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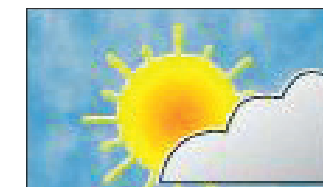


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BIG SPRING HERALD

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Holiday season arrives

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Thousands of Big Spring residents were treated to a mix of patriotism and holiday spirit during Saturday's 25th Annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade.

Despite blustery, cool weather, crowds lined Gregg and Scurry streets to view the more than 40 entries that constituted the lineup for this year's event.

"Things went great," Herald Publisher Ron Midkiff said. "The entries were really top-notch. I say this every year, but I really believe this was the most successful Christmas parade yet."

The City of Big Spring and GEO Group came away with most of the awards in this year's parade. Both entries tied for first in Best in Show (for best interpretation of the parade's theme) and Publisher's Award (best use of lighting). The City of Big Spring made it a clean sweep of the major award categories by winning the Grand Marshal's Award

See **PARADE**, Page 3



HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins

The Christmas season officially arrived in Howard County Saturday evening with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus for the 25th annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade. Cool temperatures and blustery winds greeted parade participants and viewers alike, but parade organizers and judges agreed Saturday's procession was one of the best ever. See more parade photos on Page 10.



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APS 'Be a Star' program begins

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With so many worthwhile causes trying to make the holiday season happy for people from all walks of life, Adult Protective Services is hoping area gift-givers will look to a slightly different demographic at Christmas.

Part of the Texas Department of Family

and Protective Services, Adult Protective Services began the "Be a Star" program this week, collecting Christmas gifts for the area's elderly and disabled.

"A lot of people don't realize it, but the elderly and disabled population is the fastest

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