

BIG SPRING Herald

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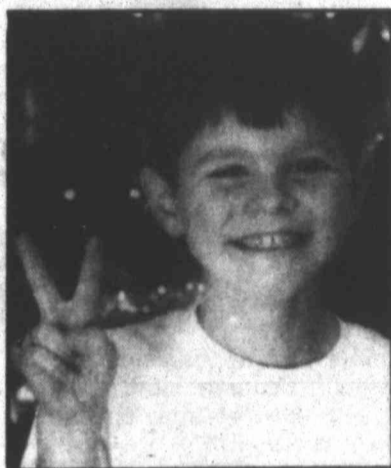
Vol. 89 No. 174
14 Pages 2 Sections

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NEWS DIGEST

COUNTDOWN

TO



Herald photo by Tim Appel

Two more days

Kentwood Elementary School first grader Jackson Inman holds up two fingers to show there are only two days left until Christmas.

Offices closing for holidays

City, county, state and federal offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Christmas holidays.

Financial institutions will close at 2 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed Christmas Day.

Howard County Library will close today at 6:15 p.m., resuming operations Monday at 9:15 a.m.

No newspaper on Christmas

So that Herald employees may spend Christmas with their families, the Herald will not publish an edition Christmas Day.

A morning edition will be published on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and will include numerous advertising specials from local merchants for those persons still facing last-minute gift-buying duties.

The Herald offices will be open on Christmas Eve in order to serve our customers.

Salvation Army serving dinner

The Salvation Army will be serving Christmas dinner from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Christmas day at the Salvation Army shelter.

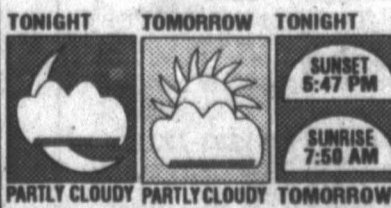
Deliveries will be available. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals to shut-ins, said Commanding Officer Lt. Albert Villafuerte. To volunteer or get a meal delivered call 267-1175.

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Weather

Tonight, partly cloudy. Low in the lower 20s. Wind becoming east 5-15 mph early. See extended forecast page 7A.



Write The Editor, page 4

To Call The Herald
Phone (915) 263-7331

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.



Associated Press photo

Somalis dance Wednesday in Baidoa outside a feeding center run by Irish Concer. Linda Pearson, a Concern volunteer, said "Many people here are starting to get well again. They are starting to

have fun." Food aid shipments to Baidoa have been secured since American and French troops arrived last week.

Somalian action sees first casualty; 1 killed, 3 hurt

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A U.S. Army employee was killed and three other American civilians wounded by an anti-tank mine today as they scouted the area near Bardera, the next destination of the Marines' mercy mission.

The death was the first of an American since Marines came ashore in Mogadishu on Dec. 9 as the vanguard of a U.S.-led multinational force to safeguard the delivery of food to Somalia's starving.

The four, three of them State Department security personnel, were on a reconnaissance mission in preparation for a planned Christmas Eve push into Bardera, Marine spokesman Col. Fred Peck told reporters in Mogadishu.

He said the Army employee was killed instantly.

Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Johnston, the commander of U.S. forces in Somalia, told ABC's "Good Morning America," "We knew, especially when we approached places like this, that the concerns regarding mines would be magnified. We have done everything we could to mark them."

Forces will be even more diligent in looking for mines, but their mission will not change, he said.

The wounded were taken to the USS Tripoli, an amphibious assault ship off the Somali coast, where one was in critical and two were in stable condition. A second mine was found in the area, Peck said, but he did not know if the mines were newly laid — and perhaps directed at the foreign troops — or among the many explosives put down by factions involved in the country's civil war.

Roads and trails around Bardera have been mined in recent weeks by the warlord holding the town, Mohamed Said Hirsi, a son-in-law of former dictator Mohammed Siad Barre known as Gen. Morgan.

Peck said residents are familiar with most of the mine fields and have marked safe paths around



One U.S. civilian killed, three hurt by Somali land mine

them.

The Americans "were traveling in an area where it was assumed all known mines were marked," he said. The spokesman said mine-sweeping was planned as part of the move into Bardera on Thursday.

The four had traveled from Baidoa, about 120 miles to the north, along the same route 1,000 Marines and French paratroopers planned to take Thursday.

Peck said they were alone in a "civilian vehicle" about a half mile north of Bardera's airfield. He said their names would be released later.

The Army employee was the third foreigner killed since the Marines arrived. The other two were aid workers from Bulgaria and Belgium.

U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley was to fly to Bardera later today to talk to clan elders and

community leaders in advance of the Marines' arrival.

Peck said Oakley was either already in Bardera or en route, and that the incident would not affect U.S. plans to move into Bardera.

On Tuesday, Peck said no opposition was expected in either Bardera or Hodder, where Marines are headed on Christmas. Hodder is about 90 miles north of Baidoa.

Both towns are important distribution points for aid in a country where famine has taken up to 350,000 lives and threatens 2 million more.

President Bush is to visit U.S. troops in Somalia for New Year's. The White House announced Tuesday that he would arrive Dec. 31. There was no immediate word on whether today's incident would affect his plans.

The Marines planned to leave Baidoa at first light Thursday and seize Bardera's airport before sundown. Two companies of French paratroopers and one company of Marines were to then take Hodder.

Oakley had not planned to meet today with Gen. Morgan. The U.S. special envoy also visited Mogadishu, Beli Dogle and Baidoa and met with local warlords before coalition forces moved into those towns.

Gen. Morgan was among the most ruthless commanders in Siad Barre's army. He planned and executed the bombing raids that reduced the northern Somalia town of Hargeisa to rubble in the civil war that preceded the dictator's January 1991 downfall.

Even as Operation Restore Hope progresses, the argument over the mission's goals intensified.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who insists the U.S.-led force disarm roving gunmen and set up a police force before heading home, met in New York on Tuesday night with Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

No one commented on the meeting's outcome.

Vandals marring Christmas spirit

By PATRICK DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

Christmas is a time for giving — and apparently taking.

Many of those who want to brighten up the city scape know risks can include hundreds of dollars in losses from thieves and vandals. And that's aside from risks of burglars preying on empty houses to take away waiting Christmas presents.

RELATED STORY — 7A

This year some residents on the Southwest Side of town are upset enough over five incidents of decorations being damaged that they are offering a \$100 reward for information on the culprits.

"It's just terrible that you want to do something and someone wants to take that away," said Mary Cain, who twice in the past two weeks had decorations in her yard on the 2600 block of Crestline vandalized, most recently this weekend.

"You always want to help Big Spring to look better but there's always a few that mess it up to where you want that no-care attitude," said Cain, who lost \$100 in damages on each incident as well as time spent to put decorations back up.

At least four of Cain's neighbors

have been hit, prompting one, who won an award of merit in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's decoration contest, to take down decorations early. It's looks bad for Big Spring, said Cain, because many visitors and residents drive around town to view decorations.

As a result, she and neighbors are offering a \$100 reward to find out who's responsible.

"You know what, this has got to stop," said Cain's neighbor Mildred Franklin, who over the weekend had \$30 damage caused to decorations in her yard on the 2600 block of Crestline. Someone "would probably turn them in for \$10," she mused.

Besides vandalism, Christmas-gift burglaries is another common annual problem, with five reported the past week in the city and county. CrimeStoppers is offering rewards of up to \$1,000 for confidential information leading to arrests and convictions of those involved in burglaries near Coahoma. In the Coahoma area burglaries, doors to residences were kicked in.

But the few Christmas-gift burglaries that have occurred in Big Spring this year is fewer than usual, said Big Spring Police Department Lt. Pam Jordan.

"So far we've had a minimum of that happen," she said. "I hope it stays that way."

Christmas brings big benefits to Rothell

Editor's Note: The Big Spring Herald will run daily through Christmas Eve stories of remembered Christmas as seen through the eyes of local citizens.

By GARY SHANKS
Staff Writer

While it is said to be better to give than to receive, Harvey Rothell, a counselor at Howard College, has received 25 years of benefits from a single Christmas gift — an engagement ring.



HARVEY ROTHELL

Rothell proposed to his girlfriend, Rhonda Gaddie, on Christmas Eve 1966. As he was working about 70 hours a week as an engineer in Greenville,

Rothell purchased the ring for \$185 in Wichita falls prior to Christmas that year. "It isn't a great amount of money," Rothell said (Although new car purchases at that time were about \$2,700).

"We've (since) talked about getting a bigger, better one, but the old one still means a lot."

"A lot of gifts cost more than that, but to think about that one small gift — the dividends have been pretty enormous," he said.

Since that Christmas, the Rothells have enjoyed 25 years of marriage. Their son, Lane, currently is a junior at Big Spring High School.

Rothell went back to school, foregoing his engineering degree for another in psychology, and has served as a guidance counselor for over 20 of the years since that fateful Christmas in 1966.

A Christmas



I remember...

receive her blessing. "She not only got her bachelor's degree, we stayed (while) she got her master's," he said.

Rothell purchased the ring for \$185 in Wichita falls prior to Christmas that year. "It isn't a great amount of money," Rothell said (Although new car purchases at that time were about \$2,700).

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Refugee-packed freighter docks at San Francisco

Nine crew members are facing smuggling charges

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — By the time the freighter Manyoshi Maru hailed the Coast Guard for help, the 180 Chinese refugees crammed aboard were dehydrated, hungry and awash in human filth.

"This was not a pleasure vessel or a luxury liner," said David Ilchert, regional director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "It was miserable. There was vomit and excrement all over the place. People were sitting in their own stuff."

The 180 passengers were taken into INS custody while the agency

weighs whether to grant them asylum or move to deport them.

The INS planned to seize the 165-foot Honduras-registered cargo ship, which was escorted to a Coast Guard station Monday night, and said the nine Indonesian crew members would probably face charges of smuggling refugees.

Some of the passengers said they had paid for the journey, the Coast Guard said. The amounts paid were not disclosed.

Coast Guard vessels met the ship eight miles offshore after the captain radioed that his vessel was out of drinking water. The rusted grain carrier left Taiwan on Nov. 4 and

stopped in China two days later to pick up the passengers, Ilchert said.

The boat was bound for San Francisco, said Bill Tait, INS assistant deputy director for examination. It was supposed to rendezvous with another boatload of Chinese citizens off the U.S. coast but the second boat never showed up, and the water ran out, Ilchert said.

"They worried about the passengers revolting" and alerted the Coast Guard, Ilchert said.

Crew members reported that four passengers were seriously ill. However, a flight surgeon found dehydration among passengers but

no illness that required immediate medical attention, Coast Guard spokesman Darrell Wilson said.

The Coast Guard said the vessel was seaworthy. But on board, health inspectors found several inches of human waste and garbage lining the hold where the passengers made the seven-week voyage. Part of the deck were also covered with human waste.

Neither the galley nor its plumbing was working, Coast Guard Petty Officer Gary Openshaw said, although the ship had some canned food. The passengers were given water, oatmeal and rice after docking.

INS agents took 16 female and 164 male passengers off the ship and took them to the Navy base at

Treasure Island. Many were wearing expensive-looking leather coats.

The women were to be held in jail while their fate was decided. A destination for the men had not been determined.

INS officials said they would decide after interviewing the refugees whether to grant asylum. Political asylum is available to those who can show a well-founded fear of persecution in their homeland.

In the past couple of years, there have been numerous cases of crowded ships full of Chinese aliens discovered off Hawaii or the West Coast.

Texas

Student dies after prank

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENVILLE — A high school student who hanged himself accidentally during a prank has died.

Witnesses said the 15-year-old Greenville High student, known as a practical joker, stood on a chair in the school's auditorium and placed a rope around his neck.

Mark Biggerstaff died at Baylor University Medical Center Tuesday morning, according to hospital spokeswoman Lisa Wren. Biggerstaff had been in critical condition since the prank that took a tragic turn on Dec. 15.

Witnesses said the 15-year-old Greenville High student, known as a practical joker, stood on a chair in the school's auditorium and placed a rope around his neck. He jokingly asked a fellow student to kick the seat out from under him.

That student refused, and after a second youth refused to comply, Biggerstaff fell off the chair and stood on his tiptoes. But Greenville school Superintendent Gib Weaver said in a prepared statement that other students thought Biggerstaff was still playing.

A short time later, students realized the teen-ager was in trouble and then summoned the school nurse, called 911 and administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

When police arrived, they found a length of rope around the injured student's neck and removed it, said Greenville Police Chief Barry Paris.

Lesbian suing to remain in military

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANGELO — An Air Force officer who says she is being dismissed because she is a lesbian is seeking an injunction to stop the discharge hearings and overturn the military law prohibiting sodomy.

First Lt. Heidi De Jesus, a logistics plans and programs officer at Goodfellow Air Force Base, had been notified of her discharge under the military regulation against homosexuality.

Her attorney, Robert Wightman, was in Dallas Tuesday seeking a permanent injunction to halt the

proceedings against Ms. De Jesus. The lawsuit names U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Goodfellow Air Force Base Commander Joseph H. Wehrle Jr.

De Jesus is seeking a permanent injunction against the Air Force's efforts to have her discharged and to overturn the sodomy prohibition.

Wightman said he hopes the injunction will provide the time needed to seek court intervention.

"She is being charged with two separate things," Wightman said. "One with being homosexual, and

two, engaging in homosexual activity."

Ms. De Jesus, a 3½-year Air Force veteran, said she can't understand why she's being dismissed.

"Why should I be discharged, why should I be punished... for my sexual orientation, something that does not affect my performance at all?" she asked.

Ms. De Jesus is being represented in the discharge hearings by Capt. Steve Maxwell, who also represents Col. James A. Maxwell Jr., a former commander at Goodfellow.



Kindergarten teacher Maggie Moody of Guerrero Elementary School in El Paso helps Nicole Bayless pack her play suitcase recently for a trip around the world in the class' paper airplane. The students have been studying other countries and their cultures.

Students learn holiday lessons in understanding

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO — Maggie Moody plays a delicate balancing act, teaching children about the holidays without overdosing on religion.

Moody transformed her classroom at Guerrero Elementary in El Paso into a holiday learning lab.

Her 40-plus kindergarten children just spent three weeks on a make-believe airline tour learning how other boys and girls across the globe celebrate the holidays.

Moody converted what ordinarily can be a difficult, sensitive seasonal assignment for public school teachers into a valuable lesson. "Our children gained some understanding of other cultures and customs," Moody said. "It helps them understand each other a little better, that we're all different and that's OK."

Moody's pint-sized travelers built a mammoth paper plane that made learning pit stops in Mexico, Italy, Africa, Israel, Sweden and Germany.

Tiny 5-year-olds shaped miniature pinatas into Christmas tree ornaments and decorated their classroom with paper stars of David and colorful menorahs associated with Hanukkah.

The class adopted a needy family for the holidays and learned that charity is a perfect definition of the holiday season.

Student Claire Guzman learned interesting tidbits and much more: holiday poinsettias originated in Mexico and Germans popularized the idea of dressing up Christmas trees.

"Christmas is just a very special time," little Claire said.

Moody's innovative approach is typical in El Paso as teachers — ever mindful of the legal walls between church and state — wrestle with how to infuse holiday tradition, customs and the meaning of seasonal celebrations with what children learn in school.

The general rule in El Paso: most public school officials tolerate holiday traditions as long as teachers and principals don't go overboard and promote specific religious beliefs. Public school children still decorate hallways and classrooms with fat snowflakes, jolly Santas and pine trees. Nativity scenes have mostly disappeared from public school campuses, although some music teachers still include them in their Christmas programs.

Choir directors have the freedom to select religious classics, like "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." Some school officials, recognizing that many schoolchildren are poor, have made exchanging gifts optional, a choice left up to individual teachers.

Gloria Hoyos, a teaching veteran at Ysleta's Ascarate Elementary, said most teachers don't live in fear about being challenged for what they teach about the holidays. "Teachers pretty much try... as best they can to instill in children that sense of tradition surrounding holidays," Hoyos said. "But it's a fine line because anybody can misinterpret something."

Hoyos often advises other teachers to be as neutral as possible in their comments about religion and familiarize themselves with what is acceptable. "It can be a very difficult thing to balance," Hoyos said. "You're expected to teach about values and ethics and not bring in religion."

Jacqueline Hernandez, the music teacher at El Paso's Bonham School, said it's important to minimize stereotypes in traditional holiday programs. This year, Hernandez developed a Christmas program in which girls played the lead role. The story line is that Mrs. Claus decides to become a working woman and Santa discovers what it's like to do all the domestic chores and in the end appreciates Mrs. Claus a lot more.

Health officials take over animal shelter

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Problems at a privately-run animal shelter plagued by reports of mismanagement should be mostly solved within a month, according to local officials who have taken control of the shelter.

"I think we'll feel good about this place in about three weeks," said Dr. Thomas Beckett, city-county veterinarian. "We will have made significant progress by then. There is a great potential here in Austin because this is such a caring community."

Beckett and two other Austin-Travis County Health Department officials temporarily took over the shelter from the Humane Society on Monday. The move follows a city audit last month that showed pervasive mismanagement at the facility.

Last week, the society agreed to surrender its role in running the shelter to a new nonprofit corporation that will be governed by a

board of directors and society appointees.

Until that corporation is functional, the shelter, which can hold 500 animals, will be run by the health department officials.

The audit revealed problems such as rundown kennels, inadequate feeding procedures and the use of a gas chamber for euthanasia. Such a system is considered outdated and many

shelters now use lethal injection methods.

An inconsistent diet can result in healthy animals having diarrhea and showing other signs of illness, said Charles Beaman, unit manager of the city/county animal control program.

"Animals that appear sick are euthanized," Beaman said. "We want to help these animals appear as healthy as they are."

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THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN R
7:00-9:40
MUPPETS CHRISTMAS CAROL G
1:10-3:05-5:10

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Keeping Christmas challenge in Sarajevo

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO — Shra and winter's chill has Sarajevans to mostly keep their spirits up. The spirit of Christmas inspired the family to bring a small red apple, their teacher friend killed war.

"Family life is the said Mary Angela Slokar eight years ago move from Houston to be native Bosnia. "You have other things better, water, no electricity."

Caritas, the Catholic organization, em

The couple and children — Antony Angela, 12; Chedoni Teresa, 9 — and Slo Mary have escaped it.

But all the windows have been shattered, and in one part of the outside is peppered holes.

The family has spent worst part of the winter, and it is around wood-burning stove Christmas is being celebrated.

The family could have when the war started chose to stay. "It's a challenge dangerous, and so children... But this belong here," sa Slokar, 50, former trotting oil worker.

The Slokars have through a war that has lives of at least 17,000 jevo, under siege by has now been without tricity or telephone three weeks.

On Tuesday, the out two huge boxes of their living room. were more than the foot pine could hold, scarce in this city with small tree was the l do.

The apple-shaped a gift from the chil homeroom teacher was killed in shellin May.

Mrs. Slokar and wearing winter par as the children dan tree.

They sang "Am Santa Claus Is Coe along with local Ch The Slokar childr singers of Saraje pageants in years i be no pageant this

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Nation/World

Keeping Christmas challenging in Sarajevo

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Shrapnel, bullets and winter's chill had forced the Slokars to mostly keep to the kitchen. The spirit of Christmas inspired the family to venture back into the living room.

The first ornament they hung on their frail tree Tuesday was a small red apple, the gift of a teacher friend killed in Bosnia's war.

"Family life is the easy part," said Mary Angela Slokar, 44, who eight years ago moved her family from Houston to her husband's native Bosnia. "You have to not let other things bother you, like no water, no electricity."

Caritas, the Catholic relief organization, employs both Slokars.

The couple and their four children — Antony, 14; Mary Angela, 12; Chedomil Jr., 10; and Teresa, 9 — and Slokar's mother Mary have escaped injury.

But all the windows in their home have been shattered, shrapnel caved in one part of the roof and the outside is peppered with bullet holes.

The family has spent most of the worst part of the war in the kitchen, and it is around that room's wood-burning stove that much of Christmas is being celebrated.

The family could have evacuated when the war started in April, but chose to stay.

"It's a challenge. It was dangerous, and scary for the children ... But this is my city, I belong here," said Chedomil Slokar, 50, formerly a globe-trotting oil worker.

The Slokars have remained through a war that has claimed the lives of at least 17,000 people. Sarajevo, under siege by Serb gunners, has now been without water, electricity or telephones for nearly three weeks.

On Tuesday, the family spread out two huge boxes of ornaments in their living room. Their contents were more than the scraggly two-foot pine could hold, but with wood scarce in this city without heat, the small tree was the best they could do.

The apple-shaped ornament was a gift from the children's favorite homeroom teacher, a Serb who was killed in shelling of the city last May.

Mrs. Slokar and her husband — wearing winter parkas — watched as the children danced around the tree.

They sang "Amazing Grace," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," along with local Christmas tunes.

The Slokar children were the star singers of Sarajevo Christmas pageants in years past. There will be no pageant this year.

To make presents this year, everyone raided mom's sewing basket.



Checkpoint

Two Russian soldiers have a smoke at a fortified checkpoint of a tank regiment in Dushanbe Monday. The Russian army remains neutral in this civil war stricken former Soviet

republic. Thousands of Tajik refugees have fled into Afghanistan to escape the fighting between pro-government troops and opposition forces.

State wolf kill is cancelled

Pressure from animal-rights activists forces change

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Anchorage — A state plan to shoot hundreds of wolves from helicopters was canceled after animal-rights activists urged tourists to boycott Alaska.

Officials acknowledged that the cancellation was prompted by concern for Alaska's public image and its billion-dollar tourist industry.

"We want the Alaskans and thousands of Americans who have called and written about this controversy to know that we are not indifferent to their concerns," Fish and Game Commissioner Carl

Rosier said in a statement Tuesday.

Hunting groups attacked the decision not to cull the wolf population to boost the numbers of moose and caribou.

"People fail to realize that we have lost literally millions of dollars to the state economy because of a reduced number of out-of-state hunters," said Bud Burris, past president of the pro-hunting Alaska Outdoor Council.

The gray wolf is extinct or endangered in most of the Lower 48 states, but there is a healthy population of more than 6,000 in Alaska.

Last month, the Board of Game approved a five-year plan for Fish and Game officials to kill about 300 wolves in two regions south and east of Fairbanks this year. In each of the subsequent four years, 100 were to be killed.

In a third area, north of Anchorage, permits were to be issued to hunters by lottery. About 50 wolves were to be killed in that area per year.

Conservationists argued that wolves should not be sacrificed for the enjoyment of hunters and that moose and caribou numbers could be raised without aerial shooting.

Book of carols includes the sublime and a few stinkers

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — In choosing the best of the world's Christmas carols, the editors of "The New Oxford Book of Carols" weeded through bad tunes, bad texts, even bad motives. Some they left in place.

"There are a few carols of no obvious distinction which are held in such universal affection that it would have been churlish to omit them," Hugh Keyte and Andrew Parrott write in the introduction to the weighty book.

They refrain from naming stinkers, although declaring that "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" is "still in all too common use."

Parrott, who directs the Taverner Consort musical group, began the book with Keyte in 1985, planning to spend a couple of months assembling about 50 carols. The carols grew to 200, plus nearly 300 tunes, and seven years' work.

"There are some wonderful texts with bad tunes, and some wonderful tunes with bad texts," Parrott said in an interview.

"A lot of texts are impenetrable. The 12 Days of Christmas, the partridge in the pear tree — every other word is corrupt. So we don't attempt to say what it does mean, but we just throw out a few suggestions: for example, that pear tree is from 'perdrix,' the French for partridge. So, a partridge in a partridge."

The editors said they could have produced a short book of variations of "The Cherry Tree Carol," and could have filled a fat one with settings of "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," once the only Christmas hymn sung in the Church of England.

"The New Oxford Book of Carols," published by Oxford University Press, includes three versions of "The Joys of Mary" — English and Irish versions of seven joys, and an American version with 10.

Two underline Parrott's point about bad texts. The Irish version begins: "The first rejoice Our Lady got, it was the rejoice of one; it was the rejoice of her dear son, when he was born young."

The American version, collected in Carthage, N.C., ends: "The very next blessing that Mary had, it was the blessing of ten; to think that her son Jesus, could write without a pen."

The season's blend of the sacred, the sentimental and the crassly commercial is reflected in the history of carols.

A candidate for most sublime is "In Dulci Jubilo," ascribed to the 14th-century German mystic, Heinrich Suso, who told of a vision of an angel.

Just for Paul

Teen's hero performs as he struggles to live

By DANNA DYKSTRA COY
Scripps Howard News Service

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — It was a day for dreams.

Paul Bortolazzo, 19, struggled for every breath in his hospital bed as his hero, Dave Koz, played his silver saxophone.

"Paul, I'm a little worried I will not do this the justice that you would," the soft-spoken musician said to the young man in a coma. "But I'm gonna give it a try."

Koz, a weekly performer on Arsenio Hall's late night television show, closed his eyes and played his hit single, "Castle of Dreams."

The patient's mom, Phyllis DeMaio, and two family friends cried as the 29-year-old musician played in a tiny room in the coronary care unit of Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center.

Another friend, 18-year-old Rochelle Rocha, captured the scene on video.

It would provide the proof family and friends figured Bortolazzo would surely ask for if they were ever able to tell him he'd been treated to a bedside performance by the man he waited up to watch each Thursday night.

Bortolazzo, a 1991 San Luis Obispo High School graduate, began playing the saxophone in fifth grade. He continued to play every day until he was hit by a truck Nov. 17.

The driver of the truck, Ricky Wright of San Luis Obispo, was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of drugs. He's awaiting his arraignment hearing.

Bortolazzo has remained in a coma and off and on life support since the accident that also killed his 18-year-old friend, Karen Gaines.

His mother, along with family friend Susan Kelly, weary of the ups and downs of the young man's

uncertain prognosis, decided last week to do something positive for Christmas.

They called Koz.

"I'd never received a call like that," the performer said in a hospital waiting room. "It was, 'Wait a minute, I mean something to somebody I don't even know.'"

Koz flew in from Los Angeles for the day with his manager, Shelly Heber, just to play for Bortolazzo.

Koz has known friends and family who've been in comas. Some came out fine, some did not. "But I know enough about it to know that you need to exhaust every possibility ... that might help bring someone out of it."

The performer in blue jeans and black leather jacket spent about 45 minutes Saturday morning for some "one on one" with the patient. He played and spoke words of encouragement to Bortolazzo. He promised him a guest appearance on the Arsenio Hall show, maybe a duet.

Later in the afternoon, he again performed as friends and family watched the patient for any subtle movement.

Koz told Bortolazzo he wanted to hear him play one day. "You have all my faith, and all my respect," the performer said.

The repeat performance of "Castle of Dreams," Bortolazzo's favorite song, ended on a high note. Bortolazzo's eyes flickered, then partially opened.

That's happened before, friend Kelly said. But all who watched were certain the patient knew his idol was there.

Outside her son's room, a gold saxophone pinned to her sweater, DeMaio cried: "Paul Bortolazzo got his Christmas present."

(Danna Dykstra Coy is a reporter for The San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune in California.)

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DECEMBER 23 1992

"I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Voltaire

OPINION

Big Spring Herald
Opinions expressed in this column are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.
Patrick J. Morgan Publisher, John H. Walker Managing Editor, D.D. Turner News Editor

An allergy to Christmas trees? Bah!

Brace yourself for bad news: If you've been sneezing and sniffing lately, you may be allergic to your Christmas tree.
It sounds awful to say this, but more than a few Americans now suffering from watery eyes, headaches, congestion — even asthma attacks — may be allergic to evergreens, says James Wells, who teaches at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Editor
Big Spring Herald
Box 1431
Big Spring, Texas 79721

We'd offer that to persons who would rather complain out loud than ask to see the store manager or owner and make them aware of their problem.

Thank goodness for support of schools

Regarding a letter published recently in the Herald where a caring, concerned parent wrote in support of Principal Tom Adams and our school system. Thank goodness there is someone who supports our outstanding system.
Where are other concerned parents? Parents who teach their children respect, morals and manners. Where are the parents who discipline? Where are the parents who are interested in their children's future? What has happened to parent and teacher working closely together for what is best for the child? Is parenting a lost art?

NELL THORNTON
Big Spring

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer complains of poor service, and we certainly experience that more than we would like to, whether shopping at home or spending money elsewhere.
After checking three of the seven or eight stores in town that carry rollers, the writer found someone willing to order the boots for her ... it seems like that's about as good as you can get for customer service.
As far as her alarm clock, she asked the clerk if they had one and was told no. We agree that the clerk might have suggested another store, but if she was looking for something else it seems natural to catch the attention of the clerk again.
There's an saying that goes "If you like us, tell others ... if not, tell us."

Home alone at Christmas not good



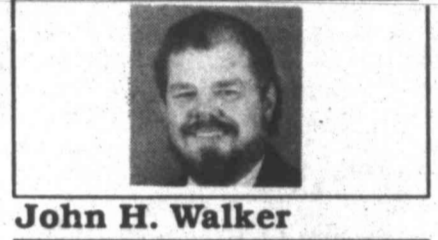
Lewis Grizzard

NEW YORK — Trying to hail a taxi on a street corner in Manhattan at 5 in the afternoon is like trying to get one buffalo's attention as an entire herd rushes past.
You stand there like an idiot with your hand in the air, and the great yellow procession ignores you and rushes on by.
So I'm 20 minutes into this seemingly futile effort when a blue compact pulls in front of me and stops. There is a sign in the front window that reads: Car for Hire.
I don't know if this is some sort of renegade cab driver or not, but at this point, I don't care.
I climb in the back seat and tell the man in front where I want to go.
He is an elderly man, wearing a hat and thick glasses. We stop at a light as we go through Central Park.
The driver, who hasn't spoken a word to this point, suddenly says, "It was five months today I lost my dear wife."
"I'm sorry to hear that," I reply.
"Five months ago today," he

repeats. "It's tough, you know, this time of year."
I imagined that it would be. For all the joy and hope Christmas brings to some, it can mean the searing pain of loneliness to others.
"How long were you married?" I ask.
"45 wonderful years," the driver answers.
I'm sure I detect his voice breaking.
The man begins to cry. He takes off his thick glasses and wipes his eyes with his handkerchief. And we're in rush-hour traffic. I'm concerned for my safety, but here's an old man crying over his dead wife a week before Christmas.
He finally stopped crying and

put his glasses back on.
"Before she died," he begins again, "she told me I would be OK. She had leukemia, you know. She knew she was dying, but I couldn't accept it.
" "She pulled me close to her and said, "You're strong as a bull, you can make it without me." But it isn't easy."
"Any kids?" I ask.
He holds up four fingers. And then he starts crying again. And the glasses come off again and out comes the handkerchief again. This is a terribly delicate situation.
I thought about changing the subject to get his mind off his dead wife and back on the traffic. But what would I talk about, the weather?
"I met her in 1944," he goes on.
"Ever heard of Roseland?"
"The big dance place?" I ask.
"That's the one. It was big back then. That's where I met her, my wife. I walked in and she was the first girl I saw. She was wearing a white dress. I saw her and I noticed she was looking at me, too, so I walked over, put my fingers

under her chin and said, 'Hello, gorgeous.' That's how the whole thing started. I just can't believe she's gone."
" "How old are you?" I ask the man.
"Sixty-six," he answers.
"You're still young," I said, groping to keep up my end of the conversation. "Maybe you will find somebody else."
" "That's what she told me before she died. She said I'd meet somebody else. I believe she's up there in heaven looking down at me now. Maybe she's even trying to find someone else for me."
"Could be," I say.
We arrive at my destination. I pay the guy, give him a generous tip, and say, "Hang in there."
"I was doing good until Christmas," he says. His voice broke again. Off came the glasses again. He dried his eyes with the handkerchief again. Then he says goodbye and drives away.
Home alone in New York at Christmas. Only the movies could make it seem like anything but hell.



John H. Walker

Dear Santa:
I know you probably think I'm too old to write you a letter, but I wanted to let you know some things.
First, thank you for my Christmas gift last year. The folks I used to work for told me that I was making a mistake in coming to Big Spring. They were wrong. It's been the best decision of my life, both professionally and personally.

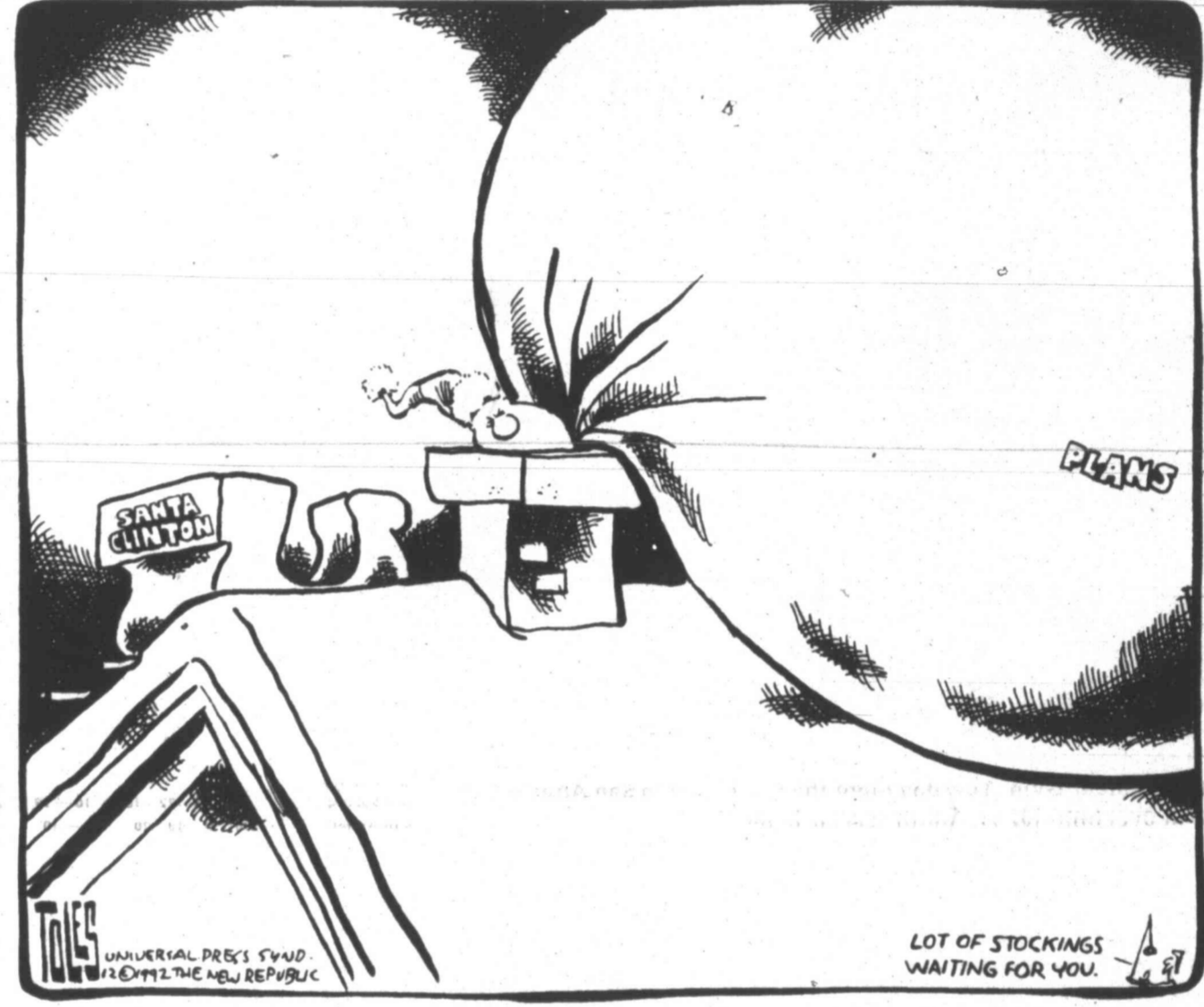
Second, thank you for my new family. After nine years of stumbling around, I had pretty much settled into the fact that I would be single the rest of my life. To have the opportunity to experience true love ... to have a family that loves me as much as I love them, is the most wonderful gift of all ... especially my granddaughter! I don't even feel like Ebenezer Scrooge at Christmas any more!

Third, thank you for the staff at our newspaper. Top to bottom and inside out, they are the best I've worked with in the 25 years I've been in this business. To have the opportunity to work with people who are truly concerned about the community in which they live is wonderful. To work with people who want to do the best job possible and who want to make a positive difference in our community is so much fun that I can't possibly begin to tell you.
Finally, thank you for this community. The naysayers seem to find themselves outnumbered a little more every day. Together, we are making a difference in the quality of life in our community. Together, we are working to ensure a tomorrow for our community.

Now, to my Christmas wishes for this year:
1. Please bring a little more self-confidence to our community. Santa, Gosh, we've had so many downs over the years that we sometimes overlook the positive while waiting for something bad to come along.
Help us realize that we are the ones who can make a difference, and that if anything happens that we are the ones who will make it happen.
I don't want to be negative, Santa, but if we can't do something to change the attitude of the people who are always so negative, can you just find someplace else for them to live?

2. Please help the people who complain when gas in Midland is a penny a gallon less than it is in Big Spring also notice when gas in Big Spring is three cents a gallon less than it is in Midland — like now!
3. Help us all realize how much more progress we make when we pull together. Help us to understand that together, we can do just about anything we want.
Well, that's it, Santa. I know you've got a long night ahead of you, so I'll let you go now. Tell Rudolph I said "hi."
And Santa, thank you for all of the love and happiness that you spread around the world.
Your friend,
John

John H. Walker is managing editor of the Big Spring Herald. His column appears Sunday and Wednesday.



No sympathy for driver



Mike Royko

There is something about a fax that conveys urgency. So when the fax arrived at my desk, I gave it my immediate attention.
Boy, the words were so angry, they almost leaped off the fax paper.
To my relief, the anger wasn't directed at me. I was the recipient of a copy, presumably so I could share in the outrage.
The original fax was addressed to the Illinois State Police office in Oak Brook. It said:
" "I am absolutely sickened and disgusted at the service you are providing to motorists who are stranded with disabled cars!!!
" "To charge \$38 for delivering two gallons of gas to someone is clearly outrageous.
" "Last Thursday evening, a friend of mine was driving my car and ran out of gas on I-88 approaching Oak Brook. She was stranded nearly an hour before even one police officer approached her to offer assistance.
" "He went away, said he would radio for help, and 15 minutes later a man named Cory pulled up in a pickup truck with two or three gallons.
" "He told my friend he is contracted through you to provide service. Not only did he want \$38 for his services, but when she gave him \$40, he couldn't make change and kept the extra \$2!!!
" "What the hell kind of service are you providing??? I can understand charging \$10, \$15, maybe \$20. But \$38?
" "I expect a prompt response to this letter. I am also contacting my alderman, Mayor Daley's office and a variety of other offices to notify them of this inexcusable treatment of an Illinois motorist."
This was written by a young woman named Deborah, who lives on the Near North Side.
Her friend, the stranded motorist, is a young woman named Lynn, who lives in Lincoln Park.
This story interests me because, while it is not a major event, it tells us something significant about our society.
But before we get to that, we should hear Lynn's version:
" "You see, other cars that I've driven, when they said empty you

knew you had still three to five miles left. But this car, well, when it said empty, it meant empty. I didn't know that."
Lynn said several people stopped and asked what her problem was but only one seemed friendly and eager to help.
" "I really felt victimized. There could have been some loony out there. Anything could have happened. There wasn't much concern for me or my safety. Nobody even asked my name.
" "And when the cop finally came, he didn't get out of his car. I had to walk over to his car. He motioned me over. Isn't that wild?
" "Then, after he left, some kind of state truck stopped, and I said: 'Well, did you bring me my gas?' And he said: 'No, I'll radio it in.' Obviously, no one was communicating."
Finally, the truck with the \$38 fee showed up and Lynn was again on her way.
Now she and her friend Deborah are firing off letters to various public officials demanding to know why Lynn was treated this way.
I don't know what these officials will say, but I think I can explain it.
The reason Lynn went through that unpleasant hour and a half on the shoulder of a toll road is that Lynn did something really dumb. Yes, that seems to be the crux of the matter.
The car she was driving has a device that told her when she had a quarter of a tank, an eighth of a tank and when she was down to empty.
So what did Lynn do? She got to empty and just kept going.
But what does she say? Does she hang her head in embarrassment and mumble, "Boy, am I a dumb klutz, or what?"
No, she engages in the great

American pastime of looking around for someone else to blame.
She says she felt "victimized." Imagine, she runs out of gas and that makes her a victim. But isn't everybody these days?
The question is, who victimized her?
Was it the state trooper? He's responsible for many miles of crowded highway. He's got drunks, speeders, tailgaters, lane-hoppers and maybe a few accidents.
He did not appear overwhelmed by Lynn's plight. Of course he wasn't. He probably thought: "With everything else I've got to do, here's a bubblehead who doesn't have the sense to stop at a gas station. And she acts like it's my fault."
Then there is the guy driving the truck on the night shift, which isn't nearly as good a job as Lynn's. (She's in real estate.)
He tells her it's \$38, which includes \$3 or \$4 worth of gas. Is that an outrageous price? I don't know. How much would Lynn or her friend Deborah charge if a stranger asked them to go out into the cold, fill a can with gas, drive several miles, pour the gas into a stranger's car, take some guff and then drive several miles back to the garage?
Now they're firing off letters and faxes to the mayor of Chicago and their alderman, who have absolutely nothing to do with the toll roads. And even if they did, the mayor would be justified in responding:
" "Lady, I'm trying to run a city of almost 3,000,000 people, many of them with real problems. But at least most of them have the sense to gas up the tank."
So I can't share the outrage of Lynn and her friend. It is only fitting that when people do dumb things, they should suffer a bit of discomfort. If they didn't, we'd have even more idiocy in our world, and we've surpassed our quota.
Lynn should look on the bright side. She could have been born in the pioneering days of covered wagons.
Try sending an angry fax to an Indian chief.

Steel

By MIKE BUTTS
Staff Writer

Boyce Paxton re-coaching grounds Steer Gym and left just memories. Spring Steer has got out with a m overtime victory f Central Bobcats.
Despite good pe guards Wes Hug Cox, San Angelo u 3-13 and dropped below .500 at 6-7.
" "It's our third v it's a real big wi " "Plus I coached years so it's a big Hughes lead th points and hit a t two seconds left into overtime. Bu verted on three ones in the final period to help Angelo also has play from four s tallied 20 points " "That makes games we've bee Steer coach Gary won two of the ourselves in pos one. But if you overtime game bad."
Big Spring def Merkel in over season.
The Steers le nine points in th They broke th several times ea easy baskets. stayed with the finally began to blemes. The Bol way back in the " "At times we l in what we're su against the pr " "It's just a matt (needing to disciplined."
San Angelo we 3:11 left in the t stayed close the Bobcat senior ny Robledo (6- Free (6-5) gav blemes in the , scored mainly o shots and fins

Out

Although it's ing about it, I about back-to-b ball champions ing Lady Steer.
I guess it's b coach Ron Tay Here's a man t at the school team from the 21-9 district ch The Lady S 10-3, having we encounter, a 72 Angelo Lake V the majority o from last ye replace two ki all-stater Tev Amber Grisha athlete of the High school.
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Sports

Steers fall in overtime, 102-99

By MIKE BUTTS
Staff Writer

Boyce Paxton returned to his old coaching grounds Tuesday night in Steer Gym and left with more than just memories. The former Big Spring Steer basketball head man got out with a much needed 102-99 overtime victory for his San Angelo Central Bobcats.

Despite good performances from guards Wes Hughes and Brady Cox, San Angelo upped its record to 3-13 and dropped Big Spring's to below .500 at 6-7.

"It's our third win of the year so it's a real big win," said Paxton. "Plus I coached here for three years so it's a big win for me."

Hughes lead the Steers with 30 points and hit a three-pointer with two seconds left to send the game into overtime. But the Bobcats converted on three of five one-and-ones in the final 1:28 of the extra period to help get the win. San Angelo also had good offensive play from four starters who each tallied 20 points or better.

"That makes three overtime games we've been in (this year)," Steer coach Gary Tipton said. "We won two of them (and) we put ourselves in position to win this one. But if you're 66 percent on overtime games your not that bad."

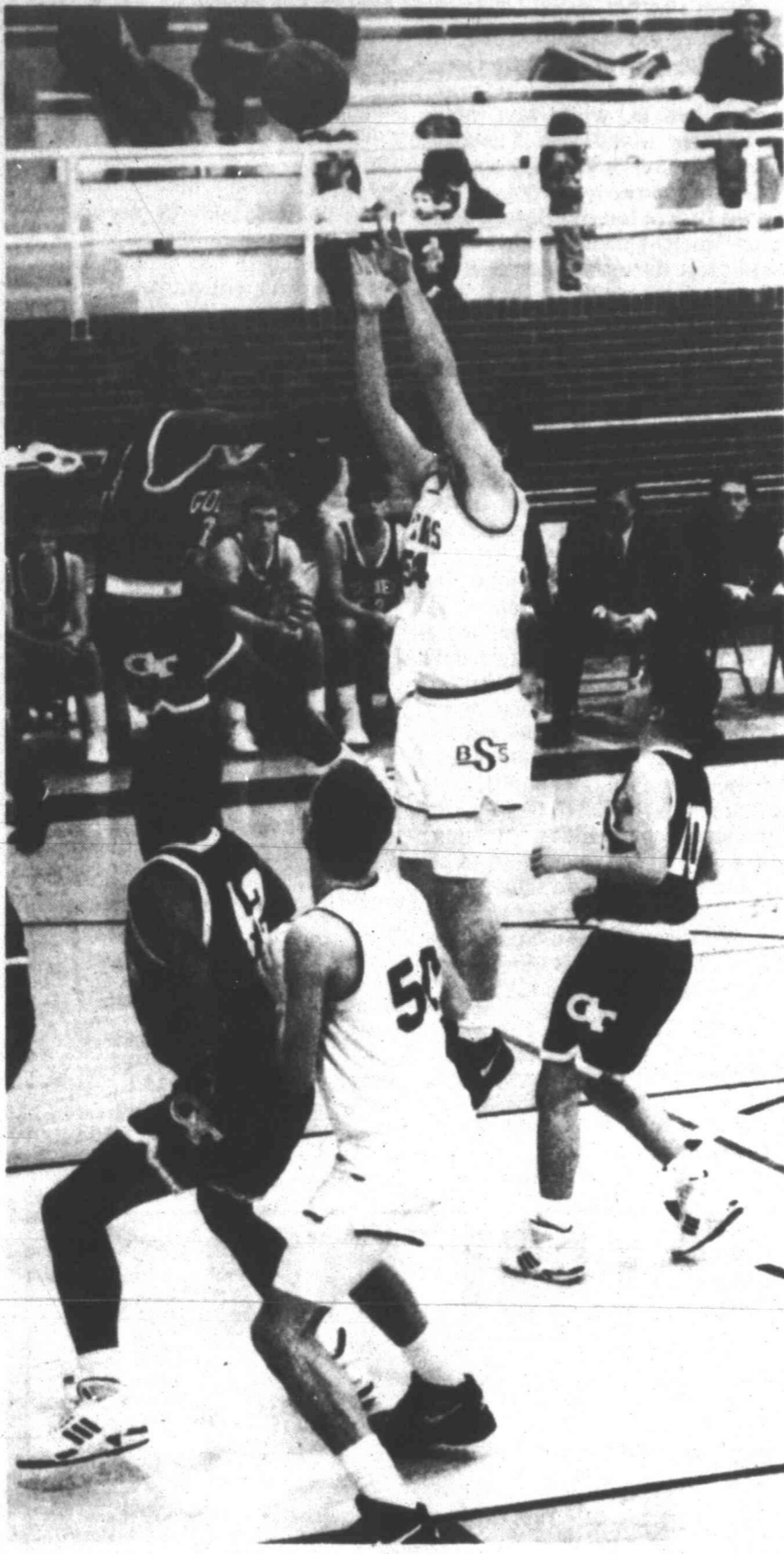
Big Spring defeated Lamesa and Merkel in overtime earlier this season.

The Steers led by as many as nine points in the second quarter. They broke the Bobcats press several times early in the game for easy baskets. But San Angelo stayed with the pressure and it finally began to give the Steers problems. The Bobcats fought their way back in the third period.

"At times we have mental lapses in what we're supposed to be doing against the press," Tipton said. "It's just a matter of maturity and (needing to be) little more disciplined."

San Angelo went ahead 62-61 with 3:11 left in the third and the game stayed close the rest of the way.

Bobcat senior post players Danny Robledo (6-foot-4) and Noble Free (6-5) gave the Steers problems in the middle. Robledo scored mainly on turn around jump shots and finished with a game-



Big Spring Steers forward Mike Smith (54) puts up a shot in recent action at Steer Gym. Tuesday night the Steers lost to San Angelo Central in overtime 102-99. Smith scored 10 points.

high 32 before fouling out at the 1:58 mark of overtime. Free had 21 points. Paxton said Robledo's performance was the best of his career.

"We tried to zone them to get some help because we knew there post game was strong," Tipton said. "We were able to do that but then they started popping threes. It wouldn't be surprised me if that was one of the best games Central's played."

San Angelo sophomore guard Micah Echeberger had three three-pointers and 21 points and guard Greg Metz scored 20, 18 in the second half, for the Bobcats.

Big Spring's Cox, a 6-5 point guard, found his range in the second half with 19 of his 25 points. He hit on 10 of 13 shots while Hughes was 9-14 including four three-pointers.

Down 86-85 with 54 seconds left in the game Free rebounded a missed free throw by Metz and missed the put back. But Robledo followed to give the Bobcats a one-point lead. Torbin Lancaster then turned the ball over on a travel and Metz converted both ends of a one-and-one for a 89-86 San Angelo lead.

Steer Tyrone Banks missed a tough three-point attempt with 12 seconds left. But the Steers quickly fouled Robledo and he missed the front end of a one-and-one with eight seconds left to set up Hughes' shot.

In overtime the Bobcats got six unanswered points to break a 94-94 tie. The run came on four free throws and a bucket after Free stole a Steer inbound pass. The Steer's only field goal of overtime was a three-pointer by Cox with 12 seconds left for Big Spring's last points.

The Steers next game is against Coleman in the Brownwood Holiday Classic Dec. 28. Big Spring's JV defeated San Angelo 52-47. The JV is off until Jan. 5 when it and the varsity open District 3-4A play against Sweetwater in Big Spring.

BIG SPRING (99) — Torbin Lancaster 37-12, Wes Hughes 16-4-30, Derrick Smith 22-24, Tyrone Banks 4-1-8, Mike Smith 4-2-18, Brady Cox 8-2-25, Nick Alvarez 21-7-25, Josh Jones 1-0-12. Totals: 24-20-29-99.

SAN ANGELO (102) — Danny Robledo 15-2-32, Micah Echeberger 8-2-21, Noble Free 9-3-21, Robert Jackson 1-0-0-3, Bert Greene 0-1-3-1, Chris Ybarra 2-0-1-4, Greg Metz 6-7-8-20. Totals: 48-17-22-102.

Big Spring 19 20 21 18 20 10-99
San Angelo 20 21 18 20 23-102

Herald photo by J. Fierro

NFL on brink of a labor compromise

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — After five years, the NFL has apparently reached the brink of labor peace, a peace that will include the league's first unrestricted free agency.

After 12 hours of meetings Monday and Tuesday, the players and owners announced they had reached agreement in principle on the first agreement since the 24-day strike in 1987 that threw almost all labor matters into the courts or before federal agencies.

Neither side would give details, but it is believed the agreement is very close to the "framework" agreed upon two weeks ago, which would bring free agency for the first time, impose a salary cap and cut the draft from 12 rounds to seven.

"We've had two full days of discussion totaling 12 hours," the statement said. "We made progress on the remaining issues and have reached a tentative settlement agreement in principle. We will attempt to finalize on it Monday."

Details from the meetings of the last two days were sparse, indicating two things:

— That there was indeed progress close to a settlement — when things are close, the rhetoric stops.

— Participants indicated that

the agreement was still a bit shaky and that the league negotiators must still do a selling job through Christmas and over the final weekend of the regular season.

"We're trying to get from here to next Monday," one participant said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"It's got to be a fair deal or we'll have to take our chances in court," said Cleveland owner Art Modell, one of the owners who prefers negotiated settlement to court action. He said there were still some points unresolved.

The agreement follows a period in which the league's labor relations were shifted from collective bargaining to court.

Last September, a jury in Minneapolis handed down a verdict throwing out Plan B, the league's limited free agency plan. Judge David Doty, who presided at that trial, subsequently let nine unsigned veterans become free agents this season, including All-Pro tight end Keith Jackson, who left Philadelphia and signed with Miami.

Doty, who must approve this settlement, also had a behind-the-scenes role in the talks, urging the two sides to reach agreement on their own. He told both sides that neither might like any settlement he imposed.

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Outlook bright for Big Spring Steers

Although it's too early to be talking about it, I can't help but think about back-to-back district basketball championships for the Big Spring Lady Steers.

I guess it's because Lady Steers coach Ron Taylor has coached me. Here's a man who in his first year at the school transformed a 5-21 team from the year before into a 21-9 district champion.

The Lady Steers are currently 10-3, having won their only district encounter, a 72-39 laughter over San Angelo Lake View. Sure Taylor has the majority of his team returning from last year, but he had to replace two key inside players — all-stater Teveyan Russell and Amber Grisham, who was named athlete of the year at Big Spring High school.

Filling the void left inside with



Steve Belvin

the departure of Grisham and Russell has been Amy Earnst. The 5-foot-11 junior has exhibited the potential to be a dominating player. In fact, by the time she's finished, she could be better than Russell.

Earnst has a good supporting cast in wing Leslie Fryar, guards Casey Cook and Bernie Valles and post-wing Cassie Underwood. Fryar is the designated three-point scorer, Valles has a good outside touch, Underwood is the trash

woman under the basket and Cook runs the point.

If you don't think Taylor molds talent, realize that two years ago Cook was a reserve post player on Forsan's team. Now she's perhaps the best point guard in the district.

The Big Spring Steers are also a team that could possibly challenge for a playoff spot, but I wouldn't put money on it just yet.

When I first saw the Steers in their home-opener against Snyder, I had the feeling it was going to be a very long season. To be honest, the Steers stunk that night.

Two weeks later I saw the team in action against Lubbock Estacado and it was like a major team transplant. No longer did I see a team tripping over themselves, blowing layups or

dribbling off their own feet.

Coach Gary Tipton made a smart move in moving forward Brady Cox to point guard. That and the emergence of junior forward Tyrone Banks has been a big factor in the Steers winning six of their last 10 games.

It's really hard to tell about the boys district race. Unlike the girls race where everyone knows the Lady Steers are the team to beat, the boys race is still a question mark.

But unlike a month ago, when I thought the Steers would be league cellar dwellers, I think they have just as good a chance as any team for a playoff spot.

Steve Belvin is sports editor of the Big Spring Herald. His column appears Wednesdays.

Cowboys playoff tickets already sold

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING — If you don't already have your Dallas Cowboys playoff tickets, either forget it or prepare to dole out big bucks to scalpers.

In less than two hours Tuesday, fans bought the 10,000 available playoff tickets at \$31 each for the Cowboys' second-round NFC playoff game on either Jan. 9 or Jan. 10.

first round, will play the Minnesota Vikings if the Central Division champions win their wild-card game. Should Minnesota lose, Dallas would play the winner of the other wild-card matchup.

after Dallas clinched its first Eastern Division title since 1985 with a 41-17 rout of Atlanta.

Morning newspapers carried hastily-made ads for T-shirts emblazoned "1991 NFC Eastern Division Champions."

Dallas, which gets a bye in the

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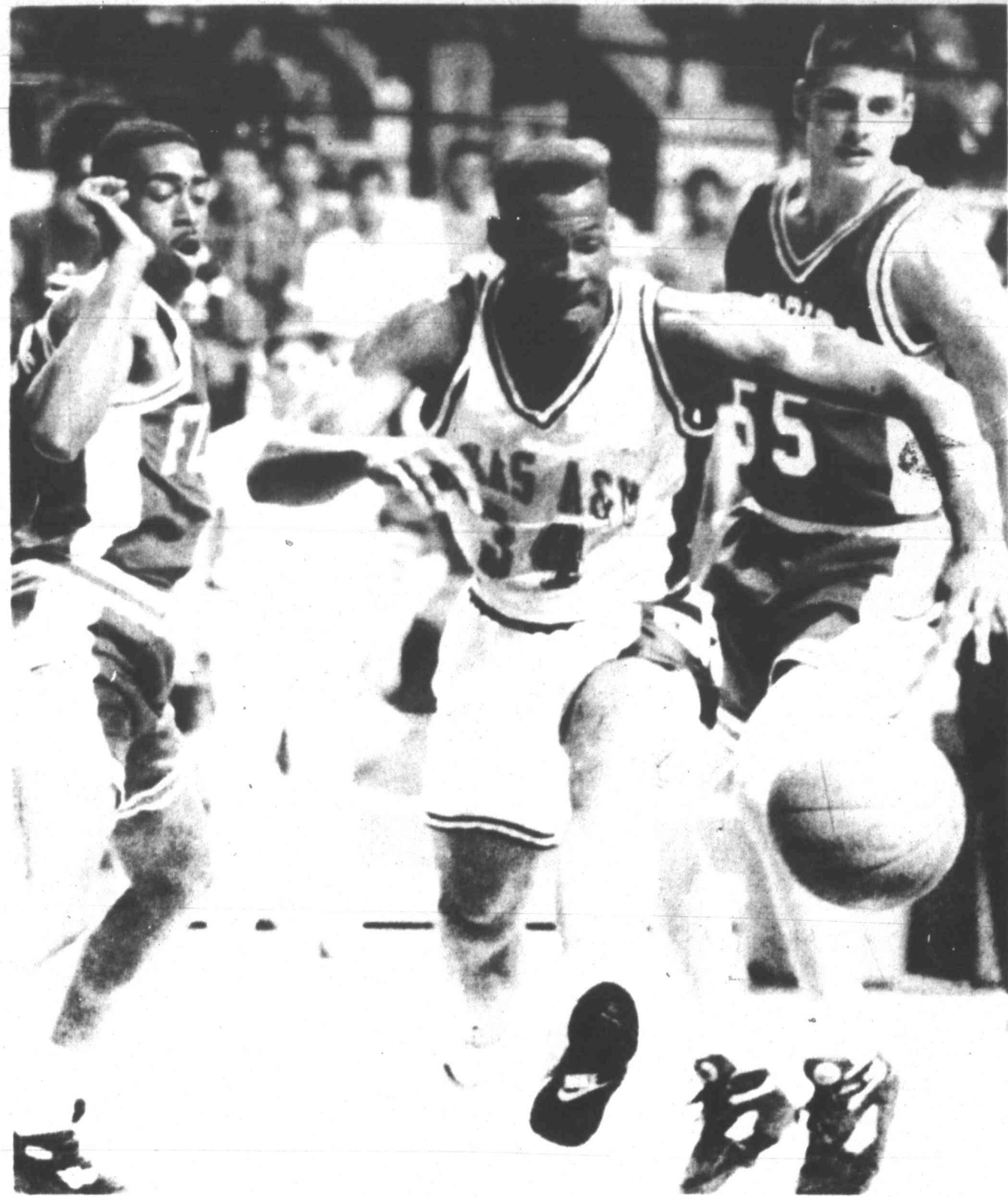
Editor of special sections
Martha E. Flores oversees non-advertising production of the Big Spring Herald's numerous special sections; from the annual *Progress Edition* to Prime of Your Life. Questions regarding special sections should be directed to her at 263-7331 ext. 110.

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Big Spring Herald
263-7331



Texas A&M forward Damon Johnson reaches for a loose ball as Florida's Craig Brown, left, and Andrew DeClercq look on during the first half in College Station Tuesday night. The Aggies beat the Gators 57-54.

Aggies surprise Florida

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLLEGE STATION — Tony McGinnis scored Texas A&M's final seven points during the last three minutes Saturday as the Aggies upset Florida, 57-54.

All five Aggie starters scored in double figures with Chuck Henderson's 12 leading the way. Damon Johnson had 11, while McGinnis, Brett Murry and David Edwards scored 10 each. The victory evened A&M's season record to 3-3.

Craig Brown led the Gators with 19 and Martti Kuisma added 15 as Florida lost its second game in six outings.

SWC ROUNDUP

The Aggies threw up a two-three zone defense and it resulted in holding the Gators to a shooting percentage of 32, as they made only 18 of 56 attempts. They put up 28 3-point attempts and hit 11 for 33 of their total points.

Florida held a 34-28 lead at halftime, but the Aggies opened the second half with a 12-0 run for a 40-34 advantage. Kuisma's 3-pointer at the 13:42 mark broke the Aggie run. The Gators drew even at 47-47 and twice more until a free throw by Andrew DeClercq gave them their only lead of the second half, at 54-53.

McGinnis then hit a driving layup with 1:21 left for a 55-54 A&M lead and tipped in Edwards' miss with 17 seconds left for a 57-54 reading. Stacey Poole's 3-point attempt with two seconds left bounced off the rim.

Houston 84

Arkansas St. 82
JONESBORO, Ark. — Charles Outlaw's 26 points Tuesday night led Houston to a 84-82 clipping of Arkansas State.

Free-throw shooting made the

difference for Houston (4-1), which outscored the Indians from the foul line by a 31-2 margin. The Cougars shot 38 times from the stripe, ASU only four times.

But it was at the foul line that ASU (3-4) had a chance to tie with one second left. Sophomore Vernell Cole, however, missed the front end of a 1-and-1 and Houston rebounded to hold on to the victory.

The loss was the third in a row for ASU.

ASU's Robert Smith-Lee nailed a three-pointer with 20 seconds to play to deadlock the game at 82 with 20 seconds left. Jessie Drain's inside basket with 3 seconds to play proved decisive for the Cougars, who are favored in the Southwest Conference this season.

The Indians, who scored 10 more baskets than the Cougars, were paced by Cole's career-high 27 points and Jeff Clifton's 24.

David Diaz added 22 for Houston.

Texas 83

Stephen F. Austin 70

AUSTIN — Five Texas players scored in double figures as the Longhorns surged back from an early deficit to beat Stephen F. Austin 83-70 Tuesday at the Frank Erwin Center.

Senior guard Michael Richardson led the Texas attack with 18 points. Junior guard B.J. Tyler added 15 points, junior center Albert Burditt hit for 14 points and 17 rebounds, junior guard Tony Watson scored 11 points and sophomore guard Terrance Rencher poured in 10 points.

With the win Texas improved to 4-2 while the Lumberjacks dropped to 4-2. Stephen F. Austin of the Southland Conference was led by senior guard Jack Little with 28 points. Junior forward Nathan Dooley added 17 points and a team-high eight rebounds and freshman point guard Chris Brown hit for 10 points and dished out six assists.

Spurs' Lucas wins 1st game

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Lucas' NBA coaching debut was a success thanks to David Robinson's 21 points, 18 rebounds and eight blocked shots in San Antonio's 113-108 victory that handed Denver its eighth consecutive loss.

Lucas was hired Friday night to replace Jerry Tarkanian, who was fired 20 games into the season.

Dale Ellis and Sean Elliott scored 23 points each for the Spurs. Gary Plummer led Denver with 20 points and Dikembe Mutombo had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Nuggets, who fell to 1-11 on the road.

Consecutive dunks by LaPhonso Ellis gave Denver a 101-100 edge with 4:40 left. But the Spurs regained the lead for good on two free throws by Elliott and a tip-in by Robinson.

NBA ROUNDUP

Pistons 98

Rockets 84
Joe Dumars scored 23 points and Isiah Thomas 22 as hot Detroit cooled off Houston.

The Pistons have now won 10 of 11 games, while the loss was just the second in eight outings for the visiting Rockets, who had season-lows for points in a game, quarter and half.

Detroit led 42-34 at halftime before rookie Robert Horry scored 12 of his 20 points in the third quarter, helping the Rockets get as close as 60-58.

Dennis Rodman, who had 18 rebounds, guarded Horry in the fourth quarter, and Detroit regained the momentum.

Clippers 108

Mavericks 94

Mark Jackson had 21 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, and Ron Harper scored 25 points as Los Angeles kept Dallas winless in nine games on the road this season.

Derek Harper and Terry Davis scored 20 points each for the Mavericks, whose 2-18 overall record is the NBA's worst. They have suffered 17 of their defeats by double digits.

The Clippers, who survived a 25-2 run by Dallas in the first half, took control with a 15-3 surge in the fourth quarter. Harper's two free throws gave them their biggest lead, 99-81 with 4½ minutes left.

SuperSonics 106

Warriors 104

Seattle built a 95-75 lead with 7:33 left by starting the fourth period with a 13-4 run, but the Blazers responded with a 21-4 spurt.

Suns 106

Warriors 104

Golden State missed two shots in the final seconds as Phoenix matched its single-season record of 10 straight victories.

The visiting Warriors came from 13 points behind in the third quarter to take a 104-102 lead on Tim Hardaway's 3-pointer with 2:05 left.

Phoenix last won 10 straight from Jan. 9 to Jan. 25, 1990. The Suns' longest streak is 11 straight from the end of the 1983-84 season through the first five games of 1984-85.

Kings 102

Bucks 99, OT

Sacramento snapped a 10-game road losing streak and handed Milwaukee its 11th straight loss following a 10-3 start.

Magic 101

Jazz 98

Shaquille O'Neal had 28 points, 19

rebounds and five blocked shots, and dominated the fourth quarter for Orlando against Utah.

The 7-foot-1 rookie sat on the bench late in the third quarter and early in the fourth with four fouls, but returned to bail out the faltering Magic with six points, six rebounds and three blocked shots in the final 10 minutes. It was the fourth consecutive win for Orlando following a six-game losing streak.

The Jazz, who lost for only the fourth time in 12 road games, got 30 points from Karl Malone and 20 from Jeff Malone. But the two Malones were a combined 3 of 11 in the final quarter.

After just 21 games, O'Neal already has tied the franchise record for blocks in a season with 87.

Celtics 106

Nets 104

Dee Brown's 20-foot jumper with 1.4 seconds left gave Boston the victory at New Jersey, spoiling the Nets' comeback from a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

The Celtics led by 16 points three times before the Nets rallied, tying the game 104-104 with a 13-2 burst that Chris Morris capped with an 18-foot jumper with 24 seconds left.

Hornets 130

Hawks 114

Larry Johnson scored 29 points, Dell Curry 28 and rookie Alonzo Mourning 20 as Charlotte handed Atlanta its fourth consecutive loss at home.

Mourning scored eight points in a 14-0 run that gave the Hornets a 90-71 lead in the third period. The Hawks got no closer than 10 points again.

Charlotte stretched the lead to 109-85 when Curry hit a 3-pointer with 10:02 left in the game.

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Scoreboard, pages 5&6B

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Deaths

Virgie Br

Virgie Bradford died Sunday, Dec. 21, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services were 2 p.m. Tuesday at Cecil Bunch of was in Lawn H Gardens, Clovis. Survivors include Bradford, wife; daughters: Mary and Vernice; one brother, L. Haven, Fla.; three sons: Linch, Hico, Eastland, and V. Clifton; four great-grandchildren and nephews.

Tommie

Tommie L. Dav day, Dec. 15, 19 Manor, San Angel Graveside serv a.m. Thursday Memorial Garder Don Ralphs Rou Manor officiating by Johnson's Fun She was born Nemo. She had liv for the past five homemaker. Survivors inclu man Davis, Du nieces and nephe

Sarah T

Sarah Elaine Christi, died Mon in Austin. Services were Cauthron Method was in Kirk Cen Ark. Survivors incl Sarah K. Turner her parents: G Oakes, Cauthron brother, Sam Oa

James M

James O. (Pal Spring, died Tue in a local hospiti Services will day at Nalley Rosewood Chap Herbert McPh Calvary Baptist Burial will be in Park under the Pickle & Welch He was born Raleigh, Calif. Murray on Oct. ing. He worked Pacific Railway ing in 1975 as ar Survivors in Mildred Murphy sons: J.O. Mur phy, both of Big P. Murphy, Seg Marian Walker grandchildren grandchildren. Family sugg the Dora Rob Center, P.O. B 79721-2213.

Flora F

Flora Lucill Spring, died hospital. Services will at Nalley-Rosewood Cha Craven, pasto Church official Trinity Memoi direction of N Funeral Home She was bo Gilmer. She Roberts in Ma ing. He prece Dec. 12, 1977. beautician and Survivors in O. Matthews, Matthews, I grandchildren grandchildren

Fannie McCas

Mrs. Fanni died Tuesday Houston. Services i Nalley-Pickle Home.

MYER FUNERAL

Juan T. died Tues 8:00 P.M. & Smith were at 11 day at St. Church. E Mount C

Deaths

Virgie Bradford

Virgie Bradford, Clovis, N.M., died Sunday, Dec. 20, 1992, in Midland Memorial Hospital.

Services were 2 p.m. today at Stead-Todd Chapel, Clovis, N.M. with Cecil Bunch officiating. Burial was in Lawn Haven Memorial Gardens, Clovis.

Survivors include one son, Randolph Bradford, Waggaman, La.; two daughters: Mary Beth Holt, Slaton, and Vernice Moore, Big Spring; one brother, L.T. Hare, Winter Haven, Fla.; three sisters: Vesta Linch, Hico, Vera Solberg, Eastland, and Vernice Mueller, Clifton; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Tommie Davis

Tommie L. Davis, 86, died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1992 in Lakeview Manor, San Angelo.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Thursday in Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens with Chaplain Don Ralphs Rouse of Lakeview Manor officiating. Arrangements by Johnson's Funeral Home.

She was born April 9, 1906 in Nemo. She had lived in San Angelo for the past five years. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include one son, Norman Davis, Dumas; and seven nieces and nephews.

Sarah Turner

Sarah Elaine Turner, Corpus Christi, died Monday, Dec. 21, 1992 in Austin.

Services were 11 a.m. today at Cauthron Methodist Church. Burial was in Kirk Cemetery, Cauthron, Ark.

Survivors include one daughter, Sarah K. Turner, Corpus Christi; her parents: Gerald and Gwen Oakes, Cauthron, Ark.; and one brother, Sam Oakes, Austin.

James Murphy

James O. (Pat) Murphy, 82, Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1992 in a local hospital.

Services will be 10 a.m. Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Herbert McPherson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born Sept. 27, 1910, in Raleigh, Calif. He married Mildren Murray on Oct. 4, 1933 in Big Spring. He worked for the Texas and Pacific Railway for 48 years, retiring in 1975 as an engineer.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred Murphy, Big Spring; three sons: J.O. Murphy and Dick Murphy, both of Big Spring, and Jerry P. Murphy, Seguin; one daughter, Marian Walker, Big Spring; nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Family suggests memorials to the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, P.O. Box 2213, Big Spring, 79721-2213.

Flora Roberts

Flora Lucille Roberts, 82, Big Spring, died today in a local hospital.

Services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Claude Craven, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She was born April 24, 1910 in Gilmer. She married Joe A. Roberts in May of 1968, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Dec. 12, 1977. She had worked as a beautician and was a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons: Sam O. Matthews, Clyde, and Joe B. Matthews, Big Spring; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Fannie McCasland

Mrs. Fannie D. McCasland, 86, died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1992 in Houston.

Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

267-8288

Juan T. Gaitan, Sr., 66, died Tuesday. Rosary was 8:00 P.M. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Services were at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Burial followed in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Juan Gaitan Sr.



Juan T. Gaitan Sr., 66, Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1992 in a Midland hospital.

Rosary was 8 p.m., Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Services were 11 a.m. today at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. Robert Vreteau and Deacon Horace Yanez officiating. Burial was in Mount Olive Memorial Park under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Gaitan was born Jan. 4, 1926 in Chappel Hill, Tx. He married Cristina Vasquez on Sept. 1, 1945 in Beeville, Tx. He was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church and the Cursillista Movement. He grew up at Kenedy, Tx. and farmed there with his father until 1945. He moved to Big Spring in 1946. Mr. Gaitan was a farmer and later worked for the City of Big Spring, in the street department for 16 years. He retired in 1989.

Survivors include his wife, Cristina Gaitan, Big Spring; three sons: Juan V. Gaitan, Kenner, La., Agustin V. Gaitan, Sr. and Luis A.V. Gaitan, both of Big Spring; two daughters: Audelia G. Morales, Dallas, and Elena G. Gomez, Australia; five sisters; two brothers; 12 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews, including a favorite nephew, Pete Gaitan, Pleasanton, Tx.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Daniel and Santiago Gaitan.

Pallbearers were Juan V. Gaitan, Agustin V. Gaitan Sr., Luis A.V. Gaitan, Agustin R. Gaitan Jr., Erick L. Gaitan, Juan Ruben M. Gaitan, Richard R. Gaitan, Daniel G. Gomez, Pete Gaitan Sr., Carlos Morales, Joe Gomez, Christopher Douglass and Correy Douglass.

Honorary pallbearers were Greg Aguilar, Roy White, Mike Douglass, Russell Patrick, Luis Casillas, Thomas Padilla, Joe Padilla and Emilio Herrera.

Paid Obituary

Don R. Jones

Don R. Jones, 62, died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1992.

Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Waldeen Murphy

Waldeen Murphy, 77, Rome, Ga, died Monday, Dec. 21, 1992 in Rome, Ga.

Graveside services will be 3 p.m., Saturday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with Dr. Claude Craven, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church officiating. Arrangements by Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She was born May 19, 1915, in Hico. She married William S. (Bill) Murphy on June 30, 1930, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Sept. 30, 1977.

Survivors include two sons: George E. Murphy, Kennesaw, Ga. and William S. Murphy, Hobbs, N.M.; five daughters: Betty Davis, Rome, Ga., Charlotte Roach, Kingston, Berry Collins, Richmond, Va., and Linda Gamblin, Houston; one brother, R.L. Myrick, Big Spring; 21 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Records

Tuesday's high temp.....	64
Tuesday's low temp.....	33
Average high.....	58
Average low.....	29
Record high.....	79 in 1933
Record low.....	0 in 1989
Rainfall Tuesday.....	0.00
Month to date.....	0.41
Month's normal.....	3.21
Year to date.....	36.21
Normal for year.....	18.41

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Rosewood Chapel

Big Spring

James O. (Pat) Murphy, 82, died Tuesday. Service will be at 10:00 A.M. Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.

Flora Lucille Roberts, 82, died Wednesday. Services will be at 2:00 P.M. Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.

Waldeen M. Murphy, 77, died Monday in Rome, Georgia. Graveside services will be at 3:00 P.M. Saturday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mrs. Fannie D. McCasland, 86, died Tuesday in Houston. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Don R. Jones, 62, died Tuesday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Daylight burglaries under investigation

By GARY SHANKS Staff Writer

Howard County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a number of burglaries in the county, many occurred in daylight hours when burglars kicked a door in.

The latest incidents occurred about one mile north of Coahoma on FM 820 and the second on Moore Road in Sand Springs.

The burglar or burglars gained entrance to each home by kicking in the front door, according to sheriff's department reports. Along with Christmas gifts, various items including VCRs and other electronics were removed from each home.

CrimeStoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in these burglaries. All callers remain anonymous. Call 263-TIPS or the sheriff's office at 264-2242.

The best protection against these kinds of crimes is the neighborhood watch program, said Sheriff's Deputy Barney Edens. There are about 20 communities in Howard County, and those with effective neighborhood watch programs have very low crime rates. When

the programs were initiated, "our crime just dropped," Edens said. "We are ready to assist in setting up these programs. If (county residents) will call between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, we'll set it up," Edens said.

Some of the existing neighborhood watch programs have lost some effectiveness as people move out and into the communities, he said. These need to be strengthened periodically as new residents are instructed in the basics of the neighborhood watch.

Deputies are available to reorganize these programs as well as instituting new programs. "We try to get out (to reorganize) these neighborhood watches and, of course, they can call us out anytime," he said.

In the mean time, anyone who observes any suspicious activity is urged to call the sheriff's office at 264-2244 or 263-7654. Even activities such as an unfamiliar vehicle in the area will get immediate attention from the sheriff's department.

Herald National Weather

The Accu-Weather® forecast for noon, Thursday, Dec. 24.

Fronts: COLD, WARM, STATIONARY

Permian Basin Weather

Thursday: Partly cloudy morning low cloudiness, otherwise partly cloudy. High in the mid 40s. South wind 5-15 mph; fair night.	Friday: Partly cloudy, high mid 50s; fair night, low mid 30s.	Saturday: Partly cloudy, high mid 50s; fair night, low mid 30s.
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Wal-Mart executive apologizes for inaccurate 'Made in America' signs

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The chief executive of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. apologized Tuesday for signs in some stores claiming that goods were made in this country when they were imported from overseas.

"We really apologize to our customers that merchandise in some of our stores has been signed incorrectly as 'Made in USA' even though labels on each garments were clearly marked as imported items," Wal-Mart president and chief executive officer David Glass said in a news release.

He said Wal-Mart also removed from its stores a jacket with a label that contains an American flag but reads, "Made in Bangladesh."

"In both of these instances no intention was made to deceive our customers and steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence," he said.

Glass' apology came just hours before a "Dateline NBC" television report Tuesday night contended that Wal-Mart was importing increasing quantities of merchandise, exploiting sweatshop child labor in Bangladesh to produce private-label clothes, doing business with a suspected garment-smuggling operation in China, and displaying foreign-made clothes on racks that proclaimed "Made in the USA."

Wal-Mart stock fell sharply Monday on advance publicity about the "Dateline NBC" report. On Tuesday, it fell further, but not as sharply.

Wal-Mart's statement, released from its Bentonville, Ark., headquarters, vehemently disputed the other claims. Wal-Mart said that during the 11 months it has imported directly from Bangladesh, "manufacturers have certified that no illegal child labor has ever been used in manufacturing Wal-Mart merchandise."

The company also denied that it had ever "engaged in a criminal scheme to transship or smuggle any garments from any foreign company" or been told it was the subject of any such criminal investigation.

The company also reiterated a spokesman's comments Monday that imports accounted for only about 6 percent of the chain's total marketed goods and that some of the NBC report was attributed to organized labor, which has fought Wal-Mart over its non-union policies.

The program said that, while many companies import goods from overseas, Wal-Mart deserved special attention because it claimed to encourage manufacturing operations in this country through its Buy America program.

Wal-Mart is one of the biggest modern-day success stories of American business. Its founder, the late entrepreneur-multibillionaire Sam Walton, parlayed a dime store into the world's biggest discount chain, which now owns more than 1,700 outlets in 42 states.

Walton and his subordinates orchestrated the "Made in America" theme into a cornerstone of the chain's unbridled success, with promises of products made by Americans, for Americans.

The program said that, while many companies import goods from overseas, Wal-Mart deserved special attention because it claimed to encourage manufacturing operations in this country through its Buy America program.

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CIRCUIT ELECTRONICS

2605 Wasson Mon.-Fri. 9-6 Sat. 9-5 267-3600

Fire Log

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following:

- Grass fire on railroad tracks.

Police beat

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following:

- \$60 damage was caused to a glass door on the 500 block of Douglas.
- An \$119 bicycle was taken from the 3700 block of Calvin.
- \$950 damage was caused to vehicles on the 600 block of Sgt. Paredes.
- \$43 worth of beer was taken from the 4000 block of Birdwell.

Faye's Flowers

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HALF-PRICE SALE!

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, DEC. 23RD & 24TH

ALL CHRISTMAS ITEMS

- * Trees * Decorations
- * Silk Arrangements * Bows

LOTS TO SEE

Open 8 AM to 5:30 Dec. 24th Closing at 3:00 PM

1013 Gregg 267-2571

Wishing you a Blessed & Happy Christmas

This holiday season, may you enjoy spending time with your family, friends, and loved ones, and may you keep the true meaning and joy of Christmas close to your heart.

Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel

Pre-January CLEARANCE

21 hours

Shop Today from 10 AM-9 PM Christmas Eve 8 AM-6 PM

- 30% off All Women's Blouses and Men's Long Sleeve Shirts
- 40% off Entire Line of Women's and Children's Shoes
- 40% off Entire Line of Women's and Men's Western Boots
- 50% off Entire Line of Fashion Jewelry, Tafari, Citation, Kazoom, Two Sisters and Glorious
- 25%-40% off Catalog Displayed Merchandise including Toys in stock.

See Tomorrow's Ad for Christmas Eve Bonus Sale

JC Penney

Big Spring Mall

EVERYDAY LOWER PRICES



**Corn King
Whole
Ham
Boneless**

1.29
lb.



**Smithfield
Bacon**
12 oz. pkg.

89¢

SPECIAL PURCHASE

**Furr's Wishes All
Of You A Very
Safe And Happy
Holiday
Season**

**U.S.
No. 1
Yams**



4.00
lbs. For

**Sweet,
Seedless
Navel**



**Oranges
10 Lb. Bag**

2.99

Only
30¢ per
lb.!

SPECIAL PURCHASE

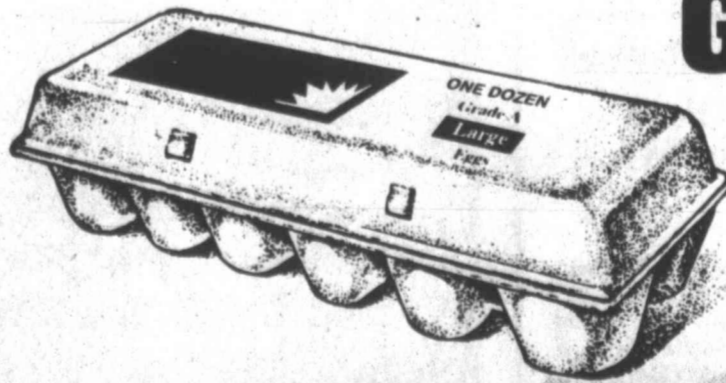
**Bordens
Old Fashioned
Ice Cream
All Varieties**



1.99
1/2 gal.

SPECIAL PURCHASE

**Furr's Large
Grade A
Eggs**



79¢
Doz.

SPECIAL PURCHASE

SPECIAL PURCHASE

Prices are effective: Through Thursday December 24, 1992. We reserve the right to limit quantities. No sales to dealers.
FURR'S WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY SO THAT OUR ASSOCIATES MAY SPEND THE HOLIDAY WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

Preview c
'Hoffa' /2

Robin Wi
movies/2

Wednesday, Dec

**Spring
board**

To submit an
ingboard, put it in
mail or deliver it
in advance. Ma
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P.O. Box 1431, Big
or bring it by th
Scurry.
ATTENTION C
USERS: Let us l
regular listings w
the holidays. If
given, listings will
this week and nex

Calendar

Today

- Bingo offered Elks, and Main Monday-Friday. Saturday, 1 p.m., p.m., at the Lions Third.

- The Salvatio have a dinner for 5:30 p.m. at their Aylford, Mond Friday.

- Toys of Chris featured at tl Museum's holiday from the 1940s-6 display through J

- Big Spring will have cerami 9:30-11:30 a.m. invited.

- The Rap Gr from 6-7 p.m. at t Center, room 212 of Vietnam, Leba Panama and l invited.

- Eagles Lod ilinary will meet a Thursday

- Spring Tab 1209 Wright St. l and whatever el for area needy f noon.

- Crude Diam ing chapter of th try/Western Dar meet at 8 p.m Lodge. For inf 267-7937 or 264-07

- Masonic L meet at 7:30 p.m

- Childrens l Informed Educa at 7:30 p.m. at meeting room. C Friday

- Friday ni Dominoes. For and Chickentrac Kentwood Cente Public invited.

- Spring City have a Country, from 7:30-10:30 invited.

Saturday

- Maximum l 6:30 p.m., at Im of Mary Cathol Hearn.

- American l will have a shuff ment at 2 p.m. 3203 W. Hwy. 80

- Eagles L music by Prowl a.m. Join us an Sunday

- Eagles l Matinee from 4- Top Draw. Join friend.

Monday

- There will l at 7 p.m. at Center on Lyn welcome. For 393-5709.

Tuesday

- Spring Tal 1209 Wright St. and whatever for area needy noon.

- Christian l will be taking library and th movies down. For informati 267-8851.

Wednesday

- Big Spring will have cera 9:30-11:30 a.m. invited.

Thursday

- Spring Tal 1209 Wright St. and whatever for area needy noon.

- Big Spring mentally ill w at the Howar Health Center For informati

Spring board

To submit an item to Springboard, put it in writing and mail or deliver it to us one week in advance. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring 79720; or bring it by the office, 710 Scurry.

ATTENTION CALENDAR USERS: Let us know if your regular listings will change for the holidays. If no notice is given, listings will run as usual this week and next.

Calendar

Today

- Bingo offered by the Lions, Elks, and Main Street Club, Monday-Friday, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m., and Sunday, 2 p.m., at the Lions Club, 1607 E. Third.
- The Salvation Army will have a dinner for area needy at 5:30 p.m. at their building, 308 Aylford, Monday through Friday.
- Toys of Christmas Past are featured at the Heritage Museum's holiday exhibit. Toys from the 1940s-60s will be on display through Jan. 23.
- Big Spring Senior Center will have ceramics class from 9:30-11:30 a.m. 55 and older invited.
- The Rap Group will meet from 6-7 p.m. at the VA Medical Center, room 212. All veterans of Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and Persian Gulf invited.
- Eagles Lodge ladies auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m.

Thursday

- Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright St. has free bread and whatever else is available for area needy from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Crude Diamonds, Big Spring chapter of the Texas Country/Western Dance Assoc. will meet at 8 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. For information call 267-7937 or 264-0717.
- Masonic Lodge #598 will meet at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.
- Childrens Rights through Informed Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Chamber, meeting room. Open to public.

Friday

- Friday night games of Dominoes, Forty-two, Bridge and Chickentrack from 5-8 p.m., Kentwood Center, 2805 Lynn Dr. Public invited.

Saturday

- Maximum payout Bingo at 6:30 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1009 Hearn.
- American Legion Post #506 will have a shuffle board tournament at 2 p.m. Draw partners. 3203 W. Hwy. 80.
- Eagles Lodge will have music by Prowlers from 8:30-12 a.m. Join us and bring a friend.

Sunday

- Eagles Lodge Sunday Matinee from 4-8 p.m. Music by Top Draw. Join us and bring a friend.

Monday

- There will be gospel singing at 7 p.m. at the Kentwood Center on Lynn Dr. Everyone welcome. For information call 393-5709.

Tuesday

- Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright St. has free bread and whatever else is available for area needy from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Christian Home Schooler's will be taking a tour of the library and then seeing some movies down stairs at 2 p.m. For information call Donna at 267-8851.

Wednesday

- Big Spring Senior Center will have ceramics class from 9:30-11:30 a.m. 55 and older invited.

Thursday

- Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright St. has free bread and whatever else is available for area needy from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Big Spring Alliance for the mentally ill will meet at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Mental Health Center, 4th & Rannels. For information call 267-7380.

Ho, ho ... oh no! Help for giving a Christmas pet

By CONNIE SWINNEY
Staff Writer

If you're thinking about giving a puppy or a kitten as a holiday gift, follow some expert cautions to ease what can otherwise be a difficult transition.

"You shouldn't give a pet as a surprise," said Robert Piper, administrator for Animal Control. "A pet is a major responsibility that a person should really be ready to commit to."

Much time should be spent on determining if a pet is a suitable gift, Piper said.

"Getting a dog or a cat should be something that's well thought out. It shouldn't be spur of the moment," he said. "It could become a nuisance to the person receiving the pet."

Groups like the Animal Control Shelter and the Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty report the lack of well-planned pet buying decisions are not fair to the owner or animal.

"A person could end up wanting to get rid of the animal or abusing it," Piper said. "Pets are just like babies. They grow and start to make a mess, chew up things and get into everything."

One local woman received "the most adorable Basset Hound" as a surprise Christmas gift.

"My husband surprised me with one (about a week ago)," said the woman, who didn't want to give her name. "We've had lots of sleepless nights since. (The puppy) just howls like crazy."

The woman said her family has to change their daily routine to accommodate the hound.

"It's winter and he's too small to be put outside. I go to work, and



A pet can be a wonderful gift . . . if you follow these guidelines to ease what may otherwise be a difficult transition.

there is no one to keep him," she said. "I leave him in a room with the paper down, but it's really not fair to him to be closed up like that."

She said although she mentioned one day that she would like to have a hound, if she and her husband had discussed it, she would not have agreed to buy one during the holidays.

"It was a sweet thought but since the puppy was given to me, I feel like I have this added responsibility I don't have time for," she said. "(Getting a pet) really needs to be a family discussion."

As sweet or romantic as it may seem, giving a pet as a holiday gift could result in some bitter feelings, Piper said.

"They usually come to feel like the gift was more than they bargained for," he said. "You should first make sure the person approves of receiving a pet because you are asking them to make a long-term commitment."

Humane Society has solution

By DEBBIE LINCECUM
Features Editor

The Big Spring Humane Society has a solution for people who want to give pets as gifts during the holidays, but avoid added stress for the family and the animal.

"They can put the animal on hold, come pick it up Christmas Eve — or after Christmas," said volunteer Julie Frey.

She said pets given as surprise gifts may end up neglected during the stressful holiday season.

"The animal's going to be scared to death," said Frey. "It won't know where it is, and it might make mistakes. They really need a couple of weeks to adjust."

But there are ways to give a pet that will ease the difficulties, she said.

"Another good idea is to give the person a picture of the animal, and a certificate saying they can come get it after the holidays. That adds to the excitement," Frey said.

To avoid another common problem, Frey recommends the buyer let the new owner choose the animal.

"That way you know they'll be getting the one they want," she said.

For families who do get a new pet as a gift, Frey recommends patience.

Several hundred animals — dogs, puppies, cats and kittens — are available for adoption now at the Humane Society, 1-20 just West of Big Spring. For information, call 267-7832.



Puppeteer and storyteller Kim Lehman, with Blossom, her pet pig, entertains regularly at Austin day care centers, schools and nursing homes. Their mission is spreading holiday cheer, and folks say the unusual combination works.

Christmas Blossom Pet porker brings holiday cheer to Austin residents

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — She's not your typical holiday ham.

But Blossom the pig is doing her bit to spread a little holiday cheer around town.

"She brings Christmas joy — externally," says the pig's partner, Kim Lehman.

Lehman, who is a storyteller and puppeteer, has been taking the pig with her on visits to schools, day-care centers and nursing homes.

That's not bad for an animal that was within hours of being dumped at the humane society just six weeks ago.

"I was at the Spaghetti Warehouse and I heard these people talking about having friends that were getting rid of their pig," Lehman says.

"One of them was sick. I asked if I could have her."

Lehman, who describes herself as an animal lover, also has a chicken, a parrot, several doves, a cat and a dog. But none of them seems to captivate people's attention the way her pig does.

"I guess it brings out a softness in people to see an unusual animal," says Lehman, a former schoolteacher. "And Blossom is very good with children. She's so calm she'll crawl into people's laps."

Anita Rizley, the youth services coordinator for the city library system, says she approves highly of her employee's new storytelling

buddy. "I met the pig yesterday and learned she has visited several schools," Rizley says. "She's very sweet."

Blossom's budding entertainment career won't end with the holidays, although she probably will lose her Santa hat and red ribbon. Lehman says people have been telling her a lot of pig stories, and she plans to tell them through the coming year as she takes the pig to different places. She also expects the pig to make frequent appearances at the Pleasant Hill branch library, where Lehman works.

And sometime in the future, she expects Blossom to be even more of a ham than she is now — although not of the cooked variety.

"Yeah, I'm teaching her tricks," Lehman says. "I'm teaching her to sit, get down and go backwards."

Kim Lehman,
Pig's partner

Around the world in food

HERALD STAFF REPORT

The Heritage Museum is seeking creative cooks and would-be world travelers for its February food festival, "Around the World in 80 Bites."

Visitors to the event will sample foods from a variety of countries all over the world. Cooks — individuals, families, businesses and civic groups — are being sought to prepare various finger foods for the Feb. 27 festival at the museum building.

Volunteers will prepare enough "bites" for 200 tasters, and will pay their own cooking expenses. The museum will provide space, paper goods, beverages, and decorations.

Food can be from any country or heritage. Some possibilities include: strudel, potato cakes, marinated grapes, paella, curried chicken, borscht and others.

Confirmation of participation must be made by Jan. 30. There will be entertainment, including an oompah band and mariachi band as well as school dance groups. All non-participants will pay an entry fee for the event.

Limited space is available. For more information, call the museum at 267-8255.



Visions of oysters

A worker opens an oyster in a downtown Paris shop recently. In France, oysters are a favorite Christmas treat, and one expert estimates that Christmas trade accounts for 80 percent of annual oyster sales.

Hotlines for cooking help

Scripps Howard News Service

If your Thanksgiving turkey didn't turn out too well and you're planning another for Christmas, you can always call Butterball for help. One can even get roasting guidance on Espanol.

Bilingual home economists have been added to the Butterball staff of 44 talk-liners for Spanish-speaking callers. Last year Califor-

nia, Illinois and Florida were the top three states calling the talk-line, and all those states have sizable Hispanic populations.

This is the 12th season for the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line, 1-800-323-4848. The hearing-impaired can phone 1-800-TDD-3848.

The Butterball talk-line hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. weekdays.

A bit of history, last-minute help for the holidays

The birth of Christ was nearly 2,000 years ago.

However, the Christmas celebration as we Americans know it is a fairly recent tradition. In the 1600s, the New England Puritans actually banned the observance of the Christmas holiday and considered it a pagan ritual. Southern Colonials, on the other hand, celebrated Christmas with great enthusiasm.

Alabama was the first state to make Dec. 25 a legal holiday in 1836.

Trimming a tree was not common in America until about 160 years ago.

Did you know the original St. Nicholas lived in Holland in the 4th Century? Legend tells us he was a wealthy dignified old man who was very generous.

He heard of a nobleman who had no money for his three daughters' dowries. One December night, St.

Nicholas rode to the nobleman's house and tossed three bags of gold down the chimney. One bag fell into a stocking that was hung there to dry. That is supposedly how the tradition of hanging stockings from the mantel came about.

The pineapple we use on our door wreaths and for decorations during the holidays is a symbol of hospitality and friendship. It was brought from the West Indies by the Captains of Tall Ships which traveled from the West Indies to the American colonies. Their trips took many weeks so only a few perishable fruits would last that long.

Now that the blessed day has finally arrived, let us take time to breathe deeply and absorb the beauty of the season.

Appreciate the little things — a card from a far away friend; togetherness of family and friends; the delightful aroma of a

Christmas kitchen with an array of favorite foods for nourishment for body and soul; freedom to believe as we choose and all the many blessings we take for granted throughout the year.

It would be nice if the caring deeds we express at Christmas time were carried out all year long. Merry Christmas to everyone!

The following recipes are great for quick and easy last-minute treats for your holiday guests.

LEMON BREAD

- 1 pkg. lemon cake mix
- 1 pkg. (4 serving size) instant lemon pudding
- 2 Tbsp. poppy seed
- ½ cup Crisco oil
- 1 cup water
- 4 eggs
- Grease and flour 2 loaf pans.
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Combine all ingredients and beat 2 minutes. Pour into 2 loaf pans.



Sue Haugh

Bake at 325 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Allow to cool in pan before removing from pans.

Do NOT use cake mix with pudding already in mix. This bread has a cake-like consistency and is great for slicing as a dessert.

PEPPERMINT — EGGNOG PUNCH

- 1 quart peppermint ice cream, soft
- 1 quart dairy eggnog
- 1 Liter (33.8 oz.) bottle ginger

ale, chilled

Peppermint sticks or candy canes

Combine first three ingredients in punch bowl stirring until blended. Serve immediately with peppermint sticks or small candy canes.

RUSSIAN SPICED TEA MIX

- 1 cup instant tea
- 2 cups dry Tang orange drink
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 pkg. Wyler's Lemonade Mix
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- Mix all together. When ready for use add 1 tsp. in 1 cup boiling water. Great gift idea if presented in attractive container.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Character is like the foundation to a house, it is below the surface. Sue Haugh's food and recipe columns appear Wednesdays.

Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program									
5	PM	Cosby Show	6	PM	News (236)	7	PM	Wonder Years	8	PM	Home	9	PM	Chill Wars	10	PM	News (65101)	11	PM	Ent Tonight	12	AM	R. Limbaugh	1	AM	World News	2	AM	News Now	3	AM	World News

Grandma's Christmas wish for time

DEAR READERS: A faithful reader for more than 30 years - who requested anonymity - wrote the following:



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: For Christmas, I don't want another crystal bud vase. I have four under my kitchen sink, and nobody brings me flowers anyway. I don't want a sausage and cheese tray - too much cholesterol for this old lady. I don't want another music box to find a place for. I have too many now. I don't want a silk nightgown, perfumed soap, a fancy bed jacket, dusting powder or a bird feeder. What do I want? Ask me! I'm not shy. I have told you already what I really want for Christmas, but I never got it. Maybe this time I will. I want you to give me a few hours. Take me and my cumbersome wheelchair to the mall; I'd

I would really appreciate a visit from you and other family members - especially my grandchildren who call and say, "Hi, Grandma. How are you? I love you. Gotta go. See you later. Bye!"

I would like someone to offer to pay my heating bill for one month. (With five sons, six daughters and 42 grandchildren, that shouldn't be so hard to do.) And I sure wish someone would come over here and test my smoke alarm.

I really do love all of you; otherwise, why would I feel free to tell you what is on my mind? - GRANDMA

DEAR ABBY: Is it OK to keep an engagement ring after the engagement has been broken? My boyfriend wants the ring back, and I feel that it was a gift

that is mine to keep. I need an answer fast because he is fuming.

- DISENGAGED: An engagement is more than a "gift" - it signifies that a proposal of marriage has been accepted.

If there has been a change of heart - or mind - the ring should be returned. With few exceptions, if the engagement has been broken by the woman, she willingly returns the ring.

If the gentleman breaks the engagement, he may be so relieved - or guilt-ridden - he may offer to let the woman keep the ring as a consolation prize. (If it's under a half-carat.)

In most cases of a "disengagement," the woman willingly surrenders the engagement ring and the gentleman happily accepts it.

Jacqueline Bigar

FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1992

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A lot happens quickly today, and you need to defer to another's energy. An important friend draws you in with a jovial mood. The unexpected occurs with a parent or an authority figure. Make the needed adjustment. Tonight, lead the celebrations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your creativity is high and you are able to move in new directions. Reach out for those at a distance and spread the Christmas cheer. Be nurturing in how you express your true feelings to a loved one. Tonight: Get into the holiday spirit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Build on existing ties and arrange for a better rapport. Your more flirtatious side comes out and you enjoy yourself to the maximum. Go with the unexpected. Tonight: Be a romantic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Associates surprise you with their actions. You feel good about your home and a wonderful opportunity that is offered to you. Touch base with your inner core before reacting to an unpredictable friend. Tonight: Defeat to Santa and the crew.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You might feel like you have to do too much, too fast. Keep a strong, steady pace and you will be fine. You are subject to unexpected surges of energy. Do something to reduce your stress level. Tonight: Take care of last-minute details.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are in an extravagant cycle. Look at what is going on with you as far as going overboard with spending and emotions. The emphasis is on being a kid again and letting your spontaneous side out. Tonight: Get into the holiday spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The focus is on home and family today. Your good mood and your need for everything to be perfect might pressure another. Be open to another's energies. Tonight: Join in the holiday celebrations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get into the holiday pace and enjoy the celebrations. Don't linger on what could have been, focus on what is. Get into the music, the gift giving and the fun. Laugh at the unexpected. Tonight: Go with a whim.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Last-minute details might push your budget into the red. A friend might not mean to put pressure on you, but nevertheless causes you to worry unnecessarily. Touch base with your needs and desires. Tonight: Don your Santa suit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have your hands full with all the holiday celebrations. A parent or boss might go overboard, but you love it anyway. Move with the moment and be more spontaneous about sharing the holiday with friends. Tonight: Your wish is another's command.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be more tuned into your real feelings for a child or loved one. Realize that your perspective might be slightly off. Reach out for a loved one at a distance and share your holiday cheer. Tonight: Do some long overdue reassessing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You get a surprise that has you thinking. Make time for certain special friends and share your holiday wishes. Tonight: Join friends and get ready for the reindeer.

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



PEANUTS



WIZARD OF ID



BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BETLE BAILEY



B.C.



SNUFFY SMITH



GASOLINE ALLEY



