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HIGH SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



File photo

The 24th annual Drive-Through Nativity, which depicts the birth, life and death of Christ, will be held Friday through Sunday at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

Nazarene Church's Nativity debuts Friday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

For the 24th consecutive year, First Church of the Nazarene will give visitors a step-by-step account of the birth, life and death of Jesus — all from the comfort of their automobiles.

FCN's annual Drive-Through Nativity, which annually draws thousands of visitors from across West Texas, will be held Friday through Sunday at the church, located at 1400 Lancaster.

Event times are from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each night. Admission is free, although donations (which go toward future Nativity expenses) will be accepted, said C.J. Ward, church secretary.

The event will dramatize the life of Christ in more than 13 scenes with church members and other community residents playing the parts of shepherds, angels and other Christmas story characters. Ward said the cast totals more than 100 people, plus live animals.

Ward, who witnessed the event since its inception, said it began in 1987 at the behest of former pastor Gary Smith. The first year's nativity featured only five scenes, but has grown steadily since then.

And interest in the event has grown exponentially, she added.

"The thing that's really amazing to me ... is the fact that we get phone calls from people all over the area, and they don't ask, 'Are you having the nativity this year?'; it's

"You are having the nativity this year, aren't you?" Ward said. "It's become a Christmas tradition for people, not just from Big Spring, but from all over West Texas."

Ward said visitors from towns including San Angelo, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa and Sweetwater annually make the trek to Big Spring to view the nativity.

Drivers are advised to approach the church from the north. Visitors will be provided a CD or tape which will narrate each scene.

For more information on the Drive-Thru Nativity, contact the church at 267-7015.

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

Charter review Committee to recommend term limit election

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring's charter review committee may not be able to agree whether term limits, initiatives and referendums are a good idea for the municipality, but the board was unanimously in favor of putting the issue before Crossroads voters during Tuesday night's meeting.

The committee voted unanimously to submit ballot language for term limits for the city council to consider Tuesday, as well as open discussions concerning initiatives and referendums during the same meeting, with a vote on the issue not being taken until the first meeting in January.



McDonald

The decision to give the ballot language for term limits a thumbs up came fairly early in the meeting, with only a slight change made to the structure of the limits.

Mayor Tommy Duncan had previously proposed a two-term waiting period before a councilman or mayor would be eligible to run for election following a two-term seat on the council. However, the committee agreed Tuesday night a one-term period would be sufficient.

And while the members of the board — Duncan, City Attorney Lind Sjogren, City Finance Director Peggy Walker, council members Gloria McDonald and Craig

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Festival ramps up for 14th edition

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

It's almost time to turn Comanche Trail Park into a Christmas wonderland again.

The 14th annual Festival of Lights, featuring hundreds of lighted attractions ranging from poinsettias to oversized Christmas cards, is expected to draw more than 20,000 visitors to this year's run, which starts Dec. 15 at the city park.

The event, which concludes Dec. 31, is free to the public, although donations, which ensure the event's continued operation, will be greatly appreciated, said Howard Stewart, who has helped take over day-to-day oversight of the festival from

long-time director Pat Simmons.

"We have to pay the electricity bills, get the meters turned on and off and all that costs us money," Stewart said. "So donations are encouraged."

While Simmons has dealt with recent health issues, Stewart, along with wife Vickie and son Quintinn, have handled most of the responsibilities of preparing this year's festival.

"Actually, Vickie and Quintinn pretty much decide where everything goes and it's my job to put it there," Stewart said with a chuckle. "Of course, we couldn't do this without the help of a lot of volunteers and the city. It'll take about

two weeks to put it all up and at least another week to take it all down when it's over."

The signature attraction for the festival, as it always has been, will be the lighted poinsettia — actually, dozens and dozens of lighted poinsettias. But there will be much more for visitors to take in, Stewart said, including the aforementioned Christmas cards, a western diorama, a gift shop (featuring T-shirts, tree ornaments, hot chocolate and apple cider) and Santa Claus (the live version), who will visit with children Dec. 21-23, Stewart said.

But if people think they've seen

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