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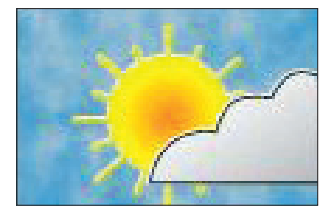
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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**  
 DECEMBER 3, 2010



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## Holiday spirit to embrace Big Spring Weekend full of Christmas cheer for all



**Weekend full of Christmas cheer for all**

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

Christmas alert: Grinches might want to avoid Big Spring this weekend. From lighting ceremonies to parades to craft sales to carols to Santa Claus to Christmas trees, the holiday season gets a gigantic jump-start the next few days. You've been warned, Scrooges.

**Lighting of the Lights**  
 The Big Spring VA Medical Center will hold its 18<sup>th</sup> annual "Lighting of the Lights" ceremony today. The event, which will conclude with the lighting of thousands of lights decorating the hospital, will begin at 6 p.m. Because of ongoing construction in the main lobby, the event will be moved to the hospital's out-patient lobby this year. Veterans and hospital staff will lead attendees in singing Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served and Santa will pay a visit to hear children's gift requests, said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations director for the medical center. VAMC Director Daniel Marsh, assisted by children in the audience, will light the lights on the indoor Christmas tree, simultaneously illuminating the display of outdoor lights. For more information, call 264-4824.

File photo  
**First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree is just one of a half-dozen events planned throughout Big Spring this weekend.**

### LIGHTED COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE PARTICIPANTS

- Following is a list of entries for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade, which will begin at the intersection of 24<sup>th</sup> and Gregg streets at 5:30 p.m. Saturday:
- Big Spring Police Department Honor Guard
  - Grand Marshal Jim Little
  - Big Spring Herald
  - Big Spring High School Band
  - BSHS Cheerleaders
  - Suez Shrine Fire Brigade
  - Salvation Army
  - Salvation Army Boys/Girls Club
  - Big Spring Pow Wow Committee
  - Big Spring Junior High Cheerleaders
  - Salvation Army Emergency Services Center
  - Lakeview Head Start
  - Howard College Cheerleaders
  - Junior High Student Council
  - West Texas VA Healthcare System
  - Cub Scout Pack No. 305
  - Holy Trinity Catholic Parish Youth Group
  - Howard County 4-H
  - Crossroads Youth Football Assn. players/cheerleaders
  - Midway Baptist Church
  - Dance Gallery
  - First Baptist Church Mother's Day Out
  - Big Spring High School Interact
  - Lamun Lusk Sanchez Texas Veteran's Home
  - Jacy Blair
  - Best Western Palace Inn
  - Craig Olson
  - Jackie Olson
  - Clifford Hart
  - Big Spring Harley Group
  - Kokopellis
  - GEO Group
  - Serenity Spa
  - City of Big Spring
  - Fred Loya Insurance/87 Auto
  - Bowl-a-Rama
  - Texas RV Park
  - Action Wrecker
  - Circuit Riders Cowboy Church
  - H-E-B
  - Suddenlink
  - Western Container
  - West Texas Centers
  - Alon Refinery
  - Forsan cheerleaders

**Canterbury Christmas Bazaar**  
 You can spend a little, or a little bit more, to purchase a unique holiday gift when the Canterbury Retirement Community hosts

See **HOLIDAYS**, Page 3A

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## Texas will see dramatic gain in U.S. House seats

By **JAY ROOT**  
 Associated Press

AUSTIN — Fast-growing Texas is poised to be the biggest winner of all when it comes to picking up influence in Congress in the next few years, and Republicans are salivating at the prospect of fattening the largest GOP delegation in Washington. Texas will gain at least three and possibly four seats in Congress, as population trends continue to push people out of the rust and snow belts and into the sunbelt, demographers say. With strong GOP majorities in the Tex-

as capitol and all statewide offices in their fold, Republicans are sure to use their new clout to cement their hold on power through the redistricting process and possibly increase their majority in the House. Republican state Rep. Tommy Merritt, an outgoing member of the Legislature who sits on the House redistricting committee, predicted the Republicans would "go for the gusto." "I think they're going for three (Republicans) and one (Democrat)," he said. "This election in November dramatically changed

the cards. There's a whole new set of cards that have been dealt to the Texas Legislature." GOP leaders in other states are also pondering the prospect of gaining new strength as redistricting begins over the next few months. Every decade brings unpredictable and complicated developments in the redrawing of political boundaries, but the shift of seats and their location couldn't have come at a better time for Republicans.

See **HOUSE**, Page 3A

DEAR SANTA CLAUS,  
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