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H BIG SPRING HERALD

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Council to discuss proposed charter changes

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to begin discussions Tuesday night that could lead to a May election to make a number of changes to the municipal charter, including term limits and the addition of initiative and referendum.

The city's charter review committee, which was appointed by Mayor Tommy Duncan several months ago, is expected to submit ballot language for the addition of term limits to the charter during the meeting. The recommendation comes following a unanimous vote by the committee Dec. 7 to put the matter before voters in May.

The ballot language will have to pass two readings by the council to make its way to the voters. It's unclear at this time if the council will take a formal vote during Tuesday's meeting or use that time to hold preliminary discussions. 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

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Holiday concert set for Saturday



Herald Staff Report

A lighted parade, decorated tree forests, living trees and nativity scenes — what more could the Crossroads community have in store for the holidays? Well, a lot, actually, including one of the most anticipated events of the season coming Dec. 18 as the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra presents "Holiday Holidays, a Symphonic Christmas."

The annual Christmas concert, featuring a number of special guests, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Baptist Church.

Guests will include the Coahoma Choir Kids under the direction of Sandra Wallace, soprano Joyce Bradley and narrator Malinda Flenniken.

The concert will open with several works based on familiar carols, including "Carol of the Bells," "March of the Toys" and the "Carol of the Drum," also known as "The Little Drummer Boy."

"We have planned a concert of wonderful seasonal and Christmas music. Offered late in the Christmas season, we hope it will be the highlight of the holiday season for many of our listeners," said Dr. Keith Graumann, symphony music director and conductor.

Guests will include the Coahoma

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The Coahoma Choir Kids and Director Sandra Wallace perform for members of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club during the club's meeting Friday at Howard College. The Choir Kids will perform with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra during the symphony's annual holiday season concert at 8 p.m. Saturday.

PTSD counseling helping many vets

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

When Sandy Betus and Mike McGee say that counseling can help veterans deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, they know what they're talking about — because they both deal with the condition.

PTSD is a mental illness caused by a traumatic event. The condition is most prevalent in combat veterans, although anyone who has suffered a traumatic event in their lives can become inflicted. It is a new term for a fairly old condition, Betus said.

"In World War I, we called it shell shock," said Betus, the PTSD facilitator at the Big Spring VA Medical Center. "Then, in World War II, it was called the thousand-yard stare and in Korea it was called Mental Stress Disorder."

Whatever its title, thousands of veterans



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Mike McGee, left, and Sandy Betus are getting the word out to area veterans about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling session now available at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

suffer from the condition. Betus said there are a few tell-tale warning signs.

"One of the biggest warning signs is anger,"

he said. "Most of the people with PTSD will go from mild agitation to rage in a split second. Another sign of the condition is

depression." And the worst thing about PTSD?

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