

# BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY  
December 13, 1995

Reflecting A Proud TEXAS Community

50 Cents

## Big Spring re-negotiating contract with Coahoma

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Negotiations for ambulance service between Big Spring and Coahoma are going back to the drawing board.

The Big Spring City Council voted four to one to disapprove a resolution authorizing Mayor Tim Blackshear to execute an agreement with the city of Coahoma to provide ambulance service to Howard County.

In his motion to disapprove, Councilman John Paul Anderson told council members he thought the city should go back to the drawing board and start over in negotiating with the city of Coahoma.

The dispute stems around the question of liability and who responds to calls in eastern Howard County.

Anderson said a problem occurred when the Coahoma ambulance responded to a Howard County call and turned the Big Spring ambulance back. If anything had gone wrong, the city of Big Spring would have been liable.

Anderson previously said the city of Big Spring welcomes the chance to work out a contract as long as all the burden isn't on Big Spring residents.

He also said, "Until we have an official response from the city of Coahoma, or until the Big Spring City Council takes

official action, the contract will be on the table."

The Coahoma City Council was also scheduled to meet Tuesday night.

The disapproved contract would have provided:

- Emergency ambulance service to the citizens of Howard County, with the exception of the residents living within the city limits of the city of Coahoma.

- Backup ambulance service to the Coahoma ambulance for the citizens of Coahoma.

- To have Big Spring dispatchers first dispatch the Coahoma ambulance in response to 911 calls showing an address within the city limits of Coahoma.

- To have Big Spring dispatchers second dispatch a Big Spring ambulance in response to 911 calls showing an address within the city limits of Coahoma.

- Big Spring would also agree to carry liability insurance on its ambulance vehicles and personnel.

The city of Coahoma would agree to:

- Provide primary emergency ambulance service to the citizens of Howard County, who live within the city limits of Coahoma.

- Provide backup ambulance service to the Big Spring ambulance.

Please see COUNCIL, page 3A

## Coahoma council questions costs of ambulance service

By MARY McATEER  
Staff Writer

COAHOMA - The ambulance service and overspending on the budget led to serious questions at the Coahoma City Council.

How can the city afford it? was the question put to the council by accountant Steve Stone. The city's original commitment of \$11,000, to support

the ambulance service on a trial basis until the end of the fiscal year in March 1996, was to be offset by grants and charges. As of the end of November, more than half that amount had either been spent or committed, and no grant monies have been received.

Only about 66 percent of ambulance charges are paid, on average, Stone said, leaving

Please see COAHOMA, page 3A

## Local man given 23 year sentence for kidnap, rape

By KELLIE JONES  
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was given a 23-year sentence after being found guilty of kidnaping and raping his girlfriend.

The eight-man, four-woman 118th District Court jury found Paul Deleon, 43, guilty after deliberating less than an hour Tuesday. He was charged with aggravated kidnaping. Because he committed another felony (sexual assault) while in the course of kidnaping, the offense was upgraded to a first-degree felony.

Deleon went to the Oasis Bar on June 24 to look for his girlfriend and found her leaving with another man. Deleon then pointed a gun at the couple and forced them into his car. The man was let out unharmed and then Deleon sexually assaulted and beat the woman.

David LeFever told the jury he was driving on the west side of town and noticed Deleon and the victim walking in the rain. He stopped to ask them if they needed help.

"She came up to the truck and said they didn't need help and he stayed by the road. I asked them again, she looked over at him and said yes. I knew something was wrong," testified LeFever.

"She ran around to the passenger side and tried to get in but my door was locked. She grabbed the mirror and door handle but Deleon grabbed her around the head and jerked her loose from the truck. I saw him hitting her with his fist but I didn't see a gun."

LeFever then called 911 and went back to look for the woman and found her hiding underneath the Interstate 20

Please see CONVICTED, page 3A

## Library renovations continue despite funding not quite there

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The proposed Howard County Library renovation project may need more money than the county has in the bank.

That is not slowing county commissioners, Librarian Lorraine Redman or Big Spring/Howard County Grant Writer Leigh Corson from moving ahead with plans for the library's relocation to the old Bluebonnet Savings building.

The county currently has about \$906,000 in the bank for the project including a \$200,000 grant contingent on having construction for the library project underway by mid-spring.

The current estimate is \$1.3 million to complete the project.

Since plans for the library to move were originally proposed, items such as work in the base-

ment of the old Bluebonnet Savings building have been eliminated to control costs.

Commissioners used a conference call Tuesday morning to talk to architect Norris Fletcher of Aguirre Associates about the library project. Commissioners will discuss the issue again at their next meeting on Dec. 27.

In keeping with the holiday season, the Friends of the Howard County Library will have their annual Christmas open house today from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to honor the library staff and commissioners.

Redman said refreshments will be served and the public is welcomed and invited to attend the open house.

The library was not the only topic of discussion at Monday's commissioners' meeting.

Putting a chiller on atop the Please see LIBRARY, page 3A

## FOOD AND MORE FOOD



Marcy Elementary School third grader Jenna Mathis stacks cans of food on a table in the hallway of the school Tuesday. The food, brought in by the students, will be given to the Salvation Army for needy families.

## Remember, others not as fortunate

By DANELLE CASTILLO  
Salvation Army Worker

During my four-year tenure at the Salvation Army, I have seen firsthand what the work of this agency can do for an individual. For us, Christmas arrives in July instead of December, and actually lingers through the end of the year.

While most people have joy-



ous memories of their families during the holiday seasons, others are not so fortunate.

Please see GIFT, page 2A

## Youthful carolers take to the air to bring season cheer

A youth group from Wesley United Methodist Church will be singing for a good cause tonight.

Church members are paying the eight students to sing Christmas carols to certain people in hopes of raising money for an upcoming mission project.

The carolers will begin at 7 p.m. going to Comanche Trail Nursing Home, Canterbury and Mountain View Lodge to spread some Christmas spirit to the residents. They will then go to 20 individual homes Wednesday and Thursday nights to sing for their donations. A minimum of \$5 was requested as a donation for someone to "hire" them to carol at a friend or family member's home.

The money raised from this event will help fund the Olympic Festival Mission Trip. Herald Staff Report



### U.S. Trivia

What state is known as the 'Land of a thousand lakes?'  
Minnesota

### INDEX

Abby.....3B  
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Sports.....8A  
Texas.....6A  
World.....5A

Vol. 91, No. 368

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### WORLD/NATION

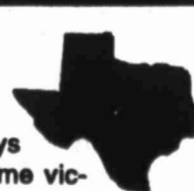


let up today after knocking out power to 1.8 million residents. See page 5A.

**World:** Amid tears and laughter, two French airmen shot down over Bosnia arrived in the arms of their families Tuesday after nearly four months as captives of the Bosnian Serbs. See page 5A.

**Nation:** A furious storm that lashed the West Coast with winds of more than 100 mph

### STATE



### Paying out

Attorney General Dan Morales says a state aid program for Texas crime victims is helping many with the financial burdens they are facing. See page 6A.

### A death row first

A 45-year-old Houston man convicted in the rape, robbery and slaying last year of a floral shop employee will become the only former law enforcement officer on Texas' death row. See page 6A.

### TODAY'S WEATHER

Tonight



Thursday



75  $\Delta$  Highs  $\nabla$  44  
Lows

Partly cloudy

Tonight, partly cloudy, low mid 40s, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

**Permian Basin Forecast**

Thursday: Partly cloudy, high mid 70s, west to northwest winds 15 to 25 mph, gust, caution advised on area lakes; partly cloudy night, low mid 40s.

Friday: Partly cloudy, high mid 70s; fair night, low mid 40s.

# Stanton school board approves policy change

By MARY McATEER  
Staff Writer

**STANTON** - Students in Stanton who achieve a grade of less than 80 in one class may still be eligible to be exempt from semester exams in other classes.

The Board of Trustees of Stanton Independent School District approved a change in the semester exam exemption policy. The policy in the past has not allowed students who have a grade of below 80 in any class to be exempted from any of the semester exams.

Under the change passed by the board, students in compliance with the other requirements of the exam exemption policy but lacking a few points of the required grade in one subject may be exempted from semester exams in other classes. The students will still be required to take semester exams in the classes in which they have a grade of below 80.

The board also approved a change in the policy on absences. Before, as a result of bookkeeping difficulties, if a student was absent part of a day, it was counted as an absence for the entire day. New software now allows district officials to keep track of student absences class by class, says superintendent Jim White.

The board considered requests for season tickets for the basketball season. Many requests have been received,

but since the season is already underway, the board moved to consider establishing basketball season tickets prior to next year's season.

In other matters:

•The board approved the list of delinquent taxes presented by the Martin County Appraisal District.

•Approved the use of the law firm of Caolo, Bell and Nunnally on an as-needed basis.

•Unanimously approved the 1994-95 district audit presented by Stallings and Herm.

•Voted to retain Stallings and Herm as auditors for the 1995-96 audit. The president of the board abstained from voting due to a family relationship with a member of the firm.

•Approved a board policy dealing with alcohol/drug screening for drivers.

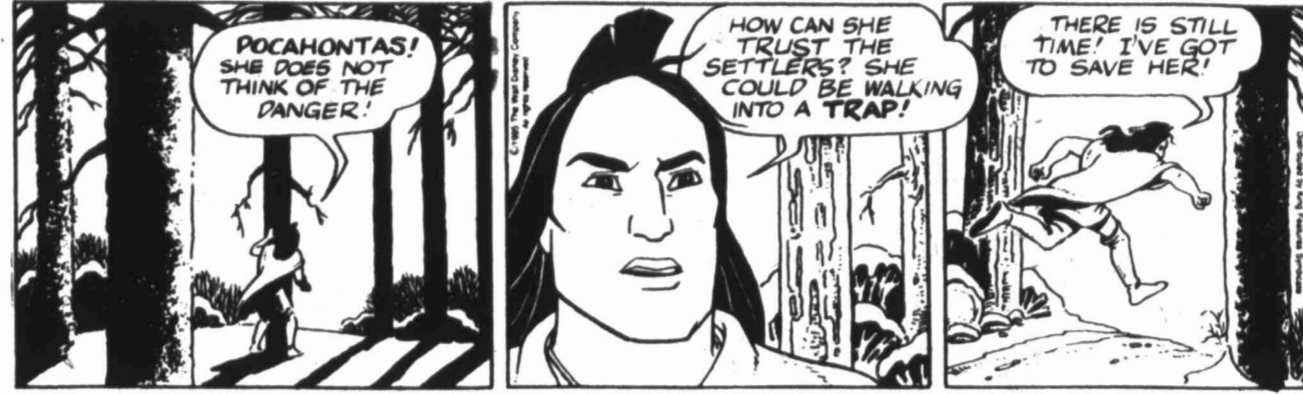
Surfacing on the track is finished. Three jumping pits and two runways still need to be completed. Work on the new band hall is on schedule, and should be finished by the end of the year. The hall should be ready for use by mid-January.

Students from the elementary music program presented a preview of the Christmas program for board members. The Christmas program will be Dec. 17 and 18.

School lets out for the holidays Dec. 20 at 1:25 p.m., following the last morning of semester finals for the high school. Classes will resume Jan. 4, with a work day for teachers Jan. 3.

# ON THE RUN

## Walt Disney's POCAHONTAS



### ■POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents during a 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. Wednesday:

•**AMY LYNN CHRISTIAN**, 33, of 538 Westover #106, was arrested for driving while license suspended. She was transferred to the county jail and later released on a \$1,500 bond.

•**MANUEL TORRES ESCAMILLA**, 33, of 501 Abrams, was arrested for driving while license suspended and violating a protective order. He was transferred to the county jail, bonds were set at \$5,500 and he is being held for I.N.S. authorities.

•**CRIMINAL TRESPASSING/ASSAULT BY THREATS** in the 500 block of Nolan.

•**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY INVESTIGATIONS** in the 1400 block of Stanford, 1900 block of Alabama and 2900 block of Navajo.

•**THEFTS** in the 900 block of Willis, 400 block of Gregg and 300 block of Owens.

•**DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** in the 4100 block of Parkway and 3300 block of West Highway 80.

•**CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNINGS ISSUED** in the 500 block of Nolan.

1000 block of North Main and 2100 block of Runnels.

•**LOUD PARTY** in the 800 block of East 18th.

•**ASSAULTS** in the 400 block of Gregg and 300 block of West Fourth.

•**ASSAULT BY THREATS** in the 400 block of East Fourth.

•**LITTERING** in the 1100 block of East Fifth.

•**BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** in the 1200 block of Wright.

•**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** to several gas meters in the city. The complainant told officers the meters had been removed.

•**GEORGE LYNN SWINT** was arrested for family violence and assaulting a peace officer. She was later released on bonds totaling \$12,000.

•**CAMILO MONTOYA ESCOBAR**, 43, of 501 Abrams, pleaded guilty in county court to his second charge of driving while intoxicated and was sentenced to 60 days in jail. He also pleaded guilty to revoking

his probation and was sentenced to 60 days in jail. He had been on probation for his first DWI charge. He was also fined \$750 and ordered to pay \$295 in court costs.

•**LARRY DEAN WHITE**, 24, no address given, was released on a \$2,000 after being arrested for domestic violence.

•**POSSIBLE DRUNK DRIVER** northbound on FM 820.

•**OPEN DOOR** at business on Highway 350.

•**NATURAL GAS LEAK** on Highway 350.

•**INJURED DOGS** at residence on East Robinson Road.

•**CIVIL STANDBY** at residence on Rice Road.

•**CAT IN TRAP** in the 4500 block of Ratliff Road.

•**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** at a business on South Highway 87.

•**LOOSE GOATS** in the Elbow area.

### ■SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following incidents during a 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. Wednesday:

•**GEORGE LYNN SWINT** was arrested for family violence and assaulting a peace officer. She was later released on bonds totaling \$12,000.

•**CAMILO MONTOYA ESCOBAR**, 43, of 501 Abrams, pleaded guilty in county court to his second charge of driving while intoxicated and was sentenced to 60 days in jail. He also pleaded guilty to revoking

### ■RECORDS

Tuesday's temp. 82  
Tuesday's low 37  
Average high 59  
Average low 30  
Record high 81 in 1937  
Record low 10 in 1989  
Rainfall Tuesday 0.00  
Month to date 0.00  
Month's normal 0.30  
Year to date 15.95  
Normal for the year 18.19  
\*\*Statistics not available

Mesa Ltd. Prt	3 1/2 nc
Mobile	114 1/2 nc
NUV	9 1/2 nc
Pepsi Cola	58 1/2 nc
Phillips Petroleum	33 1/2 nc
Rural/Metro	23 1/2 nc
Sears	39 1/2 + 1/2
Southwestern Bell	56 1/2 + 1/2
Sun	27 1/2 + 1/2
Texaco	79 1/2 + 1/2
Texas Instruments	55 1/2 + 1/2
Texas Utilities	38 1/2 + 1/2
Unocal Corp.	28 1/2 - 1/2
Wal Mart	23 1/2 nc
Amcap	13.70-14.54

### ■MARKETS

March cotton futures 85.10 cents a pound, up 45 points; Jan. crude oil 18.85, up 12 points; cash hog steady at 45.50 cents even; slaughter steers steady at 67 cents even; Dec. live hog futures 47.85, up 60 points; Dec. live cattle futures 67.55, up 32 points. Courtesy: Delta Commodities  
Non quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co. Index 5177.09  
Volume 112,901,870  
ATT 67 1/2 + 1/2  
Amoco 71 1/2 - 1/2  
Atlantic Richfield 113 1/2 nc

Atmos	22 1/2
Boston Chicken	34 1/2 - 1/2
Cabot	49 1/2 nc
Chevron	52 1/2 nc
Chrysler	53 1/2 - 1/2
Coca-Cola	80 1/4 + 1/4
De Beers	30 1/2 - 1/2
DuPont	68 1/2 - 1/2
Exxon	44 1/2 + 1/2
Fina Inc.	47 1/2 nc
Ford Motors	28 1/2 + 1/2
Halliburton	47 1/2 nc
IBM	94 1/2 - 1/2
JC Penney	47 1/2 - 1/2
Laser Indus LTD	10 1/2 - 1/2

### ■OBITUARIES

#### Donald Conner

Funeral services for Donald "Don" Conner, 57, Big Spring, will be 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, 1995, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. Earnest C. Wilson, pastor of Mount Bethel Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park with full military honors provided by Goodfellow Air Force Base.

Mr. Conner died Monday, Dec. 11, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center following a long illness.

He was born Dec. 23, 1937, in Cynthiana, Ky. He married Kay Washington on Jan. 14, 1975, in Big Spring. He first came to Big Spring when he was stationed at Webb Air Force Base in the mid 60's. He retired from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant after 23 years of service. He received several accommodations as chief weather observer. He was later employed by Dryer Musical Company and for several years was employed by the VA Hospital prior to his death.

Survivors include his wife: Kay Conner, Big Spring; four sons: J.C. Williams Jr., Johnny Williams, both of Big Spring, Donald Conner Jr., Tucson, Ariz., and Willie Williams, Comanche; four daughters: Angela Conner, Tucson, Ariz., Evelyn Mathis, Midland, Cynthia Washington, New Orleans, La., and Teresa Butler, Louisville; and sisters: Marlene Jacobs, Radcliff, Ky.,

Vivian Custard, Cynthiana, Ky., Bonnie Glenn, Lexington, Ky., and Merlinda Williams, Dayton, Ohio; three brothers: Kent Glenn, Charles Conner, both of Cynthiana, Ky., and Wayne Glenn, Lexington, Ky.; 14 grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

#### Elias Armendarez

Rosary for Elias Armendarez, 73, Big Spring, will be said 7 p.m. tonight at 509 North Johnson. Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, 1995, at St. Thomas Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Vreetau, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mr. Armendarez died Monday, Dec. 11, in a local hospital.

He was born on Aug. 20, 1922, in Ruidosa, Texas. He came to Big Spring with his family in 1935. He worked as a farm laborer and was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include two brothers: Jose Armendarez and Blaz Armendarez, both of Big Spring; three sisters: Maria Escanuelas, Big Spring, Erlinda Rodriguez, Levelland, and Dolores Ramirez, Marfa; and several nieces and nephews.

The body will lie in state at 509 North Johnson.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

#### Mary Nations

Funeral services for Mary Nations, 67, Jacksboro, were 10 a.m. today at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Jacksboro with Rev. Howell Martin officiating. Graveside services will be 4 p.m. today at Mt. Olive in Big Spring.

Mrs. Nations died Monday, Dec. 11, 1995, at All Saints Hospital in Fort Worth.

She was born on Dec. 28, 1927, in Big Spring to Will Price Mims and Agnes Evelyn Coots Mims. She married Lem Nations on Feb. 27, 1946, in Big Spring. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Jacksboro and a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband: Lem Nations, Jacksboro; one daughter: Patty Nations Pope, Plano; one son: David Lem Nations, Waskom; two brothers: Bill Mims, Big Spring, Sam Mims, Dickenson; and four grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Coker Funeral Home.

### Gift

Continued from page 1A

Last Christmas we had a 20-year old woman come in and apply for assistance for her and her two-year old daughter. She had just gotten separated from an abusive situation in which her husband left her and the baby to do for themselves. She was left with no money or food, only her furnishings and clothes.

She was in the process of applying for federal assistance in AFDC and food stamps. Her only family in Big Spring was a grandmother living on Social Security. The grandmother paid her rent for her, but she still had all her utilities demanding her immediate attention.

She took all her furniture and kitchenware to a pawn shop in hopes she would make at least enough to pay her bills.

On Christmas I twisted my father's arm to help me in my deliveries of Christmas packages for those clients who for one reason or another could not pick up their packages.

When we drove up to this woman's home, Dad took the box of food and the turkey. I took the packages. The little girl came running to the door and gave me the biggest smile I ever saw. The mother opened the

door and we entered the home with the packages. We followed her into the kitchen, and I put the packages on the counter next to the food. I turned to wish her a Merry Christmas, and the tears were just pouring down her face. Before I knew it, she had embraced me in a hug and was squeezing me for a lifetime.

Then she told me she could not accept the turkey because she had nothing to cook it in. She had sold everything she had except a crock pot.

I told her not to worry about it, we would return with everything she needed. We rushed back to the office and made some calls. I was able to get her a Christmas tree with decorations, and some cooking utensils and pots and pans.

We took the items to her and wished her a very merry Christmas. She kept saying, "We would not have had any kind of a Christmas if it hadn't been for the Salvation Army. I will always be eternally grateful. Thank you and God Bless you all."

If you have a story about a best or worst gift, please submit it to the Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas, 79721.

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DECEMBER 16TH  
9 pm till Midnight  
\$7.00 Per person  
RESERVATIONS CALL: 267-2060

MYERS & SMITH  
FUNERAL HOME  
& CHAPEL  
24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Ronald (Don) Conner, 57, died Monday. Services 3 PM Thursday Myers & Smith Chapel with interment with full military honors at Trinity Memorial Park.

Nalley-Pickle & Welch  
Funeral Home  
and Rosewood Chapel  
906 GREGG  
BIG SPRING  
Elias Armendarez, 72, died Monday. Rosary will be 7:00 P.M. Wednesday at 509 N. Johnson. Services will be 10:30 AM Thursday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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TAKE TIME OUT  
FOR YOURSELF READ

### Conv

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### Convicted

Continued from page 1A

bridge. He asked her if Deleon had a gun. When she said yes, LeFever told her to jump in. He took her back to the Exxon station to meet authorities.

LeFever was questioned about picking the defendant out of the police lineup because he initially picked a jailer before correctly identifying Deleon.

LeFever said he was nervous because he had never been through the process before and realized the first one he picked out was too tall and his nose was too big.

The victim testified first, saying Deleon jabbed her in the rectum and put something hard in her vagina.

Emergency room Dr. John Mekis testified the victim had bruises on her back and forehead. Dr. Mekis also said she was bleeding in the rectal area.

Defense Attorney Don Richard then asked if the doctor could assume the defendant would have to be present if his public hairs were found on the victim. The doctor said yes.

Deleon's friend, Frederick Randall, reluctantly testified for the prosecution about a conversation the two had shortly after the incident.

Randall testified Deleon said he would confess to assaulting

the woman but not to raping her. "He said he took her out, beat her up and scared her with the gun. He then asked me if a wife can testify against a husband."

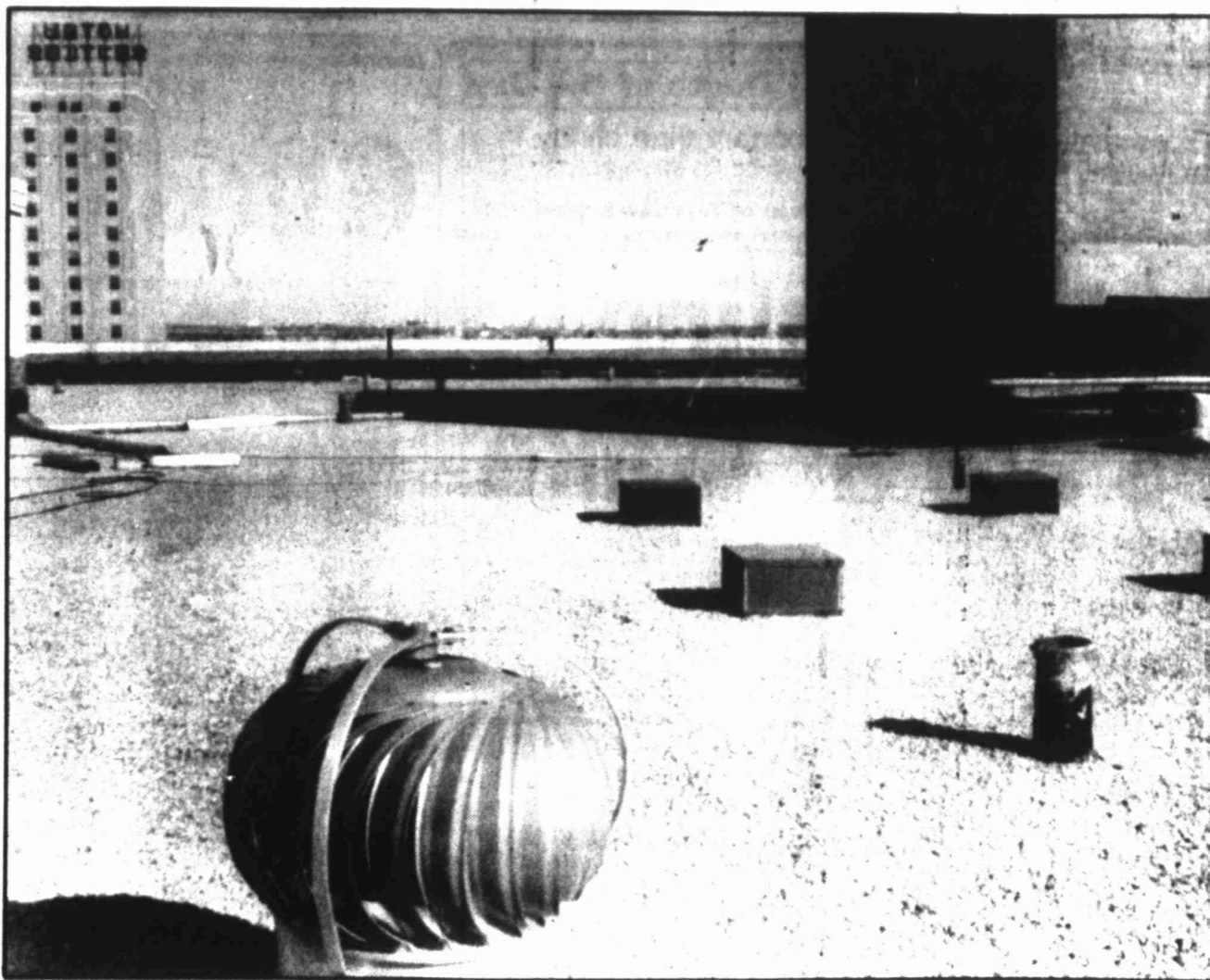
Randall said Deleon claimed he didn't rape her because there was no blood on him.

"He told me he did it with a stick... He then showed me scratches on his belly and said she did it because she was fighting him like a tiger," Randall stated. He also told jurors Deleon told him he had an alibi because these two women were going to say they were with him at a party.

Deleon's sister and nephew testified he made dinner for himself around 11 p.m. the night in question, then went to his house located behind theirs. Both said they can tell when he comes and goes because he slams the door.

Another sister testified she spent the next day drinking with her brother, but he did not seem upset and wasn't acting unusual.

Richard then cross-examined two female friends asking them if the victim was obsessed with Deleon and wanted to marry him. Both said yes and they had heard the woman saying if she couldn't have Deleon, no one could.



Howard County Commissioners have given approval for a \$13,000 chiller to be placed on top of the courthouse roof. The chiller is part of the renovation package voters approved in a bond issue last spring.

### Council

Continued from page 1A

lance for the citizens of Howard County who live east of the Moss Creek Road.

"Provide primary ambulance service to Howard County residents who call the Coahoma ambulance direct.

"Not provide non-emergency ambulance transfer services anywhere in Howard County.

"Not provide any type of emergency ambulance service west of Moss Creek Road in Howard County unless requested to do so by the city of Big Spring dispatchers.

"Carry liability insurance on its ambulance vehicles and personnel.

The contract also stated both cities would charge for their ambulance services from time to time as set by ordinance.

The role of 911 in this agreement would be to provide Big Spring dispatchers with information from 911 calls so dispatchers would know whether to dispatch the Big Spring EMS or the Coahoma EMS.

Anderson said this morning, "We're asking Coahoma to pay for part of our dispatching. What I think I'll do now is draft a letter to the mayor of Coahoma and ask for a joint meeting so we can work out an agreement. Coahoma feels like it's their right to respond to calls outside the city limits of Coahoma," he added.

Currently, the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department is the first responder to calls in the county and remains in place until the Big Spring ambulance arrives.

Anderson said the volunteer fire department falls under the Good Samaritan Act and is free from liability when responding.

Even though the council is not scheduled to meet again in December, Anderson added, "With the current situation the way it is, we may try to have a meeting before the Christmas holiday."

### Coahoma

Continued from page 1A

the city to make up the difference in maintenance, salaries and equipment costs.

Including a salary for EMS Director Kellie Overton, Stone estimated the annual cost of an ambulance service at \$38,800, of which approximately \$18,800 would be recovered in charges. That would leave a shortage of \$20,000 to be made up out of city funds.

The council asked Overton to work with the city clerk to prepare a specific review of expenses to date, with estimates on costs through the end of the fiscal year.

The suggestion was made that an increase in the city's sales tax, currently 1 percent, could be used to fund the ambulance service and provide more revenue.

An increase in the sales tax must be approved by the voters, requiring a municipal election.

Revenue from the original 1 percent sales tax goes into the city's general fund for spending. Revenue from additional sales tax can be spent two ways: up to 1/2 percent sales tax can be added as an economic development tax, according to the State Comptroller's Office, and up to 1/2 percent can be used for property tax reduction. Monies collected for property tax reduction are accumulated, and must be used to reduce the city's property tax revenue by that amount.

The mayor was directed to

contact the State Comptroller's Office for information on use of sales tax revenues.

Discussion of the ambulance service was tabled pending further information.

Work on the city sewer plant is almost complete, and the new lift station should be completely on line in the next few days. The council voted to allow the city engineer to purchase a discharge meter, two lift pumps and motors, and two or three manholes with the \$21,000 remaining from the sewer grant. The grant, which can only be used for work on the sewer system, must be spent or the money is lost.

In other matters, the council tabled action on opening McGettes road pending receipt of a response from attorney R.H. Weaver.

Approved allowing the city clerk to pay utility bills which involve late charges without prior council approval. Paid bills will be submitted for council review.

Tabled action on a water contract with Sid Richardson pending further discussion with him.

Approved adding Overton to the city's bond to allow her to work with the city clerk on EMS Service finances.

There will be a special meeting of the council Tuesday at 6 p.m. Items on the agenda will include consideration of the ambulance service, city sales tax, and budget workshop.

### Library

Continued from page 1A

courthouse was also discussed and tentatively approved by commissioners.

Fanning and Fanning engineer Jack Roberts told commissioners it would cost about \$13,000 to put the chiller atop the courthouse.

It would be placed almost directly in the center of the structure.

Roberts told commissioners he thought the support unit on the roof was strong enough to hold the chiller, which weighs about 14,000 pounds, but an electrical engineer would study the issue just to make sure it's safe to put the cooler up on the roof.

"When this building was constructed, contractors were using wood cooling towers, not the plastic units you have now. Wood fill and a 125-ton to 150-

ton cooling tower weighing more than 10,000 pounds when operating full of water was used," Roberts said.

The chiller will sit on the same eight stub columns the cooling tower sat on.

Putting the chiller on the roof would save some space on the ground including an additional parking space to be used by the Sheriff's office.

The chiller will have six compressors included with it, but not all of the units will have to be operating at the same time, depending on needs at a particular time.

Roberts told commissioners electrical and plumbing renovations to the courthouse are going according to schedule.

One other change approved by

commissioners was \$9,113 worth of plaster work to be done on the third floor.

The third floor ceiling is plaster and large openings must be cut for access to install plumbing and HVAC piping to serve the jail and the hvac piping systems.

Renovation plans require the plaster ceiling to be patched, but Fanning and Fanning recommended to commissioners it be demolished and new lowered acoustical ceilings be installed to accommodate the piping, conduits and layin lighting fixtures.

Other action taken by commissioners included awarding the bid for three new Sheriff's department vehicles to Pollard Chevrolet. The county will receive \$3,700 on each trade-in and pay a total cost of about \$37,000 for the three vehicles.

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### IN BRIEF

#### Drive-Through nativity going on

The Ninth Annual Drive-Through Nativity will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

Texas' largest drive-through

Nativity features fifteen scenes depicting the life of Jesus. There is no charge to the public, but donations will be accepted.

The entrance to the Nativity is from the west from Martin Luther King Boulevard turning right onto South Lancaster.

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DECEMBER 13 1995

EDITORIAL

**Quote of the Day**  
"Free expression is more important than civility in a university."  
Guido Calabresi, dean of Yale Law School, 1986

# No time for quibbling when lives are at stake

Since October, the Big Spring Fire Department has been handling the ambulance service for Big Spring and Howard County. The county contracted with the city for this service, which includes Coahoma. Coahoma, as an incorporated city, has the right to exclude itself from any agreement covering Howard County.

The city of Coahoma set up its own ambulance service in order to provide for its citizens. A concern was response time. The Big Spring service is backup to Coahoma's inside the city limits.

One of the problems occurs outside the city limits of Coahoma when the Coahoma ambulance responds to a call. According to the contract, Big Spring should handle those calls and provide transport unless it is an emergency.

The other bone of contention is the amount of the contract - \$10,500 - for dispatching emergency calls for ambulance service.

Big Spring, Howard County and the

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Charles C. Williams, Publisher  
DD Turner, Managing Editor

911 center each provide funding for the 911 service. As a part of Howard County, Coahoma is included in the 911 dispatching. The amount each entity pays is pro-rated by the number of calls which are dispatched. So if 911 is used to dispatch calls to Coahoma, shouldn't there be some payment similar to what the others pay?

Now that Big Spring city government is going to scrap the current contract and start over, maybe a contract should be considered allowing Coahoma to pay on a per-call basis, with a set fee per call.

In the end, it is a matter of which city will be held responsible should something happen during an ambulance run. It's a question of liability for saving lives.



## Unnatural born killers, hopefully isolated evil

We hope the racially motivated killing of a black couple near Ft. Bragg, N.C., was, as it appears to be, an isolated act of evil.

The two soldiers charged directly with the killings were skinheads who had neither the wits nor the wordliness to evaluate the white supremacist, neo-Nazi drivel that befuddled their immature minds, and they seemingly acted on drunken impulse.

The criminal justice system will now run its course. And our military already has ample safeguards to prevent its ranks from being infected by lunatic organizations. Rules bar members of the Armed Forces from belonging to organizations that espouse violence, racism and the denial of rights to others. Measures for offenders range from counseling to outright discharge.

If people want to express such views, civilian life gives them unfettered opportunity.

Perhaps there is no more to this sad incident - but perhaps there is. Sketchy reports out of Fayetteville, N.C., talk of a shadowy network of skinheads within the military, the "Special Forces Underground," and its newsletter, *The Resister*.

Maybe this organization is no more than one nut with a mimeograph machine, but the Army should conduct a full-scale investigation to determine if there is a loosely organized network of neo-Nazis in uniform.

As a nation, we regularly ask our military to solve problems within its ranks that society at large has been unable to solve, the mindless mentality that led to the Oklahoma City bombing being a case in point.

Now we're asking again.

*Scripts Howard News Service*

### WHERE TO WRITE

- Addresses**
- In Austin:  
 GEORGE W. BUSH, Governor, State Capitol, Austin, 78701. Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000 or fax at 512-463-1848.  
 BOB BULLOCK, Lt. Governor, State Capitol, Austin, 78701. Phone: 512-463-0001 or fax at 512-463-0326.  
 JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY, Speaker of the House, State Capitol, Austin. Phone: 806-839-2478 or 512-463-3000 or fax at 512-463-0975.  
 JOHN T. MONTFORD, Senator, 28th District, P.O. Box 1706, Lubbock, 79408. Phone: 267-7535, 806-744-5555, 512-463-0129 or fax at 806-783-4217.  
 DAVID COUNTY, Representative, 78th District, P.O. Box 308, Knox City, 79529. Phone: 817-656-6012.

OUT FRONT

# GHOST OF TOWNS PAST



Opal Thornton, left, and her daughter Patsy Kinney read the historical marker at Chalk. The Texas State Historical marker tells of the town founded by W.Q. Richards in 1903. One-time residents of Chalk gathered at the plaque dedication to remember a once lively little community, now a ghost town.

## Tiny town of Chalk laid to rest with historical marker

By RICHARD MIZE  
Wichita Falls Times Record-News

CHALK, Texas — Rest in peace, Chalk.

Amen.

Nothing but the wind lasts forever on the dry, sandy plains of West Texas.

The town of Chalk was a line drawn literally in the swirling dust by settlers just after the turn of the century.

It became home to scores of farmers after rancher W.Q. Richards, facing drought, carved up the territory and turned from cattle raising to town building.

Richards was a booster. His pamphlets, promising deep wells, "sweet water" and fertile soil, drew people from all over, many from East Texas.

But another unstoppable wind, the fickle one of change, erased all of it in less than a century.

On a recent Saturday, Chalk was laid to rest, after four score and 10 years, with the unveiling of a historical marker with the blessings of the Texas Historical Commission.

The name, and now the sign, are all that's left - not even the remnants of an original house or storefront are left.

But the community's spirit is alive and thriving among the survivors, people like Nelda Fields, Patsy Kinney, Doris Gildewell, Brenda Fell and Don Hutchinson.

The Chalk natives, who worked four years for the marker, now live 14 miles away in Paducah, about 115 miles west of Wichita Falls.

Chalk's soul survives in the memories of others, too, including 100 or so other Paducah residents who were present for the ceremony, held Dec. 2 under a warm sunny sky that yielded a cool wind.

The numbers are telling. This place has a hold on people. Not many sign dedications can draw such a crowd, said John Preston of Childress, a member of the state historical commission.

The observance, which opened with the prayer of a Baptist minister and closed with the prayer of a Methodist, harkened to the glory days of a place that now is a desolate roadside spot well off the beaten path in Cottle County.

Memories of Chalk are mixed with thoughts of other old Cottle County towns now gone but not forgotten.

Forest Creamer, 77, lived here

### COMMEMORATIVE WORDS

CHALK, Texas — Following are the words commemorating the town of Chalk on a historical marker from the Texas Historical Commission, unveiled Dec. 2:

Drought conditions in the early 1900s prompted local rancher W.Q. Richards in 1903-1904 to subdivide land in this area into small farms complete with water wells. A farming community known as "Richards Colony" or "Dutch Colony" developed here.

In 1906, a post office named "Chalk" was established and located in a general store opened by Richards earlier that year. In 1907, Richards established a cotton gin managed by James M. Chalk, who later served as postmaster in 1908-1909.

A community school opened in 1914 and sanctuaries were constructed by the Church of Christ in 1916 and the Baptist congregation in 1922-23. By the early 1920s, 54 farms were operating in the area and Chalk's gin, stores and other enterprises served as a mercantile and business center for southern Cottle County.

A steady exodus of people from the community began during World War II and resulted in the school's closing and consolidation with the Paducah school system in 1942. Chalk's Church of Christ disbanded in 1944 and the Baptist church ended services in 1969.

Farming activity decreased and many residents, businesses and institutions in Chalk moved to the county seat of Paducah. The post office ceased operations in 1985 and the cotton gin closed in 1988.

*By the Wichita Falls Times Record-News. Distributed by The Associated Press.*

until 1980, when he moved to Paducah, lock, stock and barrel.

"I picked up my house and moved to town. It was down between here and Hackberry. I was born about two or three miles from here and I went to Shinnery to school the first three years. Big Shinnery was over here," he said, pointing. "Little Shinnery had the school."

The simple roadside marker was shrouded by a "friendship quilt," with townspeople's names stitched in, made in 1932 by Edith Roy, who was the grandmother of Nelda Fields. The revealed sign was welcomed with applause.

Creamer said it represents complex feelings held by many who called Chalk home.

Lots of towns have come and gone in Texas' history. But many places still have a smattering of elderly residents, maybe a church open on special occasions or a cemetery to give silent witness to what was.

But in Chalk, there is only the historical marker.

"Since everything else has moved away, this is all we've got to go by," Creamer said. "And this used to be a lively little community down here."

Among themselves, the old friends who drove out to Chalk talked about square dances, parties, births and deaths, droughts, cotton crops and sand storms - the stuff of life in small-town West Texas.

"We had several churches and schools, but it's all gone now," said Ruth Berry, 82, who ran the Chalk post office for 35 years until it closed in 1986. "But it's sure good to be back here on my old stomping grounds."

The state of Texas claims that 45 people live in Chalk.

"There's not but five people who live in what was called the town," Fields said. "I don't know what they would consider the boundaries of the community."

But those five, Department of Public Safety Trooper Carl Holloway, his wife, Connie, and their children, Grady, Cody and Kaylee, aren't natives, someone pointed out.

A few oldtimers, in fact, joked about the "foreigners" in their midst - people who only lived here for 30 years or so. But every single person with roots in Chalk has moved away, so even the newcomers were welcome.

Like roadside markers in other Texas ghost towns, the one here serves as a headstone to all who pass by:

Here lies Chalk.

"Chalk will not be just a place in the country where nothing exists that was," said Brenda Fell, one of several who stood and shared their thoughts, some choking back tears. "It will also be a place in our hearts."

*Distributed by The Associated Press*

### Your letters are welcomed

The Herald welcomes your letters. Please write and let us know what you think about what is happening in Big Spring, around the nation and world. We ask that you keep your letters to 300 words, about two handwritten pages, and reserve the right to edit for space and libel. Write to, Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas, 79721. Addresses and telephone numbers must be included with the letter. Letters that do not include an address or telephone, including faxed letters, will not be published.

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PARIS (AP) — laughter, two shot down over Tuesday after months as captives an Serbs.

The return whose Mirage 2 while conduct strikes in August day ordeal that to disrupt the Bosnian peace on Thursday.

Their first b French soil 1 plumes caught i of national TV.

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# French pilots return home

PARIS (AP) — Amid tears and laughter, two French airmen shot down over Bosnia arrived in the arms of their families Tuesday after nearly four months as captives of the Bosnian Serbs.

The return of the pilots, whose Mirage 2000 was downed while conducting NATO air strikes in August, ended a 104-day ordeal that had threatened to disrupt the signing of the Bosnian peace accord in Paris on Thursday.

Their first breaths back on French soil rose as frosty plumes caught in the floodlights of national TV.

"Today with all the French I pay homage to their courage," President Jacques Chirac said in a live television address shortly before he greeted the men with a handshake.

It was a touching scene that warmed the hearts of a nation embittered by a nearly 3-week-long labor strike: "Les pilotes" were finally home, and in time for Christmas.

In Washington, President Clinton told France's new Ambassador Francois Bujon "to convey to President Chirac the joy of all Americans that these pilots were free."

French and U.S. officials denied rumors that they had cut a deal with the Bosnian Serbs for the men's release.

"No deal at all," said Chirac spokesman Jerome Peyrat.

Sources in Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold, said that with the pilots freed, rebel leader Radovan Karadzic expected to attend the signing of the peace accord in Paris, where he would lobby against a provision in the treaty that reunites the capital under Muslim-Croat rule.

But White House press secretary Mike McCurry said that if Karadzic or Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic — both suspected war criminals — arrived in Paris, "they would be under arrest."



Soldiers from the 586th Engineer Company climb from the cargo deck to the upper deck of a C-5A military transport aircraft at Lawson Army Airfield on Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., early Wednesday. The troops will be deployed in Bosnia.

France had waged an aggressive diplomatic battle to obtain the pilots' release, warning the Bosnian Serbs last Friday that they would be "hit" if the pilots were not freed by midnight Sunday. The threat was vague, but seemed to imply a possible military strike.

NATO had organized several unsuccessful search-and-rescue operations, and for a time no one knew if the men were even alive.

But early Tuesday, the airmen, looking pale and tired, were handed over at a motel overlooking the Drina River in Zvornik, a Bosnian Serb-held town close to the Serbian border.

"We were very well treated," co-pilot Lt. Jose Souvignet told reporters in Zvornik. "But it wasn't always easy because my leg troubled me."

Souvignet did not say where he and pilot Capt. Frederic Chiffot were held, but said they were kept in two adjacent rooms for most of their captivity. "We could speak sometimes," he said.

At first, they communicated with their captors in English. "Later, we learned some words in Serbian to ask to drink and to eat," Souvignet said.

As they were handed over,

Mladic wished the pilots "the best of luck."

Their homecoming was a made-for-TV reunion carried live across France. Floodlights bathed the tarmac as the military plane taxied to a stop Tuesday evening at the Villacoublay air base outside the capital.

Families huddled around their TV sets, and in Paris, people peered through the plate-glass windows of electronics shops to watch as Souvignet, the co-pilot injured in his parachute jump, limped but smiled as he stepped off the plane.

Chirac, flanked by Defense Minister Charles Millon and top military officials, greeted Souvignet and Chiffot, heartily shaking their hands.

The 29-year-old airmen, dressed in green flight fatigues and dark blue jackets, then walked into a waiting room to meet their families.

Chiffot's wife and parents broke down and cried while hugging and kissing the pilot, whose third baby daughter had learned to say "papa" while he was in captivity.

Souvignet's wife and parents, smiling quietly and first holding back their emotions, kissed the father of two on the cheeks, then dabbed their tears with handkerchiefs.

# Chinese dissident given 14 years

BEIJING (AP) — China's boldest advocate of democracy and human rights, Wei Jingsheng, was convicted today of trying to overthrow the government and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Wei, 45, already has spent 16 years in detention for his pro-democracy activities. A guilty verdict was almost a foregone conclusion because most criminal trials in China result in convictions.

"This is extremely serious. This is as bad a blow to human rights as 1979," said Liu Qing, head of the New York-based Human Rights in China and an associate of Wei's in the brief 1978-79 pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

In the first details of the government's case against Wei, the nationally televised evening news said he bought newspaper companies, tried to set up companies to support the democratic movement and strategized with dissidents overseas to overthrow the government.

"It's all rubbish," said Wei's sister, Shanshan. "The Chinese government is shameless. They operate like an organized crime group that pays no attention to the law."

Wei was first sentenced to prison in 1979, at age 29, for agitating to overthrow the socialist system and leaking secrets on China's border war with Vietnam. He had written powerful essays warning that China's attempts at economic development would be meaningless

without democracy and human rights.

After his release from prison in September 1983, Wei immediately resumed his calls for democratic freedoms. He disappeared into police custody in April 1994 and was held for 20 months without either charges or any chance to see his family. He was charged with sedition in November.

Wei was given only days to prepare a case with a lawyer's help. Although China promised an open trial, police barred foreign reporters and diplomats from the court building.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency issued a two-sentence report on Wei's conviction and sentence less than six hours after the trial began. It did not give details of the proceedings.

Photos released by Xinhua show an expressionless Wei sitting in a chair in the courtroom. Wei wore a padded army-style jacket and had a crew cut.

The television news showed no footage of the trial, but said Wei admitted to the facts presented by the court. Wei made a statement in his defense, but its content was not given.

The report said he bought newspapers and set up cultural companies as propaganda fronts and invested in 12 percent of a Beijing credit union to finance democratic activities.

Wei also asked foreigners for "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to fund a series of activities, the report said.

"He published articles outside China attacking the Chinese government, slandering the socialist system and the leadership of the Communist Party," the news announcer said.

Wei can appeal the sentence within 10 days.

"Authorities have the most difficult job. It's always difficult to restrain thinking," said Yang Jing, a friend of Wei's for more than 20 years who spoke with reporters outside the Beijing Intermediate Court building.



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# Grudging support for Bosnia mission seen

WASHINGTON (AP) — As thousands of U.S. soldiers packed for a winter in Bosnia, the Senate debated President Clinton's plan to send those troops to enforce peace between ancient enemies.

Clinton appeared likely to win grudging Senate support for the Bosnia mission today. The vote was to come shortly before the president's departure for Paris and the signing of the Bosnian peace agreement Thursday.

House backing appeared less certain as a dozen Republicans just back from the former Yugoslavia said indelible images of devastation in Sarajevo only hardened their view that the United States should

stay out. Both the White House and Congress acknowledged the debate would have little impact on the deployment of 60,000 NATO troops, one-third of them American.

"This debate ultimately has no practical consequence in terms of preventing the troops from going," said Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine. "They're there, more will be going next week."

Many who support Clinton's policy are demanding that the U.S. troops not engage in non-military activities, and that before they are withdrawn, the United States will ensure Bosnians are sufficiently armed to defend themselves.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who supports U.S. deployment, told Fox News today: "I get assurance after assurance from our military leadership that they will be there simply to provide a military role. ... I have to accept the word of the president ... that he would make sure Bosnians are equipped and armed to defend themselves."

But the deliberations unfolded in solemn tones Tuesday as lawmakers of both parties struggled with one of the most difficult foreign policy votes they have cast since the 1991 decision to support the Persian Gulf War. Overriding all other issues was the possibility of U.S. casualties.

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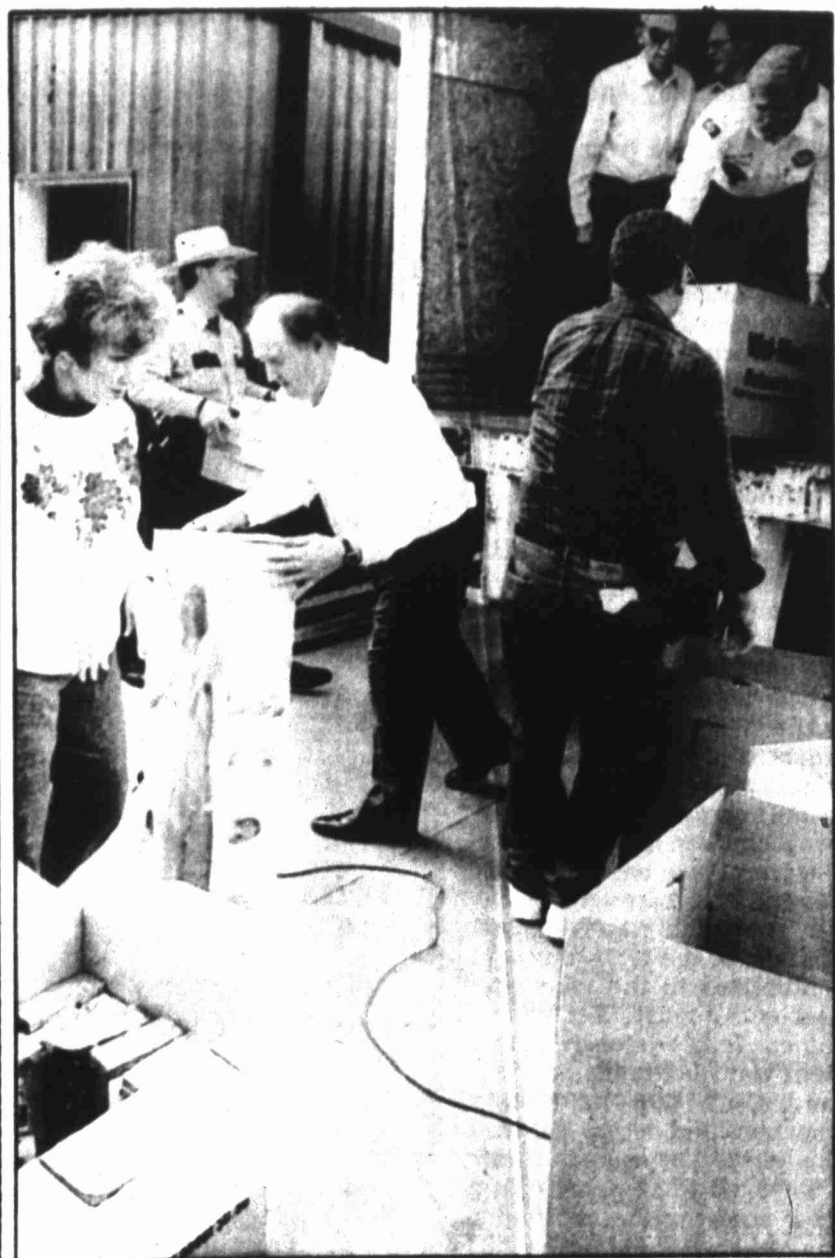
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FOUND



Members of the First United Methodist Church in Palestine volunteer their help Tuesday to load toys recovered by the Anderson County Sheriff's Department. The toys were identified by the Metropolitan Interfaith Ministries of Memphis, Tenn., which had collected the items.

## Nurse not indicted in mercy killing of father

DALLAS (AP) — A grand jury has decided against prosecuting a Dallas nurse who removed her father's oxygen mask as he lay in an El Paso hospital bed, dying from complications of diabetes.

The district attorney's office arrested Martha Thiele, 53, in September on murder charges after the death of Efrain Tellez, 88, in Columbia Medical Center-West.

But after a daylong hearing Tuesday, an El Paso County grand jury declined to indict her. The panel also declined to indict Paul Knell, a hospital nurse who was also in the room when Tellez died. He had not been charged with murder but was being investigated by the grand jury.

The prosecution presented the case as a mercy killing, saying Ms. Thiele removed the oxygen mask to hasten his death. Her attorney, Jim Darnell, disagreed. He said she removed the mask to wipe his face and make him comfortable.

"This is not a mercy killing," Darnell said. "This is not a euthanasia case. This man was dying and all she did was comfort him as he was dying. She removed some restraints and put his head in her lap and com-

forted him as best she could while he died."

District Attorney Jaime Esparza said that the case was a difficult one and that he was neither surprised nor disappointed with the grand jury's decision.

"It's hard to say whether or not they thought she did the act and there were mitigating circumstances, or they thought she didn't intentionally kill her dad. ... I know they heard evidence on both sides," Esparza said.

The district attorney said he will handle similar cases in the future the same way.

"On these types of cases, we'll always investigate them and we'll always take them to the grand jury," he told The Dallas Morning News. "The grand jury sets the standard for the community."

Dolf Quijano, an El Paso lawyer who represented the male nurse who was in the room when the oxygen mask was removed, said Knell played no part in the death.

"The original theory was that he was a party to this because he omitted to do his duty and stop what was happening," Quijano said. "But there was absolutely no culpability on my client's part."

## Foundation to monitor acquisition of chemicals

ABILENE (AP) — The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Inc. said Monday it will facilitate the federal process for the state's cotton producers to obtain chemicals used to fight destructive pests.

Representatives of the foundation met in Dallas last week with federal and state officials to hammer out an agreement to implement procedures for "Section 18" chemicals restricted by the EPA.

The agreement calls for the Texas Department of Agriculture to develop by mid-January the necessary paperwork so Texas cotton growers can have early access to strong pesticides as Conform, Pirate and Furadan next year in emergency conditions.

The chemicals fight such cotton enemies as the beet armyworm, tobacco budworm and aphid.

The EPA expects the processing time for Section 18 chemical requests to be reduced to a matter of hours. Previously, such requests could have faced weeks or months of red tape.

### CHIROPRACTOR

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# Ex-lawman first on death row for rape-murder

HOUSTON (AP) — A 45-year-old Houston man convicted in the rape, robbery and slaying last year of a floral shop employee will become the only former law enforcement officer on Texas' death row.

Last week, a jury in the court of State District Judge Mary Lou Keel found Michael Durwood Griffith guilty of capital murder in the slaying 14 months ago of Deborah Jean McCormick.

Tuesday, the panel deliberated about 3 1/2 hours to decide he should be executed for the crime.

Griffith, who was fired in 1993 from the Harris County sheriff's department after complaints

from ex-wives and a girlfriend of violence and torture, was familiar to his victim because he was a regular customer at her family's northwest Houston wedding chapel and flower shop.

Her family recalled Griffith as presentable and non-threatening.

Just after Ms. McCormick opened the store on Oct. 10, 1994, Griffith stopped by for the last time.

Before he left, he had forced her to engage in a sex act with him, stabbed her several times and wiped his blade clean on her jeans.

Two days later, he robbed a bank, shot the clerk twice in the

back of the head, then relaxed at a nearby bar with a beer. The clerk survived and testified against him.

Twelve days after that, police found an 18-year-old girl bound and partially clothed in the bridal shop where she worked. She told the jury that she was raped by Griffith at gun- and knife-point. He allowed her to live, she said, because he thought she was only 14 and too young to die.

The collection of victims huddled together on the front row of Keel's courtroom Tuesday morning to hear final arguments.

Griffith, described alternately

by those who knew him as a polite perfectionist and a vicious control freak, chose his career path because he saw it as the ultimate in power and control, relatives testified.

Defense attorneys David Cunningham and Michael Charlton depicted Griffith as a man damaged by childhood neglect. They portrayed Griffith's mother as a hard-working, hard-partying woman who frequently had to be chased home from bars to tend to her two boys.

Testimony indicated Griffith's grandparents often cared for the boys, took them on vacation and watched them play in the family swimming pool.

## Victim's program has paid out \$24.5 million

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General Dan Morales says a state aid program for Texas crime victims is helping many with the financial burdens they are facing.

Morales announced Tuesday that the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund netted \$68.8 million from criminals and paid nearly \$24.5 million to crime victims in the last fiscal year.

The fund considers applications from mostly victims of violent crimes who need money for expenses not covered by insurance or other programs. It collects most of its money from convicted criminals through the courts.

During the 1995 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31, the fund paid nearly \$24.5 million to 7,236 victims and families. That was just less than the \$25 million given to 9,634 crime victims during the 1994 fiscal year.

Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Morales, said fewer applications were submitted in the 1995 fiscal year. The attorney general's office runs the program.

"The fund helps shoulder some of the financial burden on victims or their families during a time when they are trying to cope with emotional and physical pain," Morales said. "Every advantage and consideration that we can give to victims and their families, be it large or small, will lighten that burden."

The fund started distributing money in 1980. Since then, it has delivered more than \$201 million to nearly 59,000 crime victims.

Morales said 60 percent, or \$14.7 million, of the \$24.5 million distributed in the most recent 12 month period went to pay hospital and doctor expenses. Another 18 percent helped make up lost wages and 7 percent paid for funeral expenses.

Other funds went to such expenses as mental health counseling and prescriptions.

Most of the funds were paid to victims of assault cases. Eligible crime must have been physically or emotionally harmed in the case. They also must cooperate with prosecutors.

## Convicted killer linked to gang, bombings executed

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — James Michael Briddle was the kind of guy your parents were thinking about when they warned you never to open your door to strangers.

A Houston man, Robert Morales, ignored that advice and paid for it with his life almost 16 years ago.

Briddle's life ended Tuesday evening when state officials executed the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang member for strangling and robbing Banks, one of two men slain the night of Feb. 24, 1980, at Banks' home.

"I love you," he said to two brothers who were standing a few feet away in the death chamber. "You all take care of mom and dad. I'm ready."

Prison officials said they had some difficulty inserting a needle

in his left arm, delaying the punishment for a few moments. The needle in his heavily tattooed right arm was just below a tattoo of a large peacock and a skull.

"I'm leaving you now," he said. "I can taste it. I'll see you later on."

He coughed twice and gasped loudly. Eight minutes later, at 6:35 p.m. CST, he was pronounced dead.

"James is our brother," Joe and Jeffery Briddle said afterward in a joint statement. "We love him now as before. We grieve not only for him tonight but also for the victims..."

Briddle, 40, joined the fearsome prison gang in California in the 1970s and wore the group's distinctive swastika and lightning bolt tattoos.

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Years: <1 1-2 2-4 4-10 Over 10
- What is your current hourly rate of pay?  
Dollars: \$4.5 \$5.6 \$6.7 \$7.8 \$8.9 \$10.11 Over \$11
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Type of experience: Machining Assembly  
Manufacturing Welding  
Painting Clerical  
Sales  
# of years
- Identify your level of education and graduation status  
# of years in school 1-8 1-12 1-13 1-14 1-16 Over 16  
Graduate Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N
- Which shifts can you work? 1st 2nd
- Name:  
Mailing address:

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# Flag fight moves to political arena

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stung by a narrow Senate defeat, backers of a constitutional amendment to ban desecration of the American flag are promising to carry the fight into next year's elections.

The Senate fell three votes short Tuesday of passing the amendment, which would have given Congress authority to outlaw flag burning and other forms of desecration of the Stars and Stripes.

The defeat was jarring to supporters, who had expressed confidence in Senate approval. The House last June approved, 312-120, a broader amendment that would have given both Congress and the states the power to determine what is unlawful desecration of the American flag.

The amendment started gaining momentum after the Republican takeover of Congress last January. Forty-nine states — all but Vermont — have passed resolutions urging Congress to support the amendment, which would have effectively negated two Supreme Court rulings, in 1989 and 1990, that flag-burning was a protected form of expression under the First Amendment.

But Tuesday's 63-36 Senate vote was three votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed for an amendment to the Constitution. The 100-member Senate has one vacancy.

"It unraveled this morning before our eyes," said Susan Ridge, spokeswoman for the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of about 100 groups lobbying for the amendment. "This is a disappointment."

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said President Clinton's opposition to what proponents hoped would be the 28th Amendment to the Constitution was a decisive factor in its defeat.

## Retail sales see biggest jump in five months

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Christmas shopping season began with a surge in retail sales, rebounding from two straight declines to post the biggest jump in five months.

The Commerce Department said today that sales rose 0.8 percent in November, after falling 0.4 percent in October and 0.1 percent in September.

Last month's advance was larger than expected by private analysts, who said in advance of today's report that caution by debt-heavy consumers could mean a disappointing holiday season for merchants. Many analysts said the economy is growing at a sluggish pace after a stronger-than-expected third quarter.

Despite the solid overall gain in sales, at department stores sales were flat in November.

Federal Reserve policy-makers meet Dec. 19 to review the economy and decide whether to lower interest rates again. Mixed reports on the economy and uncertainty over budget negotiations between President Clinton and Congress could prompt the Fed to take a wait-and-see approach, analysts said.

After raising interest rates seven times, the Fed cut a key rate in July and has remained on the sidelines since.

Sales last month totaled a seasonally adjusted \$197.9 billion, up from \$196.4 billion. The increase was the largest since a 0.9 percent gain in June.

Contrary to today's report, manufacturers are less optimistic about Christmas sales.



Eugene, Ore., city public works crewmen roll a log off East 11th Avenue near downtown Eugene Tuesday. The massive fir tree was blown down by high winds that at times gusted to more than 100 miles per hour.

## West coast storm turns killer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A furious storm that lashed the West Coast with winds of more than 100 mph let up today after knocking out power to 1.8 million residents and blowing over trees that killed at least five people.

The frightening winds overturned trucks, made skyscrapers creak and churned the ocean.

"It was terrifying," said Castaways Motel manager Linda Berte as she watched the sea in Port Orford, Ore., where waves crashed 20 feet high against the jetty. "It was the most horrifying sight I've ever seen."

About 1.3 million people remained without electricity early today in California, Washington and Oregon. Rain continued to fall in Oregon and Washington, but the worst part of the storm — the damaging winds — had subsided.

The skies cleared and winds

fell in Northern California, and only intermittent rain was expected through Thursday, the National Weather Service said.

Rod McAlavey was driving across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on Tuesday when the winds caused his truck to jackknife, leaving it teetering on the edge.

"The guardrail saved me," McAlavey said. "I was looking out over into the water."

Other trucks overturned on highways and bridges in Northern California and Oregon.

In San Francisco's St. Francis Woods neighborhood, Michael Church spent two hours trapped under a tree that destroyed his home.

"I thought no one knew. I didn't know if it was visible from the street," said Church, who was not seriously injured.

Wind gusting to 83 mph through downtown San Francisco on Tuesday rocked the 52-

story Bank of America building, smashed a revolving glass door and snapped the trunk of the building's Christmas tree.

Golden Gate Park was closed because fallen trees blocked roads and power failures meant the San Francisco Examiner was only able to print about half its usual weekday circulation of 115,000.

Heavy rain added to the misery. More than 7 inches fell at Kentfield, flooding intersections in the well-to-do Marin County town. On Monday, an expensive house in San Francisco's exclusive Sea Cliff section fell into a huge sinkhole created when a previous storm broke a century-old sewer line.

City crews planned to stabilize a second threatened home today and let the owners recover their valuables before it is razed.

Seven birds died of exposure at the San Francisco Zoo.

## Police: Convicted child molester played Santa to lure his victims

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Searching the home of a convicted child molester suspected of assaulting more children, police found Santa costumes, toys and flairs that they say he may have used to lure youngsters.

John Pratt, a 48-year-old chiropractic assistant, was charged with molesting three boys, ages 13, 12 and 9. Two younger boys were being interviewed about possible abuse, police Cmdr. Gwen Elliott said Tuesday.

There was no indication Pratt had played Santa to lure the three boys he is charged with molesting, but investigators

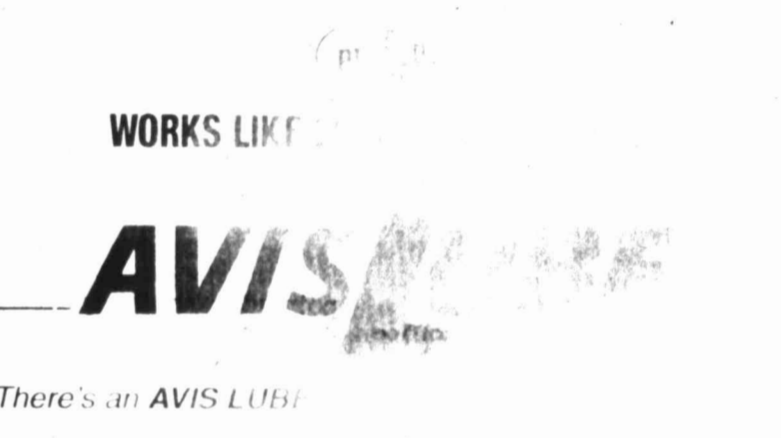
said one of the victims may have been lured with him in an effort to play Santa to children and that he had been with children in his home.

Pratt was arrested right around the corner, and Santa can come to any child's home at any time, police said. Pratt was arrested Tuesday.

Pratt was charged with molesting three boys, ages 13, 12 and 9. Two younger boys were being interviewed about possible abuse, police Cmdr. Gwen Elliott said Tuesday.

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## Carving signature into girlfriend's face nets 9-20 years

YORK, Pa. (AP) — A man who used a box-cutting knife to carve his signature onto his ex-girlfriend's face has been sentenced to nine to 20 years in prison.

The victim, Lisa Shildt, said Monday's sentence was of little comfort because she fears William Baker will kill her once he gets out of jail. The sentence was double the punishment given most defendants convicted of aggravated assault, but Shildt thought it should have been stiffer.

"When they went to take him away, he winked at me, like, 'I will have you,'" Shildt said after state Judge Joseph E. Erb sentenced Baker, 32.

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Do you have an interesting story idea? Call Steve Reagan, 263-7331, Ext 113.

# Last-second shot does in Lady Steers

By STEVE REAGAN  
Sports Editor

SWEETWATER - C.E. Carmichael won almost 100 games coaching the Big Spring Lady Steers. Tuesday, he won his first game coaching against them.

Melissa Moses drove the court in the final four seconds, then launched a last-instant three-pointer to give

Sweetwater a 50-48 win over the Lady Steers Tuesday night in Mustang Gym.

The dramatic win spoiled an equally dramatic comeback that saw the Lady Steers (8-6) rally from a four-point deficit with less than two minutes remaining to grab the lead.

Big Spring, which had struggled with its shooting all night, got its offense clicking long enough to get to the brink of

victory. First, senior post Molly Smith hit a short jumper to bring the Lady Steers to within one, then Heather Anderson gave them the lead by nailing one of her four-three pointers from the top of the arc.

"I knew all we had to do was sink some shots," BSHS coach Ron Taylor said. "In the first half, we missed shot after shot ... but Heather and Molly stepped up and made

some big shots for us. We had a chance to seal the thing, but we didn't get it done."

When Maggie Haddad stole a Sweetwater pass a few seconds later, things looked grim for the Lady Mustangs. There was less than a minute remaining, and Big Spring was still four fouls under the bonus, meaning Sweetwater had four fouls to give before sending the Lady Steers to the line.

They finally earned their seventh foul with five seconds remaining, sending Smith to the line for a one-and-one.

Smith missed, Shasta Brooks rebounded for Sweetwater and fired a quick outlet pass to Moses, who then nullified Big Spring's rally with her last-second shot.

"When you're down by one, there's five seconds left and the other team's got the ball, Lady

Luck's got to be on your side a little bit to win," said Carmichael, who got his first win in two tries against his former team.

Then, with tongue planted firmly in cheek, he added: "That last shot was nothing but good coaching."

Anderson scored 14 points and Smith added 12 for the

Please see SHOT, page 9A

# Sterling City takes pair of nail-biters from Forsan

By DARRELL ERICSON  
Sports writer

STERLING CITY - The cliché "We just ran out of time," was proven true in both the girls' and boys' basketball games here Tuesday night.

Forsan and Sterling City played both games close but it was Sterling City which was able to capitalize in the last seconds of each game.

The Forsan Buffaloes fell to a 6-6 record with their 44-40 loss against Sterling City while the girls fell 46-42, making their record 9-3.

"These were typical Forsan/Sterling City games. They are a friendly rival who always gives us a good game," Forsan coach Terry McDonald said. "Two years ago they were in our district and the kids are used to playing each other. You can always expect a dogfight."

The Buffaloes and Eagles traded the lead six times in the first half and neither was able to seize the advantage.

"We did a good job rebound-

ing against their height. They are a much bigger team than we are and the rebounding kept the game close," McDonald said.

The scoring continued to go back and forth, tied at 35 with 5:21 left in the game. Three points was the farthest that the Buffaloes fell behind.

The Eagles were able to take a three-point lead in the last two seconds and capitalized on Forsan's mistakes to move the lead up by four at the free throw line.

Rusty Baker and Jason Lentz led the Buffs in scoring with 12 points each. Hillger and Epley followed with seven each.

McDonald said, "It was a real physical game and it worked to their favor. They were real patient on offense and waited for the inside shot."

"These types of game will help prepare us for district. There's not too many blowouts in our district and we are going to have to be ready for buzzer to buzzer games."

The Buffaloes will travel to

Borden County Friday for their next showing. Game time is 8 p.m.

The Forsan Queens high-pressure defense met up with Sterling City's offense and the result was another last-second game.

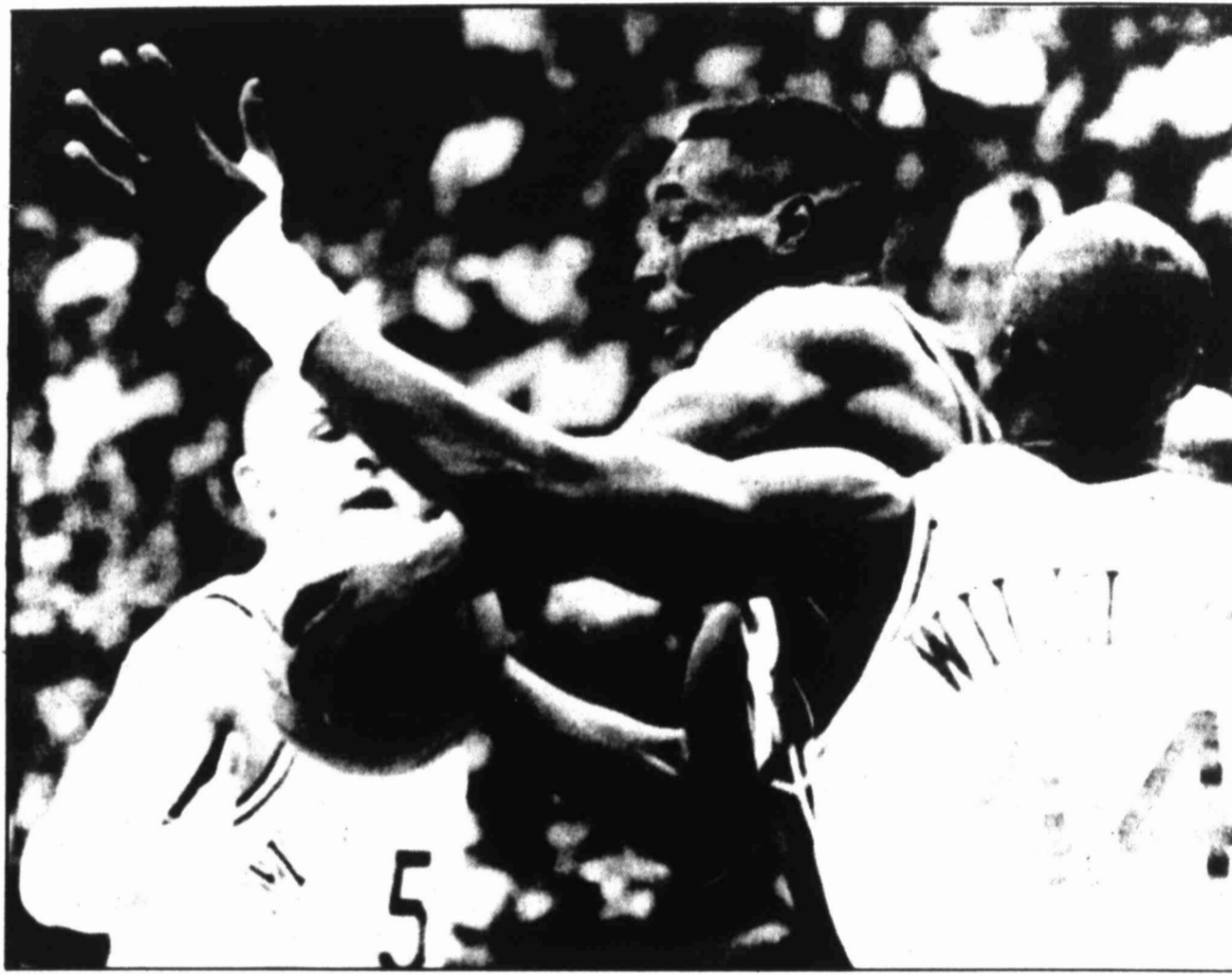
The Queens' slow start in the second quarter provided the Lady Eagles the opportunity to take a 10 point lead.

Sterling's Julie McEntire had six points in the third quarter and led all scorers with 18.

The Queens mounted a comeback in the fourth to bring themselves back within two with 1:18 left in the game. Deborah Light and Amie Evans were good from the three point range while Nicole Johnson helped out underneath.

"We dug ourselves in a hole that we couldn't get out of," Forsan coach Johnny Shafer said. "We had too many turnovers and missed shots in the first half and we didn't rebound, basic things that you

Please see BUFFS, page 9A



Dallas' Jason Kidd, left, and Lorenzo Williams (44) block the drive of Seattle's Shawn Kemp in the first quarter of their game Tuesday in Dallas.

# Nets miss replacement refs, basket

The New Jersey Nets had the home-court advantage. They didn't get the home-ref advantage they wanted.

On the night when veteran referees returned to the court after settling their dispute with the NBA, the Nets were wishing the replacements had stuck around for another game.

Nick Anderson scored 29 points and the Orlando Magic limited New Jersey to three fourth-quarter field goals, handing the Nets their first home loss of the season, 101-97 Tuesday night.

The crew of Bill Oakes, David Jones and Tim Donaghy drew the ire of the Nets by calling

four of the five technical fouls against them and throwing out backup guard Chris Childs just before halftime when he was called for a second technical foul.

"We had a chance to win the game and I think we let the refs get to us mentally," Nets guard Kenny Anderson said. "We didn't play our game. We were there and didn't pull it off."

Orlando limited New Jersey to 3-of-20 shooting in the final period, including a meaningless 3-pointer by Jayson Williams at the buzzer.

"This is one of our ugliest games of the year," Dennis

Scott said after the Magic won their fourth in a row and 17th in 21 games, the NBA's second-best record. "We decided we weren't going to win it with our offense, so it was going to be a matter of digging in and playing defense. We're still a young team, but you can see we are maturing when we can win an ugly game on the road."

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Boston 116, Toronto 96; Washington 108, Milwaukee 102; Minnesota 85, Atlanta 78; Cleveland 97, the Los Angeles Lakers Clippers 86; Indiana 125, Denver 92; New York 97, the

Please see NBA, page 9A

# High school summaries

<b>Boys</b> Garden City 72, Water Valley 42 Score by Quarters: Garden City 16 16 21 19 - 72 Water Valley 8 14 5 15 - 42	Records: Garden City - Martinez 10, Betta 20, Theford 7, Hillger 3, Lanford 26, Swartz 2, Blaylock 4, Water Valley - Sisco 7, Rogers 13, Naylor 3, Morrow 4, Jones 5, Dawson 10. Records: Garden City 5-5, Water Valley 6-4. JV scores: Water Valley 36, Garden City 33.	Records: Midland Christian - Hughes 28, Zahn 11, Lee 2, Wornack 2, Hufford 2, Stanton - McCallister 15, Bryan 12, Hull 12, Hopper 11, Stallings 8, Rodgers 7, Looney 6, Davis 4, Cadenhead 4, Harm 3, Payne 2. Records: Stanton 8-2, Midland Christian 2-3. JV scores: Stanton 47, Midland Christian 46.	Leading Scorers: Borden County - McCook 14, F. Beaza 11, Stout 10. Records: Borden County 6-5. JV scores: Borden County 56, Southland 36.
Records: Garden City - Martinez 10, Betta 20, Theford 7, Hillger 3, Lanford 26, Swartz 2, Blaylock 4, Water Valley - Sisco 7, Rogers 13, Naylor 3, Morrow 4, Jones 5, Dawson 10. Records: Garden City 5-5, Water Valley 6-4. JV scores: Water Valley 36, Garden City 33.	Records: Stanton 8-2, Midland Christian 2-3. JV scores: Stanton 47, Midland Christian 46.	Records: Stanton 8-2, Midland Christian 2-3. JV scores: Stanton 47, Midland Christian 46.	Records: Borden County 6-5. JV scores: Borden County 56, Southland 36.

# Jones stands by his man; says Switzer's job is safe

IRVING, Texas (AP) - Jerry and Barry are still on the same page.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones says he and coach Barry Switzer are still thinking alike.

Jones wants all of Switzer's critics to understand that the old Oklahoma coach will be back on the sidelines next year for his third NFL season in Dallas.

Jones said the calls that backfired in the Philadelphia game on Sunday were "not some-

thing you step in front of those flying cabs in New York over."

Speaking by telephone from Little Rock, Ark., Jones said Tuesday he liked Switzer's decision to go for fourth-and-1 twice from his own 29-yard line with two minutes play. The gambles failed and Philadelphia kicked the game-winning field goal in the 20-17 win.

"I felt we could make it," Jones said. "I haven't lost any faith in Barry's ability to coach. I'm not going to invoke any changes in the coaching

staff. I agreed with the call. I support it."

Jones said he heard ridicule about his coaching staff when he bought the team in 1989.

He said if he had reacted to public criticism of coaching calls in those days "Jimmy Johnson wouldn't have been around."

"It reminds me of 1989 and 1990 when Jimmy Johnson was getting it from a lot of the same (media) people who ridiculed us because we had a coach out of

college and they said he didn't know what he was doing," Jones said. "I stayed the course and we had some Super Bowls pan out."

Jones said if the call costs the Cowboys the home field advantage so be it.

"It's important if you're the team with it," Jones said. "We got there without it (the home field advantage) in our first Super Bowl."

Dallas has a 10-4 record and is tied for the NFC lead with San

Francisco. The 49ers own the tiebreaker by virtue of a 38-20 win over the Cowboys earlier in the year.

The Cowboys can win the NFC East and a first round bye by winning their last two games against the New York Giants and Arizona Cardinals.

"I've been in a lot deeper holes than this both on and off the field," Jones said. "We have high expectations and that's the way it should be. We're behind the 8-ball with San Francisco

right now. I still feel we've got a chance to be in the Super Bowl if we just play a little bit better."

Switzer was still fielding questions about the call on Tuesday, saying two days later he would still go for it.

"All the players and all the coaches were in agreement on the sidelines," Switzer said. "Now, we need a victory," he added. "We need to play a great eight quarters the next two weeks."

<b>BOTTOM</b> of the <b>ORDER</b>	<p>SHOT OF THE DAY</p> <p><b>He went that-a-way</b> Referee Jack Nies makes a call during the first quarter between the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday at Madison Square Garden.</p>	<p>TEXAS</p> <p><b>Bush would've punted, too</b></p> <p>WASHINGTON (AP) - Ask Texas Gov. George W. Bush what he'd have done as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, and the one-time Texas Rangers managing partner has a quick answer.</p> <p>"I'd have punted, of course," Bush laughed Tuesday, when asked the question at a news conference with Texas reporters to discuss Medicaid.</p> <p>"Pitching always wins," joked Bush. "Wrong sport."</p> <p>Fortunately for Dallas coach Barry Switzer, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has a different view.</p> <p>Jones defended Switzer on Tuesday, saying he'd have made the same decision coach Switzer did Sunday, going for fourth-and-one twice from the Cowboys' 29 with two minutes on the clock.</p>	<p>NATION/WORLD</p> <p><b>NBC nalls down Olympics</b></p> <p>NEW YORK (AP) - NBC will spend \$2.3 billion for three Olympics Games that haven't even been awarded to host cities yet, jacking the network's sports rights bill up to nearly \$4 billion in a little more than four months.</p> <p>NBC was awarded exclusive U.S. broadcast and cable rights to the 2004 and 2008 Summer Games and the 2006 Winter Olympics.</p> <p><b>Brown named to hall</b></p> <p>NEW YORK (AP) - Jim Brown, who starred at Syracuse before becoming an NFL great, and 1978 Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims were honored along with 11 other new members of the College Football Hall of Fame.</p>	<p>ON THE AIR</p> <p><b>Basketball</b></p> <p>NBA Orlando at Chicago, 7 p.m., TBS (ch. 11).</p> <p>College Minnesota at Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m., ESPN (ch. 30). Villanova at Temple, 8:30 p.m., ESPN.</p>
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Big Spring Herald  
Wednesday, Dec 13, 1995

FOOTBALL

Playoff pairings

Class 5A, Division I  
State Championship  
Odessa Permian (12-1) vs. Converse Judson (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas Stadium, Class 5A, Division I

State Semifinals  
Flower Mound Marcus (13-1) vs. Richardson Lake Highland (13-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving

Humble (9-3-2) vs. San Antonio (14-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Alamogordo Stadium, San Antonio

Class 4A  
State Semifinals  
Denison (14-0) vs. Missouri (10-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas Stadium, Class 4A, Division I

La Marque (14-0) vs. Christi Cullen (14-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Bobcat Stadium, Corpus Christi

Class 3A  
State Semifinals  
Springtown (11-3) vs. Irving (13-1), 9 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium, Irving

Sealy (14-0) vs. Cuero (13-1), 7 p.m. Saturday, Astrodom, Houston

Class 2A  
State Semifinals  
West Texas (13-1) vs. 11, 8 p.m. Friday, Vernon J. White Stadium, Vernon

Refugio (13-1) vs. Alto (13-1), 7 p.m. Saturday, Astrodom, Houston

Class A

SPORTS BRIEF

Tornadoes u...  
around Stee...

LAMESA - The...  
took control of...  
the Steers to a 72-6...  
The Steers domi...  
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but had trouble with...  
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our game. We had...  
and turnovers whic...

Bufs -

Continued from p...  
have to do."

The Lady...  
defense forced...  
outside.

"We usually l...  
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ets but they dic...

Johnson led...  
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Johnson had 1...  
rebounds. Eva...

Shot -

Continued from p...  
Lady Steers, t...  
the team's lea...  
held to four po...  
"We had...  
Robin," Carm...  
we sagging in...  
got in some...  
think we did...  
defending her...  
Taylor pref...  
another stat: "...  
4-for-9 perfor...

Score

Continued from p...  
Sands...  
O'Donnell...  
Leading scorers: S...  
Bull 10, O'Donnell...  
Sands 4-1, O'Donnell...  
53, Sands 46.

Girls

Garden City 49, W...  
Garden City...  
Water Valley...  
Scores: Garden C...  
7, Hoffman 2, Brad...  
Valley - Lucy 16, M...  
JV scores: Water 1...

Stanton 60, Midla...  
Midland Christian...  
Stanton...  
Scores: Midland (...  
Sprelin 11, Hamiltor...

NBA -

Continued from...  
Los Angeles...  
112, Seattle...  
Charlotte 1...  
Golden State...  
Houston 133...  
Despite 1...  
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94. Brian Sh...  
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seconds ic...  
Orlando.

The loss w...  
games at 1...  
Arena for th...  
percent fro...  
game.

Rockets 13...



FOOTBALL

Playoff pairings

**Class 5A, Division I**  
Odessa Permian (12-1) vs. Converse Judson (13-1), Noon Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving  
**Class 5A, Division II**  
**State Semifinals**  
Flower Mound Marcus (14-0) vs. Richardson Lake Highlands (13-0-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving  
Humble (9-3-2) vs. San Antonio Roosevelt (14-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Alamo Stadium, San Antonio  
**Class 4A**  
**State Semifinals**  
Denison (14-0) vs. Mount Pleasant (10-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Cotton Bowl, Dallas  
La Marque (14-0) vs. Corpus Christi Calallen (14-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos  
**Class 3A**  
**State Semifinals**  
Springtown (11-3) vs. Commerce (13-1), 8 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium, Irving  
Sealy (14-0) vs. Cuero (13-1), 7 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston  
**Class 2A**  
**State Semifinals**  
West Texas (13-1) vs. Celina (13-1), 8 p.m. Friday, Vernon  
Religio (13-1) vs. Alto (14-0), 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston  
**Class A**

**State Semifinals**  
Sudan (9-4) vs. Roscoe (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Andrews  
Thomdale (14-0) vs. Overton (13-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Fairfield  
**State Championship**  
Amherst (14-0) vs. Millford (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sweetwater

**NFL**  
All Times EST  
**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**  
**East**  
Buffalo 8 6 0 .571 287 282  
Indianapolis 8 6 0 .571 337 287  
Miami 8 6 0 .571 337 287  
New England 8 6 0 .429 280 326  
N.Y. Jets 3 11 0 .214 227 349  
**Central**  
x-Pittsburgh 10 4 0 .714 347 276  
Oakland 8 6 0 .571 310 257  
Cincinnati 9 5 0 .643 310 287  
Houston 5 9 0 .357 297 301  
Cleveland 4 10 0 .286 242 322  
Jacksonville 3 11 0 .214 251 330  
**West**  
x-Kansas City 11 3 0 .786 312 221  
Oakland 8 6 0 .571 310 257  
Denver 7 7 0 .500 340 297  
San Diego 7 7 0 .500 287 282  
Seattle 7 7 0 .500 316 330  
**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**East**  
W.L.T.Pct.PF.PA  
y-Dallas 10 4 0 .714 377 256  
Philadelphia 9 5 0 .643 283 298  
N.Y. Giants 5 9 0 .357 253 292  
Arizona 4 10 0 .286 242 364  
Washington 4 10 0 .286 275 319  
**Central**  
Green Bay 8 6 0 .571 346 272  
Detroit 8 6 0 .571 355 326

Minnesota 8 6 0 .571 358 321  
Chicago 7 7 0 .500 341 336  
Tampa Bay 7 7 0 .500 218 267

**West**  
San Francisco 10 4 0 .714 383 290  
Atlanta 8 6 0 .571 317 301  
St. Louis 7 7 0 .500 264 342  
Carolina 6 8 0 .429 251 288  
New Orleans 6 8 0 .429 284 314

x-cinched division title; y-cinched playoff berth.

**Saturday's Games**  
Minnesota 27, Cleveland 11  
San Diego 26, Arizona 25  
**Sunday's Games**  
Buffalo 46, St. Louis 27  
New England 31, New York Jets 28  
Indianapolis 41, Jacksonville 31  
Atlanta 19, New Orleans 14  
San Francisco 31, Carolina 10  
Philadelphia 20, Dallas 17  
Cincinnati 16, Chicago 10  
Detroit 24, Houston 17  
Seattle 31, Denver 27  
Pittsburgh 29, Oakland 10  
New York Giants 20, Washington 13  
Tampa Bay 13, Green Bay 10, OT  
**Monday's Games**  
Miami 13, Kansas City 6  
Pittsburgh 29, Oakland 10  
New England at Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m.  
Green Bay at New Orleans, 4 p.m.  
**Sunday, Dec. 17**  
Jacksonville at Detroit, 1 p.m.  
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.  
New York Jets at Houston, 1 p.m.  
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.  
Arizona at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.

Washington at St. Louis, 1 p.m.  
Denver at Kansas City, 4 p.m.  
San Diego at Indianapolis, 4 p.m.  
New York Giants at Dallas, 4 p.m.  
Oakland at Seattle, 8 p.m.  
**Monday, Dec. 18**  
Minnesota at San Francisco, 9 p.m.

BASKETBALL

College scores

**EAST**  
Bucknell 70, Widener 46  
Dartmouth 70, Harvard 61  
Lafayette 64, Columbia 51  
Massachusetts 77, N.C.-Wilmington 51  
Mormouth, N.J. 65, Princeton 56  
St. Bonaventure 74, Buffalo 64

**SOUTH**  
Auburn 59, South Alabama 50  
Connecticut 79, Florida St. 61  
Georgia St. 60, Georgia Southern 58  
Md.-E. Shore 63, St. Francis, NY 61  
NW Louisiana 90, SE Louisiana 75  
SW Louisiana 98, Louisiana Coll. 67  
Vanderbilt 93, Tennessee St. 74

**MIDWEST**  
DePaul 72, Maine 58  
Northwestern 84, Army 62  
Wright St. 88, Ohio U. 77  
Youngstown St. 59, Cleveland St. 49

**SOUTHWEST**

No major team scores reported from the SOUTH-WEST.  
**FAR WEST**  
Air Force 84, Colo.-Colo. Springs 52  
Brigham Young 91, Weber St. 86  
S. Utah 71, Boise St. 64  
Santa Clara 66, Fresno St. 58

NBA

All Times EST  
**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Atlantic Division**  
Orlando 17 4 810 —  
New York 16 5 762 1  
Miami 12 7 632 4  
Boston 9 10 474 7  
New Jersey 9 10 474 7  
Washington 9 10 474 7  
Philadelphia 3 16 158 13  
**Central Division**  
Chicago 16 2 889 —  
Indiana 9 9 500 7  
Atlanta 10 11 476 7 1/2  
Charlotte 10 12 454 8  
Cleveland 9 11 450 8  
Detroit 8 11 421 8 1/2  
Milwaukee 6 12 333 10  
Toronto 7 15 318 11  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Midwest Division**  
Houston 16 5 762 —  
Utah 14 6 700 1 1/2  
San Antonio 11 6 647 3  
Denver 9 10 474 6  
Dallas 7 12 368 8  
Minnesota 6 12 333 8 1/2  
Vancouver 2 18 100 13 1/2  
**Pacific Division**  
Sacramento 13 6 884 —  
Seattle 13 7 650 1 1/2  
Portland 9 9 526 3

L.A. Lakers 11 10 524 3  
Phoenix 8 11 421 5  
Golden State 7 13 350 6 1/2  
L.A. Clippers 7 14 333 7

Monday's Games

Denver 104, Philadelphia 91  
Utah 110, Charlotte 100

**Tuesday's Games**  
Boston 116, Toronto 96  
Orlando 101, New Jersey 97  
Washington 108, Milwaukee 102  
Minnesota 85, Atlanta 78  
Cleveland 97, L.A. Clippers 86  
Indiana 125, Denver 92  
New York 97, L.A. Lakers 82  
Dallas 112, Seattle 101, OT  
Charlotte 115, Phoenix 100  
Golden State 105, Miami 80  
Houston 133, Sacramento 83

**Wednesday's Games**  
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Orlando at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
Seattle at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.  
Houston at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Indiana at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Denver at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Charlotte at Portland, 10 p.m.  
Miami at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Florida 22 7 2 46106 71  
N.Y. Rangers 19 8 5 43 114 80  
Philadelphia 18 8 4 40 108 73  
New Jersey 13 14 3 29 77 74  
Tampa Bay 12 12 5 29 85 94  
Washington 12 13 3 27 76 75  
N.Y. Islanders 7 19 3 17 81 116

Northeast Division

Pittsburgh 19 5 3 41 138 82  
Montreal 14 12 2 30 90 92  
Buffalo 11 14 3 25 83 90  
Boston 10 13 4 24 92 102 p.m.  
Hartford 10 15 2 22 76 87  
Ottawa 7 20 1 15 71 110

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Central Division**  
W.L.T.Pct.GF.GA  
Detroit 19 7 2 40 112 66  
Toronto 14 10 5 33 92 85  
Chicago 12 10 7 31 99 91  
St. Louis 13 13 4 30 79 84  
Winnipeg 13 14 3 29 107 110  
Dallas 9 11 6 24 73 80

**Pacific Division**  
Colorado 18 8 4 40 134 90  
Los Angeles 12 12 6 30 96 97  
Anaheim 11 17 3 25 92 98  
Edmonton 10 15 5 25 81 113  
Vancouver 9 12 7 25 102 110  
Calgary 6 17 6 18 74 101  
San Jose 6 20 4 16 89 138

**Monday's Games**  
Tampa Bay 6, Buffalo 1  
N.Y. Rangers 3, Dallas 2  
Florida 2, New Jersey 1  
Colorado 5, Toronto 1  
Calgary 6, Los Angeles 2

**Tuesday's Games**  
Florida 3, N.Y. Islanders 1  
Montreal 6, Winnipeg 5  
Detroit 5, St. Louis 2  
San Jose 2, Ottawa 1

**Wednesday's Games**

Tampa Bay at Hartford, 7 p.m.  
Colorado at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.  
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Vancouver at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.  
Ottawa at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7:30 p.m.  
Calgary at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.  
Toronto at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday

**BASEBALL**  
American League  
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with Darren Lewis, outfielder on a two-year contract. Named Bill Buckner hitting coach.  
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Signed Omar Vizquel, shortstop, to a five-year contract extension.  
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Named Tim Lincecum manager of New Orleans of the American Association. Dave Macher manager of El Paso of the Texas League. Greg Mahberg manager of Stockton of the California League. Randy St. Claire pitching coach and Theron Todd hitting coach at Stockton.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tornadoes whirl around Steers

LAMESA — The Lamesa Tornadoes took control of the second half to drop the Steers to a 72-61 loss.  
The Steers dominated the boards in the first half to take an early 29-24 lead, but had trouble with Lamesa's press.  
"Their pressing game took us out of our game. We had a lot of forced shots and turnovers which were costly," Big

Bufs

Continued from page 8A  
have to do."  
The Lady Eagles' zone defense forced the Queens to go outside.  
"We usually have a lot of outside shots, but they weren't there tonight. We struggled and struggled for a shot and they would go right down and score," Shafer said. "The girls never gave up and I am proud of them for that. We were down 30-19 at one time and they could have easily called it quits but they didn't."  
Johnson led the Queens in scoring and in rebounds. Johnson had 14 points and five rebounds. Evans followed with

Shot

Continued from page 8A  
Lady Steers, but Robin Wise, the team's leading scorer, was held to four points.  
"We had to shut down Robin," Carmichael said. "We were sagging in on her ... and she got in some foul trouble. I think we did a good job of defending her."  
Taylor preferred to point to another stat: The Lady Steers' 4-for-9 performance from the

Scores

Continued from page 8A  
Sands 11 11 18 24 - 64  
O'Donnell 5 8 12 11 - 36  
Leading scorers: Sands - Croff 15, Zarate 11, Best 10, O'Donnell - Inklebarger 11. Records: Sands 4-1, O'Donnell 7-5. JV scores: O'Donnell 53, Sands 46.

**Girls**  
Garden City 49, Water Valley 36  
Garden City 11 16 12 10 - 49  
Water Valley 10 9 11 6 - 36  
Scores: Garden City - Harp 26, Fife 8, Meade 7, Hoffman 2, Braden 2, Butler 2, Hack 2, Water Valley - Lucy 16, Minton 8, Counts 6, Loving 6. JV scores: Water Valley 27, Garden City 26.

Stanton 60, Midland Christian 26  
Midland Christian 4 5 3 14 - 26  
Scores: Midland Christian - Koss 2, Youngs 2, Spradlin 11, Hamilton 8, Renfro 2, Moore 1.

NBA

Continued from page 8A  
Los Angeles Lakers 82; Dallas 112, Seattle 101 in overtime; Charlotte 115, Phoenix 100; Golden State 105, Miami 80; and Houston 133, Sacramento 93.  
Despite misfiring on 16 straight shots in the fourth quarter, New Jersey was still in the game when Kenny Anderson hit a 3-pointer with 32.1 seconds left to make it 96-94. Brian Shaw's 3-pointer and two free throws in the final 16 seconds iced the game for Orlando.  
The loss was the first in eight games at the Meadowlands Arena for the Nets, who shot 36 percent from the field for the game.  
Rockets 133, Kings 93

Spring coach Gary Tipton said. "We had a good first half. We controlled the boards and got the shots. The second half press just killed us."  
Ib Simpson led the Steers in scoring with 16 points. Chad Warren followed with 14 and Daniel Franks had 12.  
The Steers are now 4-9 and will face Friendship Friday at 7:30 in the Steer gym.  
The junior varsity Steers also lost, dropping a 62-40 decision.  
Jason Gonzales helped the Steers back into the game by scoring 13 points.  
Again it was a second half ballgame in Lamesa's favor.  
The JV Steers will take on Odessa High's sophomores Friday at 8 p.m. in the Steer gym.

11 while Light totaled nine.  
The Queens will travel to Borden County to take on the Lady Coyotes next Friday at 6:30 p.m.  
Score by Quarters:  
Foran 6 12 13 9 - 40  
Sterling City 7 11 15 11 - 44  
Sterling City - Baultista 2, 0-0, 6; Johnson 0, 6-4; 4; Rodriguez 0, 2-1; William 2, 0-0, 5; Hernandez 1, 0-0, 2; Paal 1, 0-0, 2; McDaniel 8, 0-0, 16; Washington 2, 5-2, 6; McCrea 1, 0-0, 2; Foran - Lentz 5, 3-1, 11; Marino 1, 0-0, 3; Hilger 2, 3-1, 7; Baker 4, 2-2, 12; Epley 3, 4-9, 10.  
Girls:  
Score by Quarters:  
Foran 8 6 10 8 - 42  
Sterling City 8 13 10 15 - 46  
Sterling City - Gaston 1, 0-0, 2; Bodine 6, 3-3, 15; Jameson 0, 3-2, 2; Smith 1, 0-0, 2; Pohl 2, 0-0, 4; McEntire 9, 0-0, 18; Rodriguez 1, 0-0, 3.  
Foran - Bedwell 1, 2-0, 2; Huges 3, 1-0, 6; Light 3, 2-2, 9; Evans 4, 0-0, 11; Johnson 5, 5-4, 14.

foul line.  
"It always comes down to one thing - free throws," Taylor said. "We didn't make ours, and they made theirs."  
Big Spring won the junior varsity contest 52-31. Krissi McWherter scored 18 points and Keesha Lott added 13 for the JV Lady Steers, who improved to 7-3 with the victory.  
Big Spring opens District 4-4A play Friday at Pecos.

Stanton - Chapa 2, Adams 6, Wycloff 8, Graves 9, Daleon 4, Adkins 2, Holland 7, Burns 8, Simer 2.  
Dawson 57, Grady 53  
Dawson 15 11 16 15 - 57  
Grady 15 10 18 12 - 53  
Leading scorers: Dawson - Cline 16, Brown 15, Bearden 13, Grady - Cooper 18, Madison 12. Record: Grady 4-7.

Borden County 36, Southland 25  
Southland City 2 9 9 5 - 25  
Borden County 12 7 15 2 - 36  
Leading scorers: Borden County - Hensley 10. Record: Borden County 9-3.

Sands 46, O'Donnell 44  
Sands 12 8 11 17 - 48  
O'Donnell 12 14 4 14 - 44  
Leading Scores: Sands - Nichols 21, Gillespie 10, O'Donnell - Morales 23, Farmer 15. JV scores: Sands 45, O'Donnell 25.

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DECEMBER 13 1995

# Regular refs return, but honeymoon is soon over

Before the game, NBA players and coaches greeted referees, returning after being locked out for almost 2 1/2 months, linked long-lost relatives.

Once the games began, though, it was back to business.

Just 15 seconds into the Lakers' game at Madison Square Garden Tuesday night, Los Angeles assistant Michael

Cooper let veteran ref Lee Jones have it.

"That's illegal (defense), Lee! C'mon!" he yelled.

"The honeymoon's over," Lakers coach Del Harris said seconds later, lamenting a no-call.

If the referees weren't getting any breaks, they weren't giving any, either.

Their first night back on the

job saw Miami coach Pat Riley ejected at Golden State and New Jersey Nets guard Chris Childs tossed.

"The regular refs are more dominating," Orlando star Anfernee Hardaway said. "They have a presence. They are not going to stand for any talking back."

Tuesday night, with 11 NBA games, marked the season's

first action for the regular refs, who were locked out for 5 weeks in a contract dispute with the league. During their absence, players and coaches complained loud and long about the replacements.

"You can tell the difference," Knicks guard Derek Harper said. "They control the game better and demand more respect."

The NBA discourages referees from commenting after games, and Tuesday night the league would not allow pool reporters to interview the officials.

However, veteran ref Jack Nies, who worked the New York Knicks-Lakers game, did allow this much on the reception by players, coaches and fans:

"They seemed happy to see

us," he said.

At Landover, Md., referee Hue Hollins gave a thumbs-up to the crowd.

In New York, the Madison Square Garden crowd whooped in delight for the refs. Before the game, Lakers forward Cedric Ceballos walked across the court and warmly greeted Nies.

The Associated Press

## 'Huskers, Florida may break scoreboard

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fiesta Bowl is a defensive coordinator's nightmare.

Top-ranked Nebraska must figure out a way to contain Florida's "Fun 'N Gun" passing show, while No. 2 Florida must try to slow down Nebraska's relentless ground attack.

Whichever defense does the better job could determine who wins the national championship.

Neither team has seen an offense like the one they'll see Jan. 2 in Tempe, Ariz., so Nebraska's Tom Osborne and Florida's Steve Spurrier will have to make some major adjustments.

"It's always difficult to prepare for a contrasting style of offense or defense because your scout team people aren't going to be very well equipped to do that," Osborne said Tuesday at a CBS forum with Spurrier and other bowl alliance coaches.

Both offenses were nearly unstoppable this season.

Nebraska led the nation in rushing (400 yards per game) and scoring (52-point average), while Florida was second in passing (361 yards per game) and third in scoring (44.5).

To prepare for Nebraska's option offense, Spurrier said he'll use a freshman defensive back, Dock Pollard, to imitate Huskers quarterback Tommie Frazier during practice. Pollard went to the same high school as Frazier in Bradenton, Fla.

"He can run around," Spurrier said.

Spurrier said he doesn't think either defense will be able to shut down the other team's offense.

"They're such a good offensive team, you got to believe they're going to score some points," he said. "If we're going to be successful, we got to score."

While their high-scoring offenses get most of the publicity, the Huskers (11-0) and Gators (12-0) also play good defense.

Nebraska allowed only 13.6 points per game, fourth-best in Division I-A. Florida's foes averaged 16.8 points, but only 10.2 in the Gators' last four games.

"They gave up a few yards, but you get close to the end zone and they don't let you in," Osborne said.

Spurrier is impressed with Nebraska's swarming defense.

"They got their own style and personality," he said. "It's a little different than most of the teams we play in the Southeast. It will be a challenge to see if we can match up and move the ball."

That hasn't been a problem for Florida this year. Led by quarterback Danny Wuerffel, who set an NCAA record for passing efficiency, the Gators scored more than 50 points four times and averaged 534 yards per game.

Some claimed Wuerffel was just a product of Spurrier's system, but the coach disagreed.

"We feel like we have a good system ... but Danny Wuerffel has run it better than any quarterback we've ever had," Spurrier said.

Spurrier said he expects his junior quarterback to return next season.

Despite Nebraska's success on the field, it's been a trying season for Osborne. He was criticized for allowing star tailback Lawrence Phillips to return to the team following a six-game suspension for assaulting his former girlfriend.

Local Deals in Big Spring

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**INSIDE**

- ◆ Braiding the ties that bind/2B
- ◆ Support groups/2B
- ◆ Charities become poorer/3B
- ◆ Dear Abby, Horoscope/3B

**Got an Item?**

Do you have a good story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 112.

Big Spring Herald

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

## ONE WORD AT A TIME

Wonder how those sermons come about? Local pastors explain

### Scripture, topic, prayer recipe for a good sermon

By MARY McATEER  
Staff Writer

Builders stack bricks. Ministers stack words. In the end, there's a church, and in the church, a pulpit, and - a sermon. Whatever denomination you belong to, whatever church you attend, chances are you'll listen to a sermon on Sunday. If you've ever wondered how it happened, this is the way it goes.

It starts with a topic. There are two general kinds of sermon topics - scriptural and topical.

With the first, the preacher chooses a passage from Scripture and begins to build a sermon around it. The second begins with a topic, usually something

going on in the world. The preacher then researches passages from Scripture that seem suitable.

The research, according to Father James Liggett of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Reverend Walter Lee of Coahoma First Presbyterian Church, and Reverend Wanda Hill of Birdwell/Coahoma First United Methodist Church, begins with the lectionary.

This book, common in some form to most Protestant denominations, arranges weekly topics for sermons in a three-year

cycle that covers the major themes of Scripture. Each week's selection includes a passage from the Old Testament, a passage from the Epistles, a passage from the Gospels, and a psalm. It also includes explanations of the texts, discussions of the theme, and references to other works. There are also cycles arranged, for example, to cover one book of the New Testament in depth over a period of six months or so.

Please see SERMON, page 2B



LIGGETT



HILL

### IN THE BAG

Press releases are pouring in regarding the excess fat and sodium in traditional "soul food" recipes.

There are many easy ways to lower the fat and salt in soul food without losing flavor; use hot sauce, lemon juice, spices, garlic and onion instead.

Prompting this outpouring of nutrition advice is the holiday called Kwanzaa, the 30-year-old African-American celebration of community, culture and family unity that begins Dec. 26.

The latest release is from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Instead of salt pork or ham hocks to season greens, black-eyed peas and other vegetables, it says, substitute lean ham or turkey thighs.

Food styles change as often as hemlines.

Here's a look back 30 years, at '60s party favorites, courtesy of the National Pork Producers Council. Note the '90s switch to lower-fat party foods:

Then: Potato chips and clam dip, a cheese ball, California onion dip, potato salad, coleslaw, beef bourguignon, cocktail franks in sauce, chicken-noodle casserole with potato-chip topping, creamy clam chowder, cereal-based party mix with butter and garlic, guacamole, brown-and-serve rolls, chocolate fondue with pound cake.

Now: Baked tortilla chips and salsa, nachos, tabbouleh, fajitas, quesadillas, tamale pie, white chili, honey-mustard-flavored pretzels, fat-free bean dip, salsa, spicy cornbread, frozen yogurt, sorbet.

Your holiday cherry cookbook toll-free hotline is 1-800-968-3380.

More than 10,000 people sent new flavor ideas to Dreyer's and Edy's ice cream makers and a taste-off has chosen six for further testing. If the research and development staff - and consumer testing panels - like a flavor, it may be added to the grocery shelves.

The six are Bodacious Black Bottom Cupcake by Bruce Wildenradt of Sacramento, Calif.; Ice Cream Pudding Pie by Norah Kates (age 10) of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Hurricane Crunch by Steven Banning of Carbondale, Ill.; Blackberry Country Cobbler by Denise Montgomery of Birmingham, Ala.; Chocolate Dipped Strawberry by Barbara Blackburn of Orlando, Fla., and Creme Brulee by Ben Wolock of Farmington, Mich.

### FROSTY THE HAYMAN



A "snowman" made of hay rests below Massanutten Peak at the Rion home on Va. 655 in Penn Laird, Va. The Rions used two round bales for the body and seven square bales for the hat. The family said it took several hours to complete the project, which also included spray-painting their creation's hat and face.

### New extension program targets farm, ranch women

Early in 1996, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service will begin offering the first sessions of the Women in Agriculture: Business Management Program.

This program is designed to help farm and ranch women develop their business management knowledge and abilities and is targeted at farm and ranch women working on or off the farm, as well as women who run their own farm or ranch business.



Dana Tarter  
Extension Agent

The subject matter will not focus on production topics. The Extension Service currently offers a number of excellent seminars and workshops addressing the production management aspects of specific crop and livestock enterprises.

The program is divided into three units, each involving two full days of instruction. The units are designed to be taken in successive years.

Following are topics to be covered in Unit 1 (first year sessions): Family Business, Management. Sessions offered in Unit 2 (second year): Strategic Planning, Goal Setting, Estate Planning, Commodity Marketing. Unit 3 (third year) sessions

offered: Agricultural Policy, Value Added Marketing, Agricultural Law, Developing a Management Information System.

Two sessions of Unit 1 will be offered in 1996. The first will be at the North Hilton in Austin on Jan. 31-Feb. 2 and the second will be offered at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in Lubbock on Feb. 21-23.

In addition to the formal sessions during the day, there will be optional participant roundtables/panels available each evening for those who wish to participate. These are intended to allow the participants to share experiences, insights and concerns in an informal discussion format.

The registration fee for each Unit is \$175 per person. It covers all seminar materials and breaks as well as lunches for the first and second day. Lodging is not included.

If you would like more information concerning this or any of the programs sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service please call the Howard County office at 264-2236 or stop by the office located in the County Courthouse on the first floor East.

Programs and educational activities sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are open to people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

### Singing a new, but slightly more sober fight song

My daughter is a freshman at the same high school I graduated from decades ago. This year the football team won the district championship.



Christina Ferchak  
Columnist

Usually my daughter and I don't discuss football, but in this case we were willing to make an exception. We really didn't discuss the sport as much as the trappings that go with it; half-time shows, bonfires and pep rallies.

I asked her if they still sang

the same words to the school fight song. She said she didn't know what I was talking about. "You know the one I mean," I said. "It's sung to the tune of the Notre Dame fight song."

She shook her head and shrugged, "Never heard of it." I couldn't leave well enough alone. Oh no, not me. For some inexplicable reason I just had to pursue this matter.

Standing in my kitchen with my daughter as the only audience I burst into an a cappella rendition of the Central Cambria Red Devils' fight song. "Cheer, cheer for old Central High. You bring the whiskey, I'll bring the rye. Send those freshmen out for beer and don't let a sober sophomore near. Juniors never stagger. Seniors never fall. They sober up on grain alcohol. Send that drunk-

en faculty out on the battlefield!"

The conclusion of my song was followed by a very extensive silence. My daughters eyes were huge, her jaw unhinged. Suffice to say, the kid was aghast.

"Mom, they actually let you sing a song like that ... in school?"

I told her we usually just sang it at the games or on the bus, and although it was never officially sanctioned by school authorities it was a tradition of long standing. I was told that in the 1930s they sent those freshmen out for gin and didn't let a sober sophomore in. It was sometime during the '50s that gin was updated to beer. This song had been around for generations.

My daughter was incredulous.

"Well nobody sings it anymore," she said. "If they tried they'd get detention for a month. We'd never get away with singing a school song about substance abuse."

Now it was my turn to be aghast. Whoa! Hold the phone! Get back, Loretta.

Where did this substance abuse stuff come from? The song wasn't about a substance, it was about hooch. Of course, I didn't say this out loud. I kept my thoughts to myself.

Mommy may be dumb but she's not completely stupid. I mumbled something about society being more enlightened today and tap danced my way out of the kitchen.

Times change and I don't always keep up. Teen-age drinking was illegal when I was a kid

but it wasn't spotlighted the way it is today. As long as you didn't get caught you didn't have a problem. Drinking was a big joke. Alcohol abuse was something that occurred when someone accidentally kicked over your beer. People bragged about their capacity to consume massive quantities.

I grew up with half a dozen people whose only claim to fame was that they could tap a keg with their teeth.

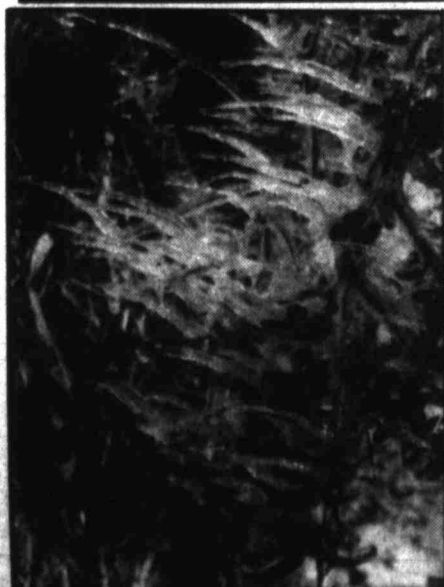
That sort of thing just doesn't fly anymore, and now the old school fight song has gone the way of cuffed blue jeans and saddle shoes.

If ever I sing that little ditty again I will be alone, maybe in the shower ... I certainly won't be singing it in front of my kids again any time soon!

Distributed by Thomson News Service

SLICE of life!

### PICTURE THIS



**Brrrrrrr**  
Icicles, formed by the spray from an automatic sprinkler system and a freezing wind, coat the branches of a bush in front of the Bluebonnet Savings building along Gregg St. Saturday afternoon. (Herald photo by Tim Appel)

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Time to enter academic competition

Entries are being readied for the annual Small Schools Academic Competition. The competition was established in 1989 to provide students from smaller schools the opportunity to win scholarship money to further their education. Competition has been statewide in Texas for three years. Students from class A, AA, and AAA schools in grades 10, 11 and 12 are eligible to compete. In the local area, this includes students from Garden City, Forsan, Greenwood, Stanton, Sands, Klondike, Grady, Borden County, and Coahoma.

Students compete in teams of three, one member from each level. Levels are based on averages in English, math, science, and social studies from grade nine through the last full school year before the contest. Level I is a 93 - 100 average, Level II an 83 - 92 average, and Level III a 73 - 82 average.

Questions on the test will be multiple choice, derived from the essential elements of high school courses in science, math, English and social studies. Each school will be responsible for developing questions addressing these core questions.

Each district may enter up to three teams. The entry fee is \$500 per team. All entry fee money, minus the actual cost of the contest, will be awarded in cash scholarships to winning students.

The scholarship money will be sent to the superintendent who represents the winners, and held in escrow by the school district until those students enroll in an accredited college, university, or trade school. The entry deadline is February 15, 1996.

### THE LAST WORD

We don't need to amend the Constitution in order to punish those who burn our flag...Don't be afraid of freedom.  
—Ivan Warner

The best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market.  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes

You have not converted a man because you have silenced him.  
—John Morley

A free press is one of the enduring strengths of America.  
—Tom Brokaw

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**MONDAY**

•Al-A-Teen, 7:30 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Turning Point A.A., 8-9 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

•TOPS weight support group, 6 p.m., College Heights Christian Church, 21st and Goliad. Weigh-in, 5:30 p.m. Call 263-1340 or 263-8633.

•Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.

**TUESDAY**

•Encouragers Support Group, first and third Tuesdays each month, 5:30 p.m. First Tuesday meetings are at a local restaurant. Third Tuesday meetings are at First Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Runnels (enter through patio), followed by dinner at a local restaurant. For more information call 398-5522 or 399-4369.

•Support for MS and Related Diseases, 6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Canterbury South. Public invited. Call Leslie, 267-1069.

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

•Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday of each even-numbered month, room 113 of the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 W. Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.

•VOICES support group for adolescent victims of sexual abuse, incest, rape, date rape, any other crime of indecency. 3:45 p.m. Call Rape Crisis/Victim Services, 263-3312.

•Diabetes support group, second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom.

•Cancer support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7-8 p.m., VA Medical Center room 213. Call Beverly Rice, 263-7361 ext. 7077.

•"The Most Excellent Way" drug and alcohol support group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Cornerstone Bookstore, 1909 Gregg. Call 263-3168 or 267-7047 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., after 5 p.m., call 267-1424.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.

•The monthly Family Education & Support meeting sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center is the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at The Corral at 3rd & Benton at 6 p.m. Contact Shannon Nabors at 267-0027.

•The Encouragers Support Group will be having a covered dish dinner, Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Please bring a salad or vegetable dish and a wrapped gift for gift exchange.

**WEDNESDAY**

•Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

•Survivors sexual abuse support group, 10:11:30 a.m. Call Rape Crisis/Victim Services, 263-3312.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. 12 and 12 study.

•Adult Children of Alcoholics, 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church library. Call 264-0500.

**THURSDAY**

•Salvation Army drug education program, sponsored by Permian Basin Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 7 p.m., Salvation Army building, 308 Aylford.

•Battered women support group, 2:30 p.m. Call 263-3312 or 267-3626.

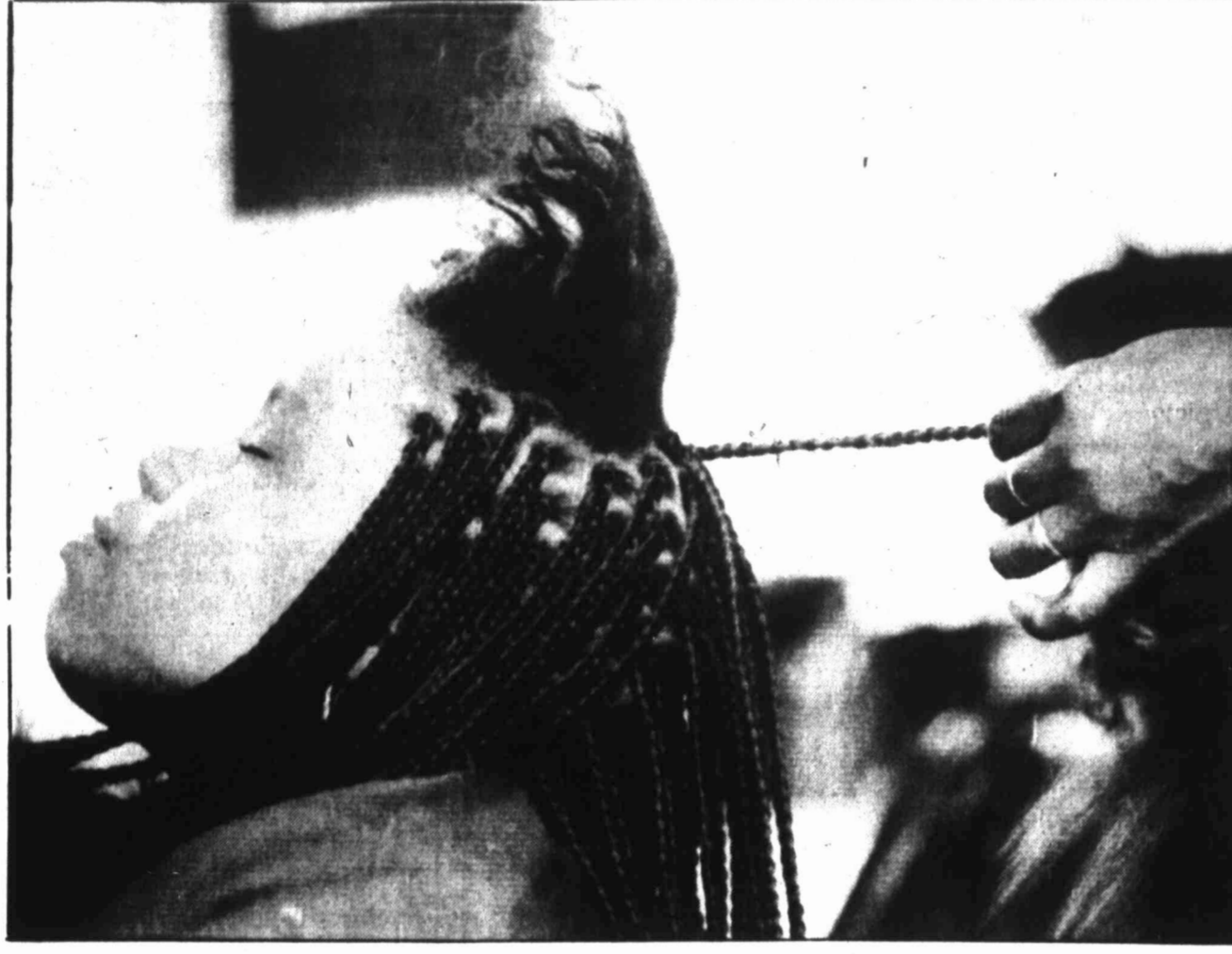
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.

•A.D.D.A.P.T. non-profit support and learning organization about attention deficit disorder, learning disorders and dyslexia. Meets second Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May, Cerebral Palsy building, 802 Ventura, Midland.

•Grief Support related to the death of a loved one. Call Nurses Unlimited, Inc., at 264-6523.

•West Texans Living with Chronic Fatigue & Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Fibromyalgia, noon and 6:30 p.m., third Thursday each month, HealthSouth facility at Hwy. 191 and Loop 250, Midland. Call Sarah Neisig, (915) 683-9114, or Marsha Brunet, (915) 337-4820.

**REVOLUTIONARY CORNROWS**



Rita Wilmore has her hair braided in the Casamas braid style at the Baka Beautiful Braiding Salon and Boutique in Philadelphia. Black women are finding braiding both an expression of individuality and a tie that binds them to their African ancestry.

*Newly accepted braids create a tie that binds*

By CHRISTOPHER McDUGALL  
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Remember when a Nigerian Princess could get you canned? Pamela Ferrell does, because she was. As a moonlighting college student in 1980, Ferrell was told by her boss at a fabric store that either her style of braids went, or she did.

Many other black women were in the same bind. Tinkering with a style which meant farm-fresh, Cindy Brady cuteness for white women meant trouble for blacks. Corporations barred the braids, and high schoolers were sent home to unplug.

"My hair was absolutely beautiful, tight shoulder-length braids with turquoise and silver beads," said Ferrell. "Plaits are a neat, attractive style. It didn't make sense."

Ferrell — who was fired — can now look back with a survivor's smile. Black women now embrace braids as a means to both ethnic unity and personal expression, and long-time

plaiters say the golden age of high hair art is upon us.

Proof? It's all around you, swinging and swishing down the street and popping off heads like exclamation points.

"For styles, intricacy and — most of all — acceptance, there's no comparison between then and now," said Ferrell, now owner of America's first and best-known braiding salon, Washington D.C.'s Cornrows & Co.

Women in the spotlight like Janet Jackson, rap singer Queen Latifa and Hillary Rodham Clinton's chief of staff Margaret Williams have adopted braids. Sen. Carol Moseley-Brown, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate, sports cornrows.

More than just for convenience or fashion, many women said the six to 10 hours they spend in a chair every three months having their hair crafted into an African-inspired design helps forge a sense of identity with other black people. Please see BRAIDS, page 3B

**Sermon**

Continued from page 1B

Passage chosen and research begun, the next step is two-fold — think and pray. That's the most important part — "I just pray, pray, pray," said Hill. "I look at the world through the filter of that text for a week," Lee said. Liggett lets it "stew" a few days while he reads secondary sources and combines his ideas with what's been happening during the week.

Hill prepares a complete manuscript, but doesn't read it. Liggett preaches from an outline and notes. Both try to have at least the rough draft finished by no later than Friday, leaving time free Saturday to polish.

Between the demands of family and congregation, Hill admits some sermons are "Saturday night specials," written in a hurry after a week of thought and hasty notes scribbled between other duties. Lee begins by preparing a lesson on the topic for Sunday school the preceding Sunday.

He uses the feedback from the Sunday school class to help develop the sermon through the week, and really misses it if the class doesn't meet.

Like the others, he studies the text and thinks and prays about it during the week, jotting down notes whenever he gets a chance. By Saturday, he usually has a good idea, sometimes even a rough draft. He gets up at 5 a.m. Sunday to watch the news on CNN and check his morning paper to see what's happened overnight. By 6 a.m. he's working at his word processor, and usually has a draft for a 20-minute sermon by 7 a.m. In a good week.

"I sometimes equate the ministry to being a ball in a pinball machine," he said. "There are flippers that come out and bounce you in a completely unexpected direction."

All three enjoy the study and preparation that goes into a sermon, and sharing it with the congregation. The congregation is a part of every sermon he

gives, Liggett said, and the more interested they are, the better the preaching. He likes knowing he has something to share and sharing it.

The hardest? For Hill and Liggett, the hardest sermon was the first, given in a seminary class. Fellow seminarians are the hardest, most critical audience of all, they say.

For Lee, the hardest sermon he ever had to give was when a neighbor, not a member of the congregation but a good friend and a well-respected member of the community, committed suicide.

The rewards are well worth the effort for all three. It's a chance to share the message of the Gospels — the "good news" — to keep studying, to show what can come from being a Christian.

"Everyone is a minister," Hill said, "if it wasn't for the laity, the pastors wouldn't have a job." And if it wasn't for the congregation, there wouldn't be a need for a sermon.

**BUILDING A BETTER PLAYGROUND**



Members of the Howard College Diplomats were at the Big Spring Mall Saturday taking orders for pieces of the new Kids' Zone creative playground. The students are the official ambassadors of the college who help out during college and community events. The "Buy-A-Board" fund-raiser, with more T-shirts for sale, will happen again Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wal-Mart.

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# Panel recommends ultrasound use in detecting breast cancer

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (AP) — Women may soon be offered a powerful ultrasound exam to try to tell without surgery if lumps in their breasts are cancerous or just benign growths.

Advanced Technology Laboratories contends its High-Definition Imaging, or HDI, ultrasound will cut by 40 percent the 700,000 breast biopsies performed every year.

Scientific advisers to the Food and Drug Administration weren't sure the number would be that high. But they unanimously agreed Monday that HDI was 99 percent accurate in helping doctors diagnose benign lumps so that women could safely skip a biopsy. The panel urged the FDA to approve HDI ultrasound.

"This will help women ... who have suspicious lesions," said panelist Dr. David Hackney, a radiologist at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

Added Dr. Brian Garra of Georgetown University: "It went against the grain of prevailing medical opinion," but clearly worked.

The FDA is not bound by advisory panel decisions but usually follows them.

Some 182,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed every year after a biopsy, while hundreds of thousands of other biopsies discover benign

growths. Doctors want to cut the number of unnecessary biopsies, to save women anxiety, pain and money. A biopsy, an outpatient surgical procedure, costs \$2,500, while ultrasound costs \$75 to \$300, Seattle-based ATL said.

Mammograms, a special type of X-ray, are good at spotting lumps in most breasts, displaying them as blurry white spots against normal tissue. Sometimes a mammogram is clear enough that doctors recommend just watching a lump for cancerous changes, but usually doctors order a biopsy to be sure.

Ultrasound sends high-frequency sound waves into the body. They reflect back to create images. A weaker ultrasound now is used to tell the difference between a solid breast tumor, which sometimes is cancerous, and a fluid-filled cyst, which is not dangerous.

ATL's stronger ultrasound would be the first to tell which solid tumors are cancerous or benign. It shows a clearer picture of lumps, so doctors can look for the irregular edges, splotchy color and dark shadows that indicate cancer, explained Dr. Christopher Merritt of Tulane University, who tested the ultrasound.

When tested on 1,021 breast lumps, the ultrasound was 99 percent accurate in diagnosing lumps as benign, ATL said. It

missed one cancer that was hidden in the shadow of a large cyst.

However, the ultrasound did not get rid of all unnecessary biopsies. It was 59 percent accurate in diagnosing a lump as cancer — the rest of the lumps that it deemed suspicious turned out to be benign.

The ultrasound cannot be used on every woman with a suspicious mammogram, Merritt said. Mammograms can detect the very earliest breast cancer — before it breaks out of the milk ducts and turns into a solid tumor — but ultrasound cannot picture cancer at that stage.

Therefore, the FDA panel said the ultrasound should be used only on lumps that are at least one centimeter in diameter. And it emphasized that ATL must train doctors to properly use the ultrasound so they don't misdiagnose women.

Doctors must continue to watch even the women that HDI clears, checking their lumps every six months to ensure they don't develop signs of cancer, Merritt emphasized.

He acknowledged that some women will prefer the certainty of a biopsy. But "most women will agree ... that if we are confident they don't need a biopsy, it would be nice to avoid it," he concluded.

to keep their heads above water.

The survey showed that emergency services for food, temporary shelter and clothing increased 6 percent in one year to 7.2 million people; one in four who came for emergency help were children; half the people who were helped received welfare and half did not; and the number of families at risk of becoming homeless or placing a child in foster care almost doubled in 1994, Kammer said.

## Economic recovery isn't trickling down to poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The outlook for the poor is bleak and getting worse, despite two years of economic recovery and reduced unemployment that have brightened the economic situation of some Americans. Catholic Charities USA said today.

The agencies of Catholic Charities, the nation's largest private human service network, served more than 11.1 million people in 1994, according to the

Rev. Fred Kammer, president of the network.

"In a year of economic recovery, we expected a decrease in the total number of people needing emergency and social services," Kammer said. Instead, the number increased by 5 percent over 1993.

Kammer said Catholic Charities' 1994 survey of its agencies "tells us that not only poor people, but millions of parents who work hard every day are unable

to keep their heads above water."

The survey showed that emergency services for food, temporary shelter and clothing increased 6 percent in one year to 7.2 million people; one in four who came for emergency help were children; half the people who were helped received welfare and half did not; and the number of families at risk of becoming homeless or placing a child in foster care almost doubled in 1994, Kammer said.

## Braids

Continued from page 2B

women. That's because a good plaiter must have patience and respect for tradition, explained Brenda DeRosa-Howes, owner of

Philadelphia's Baka Beautiful Salon. The close contact for long, uncomfortable hours is a chance to air problems and ideas.

The salon sessions also create an atmosphere of communal ritual, since many of the styles are developed from age-old techniques imported from Africa, said DeRosa-Howes.

She believes plaits compliment black women because of the style's origins in West Africa, where many black Americans trace their ancestry. Baka has braiders from Senegal, Ivory Coast and Liberia, as well as the naturally gifted of Philadelphia's kitchen-stool ranks.

Demand for corkscrews, the intricate Senegalese twist, needlepoint-fine weaves and Baka's signature thick-plaited Casamas bob is running almost too high for her nimble-fingered plaiters to keep up, said DeRosa-Howes, who sometimes keeps midnight hours to finish a day's braiding.

"Braids change a black woman's whole aura, since frankly, it is a style which highlights

her unique facial structure," she said. "We have more of an Asian look, with almond eyes and fuller lips, which braids accentuate."

There is a flip side to this ethnic pride. Some black women are annoyed when non-blacks experiment with a Senegalese twist of their own.

Luisa Shafia, 26, got Bo Derek-like plaits three years ago as a college student and enjoyed feeling "racially neutral," with her Middle-Eastern eyes, olive skin and newly braided locks.

"Most people couldn't tell if I was white, black, whatever," said Shafia, whose father is Iranian and mother is Jewish.

But black women could tell she wasn't black, and several surprised her by stopping her in the street to tell her she looked awful.

"That reaction is sad, because many people look wonderful in plaits, especially Asians," said

DeRosa-Howes, showing a photo from one of her many catalogues of a Japanese musician she sent back to Tokyo with a head of long, silky dreadlocks.

"Maybe it's because of what blacks went through to earn this acceptance," she said. "Things only began to change in the mid-'80s."

It was then that Cornrows & Co. began fighting on the fashion front by sponsoring class-action suits against American Airlines, Marriott and Hyatt Regency hotels and the District of Columbia Police Department for discrimination against braided employees.

Stephanie Lyde, 25, once sent home from high school for her braids, is wearing them again, as are doctors, lawyers and business executives.

"Given the choice, it's a flattering style," Lyde said. "And that's what it's all about — choice."

WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOU

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moderated by  
**KBST RADIO'S JOHN WEEKS**

**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

DECEMBER 7, 1995 Leslie Williams, R.N., Customer Service  
DECEMBER 14, 1995 Dr. Carlos Garza, General Surgery  
DECEMBER 21, 1995 Dr. Rudy Haddad, Urology  
DECEMBER 28, 1995 Dr. Clark McDaniel, Family Practice

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

In conjunction with this call-in (267-6391) radio program, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and KBST will give away a coffee mug to anyone who calls in with a question during this every Thursday afternoon show at 4:05 P.M. Please call with your medical-related questions.

**SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER**  
263-1211

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR DEC. 14

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Slow down. It is important to recognize fatigue or boredom and pull back. Stay upbeat by taking good care of yourself. Concentrate on one item at a time, clear your desk and focus on your job. An easy approach works with others. Tonight: Get plenty of rest.\*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Relax about a long-term objective, and enjoy the moment. Evaluate priorities and what is going on with a significant other. Let your creative juices flow. You radiate confidence and success. Go for what you want. Tonight: Have fun.\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You might be pressured to perform. Be willing to call a spade a spade. Eliminate rather than complicate. Prioritize and overcome a limitation. Give family and domestic matters take a higher priority. Do a better job of listening. Tonight: Be a couch potato.\*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You feel very pressured to overcome a limitation. You see life with renewed vitality and interest. Consider what you want others to hear from you. Clarity and your sense of direction merge and draw others to you. Don't limit yourself unnecessarily. Tonight: Yak it up.\*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You might feel restricted by a money matter. Review a situation with greater clarity and direction. Examine what you want and what your long-term goals are. You and a partner may not visualize your financial needs the same way. It is time to talk. Tonight: Go over your gift list.\*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Despite a hassle with a partner or associate, you can make your point. Do not give in to grudges or demands. Not everything has to be your way; you'll get much further with honey than vinegar. Trust your desirability and logic. Tonight: As you like it.\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Much is going on behind the scenes. Stay clear and direct as you deal with loved ones. Take a break from the intense work and activity you have been participating in. Take some quiet time just for yourself. You might need a personal day. Tonight: Vanish.\*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Focus on friendship and your long-term goals. You might feel that you have a decision to make. Let your creative energy surge. Follow through on long-term goals. A loved one plays a

big role in your dealings. Be playful and light with a dear friend. Tonight: Be friendly.\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take the lead, and be responsible. Family matters dominate. Think through how much you can do. Accomplishment marks your day, if you use a gentle approach. A special person shows his love in a sweet manner. Be open to receiving. Tonight: Be out and about.\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A misunderstanding will force a change in perspective. You need to adjust quickly. A soft approach brings others to you. Be in touch with your feelings about a friend who is at a distance. Return calls, and spread cheer. Tonight: Work on Christmas cards.\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) One-to-one relating is necessary to deal with a money crunch. A partner helps you adapt to a change. Listen to other points of view, and you'll breeze past problems. Depend on a partner. Tonight: Say thank you with style!\*\*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You might be out of sorts. Remain optimistic about what you are doing. Listen carefully to partners and friends. There is a loving message in what they are saying. Bathe in the warmth around you. Touch base with your feelings. Tonight: It could be a whopper of a time.\*\*\*\*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1995:** Career and commitments to the public are a major focus of the year. You will profit financially and emotionally from your strong drive and willingness to work hard. Your talents add to your financial well-being. In your personal life, plan to let those close to you participate in your public life. If you are single, you might prefer being away from home. If attached, you might want to create changes at home. A new home is a distinct possibility. VIRGO challenges you.

**THE STARS SHOW THE KIND OF DAY YOU'LL HAVE:** 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

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## Soft-touch parents should get tough on kids' debts

**DEAR ABBY:** Please give me your opinion of adult children who borrow money from their parents but don't pay it back. The money was loaned to them with the understanding that it was to be repaid.

These are adult "kids" with steady jobs, but they have made no effort to repay us.

I have dropped many hints, but it has done no good whatsoever. Do these kids think that because they borrow money from their parents, they don't have to repay it? — M O M AND POP

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a band leader who frequently gets requests to play a song in honor of a wedding anniversary. I always get a laugh when on the occasion of the first anniversary, I play "Night and Day."

For the fifth anniversary, I play "Saturday Night." For the 10th anniversary, I play "Once in a While." For the 25th anniversary, I play "Now and Then." For the 50th anniversary, I play "Thanks for the Memories."

Have you any suggestions for anniversaries over 50? — OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS

**DEAR ABBY:** How about, "We Did It Before and We Can Do It Again"? Or, "Never in a Million Years"?

accept no responsibility for the baby.

Betsy's mother is having a baby shower to which many of Betsy's high school friends are invited — myself included, for an unwed mother. My family disagrees.

What do you think? If you print this, sign me ... **QUESTIONING**

**DEAR QUESTIONING:** I wholeheartedly disagree with your grandmother. A baby conceived out of wedlock has no less need for clothing, blankets, diapers, bottles, etc., so why deprive the infant because the mother is not married?

**DEAR ABBY:** Many years ago you printed a letter in your column that gave the names of songs that could be played at anniversaries.

It also contained the number of years married with a different song for each anniversary.

Will you please run it again? I want to use it to toast a couple who are celebrating their 50th. — B. J. IN DENVER

**DEAR B.J.:** Here it is: **DEAR ABBY:** I am a band leader who frequently gets requests to play a song in honor of a wedding anniversary. I always get a laugh when on the occasion of the first anniversary, I play "Night and Day."

For the fifth anniversary, I play "Saturday Night." For the 10th anniversary, I play "Once in a While." For the 25th anniversary, I play "Now and Then." For the 50th anniversary, I play "Thanks for the Memories."

Have you any suggestions for anniversaries over 50? — OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS

**DEAR ABBY:** How about, "We Did It Before and We Can Do It Again"? Or, "Never in a Million Years"?

## TOO LATES

Too Late To Classify 001

1985 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN. Red & Silver with maroon interior. 457-2358.

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MOVING SALE: 2606 Carol. 8:00am-5:00pm. Thursday-Friday. Waterbed, computer desk, lots of miscellaneous.

QUAIL HUNTER? Looking for good home for a 5 year old pointer. Call (daytime) 263-1307 or (nights) 267-1018.

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER, 153 bed hospital has immediate opening for two Respiratory Care Practitioners, prefer CRRT. Contact T. VonHassell at (915) 263-1211 or fax resume to: Dept of Human Resources (915) 263-4454 or apply in person at 1601 W. 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720. EOE, NO RECRUITERS, PLEASE.

THERMO-LIFT: All natural herbal energizer and super fat burner with patented Chromium Picolinate! Reduce sugar cravings. Accelerated fat loss. One month supply \$25. 267-7614.

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## Autos for Sale 016

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Tulsa, OK. We offer late model equipment,  
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Truck Lines, Inc. 1-800-635-8669. M/F/BOE.

NEW IMPROVED PAY package offered by  
Beech Trucking for regional drivers. Home  
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bonuses & benefits. Call 1-800-521-0649.  
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EXPERIENCED WEB PRESS operator. NE  
Texas area. Modern air-conditioned shop, day  
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FREE DEBT CONSOLIDATION. Imme-  
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Reduce monthly payments 30%-50%. Eliminate  
interest. Stop collection callers. Restore  
credit. NCCS, nonprofit. 1-800-955-0412.

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Financial, the nationwide leader since 1984. 1-  
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We pay cash for real estate notes, deeds  
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K.Renta in San Antonio. 210-651-9470 or 1-  
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STEEL BUILDINGS: WINTER sale.  
Painted walls, 5,000+ sizes, 30x40x10, \$4,761;  
40x60x14, \$8,524; 50x60x14, \$10,058;  
50x75x14, \$11,384; 60x80x14, \$13,581;  
60x100x16, \$17,028. Free brochures. Sentinel  
Buildings, 1-800-327-0790.

SUNQUEST WOLF TANNING beds.  
Commercial-home units from \$199. Buy fac-  
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838-9121. Carl Waldman, Board Certified  
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mont. May associate other attorneys.

**REAL ESTATE**  
EXECUTIVE STYLE HOME situated on  
nine water-front acres, 2902 sq. ft. 2 years  
new, will sell all or partial. East Texas area -  
Lake Murvaul. 903-685-2383.

KERRVILLE, NESTLED in the heart of  
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overlooks. This 182 acre hideaway has live  
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TEXAS VETERANS: 37-100 acres. Beauti-  
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Water and electricity, \$1,000-\$2,200 down,  
\$140-\$324/month (30 years-7.64% to 9.8%).  
1-800-876-9720.

PART-TIME Leasing agent. Must work Satur-  
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tlover Road.

THE CITY of Big Spring is accepting applica-  
tions for the position of Utility Maintenance  
Repairman. Qualified applicants must have a  
high school diploma or GED Certificate. The  
Utility Repairman is responsible for assisting  
in the construction maintenance and repair of  
water distribution systems, collection sys-  
tems, meters and valves. Must have a valid  
State of Texas Class "C" Driver's License and  
must obtain a Class "A" CDL License within 6  
months of employment. Applications will be  
accepted until Wednesday, December 13,  
1995 11:50 p.m. For further information and  
to apply please contact City Hall Personnel  
located at 310 Nolan or call 264-2346. THE  
CITY OF BIG SPRING IS AN EQUAL OP-  
PORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

**Jobs Wanted 090**

Bill's small engine repair. Can work on about  
anything. For service and for dependable ser-  
vice on small engine. Call 267-4977.

MOW YARDS and alleys, haul trash, trim  
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Call VISION MAKERS, 264-7233.

PROFESSIONAL Secretarial and bookkeep-  
ing services at affordable rates in my home.  
All work to be done on computer with most re-  
cent programs. Please call Christy at  
267-2601.

**Livestock For Sale 270**

FOR SALE: 4 Roosters and 3 Hens. \$2 each.  
Call 394-4325.

MISCELLANEOUS

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING  
MADE EASY!**  
Woodcrafts, Bird  
Houses,  
Bird Feeders  
And Lots More!

2 miles South of Walmart  
on South 87 next to the  
Miniature Golf Course  
Thursday, Fri. & Sat.  
9 am-4 pm

**Antiques 290**

ANTIQUES & FINE FURNITURE, over 450  
clocks, lamps, old phonograph players, and  
telephones. We also repair & refinish all of  
the above. Call or bring to House of Antiques,  
4008 College, Snyder, Texas. 915-573-4422.  
9am-8:30pm.

**Appliances 299**

RENT-TO-OWN  
REBUILD APPLIANCES  
Easy terms, guaranteed, delivery and  
connect. 264-0510 and/or 1811 Scurry.

**Auctions 325**

SPRING CITY AUCTION-Robert Pruitt  
Auctioneer, TXS-079-007759. Call  
263-1831/263-0914. We do all types of  
auction!

**SPRING CITY  
AUCTION**  
2000 W. 4th  
7:00pm  
Thursday, December 14th,  
7:00pm

CHRISTMAS AUCTION

Two 32" round front Oak curio cabinets,  
one Oak corner curio cabinet, one 32"  
white Pine round front curio cabinet,  
one white Pine corner curio, one Oak  
lawyers bookcase with leaded panels,  
one Walnut drop front secretary, one  
Oak pie safe with punched tin panels,  
Oak coke box, Country pine entertain-  
ment center, Duncan Phyle table with  
four chairs, colored glass by Smith Im-  
perial & Westmorland, 18" coke button,  
cast iron figurines, Die cast collectors  
cars, airplanes and tractors, Cookie  
jars, Depression glass, Antique doll  
buggies, comic books, China sets,  
knives, golf clubs, fruit jars, light kits,  
door locks, waterhoses, lamps, tea sets.

Sofa, roll-a-way bed, sofa sleeper, com-  
plete king waterbed, chairs, glass dining  
set with four chairs, wood rockers, small  
picnic table with benches, kids wooden  
furniture, two drawer wood file cabinet,  
TV's, stereos, wood burning heater, gas  
heater, electric heater, chest freezer, re-  
frigerator, upright freezer, porch swings,  
hand tools, tackle boxes, rod & reel,  
cassette tapes, blankets, tricycle, bicycle,  
scoter.

LOTS AND LOTS OF OTHER ITEMS  
NO MINIMUM-NO RESERVE

Robert Pruitt, Auctioneer  
TXS-7759 263-1831

**Dogs, Pets, Etc 375**

AKC FEMALE Dalmatian, 8 weeks old, first  
shots, \$175. Call 264-1824.

FREE KENNEL CLUB BREEDER REFER-  
RAL SERVICE: Helps you find reputable  
breeders/quality puppies. Puredred rescue in-  
formation. 263-3404 daytime.

**Garage Sale 380**

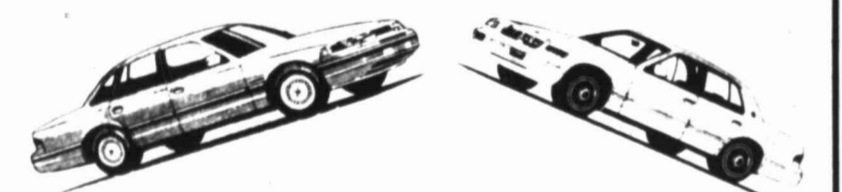
GARAGE SALE: Saturday, 12/16,  
7:00-3:00. 2609 Rebecca, 267-4652. Rainbow  
vacuum cleaner, TV, VCR, furniture, bench  
weight machine, linens, clothing.

GARAGE SALE: 209 N.W. 2nd, 8:30-3:00,  
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday. Tires,  
queen size bed, vacuum cleaner, many  
miscellaneous.

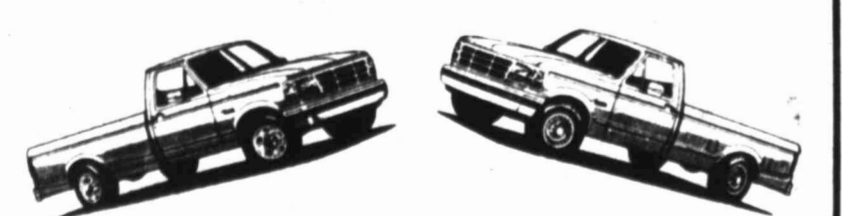
SALE! 2210 MAIN. Refrigerator, heaters,  
furniture, mattresses, Country crafts, house-  
wares. Friday-Saturday.

Super Christmas Yard Sale:  
1500 Stadium Wednesday-Thursday, T-Shirts,  
jewelry, toys, painted paints, miscellaneous.

'95 FINAL CLOSEOUT  
SALE



- 6 X Crown Victorias & Grand Marquis
- 2 X Thunderbirds
- 2 Mustangs
- 1 Contour
- 1 Ranger Super Cab
- 2 Windstars
- 4 X F150 Regular Cab & Super Cabs
- 2 X F250 Regular Cabs & All 95's Going At Used Car Prices And Carry Full New Car Warranty



1996 Ranger 2.3 EFI Manual



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WEDNESDAY

DEC. 13

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their start times.

HI AND LOIS



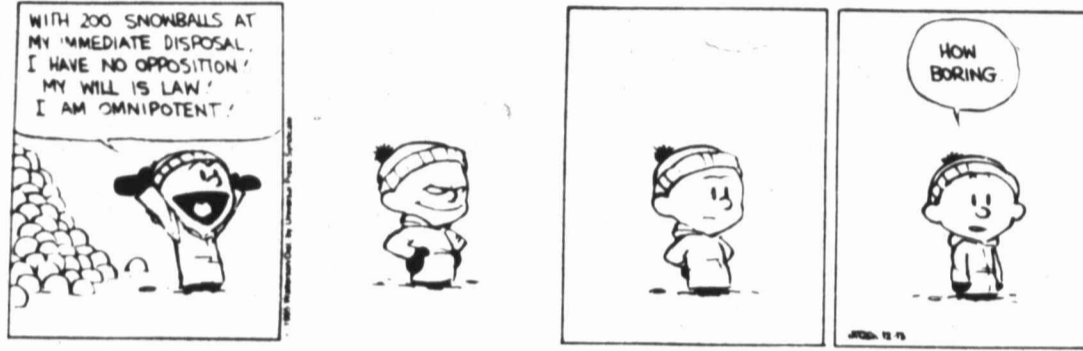
SNUFFY SMITH



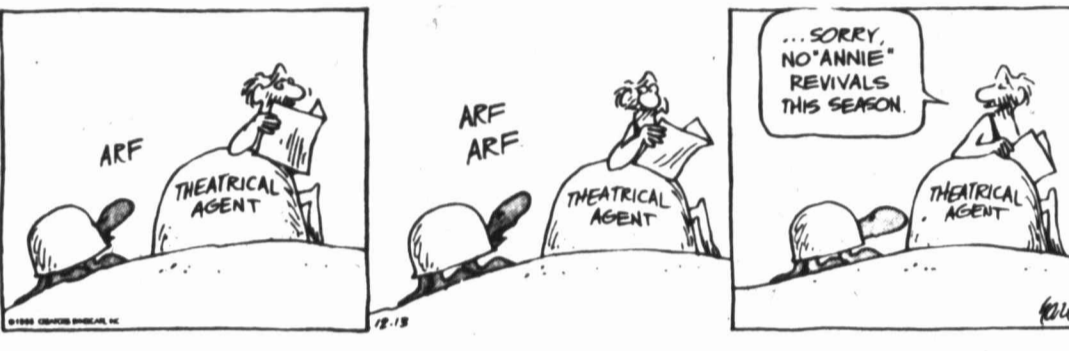
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 1995. There are 18 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 13, 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser Nashville, the flagship of an invasion fleet headed for Mindoro Island in the Philippines, was badly damaged in a Japanese "kamikaze" suicide attack which claimed 138 lives.

CALVIN AND HOBBS



B.C.



BETLE BAILY



GEECH



CRYPTOQUIP

12-13 CRYPTOQUIP
K Z A B H X Z Q U R V B H I
X Z J N T G V U X E U R V E U C N T Q
N H I G T V T C N N B T
A Z Y J N H J A G U K
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARREARS: WOULD THAT BE WHAT WE SINCERE DEBT-COLLECTORS SCRUB BEHIND?

PEANUTS



WIZARD OF ID



Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals G
CRYPTOQUIP BOOK 21 Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to CryptoClassics Book 2, PO Box 6411, Riverton NJ 08077.

HAGAR



WIZARD OF ID



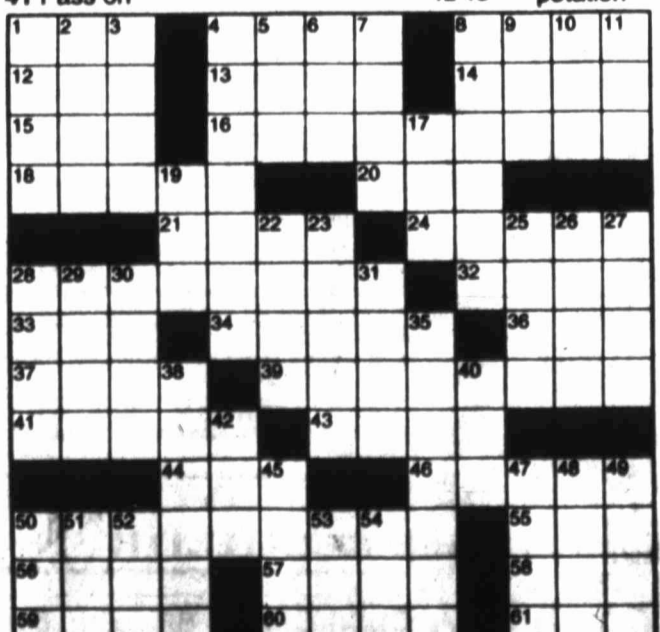
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Filch
4 Feathery accessories
8 Animal House group
12 Copy
13 One of the Greats
14 Stromboli spillover
15 Vegas intro
16 Speedy warship
18 It'll stop falling hair
20 Witnessed
21 Leonine comment
24 The Time Machine author
28 Pole-propelled boats
32 Source
33 I, to Caesar
34 Estate house
36 Eventual aves
37 Bellicose deity
39 Square-sailed vessel
41 Pass on
43 - sapiens
44 Swindled
46 Put into effect
50 Twin-hulled sailing vessel
55 Chit notation
56 Finished
57 Perfumed powder
58 Arles appellation
59 The world according to Arp
60 Writer James
61 Alias abbr. DOWN
1 A little
10 "Hail"
11 Pitch
17 Unrefined
19 California tort
22 Cry of woe
23 Dressing choice
25 Exemplar of craziness
26 Lyncis's subject
27 Luminary
28 Paraphernalia
29 Kiddie-lit villain
30 Christmas refrain
31 NYC section
35 Cartland's genre
38 Sand
39 every-where you look
40 "Alley"
41 Thanksgiving veggie
42 Information
47 - colada
48 Gander
49 Arizona city
50 Seafood selection
51 Ms. Gardner
52 Bill's co-adventurer
53 Scott Joplin's style
54 Pub potation

GASOLINE ALLEY



WIZARD OF ID



DENNIS THE MENACE



BLONDIE



CINEMARK THEATRES MOVIES 4 BIG SPRING 263-2479
\*TOY STORY (G) 5:00-7:00
\*ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS (PG-13) 4:05-7:20
\*MONEY TRAIN (R) 4:30-7:30
GOLDEN EYE (PG-13) 4:20-7:10

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Tony Hernandez Press Room Foreman
Harry Morris Controller

RITZ 401 S. Main 263-7480 Adult 7:00-9:00
The Open Table in N Takes Two PG 7:00-9:00
Copy Cat R 6:00-9:00

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Dec. 13, 1995

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If no answer please leave message. 20 years experience, free estimates, quality work at lower prices.</p> <p><b>M&amp;L HOME &amp; BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT</b> Interior/Exterior Painting Cleaning &amp; Housekeeping Sheetrocking * Plumbing And Many Other Improvements Free Estimates * Lots of References Call (915) 263-1767 or (915) 394-4663</p>	<p><b>HOUSE CLEANING</b></p> <p><b>NEED A WIFE? HOUSE CLEANING</b> "Let us do your dirty work for you" We specialize in move-ins, move outs. Complete cleaning or individual piece work. Call Julie Coates for a free estimate. 263-2225 908 Lancaster</p> <p><b>RUN YOUR AD WITH US</b></p> <p><b>MEAT PACKING</b></p> <p><b>HUBBARD PACKING CO.</b> Custom Slaughtering, Home Freezer Service, Half Beefs and Quarter Beef for your Home Freezers. 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Must sell. Telephone, day, 263-3722, night 263-6644, Chris.</p> <p>471 SUPERCHARGER with Cragar Drive. Excellent condition. 2-Big block oil pans (Motor-o). 2 set Big block Chrome valve covers. 3-Big block Intake Holley Intake small block Olds. Chrome olds valve covers. Chris's. 263-3722.</p> <p><b>Auto Parts &amp; Supply</b> 017</p> <p>360 CHEVROLET motor and transmission. \$450. Call 267-1405 or 267-5557.</p>	<p><b>Pickups</b> 027</p> <p>1982 CHEVROLET. 350, new tires, 75K on motor. Very nice. \$3,500. 267-7707.</p> <p>1987 FORD F-150. 6 cylinder, has bedliner. Has cap, front excellent. \$2,800. See at 1602 Mesquite.</p> <p>1993 GMC extended cab with goodies conversion. Loaded, green metallic color. Call 263-8401 from 8:30-5:30, 264-7138 after 6:00.</p> <p>1994 1 TON Crew Cab: 6.5 Turbo diesel, low package, fully loaded, excellent condition, priced to sell. Call 267-2129.</p> <p><b>Trailers</b> 029</p> <p>Have new 16'x7 Tadem Trailer. 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Dependable, own transportation, about 30 hrs/week. Send information to: <b>BOX 719</b> c/o Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry Big Spring, Texas 79720</p> <p><b>CALL Today, START Tomorrow!</b> \$1,000 Sign-on Bonus. Hiring flatbed drivers. All miles paid (new scale). Life/Health, Rider/Bonus Program. ECK-Miller 800-611-6636. Owner Operators also welcomed!</p> <p><b>COMANCHE TRAIL NURSING CENTER</b>-3200 Parkway, &amp; Long Term Care Facility, is interviewing for weekend RN position, 8 hour shifts per day. Please apply in person. ECE</p> <p><b>ROUTE 760:</b> Luthar, Vincent &amp; Labe Thomas. Approximate profit \$650-\$700/monthly. Immediate opening. Call Scott, 263-7331 ext. 153.</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b> 085</p> <p><b>COMPREHENSIVE J.C.A.H.O. HOME HEALTH AGENCY SEEKING</b> Registered Nurse with Psychiatric nursing background to direct Behavioral Home Health program in the Permian Basin. Ideal candidate will have prior home health experience, but we will consider RN with demonstrated management and/or supervisory skills in healthcare setting. Candidate must be highly motivated self-starter willing to grow program through direct sales and innovative marketing techniques. Salary commensurate with experience. Competitive benefits, and yearly bonus based on performance and growth of program. Send or FAX resume to: Todd Omer-nik, 433 Andrews Highway, Midland, TX 79701. FAX: (915)570-9908 or call (915)684-7587 for more information. Equal Opportunity Employer.</p> <p><b>"DRIVERS"</b> Domino's Pizza. Prefer Part-time employees with other jobs who need to supplement their income. Insurance and good driving record a must. \$5.00/hour, plus tips and mileage.</p> <p><b>GILL'S FRIED CHICKEN</b> is now hiring for day and evening shifts. Must be able to work weekends. Must be 18 or older. Apply in person only 1101 Green St</p> <p><b>MASTER TECH</b> for Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge-Jeep-Eagle, needed the highest paid labor rate in West Texas. Send Resume to <b>Box 2095, c/o Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.</b></p> <p><b>Maintenance Engineer</b> needed with at least 3 years experience. Apply in person 300 Tutans.</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b> 085</p> <p><b>NOVEMBER SPECIAL</b> Get Started Free</p> <p>Call your local AVON Unit Leader and find out how to earn extra money for Christmas. 263-2127</p> <p><b>NOW HIRING:</b> Housekeeping/Custodial Supervisor. Experience a must, competitive salary, excellent benefits and a positive work environment. Apply today: Carolyn Cawthron, Rip Griffin Truck/Traval Center, US 87 and I-20.</p> <p align="center">***** <b>BLIND BOX REPLIES</b> *****</p> <p>When replying to a blind box number listed in an advertisement, address your reply to: (this is an example) ***** <b>BOX 999</b> c/o Big Spring Herald P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring, TX 79721 *****</p> <p>The information for a blind box is CONFIDENTIAL, therefore, the Big Spring Herald cannot disclose the identity of the advertiser to anyone for any reason.</p> <p align="center">***** If You Have Any Questions Please Call The Big Spring Herald Classified Department at 263-7331. *****</p>
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# Pets deserve holiday gifts too

By LYNN UNDERWOOD  
Minneapolis-St. Paul Star  
Tribune

Many owners consider their pets members of the family. To show your appreciation for that morning lick on the face or for just being there every day when you come home, here are a few ideas for a pet's Christmas:

— Polartec dog beds, round and rectangle shapes, all sizes and colors, \$49.99-\$84.99, Doctors Foster & Smith catalog, call 800-826-7206 to order, 800-562-7169 for a catalog.

These are dog beds covered in plush polartec fleece like that used in active outdoorwear. The inner liner is filled with polyester and sweet-melling cedar. Doctors Foster & Smith is a company owned by veterinarians. Its catalog is filled with grooming, health care, medical, housing, pest control, hardware and training products for cats and dogs.

— Cat-a-Trail, \$22.99, Pet Food Warehouses

You can hook attachments to

lengthen this expandable tunnel for cats to play hide and seek. Two catnip toys hang inside the feline playland, ideal for keeping indoor cats active.

— Fish aquarium, \$49.99, Pets Unlimited stores

This complete set-up kit for the beginning fish hobbyist includes a 10-gallon aquarium, full hood, under-the-gravel filter, valve system, pump, heater, neutralizer and thermometer. Fish are priced anywhere from 15 cents for a goldfish to \$50 for a Cichlid.

— Pet Essentials ski jacket, sizes S-XL, \$19.99, Target stores

Multi-colored poly-fill nylon ski jacket for pampered pooches to save them from the elements on their daily walks.

— Pigs ears, cow tails and horse's hooves, starting at about 69 cents, many pet stores

Animal parts basted and treated have become one of the fastest-selling dog chew treats. Dogs grab them off the shelf at Pet Food Warehouses, where they're allowed to shop with owners.

— Fleece and vinyl combo

Santa dog toy by SPOT, \$5.99, Pet Food Warehouses

Most dogs go crazy over those fake sheepskin "men." This one has a fleece body with a squeaker and a colorful vinyl Santa head to satisfy any dog's chewing urge.

— "Let's Explore: Furry, Fishy, Feathery Friends," by Braun Film and Video, \$14.95 plus \$3.95 for shipping and handling. Call (800) 815-6205.

A 30-minute video for families considering a pet, most likely after relentless pleading from the kids. A girl and her father visit a pet store and learn about all kinds of pets and their needs, from a Pekinese puppy to a cockatiel to a gerbil. It reminds kids that pets aren't toys and how to be responsible pet owners.

— Pet Buddies catalog, call (800) 683-1227.

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For National Advertising Information Call **800-906-3364**

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### Addresses

In Austin:  
GEORGE W. BUSH, Governor, State Capitol, Austin, 78701. Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000 or fax at 512-463-1849

BOB BULLOCK, Lt. Governor, State Capitol, Austin, 78701. Phone: 512-463-0001 or fax at 512-463-0326.

JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY, Speaker of the House, State Capitol, Austin. Phone: 806-839-2478 or 512-463-3000 or fax at 512-463-0675.

JOHN T. MONTFORD, Senator, 28th District, P.O. Box 1709, Lubbock, 79408. Phone: 267-7535, 806-744-5555, 512-463-0128 or fax at 806-762-4217.

DAVID COUNTS, Representative, 78th District, P.O. Box 338, Knox City, 79529. Phone: 817-658-5012.

DAN MORALES, Attorney General, 209 W. 14th and Colorado St., P.O. Box 12548, Austin, 78711-2548. Phone: 512-463-2100; 1-800-252-8011. Fax: 512-463-2063.

In Washington:  
BILL CLINTON, President, The White House, Washington, D.C.

PHIL GRAMM, U.S. Senator, 370 Russell Office Building, Washington, 20510. Phone: 202-224-2934.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, U.S. Senator, 703 Hart Office Building, Washington, 20510. Phone: 202-224-5922.

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- What to give Father, the businessman?
- What to give Mother, the recipe-collector?
- What to give Little Joe, the cartoon-watcher?



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# Texan fights to save sea turtles

By JUSTIN NOBLE  
Valley Morning Star

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND** — Forty years ago, sea turtles flocked to the beaches by the thousands annually.

Now, it is one of the most endangered salt-water species.

Although the female turtles still make their pilgrimages back to their birthplaces on beaches to lay eggs, their numbers have dropped to several hundred, instead of tens of thousands.

Their colorful shells, leathery skin, and regimented habits helped force them into near-extinction by the late 1960s, but their numbers are slowly rising again.

The Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, one of the smallest sea turtles, is one of the most endangered. In the 1940s, about half a million female turtles invaded the beaches around Rancho Nuevo, Mexico.

Because the Kemp's Ridley usually nests during the day, and its movements on land are cumbersome, the turtles were easily picked up and thrown into the backs of pick-up trucks and onto horses.

Their shells and leathery skin were made into combs, belts, frames for glasses, boots and ash trays, and their meat was used for soups and other dishes.

By the late 1960s, the demand for turtle products had reduced

their numbers to about 350 breeding females.

Even after 20 years of conservation efforts, new laws and hatching programs, the female population has grown only to 850, a fraction of the half a million turtles of 40 years ago.

But the turtle would have probably gone the way of the dodo if it hadn't been for people like Ila Loetscher, known as the turtle lady.



Associated Press photo  
Salvador Anzures gives Geraldine a kiss at South Padre Island. The sea turtle is no stranger to television, having been on the Tonight Show.

Loetscher and her turtles have attracted national atten-

tion and helped create laws to protect sea turtles. Geraldine, a green turtle that lives in a tank in Loetscher's back yard, appeared on the Johnny Carson show with the turtle lady.

And other turtles have accompanied Loetscher to "Late Night with David Letterman," the "Today Show," and appeared on PBS specials and a number of other television and radio shows in the United States and Europe.

The group also urged U.S. lawmakers to force the use of turtle excluder devices, a wooden box-shaped contraption that lets turtles out of shrimp nets to prevent them from drowning.

The Texas Shrimp Association has recently offered a plan to let shrimpers go without TEDs if they only shrimp offshore, out of the reach of most turtles.

The 91-year-old turtle lady may not come outside much anymore, but her turtles still attract thousands of tourists a year to her back yard on South Padre Island. And Sea Turtle Inc., the non-profit group she started in 1978, still accepts stranded and injured turtles.

Loetscher and a group of other conservationists started traveling to Rancho Nuevo during nesting seasons in the late 1960s, where they chased off poachers, coyotes and other predators.

## Gift wrapping can be plain or fancy

It's the add-ons that make holiday gift wrapping fun this year.

Elvis and Santa ornaments, paw-print bows, pipe-cleaner candy canes, fabric stars and snowflakes and life-like holly are handing givers a license to create that could make prettying up those packages as fun — or as frustrating — as buying them.

But first one must decide on the paper.

Metallic blues and purples, muted creams and mauves, whimsical cartoons and tongue-lolling dogs in Santa hats can be found in as great supply as traditional Santa and snowman prints.

Consumers will spend nearly a third of their holiday cash in card and gift stores, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Add-ons, from tiny Santas to delicate lace snowflakes, cost from 50 cents to \$2.95.

Rolls of wrap cost anywhere from \$3.99 to \$4.95. Ribbon starts at \$1.35 for whimsical styles and goes up to \$5.45 for the high-style metallic gold.

Using all kinds of ribbons makes it easy to personalize a package by tying on candles, cinnamon sticks and even cookie cutters.

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