couples who say they will not marry until homosexual couples can do the same. "It's not just Angelina Jolie and Brad," Migden noted. Brad, being Brad Pitt, who wrote in Esquire, "Angie and I will consider tying the knot when everyone else in the country who wants to be married is legally able."

Note Pitt wrote "consider." And for such commitment, California should change the law? Migden lauded the freedom in America "to choose or not to choose" to marry. She's right, but that freedom already exists. SB11 is about allowing heterosexuals who don't wed to enjoy some benefits of marriage, without the covenant of matrimony.

An SB11 fact sheet notes that some 40 percent of unwed mothers are "professional, older women who want to have babies" and some "may simply have chosen to live with their significant others first. If those unmarried couples prefer registering as domestic partners so their children can have access to health and other benefits, they should be provided that opportunity."

Except: Whether parents marry or not, they have an obligation to provide for their children and can list their children as dependents for health care. SB11 would not affect children — it would benefit unmarried parents.

And, I'll add, while saddling employers with cost of benefits for adults who choose not to wed.

I asked Migden if she could name one child who has been denied benefits and would be helped by her bill.

She could not name one. The best she could do was mention that a TV cameraman told her he would like to see the bill pass

because his son had a child outside of wedlock.

Sorry, but when you want to change institutions that mold the American family, you should have in an arsenal that carries more punch than a weak anecdote and a couple of news articles on trendy couples.

Migden told me she sees in the Constitution a right "to determine your relationship." As a lawmaker, it is her job to accommodate people living in the relationships they choose.

Does that include polygamy? After all, some families in America practice polygamy. Migden answered that she is not focusing on "people that live in the frontiers with their animals." That poses a bit of a problem. You see, people in San Francisco may not care about the polygamous practices of Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints or polygamous Muslims. But that won't stop polygamists from using Migden's arguments in impartial courts to change the law to accommodate their misogynist brand of marriage.

Last year, former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin commissioned a study to prove that Canada's same-sex marriage law would not lead to polygamy — only to see the legal panel call for a repeal of Canada's anti-polygamy law.

Now for the sake of uncommitted heterosexuals, Migden is ready to weaken the institution of marriage. I guess she thinks it's the government's job to help unwed parents stay uncommitted.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



Keep government regs off menu

Let the government outlaw the use of trans-fats in cooking, as New York City has done, and you open the door for a slew of arbitrary regulations. Under the guise of protecting the public, politicians will seek bans on fast food, ice cream, bacon and anything else that tastes good.

If we give elected officials the right to make decisions for us based on what's good for us, then those in power will soon be telling us when to go to bed. Politicians of both parties simply can't resist treating regular people like children and, if we let them, they will exercise those powers at every opportunity.

First they taxed cigarettes at enormously high levels — ostensibly because the higher price would cause people to stop doing something that was bad for them. When people actually cheered that move, the government then targeted alcohol both raising taxes on liquor and passing odious laws designed to keep people from drinking.

Since the public accepts that smoking and drinking are bad — not simply lifestyle choices that the adult should be able to make — we never resist any attempt to limit them. Short of

actually banning cigarettes and returning to prohibition, any legislation or taxes on these products pass easily because voters operate under the absurd belief that the government has not only the right, but the responsibility, to protect people from their own stupidity.

Free choice includes the right to do things that harm yourself. Government exists to stop our actions from harming others, not to protect us from smoking, drinking too much, exercising too little or eating fatty foods.

New York's impending ban on trans-fats represents the first of many assaults on your ability to eat what you want. Used in a variety of foods, trans-fats definitely aren't good for you, but they are clearly delicious. A number of substitutes may be used for trans fats, but as anyone who has had the french fries at Wendy's or Burger King knows, they don't taste as good.

Being reasonably intelligent, I knew that McDonalds trans-fat laden fries probably weren't the healthiest eating choice without anyone in the government telling me. I was also pretty sure that eating Krispy Kreme donuts, Kentucky Fried Chicken and a host of other fast foods more than very occasionally would likely lead to an early grave.

Despite the obvious risks associated with these tasty treats, an adult has the right to eat them. Some people choose exercise and

vegan diet while some pick laying on the couch and eating takeout. Most of us draw the line somewhere in the middle.

It's simply impossible to protect an individual or a society from everything that might do people harm. You might choose to eat a lot of trans-fats and I might choose to drink or smoke excessively. Perhaps we both pick neither of those and instead take up rock climbing, race car driving or cliff diving.

It's human nature to want to feel safe and on the surface it feels nice when someone does something to protect you. Government regulation can't be allowed to replace personal judgment and each individual's sense of what risks are worth the reward.

Turning over our right to eat unhealthy foods to politicians makes them the parents and us the children. It's a small step from banning trans-fats to mandating people get eight hours of sleep, instituting a ten mile an hour speed limit or simply banning all unhealthy food.

A world with those rules would be a safer one where everyone would live longer. It would also be an awful place where caution replaces joy and it would certainly be no place I would want to live.

Daniel B. Kline is the author of "50 Things Every Guy Should Know How to Do." He can be reached at dan@notastep.com.

First Pr Church

The Miles, speak or Luke 3: service school b and Tak 10:35 a.m. Opport week i afternoo Childre Pageant Followi there wi per in th Monday Encoura and the session Wednesd held at 5: practice Plans a have Christm Childre p.m. Eve aged to all the guests. also be s Membe to bring

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Church News

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First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles, minister, will speak on text taken from Luke 3:7-18 at worship service Sunday. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take Ten starts at 10:35 a.m.

Opportunities for the week include: Sunday afternoon at 5:30 the Children's Christmas Pageant will be held. Following the program there will be a chili supper in the fellowship hall. Monday at 6 p.m. the Encouragers will meet and there will also be a session meeting. Wednesday, Bible study is held at 5:17 p.m. and choir practice is at 6 p.m.

Plans are being made to have the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring all their family and guests. Communion will also be served.

Members are reminded to bring non-perishable

food to donate to less fortunate families during the holiday season. These items are to be placed in the grocery basket in the Narthex.

First Presbyterian Church is located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth.

First United Methodist Church

This Sunday, First United Methodist Church's the Rev. Dr. Shane Brue will continue his series of advent messages titled: "Christmas Wishes." These sermon topics are based on special requests from members of the congregation.

The Senior Adult Ministry, SAM, will sponsor an auto tour of the Festival of Lights and highlights of residential areas Thursday, Dec. 21. Those interested in going are asked to sign up in the church office by the end of the day Tuesday.

First United Methodist Church is offering Kentwood Activity Center

for rent for meetings, family reunions and parties. There is a fully functional, well-equipped kitchen as well as ample meeting room. For additional information, call the church office at 267-6394.

Mark your calendar for two special holiday events scheduled at the church — the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will begin at 6 p.m. Dec. 24. The SAM group will celebrate the New Year with a brunch in Garrett Hall at 9 a.m. Jan. 1.

Worship services are at 8:30 and 10:50 each Sunday morning with Sunday school classes in between. You are always

welcome to join us at First United Methodist Church at Fourth and Scurry. Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.

Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church meets at 10 a.m. for Sunday school, 11 a.m. for morning service and Young People's church, and again at 6 p.m. for evening service. Nursery service is available at all services. Our Wednesday evening service is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve day service will be held at 10 a.m. There will be no evening service that day. Salem is pastored by

Bro. Monroe Teeters and is located at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway. Please contact the church at 394-4566 for further information.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

A Christian Family Tradition celebration will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall at 810 Gregg Street. Meat and drinks will be provided. Everyone is invited to bring a "family tradition" food that goes with turkey or ham along with a note explaining your tradition. This should be interesting since we come from so many locations and ethnic groups.

After the meal, we will have a Chinese auction with Bruce Schooler as auctioneer and an unknown bellringer. Please bring your unwrapped new or regift item (make sure someone would want it). Don't forget to bring your nickels

Thank you for your prayers.

Continued on Page 6A

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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WOODS BOOTS

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

for bidding on items. Proceeds will go to Relay for Life.

Advent service will be Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The youth Sunday School class is sponsoring a food drive for Christmas giving. Please bring canned and other non-perishables by next Sunday and don't forget to give your checks made out to Lutheran Youth Fellowship to buy other perishable items. Call the church for other information.

The flower chart is posted and so is the Eternal Light chart. Add your name on the dates you want to donate in someone's memory or honor. Flowers are \$20 per week and Eternal Light is \$10 per month.

Greetings were received from Chaplain Shawn D. Hunze of the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Cavalry Regiment thanking us for the small items we have been sending to help our military in Iraq.

The December suggestions are mole skin and blister packs, beef and turkey jerky, (no pork) and all types of chocolate candy.

You may also donate to the ATT phone card fund. Call 267-7163 for more information.

On Jan. 10, 2007, the Wednesday noon's ladies Bible study group will start with Beth Moore's study of "The Patriarchs."

Workbooks for this study can be ordered through the church office at 267-7163 and you can sign up for the class. All ladies are invited and childcare will be provided. Please come!

St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 810 Scurry.

Worship services and Holy Communion are at 9 a.m. Sunday. Sunday school and Bible studies begin at 10:15 a.m.

Baptist Temple Church

This Sunday the church will present "On Christmas Day." This concert will be held during the Sunday morning worship service.

Bro. Don Snipes is pastor of the church. Sunday school is held at 9:30 a.m. and church service is at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Service is also held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

The church is located at 400 E. 11th Place and Goliad.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

The All Parish Caroling Party is Sunday. Please meet at the church at 5 p.m.

For more information about St. Mary's call 267-8201 or visit www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

Friends of Unity

Sunday's talk at 1 p.m. at the Center will center around the relationship of physics and spirituality.

As scientists explore physical realities and learn more about how things work they find more evidences of the cohesive oneness of which mystics have spoken through the ages and Friends meet to discuss this current hot topic.

The presentation and discussion is open to all who are interested.

The Center is located in the Downtown Railroad Plaza at the beginning of South Main Street. For more information call 263-6311 or 267-8783.

First Christian Church

Herdman kids is this Sunday! In addition to a special service of lighting Advent candles this Sunday morning, the church's youth will bring the Herdman kids to life in a special production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

The service of candles will begin at 10:50 a.m. and the play will happen Sunday evening at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, directed by Eulaine McIntosh.

Come enjoy the magic of Christmas as the nativity story works its way into the hearts of some very rowdy kids. The story delights all ages.

Afterwards, a special guest from the north pole will be stopping by while everyone enjoys some Christmas treats.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Former prisoner of war Lt. Col. Larry Chesley will be speaking about his life-changing experiences Sunday at 7 p.m. This service will be held at the LDS chapel located at 1803 Wasson Road.

Larry will be sharing stories about his time in the Vietnam War, the power of prayer and his life following the war. His message is sure to bring peace, gratitude and appreciation to your own life.

Free admittance. Please wear your Sunday best.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church Angel Food Ministries delivery day is Saturday. Anyone who placed an order for December must pick it up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Orders not picked up by 1 p.m. will be donated.

Orders for January will be available at that time and you may place your order then. All orders must be paid for with cash at the time they are placed.

A candlelight service of Holy Communion will be held at 5 p.m. Dec. 24. Everyone is invited to attend as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The service will include Christmas carols and a

short devotional. This is a special time of reflection and renewal of the spirit of Christmas.

North Birdwell Lane UMC is located at 2702 North Birdwell Lane. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday school classes for all ages are available at 10:30 a.m.

Other worship opportunities include Bible study classes on the first and third Wednesday and United Methodist Women on the second and fourth Thursday. Call 267-4082 for more information.

The Rev. Joel Miller and members of North Birdwell UMC invite you to attend any of the programs and services offered.

You will be blessed by the sharing of love for Jesus Christ and love for others. We truly have open hearts, open minds and open doors.

East Fourth Baptist Church

East Fourth Baptist Church will be having Christmas music at 11 a.m. Sunday. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy.

Contract Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

East	South	West	North
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠J3♥AQ10♦Q64♣AJ85
- ♠AQ♥932♦AJ7♣AKQJ8
- ♠8♥KJ73♦AK84♣AJ92
- ♠10♥KQJ4♦KQJ853♣A6

1. Pass. Your takeout double announced a hand of at least opening-bid values with implied support for the unbid suits. Partner's forced, non-jump response to the double does not promise any strength at all and is often made with a very poor hand.

Once the meaning of the double and the response are understood, the doubler can much more easily choose his next action. If he has basically minimum values (13 to 15 points) for his double, he should pass. If he has values beyond a minimum double, he bids again.

The hand shown here is highly unlikely to produce a game opposite a forced response. Indeed, it's not even certain that partner will make two hearts, let alone three or four. If partner held promising values (nine points or more), he presumably

would have indicated this to you by jumping to three (or four) hearts. Since he failed to do so, your best action by far is to pass.

2. Three notrump. This is admittedly a risky bid, since partner may have no values at all. But you do have eight probable tricks, assuming a spade lead, and it's not overly optimistic to hope that partner has the queen of diamonds or some other useful card. Not every contract is underwritten by Lloyd's; occasionally you have to live dangerously.

3. Three hearts. Game is possible if partner has some modest values, but you must leave the final decision to him, since only he knows exactly how weak or strong he is. It would be too pessimistic to pass two hearts, and too optimistic to go to four hearts on your own. Three is just about right.

4. Four hearts. It would be cowardly to bid less than game, even though you have four potential losers. In the long run, it doesn't pay to assume that partner has absolutely nothing. A raise to only three hearts would be excessively cautious, since partner might pass with a weak hand that included, say, just the king of clubs. The wisest thing to do in such a case is to close your eyes and bid game.

Tomorrow: The battle for trump control.

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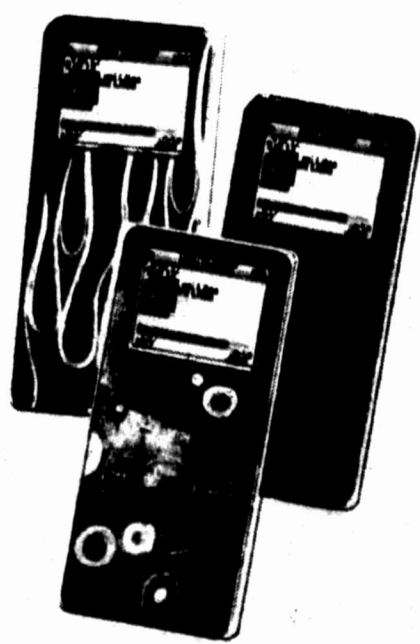


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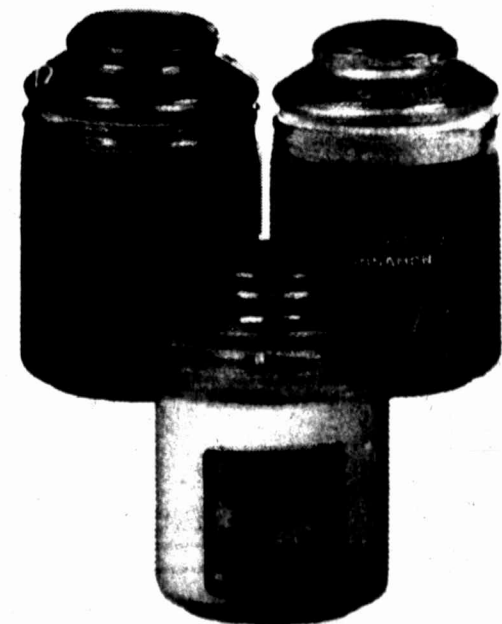
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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Friday, December 15, 2006

IN BRIEF

Big Spring Steers host Greenwood

The Big Spring Steers basketball team will be in action tonight at the Steer Gym.

This will be the last home game before the semester break and all students, student parents and Big Spring Steer fans are encouraged to come out and support the teams. The game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. tip off.

Red Raiders to play Arkansas Saturday

Patrick Beverley, the energetic freshman for Arkansas basketball team, on Bob Knight, coaching great:

"You don't really look at it as a Bobby Knight situation, you look at it as a Texas Tech situation," said Beverley.

Beverley, Arkansas' sharp-shooting guard. "They are just a team just like us."

The Razorbacks host Knight and Texas Tech on Saturday at North Little Rock's Alltel Arena, and Arkansas began looking ahead immediately after dispatching Oakland, Mich., 91-57 Thursday night.

Knight arrives with 877 wins, two fewer than North Carolina's Dean Smith at the top of the Division I coaching list.

Class 5A high school football playoffs

By The Associated Press

DIVISION I STATE SEMIFINALS
Southlake Carroll (14-0) vs. Allen (13-1), 1 p.m. Saturday, Irving's Texas Stadium
Pearland (12-2) vs. Austin Westlake (11-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Kyle Field

DIVISION II STATE SEMIFINALS
Cedar Hill (14-0) vs. Garland (12-2), 5 p.m. Saturday, Irving's Texas Stadium.

Class 4A high school football playoffs

By The Associated Press

DIVISION I STATE SEMIFINALS
Copperas Cove (12-2) vs. SA Alamo Heights (13-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio's Alamodome
DIVISION II STATE SEMIFINALS
Wolforth Frenship (12-2) vs. Waco (12-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Justin Northwest
La Marque (13-1) vs. Schertz Clemens (13-1), 3 p.m. Saturday, Berry.

Dallas Stars and NHL update

Oh brother, the New York Rangers are on a roll in the NHL.

Henrik Lundqvist, matched up against his twin brother, made a career-high 43 saves for the Rangers and Matt Cullen and Karel Rachunek scored two goals each, in New York's 5-2 victory over the Dallas Stars on Thursday night.

"That's MVP goaltending, that's Stanley Cup goaltending," Rangers coach Tom Renney said. "It was always going to happen."

NFC West championship put on hold

By TIM BOOTH

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — No one wanted to talk in the Seattle Seahawks locker room. Those who did had anger and frustration in their voices.

The defending NFC champs aren't playing like a playoff team.

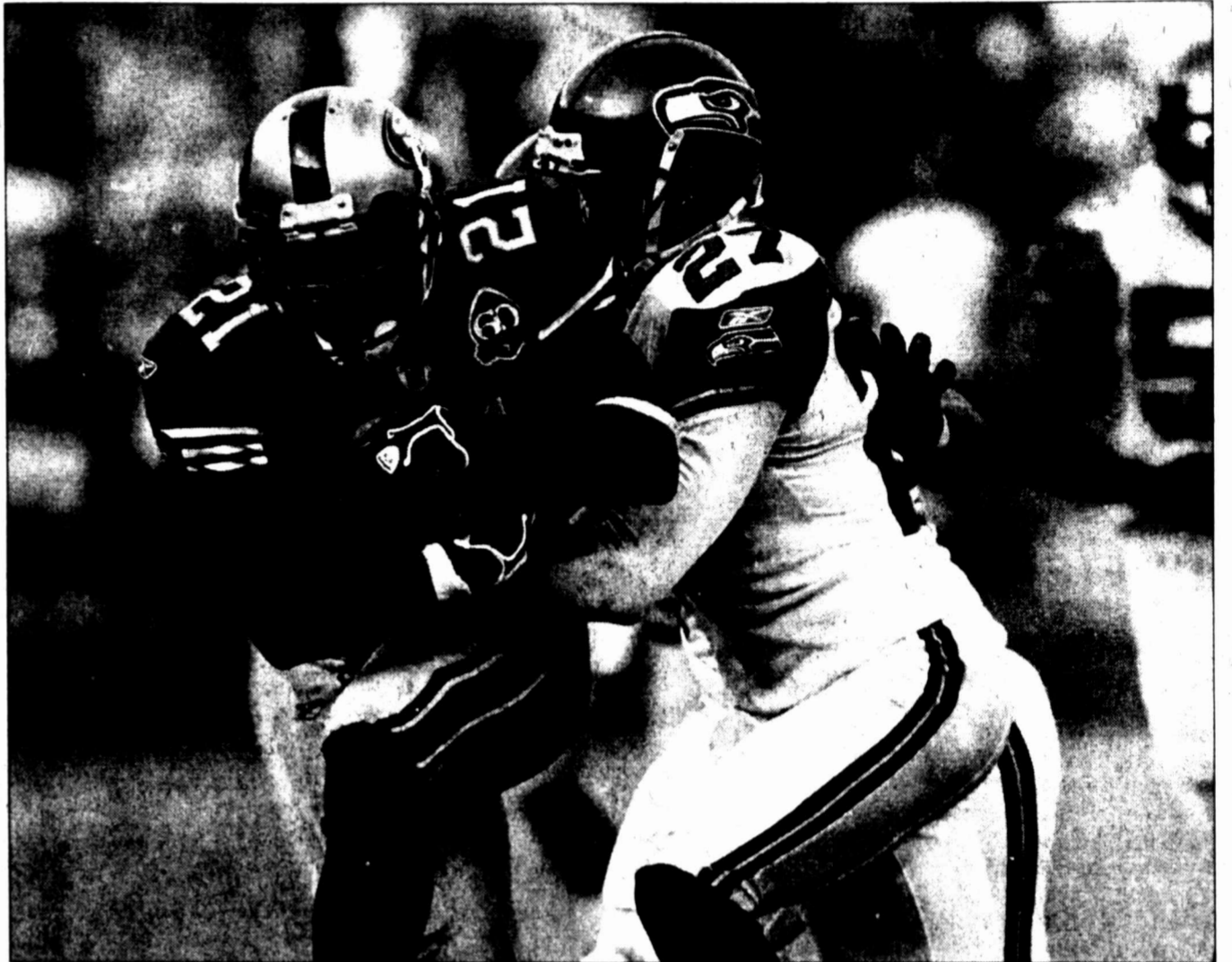
"I guess I just feel we're just OK at everything," quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. "We're not real good and dominant at anything, like we use to be."

That point was evident again Thursday night, when second-year quarterback Alex Smith rallied San Francisco for a surprising 24-14 win over the Seahawks, keeping Seattle from clinching its third straight NFC West crown.

The 49ers (6-8) trailed 7-3 heading to the fourth quarter and rarely threatened on offense. That changed in the final 15 minutes, as Smith directed three long touchdown drives, throwing for a pair of scores and running untouched for another.

When Smith jogged untouched for an 18-yard TD with 1:42 left, cold, wet and shocked Seahawks' fans who showed up ready to watch the winning of another division crown, quickly made their way to the exits.

"The boy just became a grown man today, baby," said 49ers running back Frank Gore, who helped out his quarterback with 144 yards rushing and a touchdown catch. "There's a lot more to come."



MCT photo/Jim Gensheimer/San Jose Mercury News
San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore (21) tries to break the tackle of Seattle Seahawks' Jordan Babineaux (27) as he runs for a first down in the fourth quarter. The 49ers beat the Seahawks, 20-14. The loss prevented the NFC defending champs from winning their third straight NFC West title Thursday night.

San Francisco snapped a three-game losing streak and swept both games with Seattle.

While Smith's impressive evolu-

tion played out in the fourth quarter, Seattle (8-6) was left to ponder a second straight loss to a division opponent, and watch

any hopes of a first-round bye in the playoffs flutter away.

See **49ERS**, Page 2B

Ginobili and the Spurs show Hornets no mercy

By BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich is getting the consistency he expects from his veteran stars.

Playing against the undermanned Hornets team they easily could have overlooked, the Spurs started fast and never trailed in a dominant 103-77 victory over New Orleans on Thursday night.

"We really brought some maturity and professionalism to be focused for all 48 minutes and not let them get into the game," Popovich said. "We're pretty experienced. The guys don't need too many speeches. They know what's appropriate at what time."

Manu Ginobili scored 24 points and Tony Parker 19 to lead San Antonio to its third victory in a row

and seventh in eight games. Tim Duncan added 11 points and nine rebounds.

Ginobili, playing with a pad strapped to his back because of a contusion in late November that kept him out of four games, scored eight points in the first few minutes of the game on a pair of 3-pointers and a driving layup as the Spurs ran out to a 13-2 lead.

He had 24 points before he had played 24 minutes and did not appear the slightest bit tentative about taking contact.

"Fast starts are always important, especially with teams that are going through some problems like they are," Ginobili said. "Sometimes it's not that easy because mentally you are not as ready because they are hurting ... so we are trying to take care of business and

today we did a good job."

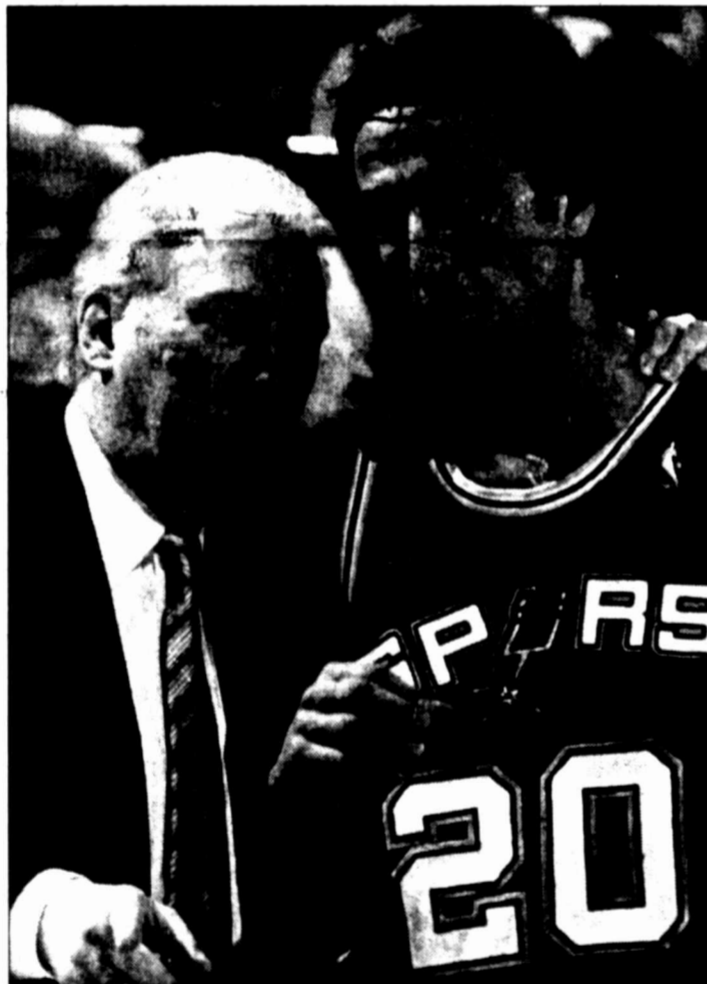
In other NBA games Thursday, it was: Charlotte 99, Orlando 89 and Golden State 109, Houston 107.

Parker used pressure in the back court to slow down Hornets guard Chris Paul, who finished with six points, 12.8 below his average coming in.

The Hornets (10-11) dressed only 10 players — David West (elbow), Peja Stojakovic (back spasms) and Bobby Jackson (cracked rib) sat out — and were no match for the Southwest Division leading Spurs (18-6), who led 75-55 in the third quarter after Brent Barry's driving floater went in off the glass as he was fouled.

The crowd for the Hornets' second game in

See **SPURS**, Page 2B



MCT photo/Julian H. Gonzalez/Detroit Free Press
San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich gives instructions to Manu Ginobili early in his career. Thursday night Popovich said that he is getting what he expects from the veterans on the team.

Kennedy flourishes on and off the court

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

If you look up 'nice' girl in the dictionary, you might well find the likeness of Mallory Kennedy, the always smiling, always upbeat, two-sport all-state award winner for Big Spring High School.

Born and raised in Big Spring, Kennedy began cheerleading when she was just 8 years old and later found that she enjoyed volleyball upon entering Big Spring Junior High.

Now, as a senior waiting to graduate, Kennedy has become an all-state cheerleader and just two weeks ago she learned that she named to the academic all-state volleyball team.

One of those two sports will be paving the way for

her college tuition.

"Up until a couple of weeks ago I had no idea about the volleyball award," said Kennedy, a student athlete at BSHS carrying a 4.0 GPA. "It was a nice surprise and feels good to be rewarded for all the hard work I have put in during the last couple of years."

As a junior, Kennedy made the varsity cheerleading squad, but despite being brought up for varsity volleyball games late in the season, she was unable to letter in both sports until this season. However, that has not prevented the coaching staff at McMurray University from contacting her about playing volleyball in college.

"I really enjoy playing

See **ATHLETE**, Page 2B



Herald photo/Mike Grimes
Big Spring senior Mallory Kennedy takes time out of her schedule to laugh and discuss her final year of high school.

49ERS

Continued from 1B

The Seahawks need only one more win or a San Francisco loss to win the mediocre NFC West. But the sentiment in Seattle's locker room is that problems need to be corrected immediately.

"This is awful," Bryce Fisher said. "Teams that lose in December, if they're lucky to get into January, lose very early in January."

While Seattle's offense continued its inconsistency running the ball and protecting Hasselbeck, its defense frustrated Smith for most of the first three quarters.

Smith's 11-yard completion to Antonio Bryant with 48 seconds left in the

third quarter was San Francisco's first first-down of the half. On the next play, Arnaz Battle beat Seattle's Kelly Herndon off the line of scrimmage and Smith hit him in stride for a 54-yard completion.

Smith completed the drive by rolling right and finding tight end Vernon Davis in the end zone with a perfect 8-yard strike to give the 49ers a 10-7 lead.

Seattle drove to the San Francisco 27 yard line on the next series, but facing a third-and-1 Shaun Alexander was stopped for no gain. Seattle coach Mike Holmgren chose to go for it on fourth-down, but Mack Strong was stopped.

Gore then started to take over. He rushed for 34 yards on the ensuing

drive and caught a 20-yard TD pass. Smith stepped out of Herndon's grasp, scrambled and found Gore behind defense near the goal line.

"It was most pleasing because we stayed the course in the things that it takes to win," San Francisco coach Mike Nolan said.

Smith finished 14-of-25 for 162 yards, after going 5-of-12 for 38 yards in the first half.

Gore, who rushed for a franchise record 212 yards in the first meeting with the Seahawks, ran for 104 yards in the fourth quarter. The 49ers rolled up 196 total yards in the final 15 minutes of the game.

Hasselbeck threw a 22-yard touchdown to Jerramy Stevens with 9 seconds left, for the final

margin, but was outplayed by Smith. Hasselbeck finished 20-of-37 for 220 yards, and threw a pair of interceptions. The most damaging came on the first possession of the second half, when Hasselbeck tried to hit D.J. Hackett in the end zone, but 49ers' safety Mark Roman stepped in front of Hackett.

Other than the final touchdown to Stevens, Seattle never threatened again.

Alexander had a 3-yard touchdown in the first half, but was held to 73 yards on 22 carries, including just 16 yards in the second half.

"I expect to play to a certain level and when we don't, I'm disappointed," Holmgren said.

SPURS

Continued from 1B

New Orleans season ticket holders and fans have had little to cheer about in the second half this season, other than when the scoreboard video screen showed Saints running back Deuce McAllister sitting in the audience. That drew howls of "Deuce" and a standing ovation for the rookie who has helped turn the Saints' franchise around this season.

The Spurs outshot the Hornets 50 percent to 40.5 percent, dominating in the paint with 52 points to 38 for New Orleans.

Rasual Butler scored 17 points for the Hornets, while Desmond Mason

added 16 points and nine rebounds, just missing a double-double.

Paul had 12 assists and did so despite spending the fourth quarter on the bench.

New Orleans coach Byron Scott said his team gave a good effort in the game, but had little chance of winning this one.

"The San Antonio Spurs are one of the best teams in this league, if not the best," Scott said. "You've got to play nearly perfect basketball to beat them. They're not going to beat themselves."

"In the long run, this is going to help us. It will probably toughen us up a little bit more. ... It's good that this is happening early."

ATHLETE

Continued from 1B

and participating in both," Kennedy explained.

"If I had to choose one right now I don't think I could. There are days when I enjoy being on the volleyball court the most, but I have been cheerleading since I was in the third grade and I am not ready to give that up. At this point I am just thrilled to be in a position to possibly do either one in college. Especially if it will help pay my way."

Howard College has placed a full scholarship on the table for her to consider.

According to Kennedy, she is very interested in attending Howard to attain her nursing degree and then transfer to Texas Tech to attend the new anesthesiology school.

In addition to being a student athlete at the local school, Kennedy is an active member of Trinity Baptist Church, the choir and Rhapsody. She is involved in the youth group at her church and is planning her first mission trip to Mexico in 2007.

"Not only is Mallory a leader on the court and in the class room," said Mike Ritchey, Big Spring

High School principal for the past six years, "she is a leader in everything she does. She's a good example for all of us because she works hard in every field and in every aspect of her life."

"Mallory makes Big Spring a better place."

In addition to battling what Kennedy calls 'senioritis' this year, she has found the time to hold a part-time job in town.

So how does someone find the time to accomplish all of this?

"I stay up really late at night doing homework," Kennedy answered, moments after attending a college course and shuffling her way back to BSHS to attend Spanish class.

"You learn to do that when you have volleyball until 6:30 and then cheerleading from 8 to 10 each night. My parents have also given me unlimited support. They have never missed a single game — home or away. Without their encouragement, I would not be where I am today."

"I just want to make them proud and thank them for everything."

To contact Sports Editor Michael Grimes, call 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com



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Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGIES

'Fore' in Farsi

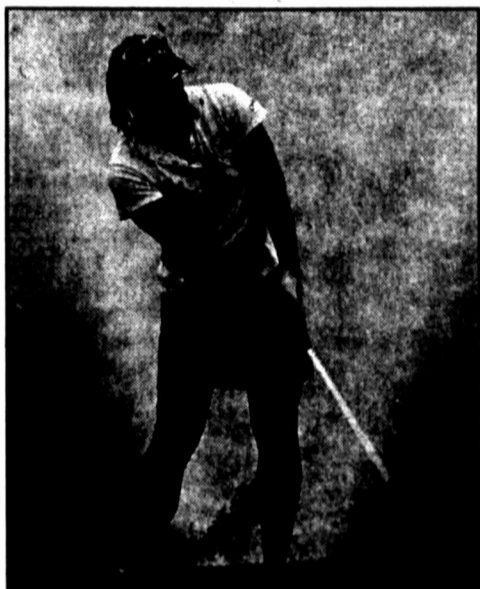
As previously reported, golf is now a required course at Xiamen University in China's southeastern Fujian province, leading you to wonder, "Where else around the world is golf spreading?" How about Iran?

For now, there is only one 12-hole golf course in Iran, the former Imperial Country Club, where nearly half of the 300-plus members are women. But a multibillion-dollar golf resort is in development.

The goal, of course, is to attract foreign tourism dollars. The \$2.2 billion resort, dubbed "The Flower of the East," is under construction on the Iranian island of Kish in the Persian Gulf, according to CNN. Its German and Swiss investors are planning to build the biggest golf course in the Middle East.

The resort will have everything but integrated bathing and liquor. So much for the hot-tub party at the 19th hole.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Cox News Service

"Golf is not like other sports. I believe in this sport. I believe in the people out here. ... I don't think you're going to see anything out here, so it might be a waste of time. But if it's peace of mind for people and if we need to prove that the LPGA's clean, then let's do it."

Annika Sorenstam (above) on the LPGA's new policy on drug testing.

SCHEDULE

- All Times EST**
PGA TOUR
Challenge Season
Target World Challenge
- **Site:** Thousand Oaks, Calif.
 - **Schedule:** Thursday-Sunday
 - **Course:** Sherwood Country Club (7,097 yards, par 72)
 - **Purse:** \$5.75 million. Winner's share: \$1.35 million.
 - **TV:** USA (Thursday-Friday, 3-6 p.m.) and ABC (Saturday-Sunday, 3-6 p.m.)
 - **Field:** Paul Casey, Darren Clarke, Fred Couples, John Daly, Chris DiMarco, Luke Donald, Padraig Harrington, David Howell, Davis Love III, Colin Montgomerie, Geoff Ogilvy, Jose Maria Olazabal, Adam Scott, Henrik Stenson, David Toms, Tiger Woods.
- LPGA TOUR**
Lexus Cup
- **Site:** Singapore.
 - **Schedule:** Friday-Sunday
 - **Course:** Tanah Merah Country Club, Garden Course (6,620 yards, par 72)
 - **Purse:** \$960,000. Winner's share: \$50,000 per player.
 - **TV:** None.
- SOUTH AFRICAN GOLF ASSOCIATION**
South African Open
- **Site:** Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
 - **Schedule:** Thursday-Sunday
 - **Course:** Humewood Golf Club (6,963 yards, par 72)
 - **Purse:** \$1.33 million. Winner's share: \$210,250.
 - **TV:** The Golf Channel (Thursday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon).

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

1 million

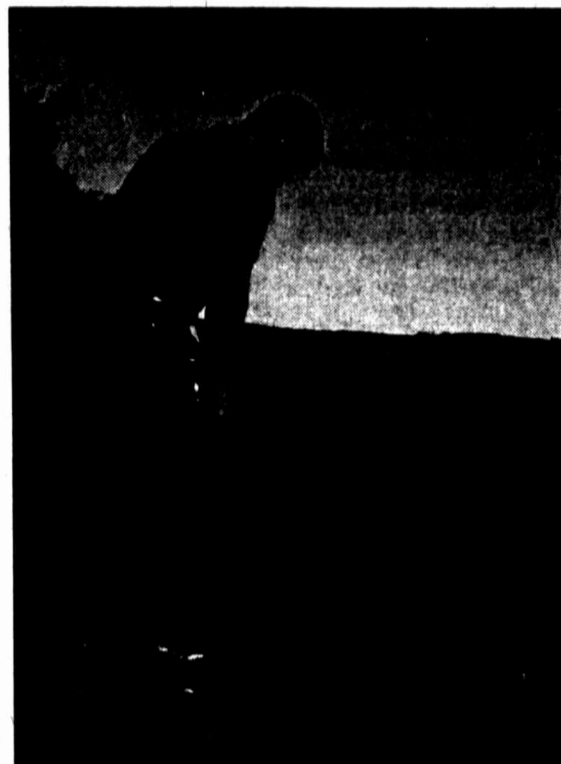
Who was the first woman golfer to win \$1 million in a season on the LPGA tour? Annika Sorenstam?

That's a logical guess, but it's wrong. The answer is Karrie Webb. Many know that at 26 years of age, she became the youngest and fastest to achieve a career grand slam in women's golf — only the third player to perform the feat in the modern era. The others are Pat Bradley and Juli Inkster.

But few remember that in 1996 she earned \$1,002,000 to become the first player in LPGA history to reach the \$1 million mark in single-season earnings. She also was the first rookie on either the LPGA or PGA Tour to reach the \$1 million mark in single-season earnings.

On the men's side, Curtis Strange won four tournaments in 1988, including the U.S. Open, and became the first PGA Tour player to crack the \$1 million mark for single-season earnings.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



The golfer above is determined to hit a slice. In the photo at left, he begins his swing with the club away inside the body line. In the photo at right, the golfer attempts to square the clubface at impact by throwing his shoulder at the ball.

Slice!

It's a natural part of the game of golf

Imagine the dawn of golf: A shepherd bored with his duties eyes a distant target. He selects his weapon carefully from an array of gnarled tree limbs from the nearby forest. His ball is fashioned from a small leather tobacco pouch that, for this historic act, he has filled with feathers.

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is a teaching professional at Nantucket Golf Club on Nantucket Island, Mass. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJinsider@aol.com.

He stands aside the ball for more leverage, trying to figure out how to get the pouch airborne. Then he gives it a mighty whack and — you guessed it — hits a big slice.

So the first swing ever was a slice, and it's been with golfers ever since. There are millions of golfers who have never hit a hook, but there is no golfer who hasn't at one time or another sliced the ball.

Why are so many golfers afflicted by the slice? Think of it this way: In terms of golf survival, the mother of all "musts" is getting the ball into the air — it's the first and by far the most important problem you must solve. That's why the new golfer chops down on the ball with an open clubface and a very steep shaft that's almost vertical to the ground.

And it works, but the joy of launching a ball off a tee is short-lived because while steepness is your friend during lift off, it's your enemy during the rest of the flight, imparting too much slice spin on the ball.

The great paradox in golf is that the slice is natural. Imbedded in the cure of the game's central problem (get the ball airborne) is the virus (an open clubface) that causes the slice. Accomplish the one and you're automatically infected by the other.

To rid yourself of the slice, simply do the opposite of what you normally do.

Seven steps to the perfect slice

1. Aim the clubface to the right of target with the ball too far forward and the shoulders open.
2. Start the club away inside the body line, as the golfer shown in the upper left photo is doing. That which goes inside and up during the backswing must come over and around during the downswing.
3. Next come over the top to pull the ball back to target. From the top, the club comes around, then it comes down. This way it's nice and steep, with an open face. Try to square the clubface at impact by throwing your shoulder at the ball, as our golfer is doing in the above photo at right, so you can hit a pull — sometimes.
4. You don't have to hit too many pulls into the left bushes before you stop the ball from going left by chicken-winging your front elbow, ensuring a wide-open face at impact and a sweeping slice.
5. With your slice in the boomerang category, open your body and aim more left to give your slice more room — especially if the wind is blowing.
6. Since your ball is starting so far left, increase the chicken wing to open the face even more and presto — your slice gets even bigger.
7. Repeat until your game is ruined.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Cause and effect

Looking for a good teacher? There are a lot of characteristics to take into consideration, but at the top is someone who understands cause and effect.

A good teacher has the ability not only to spot an error, but to track down the cause of that error. A teacher who treats effects rather than causes is in for a short, frustrating career on the lesson tee.

For example, a grip that's too weak (error one) causes the hands to fan to the inside during the takeaway (error two), which in turn opens the clubface at the top (error three), which forces the student to swing outside/in (error four) to square the clubface, which produces a chicken-wing left elbow through impact (error five) to keep from pulling the ball. The teacher who works on curing the chicken wing first is at the wrong end of the chain.

A good start on finding a good teacher is to visit a PGA pro, then ask about his or her specific experience in teaching.

The Damocleon driver

In Greek mythology, King Dionysius drove home the point that personal power is a control mechanism at any second by suspending a sword by a single hair above the head of Damocles while he partied at a royal banquet. In different times, the king could have used a driver.



BARBER

As golfers, we all know that "hanging by a thread" can be an apt description of a round of golf. In this game, even if you are a tour pro, you're always one swing away from disaster.

Case in point: Aaron Barber came to the 16th hole 10 shots inside the cut line at the first stage of PGA Tour Qualifying School in North Carolina. He could have finished triple, triple, triple and still qualified.

But he drove into the trees on 16 and made a double bogey, then he made quad (four over) on 17 and another on 18 to miss by one — that's a double bogey, quad, quad finish.

Dionysius would have loved golf.

TEEING OFF

Learn from a professional's mistakes

Picture a relatively harmless par-5 with a green you can miss by 40 yards to the right and still be OK. Now picture a player who pulls his second shot way left into the jailhouse woods. Or how about a huge green big enough to hold a 747? From 80 yards away, this same player buries a ball in the lip of the bunker.

These aren't snapshots from a Saturday morning best ball or the local club championship. They're mistakes made by Greg Norman, at the time one of the world's best golfers. The first mistake occurred on the eighth hole of the 1996 Masters, the initial step en route to one of the most astonishing collapses in modern golf competition. He was hunting a pin he shouldn't have.

The second mistake took place several years earlier on his way to erasing another substantial lead on the back nine of the Tournament Players Championship. Again, he was shooting at a sucker pin.

When the pin is tucked to one side or another, creating a short side to the green, never aim your shot where you have a chance of missing the pin on the short side. That's called a "sucker pin," and it can turn a moderately good round into a disaster by simply getting too aggressive.

When the pin is on the left, train yourself to aim for the center of the green. When the pin is on the right, automatically aim for the center of the green. Hmmm, I sense a trend here. In fact, unless the green has levels that would make two-putting almost impossible, it's a good idea to always aim at the center of the green.

This makes sense when you read it, so why don't more golfers do it (and most don't, believe me)? From simple experience comes my hypothesis: There is something about this game that defies our natural instincts.

In the science of error management theory (EMT), the subject errs on the side of maximum gain — it's part of the human condition. For example, EMT tells us that from the dawn of time females have underestimated a man's commitment to a relationship while men overestimate a woman's intention when presented with cues such as smiles and friendly gestures. The magnitude of the error is great (both sexes are wrong a lot), but things work out because the results, if you're right, far outweigh the cost of the error.

Such is the logic of human evolution. The female wants a provider and the male a consentor, and so here we are.

But in golf, our instinct, millions of years of evolution and just plain common sense go out the window as soon as a golfer sees a pin. It's better to be more like a caveman — err on the side of maximum reward (a low score). Aim for the center of every green and who knows? You might just make a mistake and hit it close to the pin. When you do, give a little nod to EMT.

GOLF SPOKEN HERE

Sky

A golf ball that is hit very high with drastically reduced distance. Similar to a pop-up in baseball.

DON'T MISS IT

Playing in the dark

If you've ever had difficulty finding your balls at dusk, then Don't Miss the Twilight Tracer.

It's a night-illuminating golf ball that flashes red upon contact and stays activated for over five minutes. It's the same size and weight as a regular ball. Specifically made to provide the high-performance aerodynamics, control, accuracy, feel and distance you expect from a professional quality ball, the Tracer has approximately 80 hours of battery life.

They're \$27.95 for a three-pack at www.putters.com.



ASK THE PRO

Q: What do I have to do to be a better chipper? I like to keep things simple, but a lot of what I read is too complicated. Can you help me stay simple?

A: Flora M., Fort Myers, Fla.
A: Flora, this is as simple as it gets: Think of your chip as a putt.

Adapt your chipping iron in three ways so you can use your putting motion:

1. Raise your iron on its toe so it's upright like your putter, bringing your eyes over the target line as in putting.
2. Grip down on your iron to make it the same length as your putter and use your putting grip to minimize the possibility of wrist action, the great destroyer of the putting/chipping motion.
3. Use the iron just like you do your putter, employing a pendulum motion that's controlled by your upper body, with no lower-body and no wrist action.

(To Ask the Pro a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJinsider@aol.com.)

FRIDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (29)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)		
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Horas de Amor	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	John Hagee	News-Lohrer	Dirty Jobs	Part II	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	Without a Trace	Live (CC)	Disney	Honor Roll (CC)	NBA	Heroes (CC)		
7 PM	Furthest Home Video	Furthest Home Video	La Fea Mas Bella	Justice (CC)	Ghost Whisperer	Maria	1 vs. 100 (CC)	Kong King	Update/Israel Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW (CC)	Everest: Beyond the Limit	Movie: Jurassic	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	Movie: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (CC)	Show (CC)	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	College Football: NCAA Division I Final	NBA Basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Dallas Mavericks	Doctor Who (CC)		
8 PM	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Mundo de Fieras	Trading Spouses	Close to Home (CC)	Amor Mio Amores	Las Vegas	Movie: Wimbledon	Light of the Southwest	Secrets of the Dead (CC)	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Halloween 5: The Revenge of Michael Myers	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	King (CC)	One Night The Parkers	Movie: The Parent Trap	NCAA Division I Final	NBA	StarGate SG-1 (CC)		
9 PM	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Casos de la Vida Real	Becker (CC)	NUMB3RS (CC)	Decisions	Law & Order (CC)	News	Noi-Telemundo Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show (CC)	10 Movie: Runaway Bride	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Stunt Junkies Sign Off	Everest: Beyond the Limit	Man vs. Wild	Frankenstein (CC)	Inside the UFC Rattlesnake	Solomon's Mines	BET After Dark (CC)	
10 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show	News	Late Show	News	Late Show	Laura	AI Pop VIVO!	Late Night	Conan O'Brien	Apex	Family Guy							
11 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Apex Media	Gueroja y Algo																
12 AM	News (CC)																				

DENNIS THE MENACE



"CHRISTMAS MUST BE GETTIN' CLOSE. MY MOM TOLD ME THE CLOSET IS 'OFF LIMITS.'"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Halloween came before Christmas so the goblins wouldn't scare Baby Jesus."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



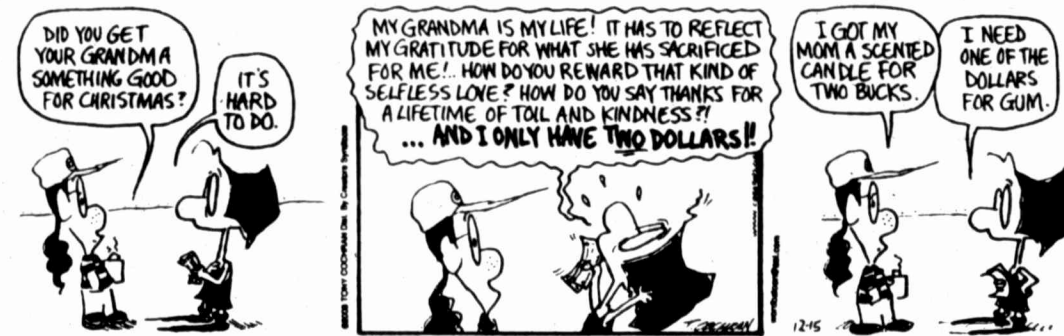
BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2006. There are 16 days left in the year. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

On this date:

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a fracas with Indian police.

In 1938, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington.

In 1939, the motion picture "Gone With the Wind" had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, who was a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the

English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces invaded Mindoro Island in the Philippines.

In 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court.

In 1964, Canada's House of Commons approved dropping the "Red Ensign" flag in favor of a new design.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6-A and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

In 1966, movie producer Walt Disney died in Los Angeles at age 65.

In 1979, the deposed Shah of Iran left the United States for Panama, the same day the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that Iran should release all its American hostages.

Today's Birthdays:

Country singer Ernest Ashworth is 78. Actor-comedian Tim Conway is 73. Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 67. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 64. Rock musi-

cian Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 60. Actor Don Johnson is 57. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 51. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 46. Movie director Reginald Hudlin is 45. Actress Helen Slater is 43. Actress Molly Price is 41. "Crowd-hyper" Kito Trawick (Ghastown DJs) is 29. Actor Adam Brody is 27. Actor George O. Gore II is 25.

Thought for Today: "Better by far you should forget and smile Than that you should remember and be sad." — Christina Rossetti, British poet (1830-1874).

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Answer to previous puzzle

S	P	E	N	A	C	R	E	H	A	L	L	E	
S	A	M	E	G	O	O	D	A	R	I	E	S	
G	I	V	E	T	H	E	B	U	S	I	N	E	S
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A	L	S	A	C	E	A	R	I	A	F	A	A	
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F	L	O	U	R	T	A	L	L	O	M	I	T	
M	O	P	S	Y	B	R	E	E	W	A	D	E	

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Pile up

6 Sow's mate

10 Throat intruder

14 Sealy competitor

15 Not in action

16 Tra trailer

17 Metal bar seat?

19 Wield the blue pencil

20 Tempest container

21 New Deal org.

22 Roof projection

23 Barker and Bell

25 Marked with an asterisk

27 Auditorium events

32 Mischievous one

33 Ham's word

34 Schlep

36 Complete happiness

40 Thick hair

41 Deplete

43 Not fooled by

44 Run in the wash

46 Vic's radio partner

47 vaccine

48 Josh

50 Monroe follower

52 Monitor

56 Card game

57 Stern

58 Rooter's word

60 Brawn

65 Bart's bus driver

66 Hard-to-climb entrance stairway?

68 Crunchy ice-cream ingredient

69 Light and delicate

70 Yankee manager

71 Tuning device

72 Place for a ring

73 Garbo or Bergman

DOWN

1 Helper: Abbr.

2 Dole

3 Calculus calculation

4 Ballroom move

5 Strauss opera

6 Took the hook

7 Olfactory input

8 Bitter drug

9 Associate

10 Mock part of a building?

11 Aircraft equipment

12 Antipasto morsel

13 Like some communities

18 Pitcher's stat

24 Checks

26 Clerical robe

27 Pocket

28 Not quite round

29 Hawaii's state bird

30 Illegal fisherman?

31 Place

35 Furnish (with)

37 Cross inscription

38 Getz of jazz

39 Dover dish

42 Abscond

45 Morse click

49 Kind of fin

51 Has confidence in

52 QED preceder

53 Back in vogue

54 Horse opera

55 1/2, for one

59 Sage, for one

61 Put in the hold

62 Apple throwaway

63 Lady's man

64 Fencing piece

67 Inspect

VOWEL PLAY by Richard Silvestri
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

BIG SPRING
VOLUME
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recall
Spring
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council
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recall e
Acco
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