

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

SUNDAY
December 29, 1996

\$1.25

County's insurer disputes claim of Alpine quake damage

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The earthquake that hit Alpine on April 13, 1995, which measured 5.6 on the Richter scale, was also felt in Big Spring, but it was unknown until late summer if it had done any structural damage around town.

In August, county officials were told by a professional damage estimator that the courthouse did suffer some damage as a result of the Alpine earthquake.

Rickey Conradt of Conradt and Company, who was hired by the county to re-evaluate the damage to county buildings caused by last May's 10 hailstorm, did a walk-through of county

buildings and found cracks at the east, south and north entrances of the Howard County Courthouse, as well as on the third floor, and attributed them to the April 1995 earthquake.

Phil Furquerson, construction administrator for the courthouse and library renovation projects, told commissioners the county has a clause in its insurance policy that covers damages caused by earth movements, despite what the county's insurance company might claim.

Commissioners agreed to instruct County Attorney Hardy Wilkerson to write a letter to the county's insurance carrier, Texas Association of Counties (TAC) which is underwritten by Travelers Insurance, stating that Howard County is responding to the

damages caused by the earthquake as soon as it was noticed.

Howard County Auditor Jackie Olson received a response from TAC Claims Supervisor Renee McKinney earlier this month, which stated the type and pattern of damage observed by engineers and consultants was not consistent with damage caused by seismic forces, meaning coverage within the county's property program document does not apply.

"It is our opinion that none of the observed damage was caused by the April 13, 1995, Alpine earthquake," McKinney stated. "Significantly, all the interior damage observed has most likely been caused by impact and vibratory forces that occurred during renovation work."

McKinney's response also stated that the damage to the exterior stair landings in the courthouse has been caused by relatively minor differential settlement of the soil supporting the stairs.

TAC's opinion is that this settlement most likely occurred due to a combination of several causes, including a long-term natural settlement due to consolidation of the supporting soil; settlement from excessive drying of the supporting soil due to generally abnormally low levels of precipitation during the past several summers; renovation construction impact forces, vibratory forces and static loading; and at the east entry of the courthouse, erosion or a weakening of the supporting soil due to water infiltration through the drill holes in the entry's upper stair

landing.

The TAC response also noted, the U.S. Geological Survey determined the epicenter of the Alpine earthquake was approximately 175 miles from Big Spring. The MMI (Modified Mercalli Index) in Big Spring was confirmed as a (4), which is a full two level below that needed to cause the type of damage claimed.

According to McKinney, because the damages to the courthouse, in TAC's opinion, are not a result of the Alpine earthquake, the earth movement clause in the county's policy does not apply.

Olson said it will now be up to commissioners to decide if they will take any further action concerning the damages.

'Book brigade' volunteers needed

Monday slated as moving day for library staff

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Plans and renovations seemed like they would take forever, but Monday the Howard County Library will ring in its New Year a couple of days early by moving out of its Scurry Street location and into the former Bluebonnet Savings building at 500 Main St.

The library closed on Dec. 23 and will remain closed until Jan. 13, but Monday is the official moving day.

Work will begin at about 8 a.m. continuing throughout the day, and the library staff would like to have at least 100 or so volunteers to help with the move.

As part of the moving celebration, the *Herald*, along with the Friends of the Library, will sponsor a symbolic closing of the old library and opening of the new facility with an assembly line of local residents (a book brigade), including school children, passing the final 150 books by hand from the old building to the new location.

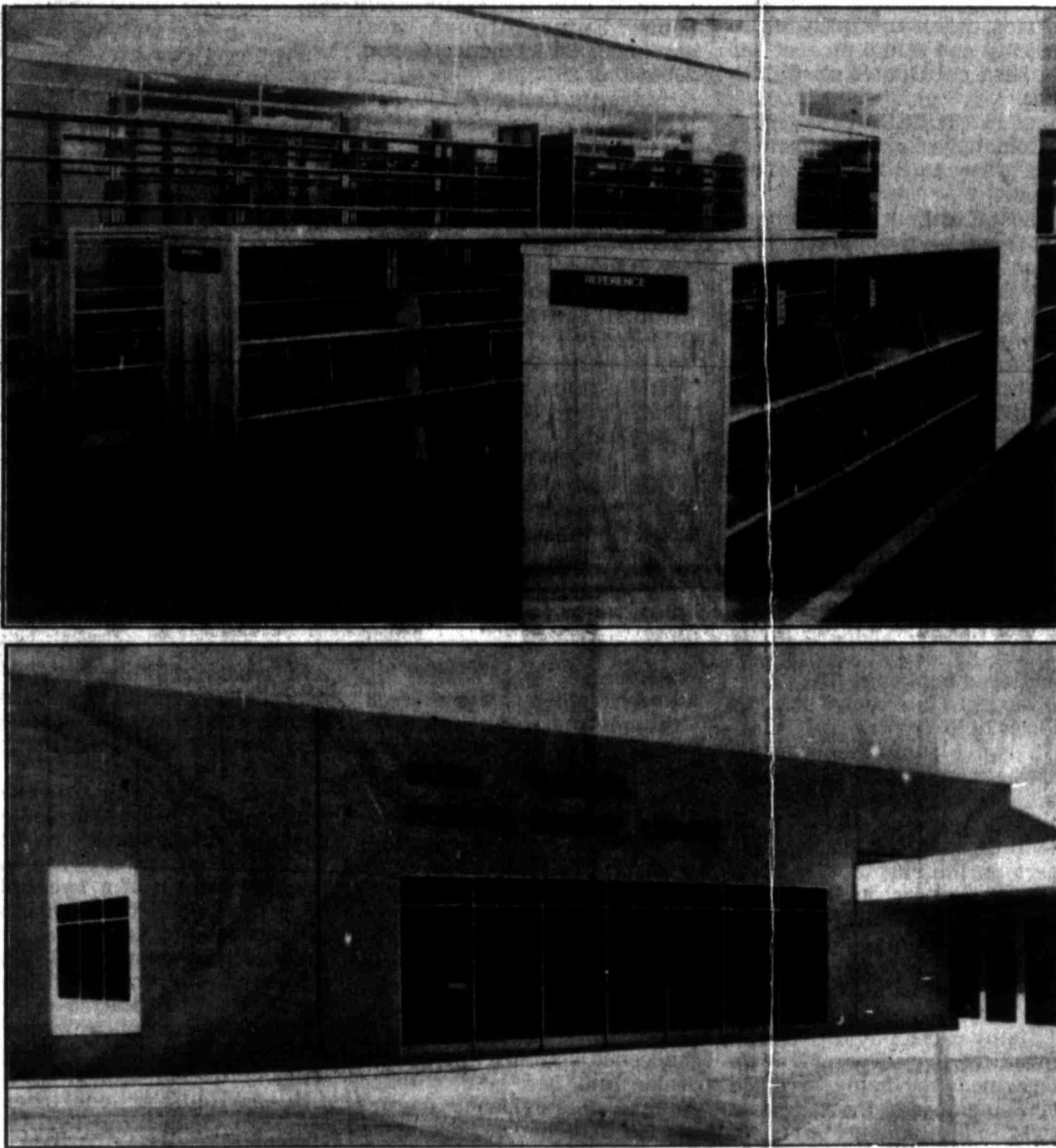
Howard County Librarian Loraine Redman said she would like for this to be the final activity of the day on Monday, and would like for it to begin around 4 p.m. Following the passing of the last few books, Redman said she would like to have a reception for all of the volunteers who help with the move and the passing of the books.

Once the move is complete, the new Dora Roberts/Howard County Library will be presented to the public during a 3 p.m. ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 11.

Redman said the new library will officially open to the public on Jan. 13, and business hours for the new facility will remain the same as at the current library. Those hours are 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturday.

Several individual volunteers as well as groups such as the Rainbow Girls, First Presbyterian Church youth group and the Boy Scouts have assisted Redman and the library staff with the move and more volunteers will be needed for the book brigade Monday.

The brigade will begin on the steps of the old library building and proceed south up Scurry



HERALD photos/Jonathan Garrett

The new Howard County Library is empty for now (top photo), but will not stay that way long. The former Bluebonnet Savings building will begin being filled with books Monday, as library staffers and volunteers begin the process of moving books in the new facility. A ceremony dedicating the library in honor of Dora Roberts is set for Saturday, Jan. 11, and it will officially open to the public on Monday, Jan. 13.

Street, turning left on 6th Street, and will wind up on the south end of the new building. The address of the new facility is listed as 500 Main St., but the entrance is more on 6th Street, Redman said.

Volunteers who help with the move on Monday will be treated to lunch, which will be served by The Friends of the Library.

"If people are going to come down and help us out, I think we ought to feed them," Redman said.

Refreshments will also be served after Monday's book brigade.

People who want to help and be a part of the brigade should begin lining up along the route just as if it were a parade. The

passing of the books will begin at 4 p.m.

The ceremony on Jan. 11 is when the library will officially be dedicated in honor of Dora Roberts, according to Redman.

Following the dedication ceremony on Jan. 11, the library staff and the Friends of the Library will be available to give tours of the new facility.

One of the featured attractions of the new library will be the children's section, which has been named, "Fantasy Land."

According to Redman, the Friends of the Library have sort of adopted the children's section and want it to be a place where children will enjoy coming to learn, read and explore.

Some of the items that will be a part of Fantasy Land include bean bags, a shelf for big books, little square cushions in primary colors, a globe of the world and posters with all of the flags of the world.

Another attraction in the children's section, for which Redman recently received a \$600 donation from the 1905 Hyperion Club, is a puppet stage.

"We're going to have different shows for the kids during the different holidays and when they come through on field trips, we want to be able to do shows for them."

"We're looking forward to this," she added. "I've wanted a puppet for the library since I've been here."

Fireworks vendors expect comeback on New Year's Day

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The ongoing drought put a damper on many Fourth of July celebrations this year, but according to the Texas Pyrotechnic Association (TPA), its members are expecting increased sales as Texans prepare to celebrate the coming of the New Year.

"New Year's Eve has always been one of our busiest days of the year," TPA Secretary Royce Trout said.

"The drought severely hurt our sales during the Fourth of July, so members are anticipating that the improved weather conditions and the removal of the statewide voluntary ban on certain aerial items will bring people to the stands to buy fireworks to celebrate the new year," Trout said.

Last summer, several counties, including Howard County, imposed a ban or at least a partial ban on fireworks, which included voluntary removal of aerial fireworks from shelves by many TPA vendors.

In June, commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of issuing a resolution requesting Gov. George W. Bush issue a ban on aerial fireworks in Howard County for the Fourth of July.

Commissioners made their decision in part because of the action taken by the TPA, which represents about 85 percent of the fireworks industry in Texas.

Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart said weather conditions have improved since the

summer and the county will not be taking any action to limit or ban fireworks during the New Year's holiday.

Despite the county not imposing any type of restriction on fireworks for New Year's, a city ordinance remains in effect banning the use of fireworks within city limits.

It is a violation of the ordinance to explode, set off, ignite or discharge any type of firecrackers, Roman candles or torpedoes of any kind or make, with cap pistols being the only exception.

Violation of the city ordinance is a class C misdemeanor and could result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

Big Spring Fire Chief Frank Anderson suggests people use extreme caution and common sense when using fireworks and take along water or other items suitable for extinguishing fires if one happens to ignite.

For people planning to purchase fireworks to celebrate the New Year, the TPA makes the following suggestions:

- Purchase fireworks only from licensed vendors.
- Read and follow all safety instructions.
- Designate an adult to oversee handling of fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water or water hose handy.
- Put water on used fireworks and dispose of them in a metal container.
- Light only one item at a time, and make sure that item is extinguished before lighting another.
- Remember to properly store or destroy unused fireworks.

Driver's license left at scene leads to suspects in robbery

HOUSTON (AP) — Police had little trouble tracking down a married couple they believe used a frying pan as a weapon in robbing a Montgomery County convenience store.

A purse left behind by the couple contained the driver's license, complete with a current address, of 32-year-old Lisa Morrison, police said.

The robbers also left behind the frying pan with which Michael Kevin Morrison, 38, is believed to have hit Quick Mart clerk Shain Nanji, police said.

Both Morrisons were charged

with aggravated robbery and were being held Saturday in the Montgomery County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bond each.

The robbery occurred shortly after 11 p.m. Tuesday, just west of Conroe. Nanji said the man and woman came in and made small talk with him as they browsed the aisles.

The man eventually walked up to the counter, tightly clutching the woman's purse to his chest, and pulled a small iron skillet from the purse. A

Please see CLUE, page 2A

Drought's \$4.9 billion price tag dominated Texas news in '96

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other headlines may prove more sensational when the year in Texas is reviewed.

But no event in 1996 packed the wallop of the seemingly endless drought, which punched a hole in the state's agrarian economy and rippled through other sectors.

Whether it was Rio Grande rafting companies that watched their business slow to a trickle or Christmas tree farms offering stunted specimens, the drought left a profound impres-

sion on Texas and many of its inhabitants.

The final damage estimates are pending.

But state officials have projected that the drought will cost Texas farmers and ranchers \$2 billion in lost production. The loss to the state economy overall is pegged at \$4.9 billion — making the drought one of the worst natural disasters to hit Texas this century.

"When you look at losses incurred by the farmers and ranchers of this state, you're looking at something that hit them dramatically and had a

devastating impact on them this year," said Texas Department of Agriculture spokesman Gene Acuna.

This year's wheat harvest was the smallest since 1989. While cotton fields around Lubbock have bounced back, cotton patches elsewhere suffered. Cow-calf producers also took it on the chin, many liquidating huge herds because of skyrocketing grain prices.

Even though rains swept through much of the state in recent months, the book can't be closed on this drought.

"People ask when the drought

is going to be over," Acuna said. "Farmers and ranchers tell you the drought will be over when the stock tanks are full again and the creeks are full again."

For communities with drought-depleted reservoirs, Corpus Christi key among them, the crisis won't really be over until new sources of drinking water have been tapped or reservoirs replenished.

Beyond the weather, crime marked a steady drumbeat as Texas broadcast outlets and

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TODAY'S WEATHER

73 ▲ Highs 40
Lows ▼

Today: Mostly sunny. High in the lower to mid 70s. Tonight, fair with a low around 40.

Monday: Partly cloudy with a high in the lower to mid 70s. Fair in the evening, low in the 40s.

Extended outlook: Tuesday, fair. High in the 70s. Low around 40.

Wednesday, continued fair with a high in the lower 70s. Low in the 40s.

DECEMBER 29, 1996

OBITUARIES

Ralph W. Caton

Ralph W. Caton, Senior District Judge (Retired), passed away on December 21, 1996. He was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Katherine McWhorter Caton and Otis Caton on August 1, 1925. He attended public schools in Waco, Texas, graduating from Waco High School in 1942. After a year at John Tarleton State College, he enlisted in the United States Navy in June of 1943 and served on LSM 216 in the Pacific Theater until March of 1946. He participated in the naval landings on Iwo Jima and the occupation of Japan.

After World War II, he attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, graduating in 1949 with a degree in Economics and Government. He then entered Baylor Law School, graduating in 1951. He moved to Stanton, Texas, established a law practice, was appointed City Attorney, then Justice of the Peace, and in 1952 won his race for County Attorney of Martin County.

In early 1959, he became a law partner with Walton Morrison in Big Spring, Texas. In the fall of 1959, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Judge Charlie Sullivan by Governor Price Daniel. On January 1, 1960, he was sworn in as District Judge of the 118th Judicial District of the State of Texas, comprising the three counties of Martin, Howard, and Glasscock.

He retired from the bench on December 31, 1979, but continued judicial work as a Senior Judge. In 1986, he and his wife, Mary, moved to Garden Ridge, Texas, and for several years thereafter he served as a Visiting Senior Judge in Comal and surrounding counties.

His memberships include Texas State Bar Association, the Senior Judges Association, Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas, Baylor Law School Alumni, lifelong memberships in Masonic Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and LSM Association, USN. He is a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Big Spring, Texas. He has been a supporter of many charitable organizations.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Mary Holder Caton, their daughter, Ann, her husband, Michael Gill, and their children, Andrew and Stuart; also, by their son, Carl, his wife, Kelli, and their children, Brooke and Chad, all of Garden Ridge.

A sister, Evalena Caton Briers, preceded him in death in 1989.

Services will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in New Braunfels, Texas, on Monday afternoon, December 30, 1996, at 2 p.m. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Big Spring, Texas, Hospice New Braunfels, or the charity of one's choice.

The family wishes to express appreciation to all of his friends through the years for their support and to those who have so lovingly cared for him during his final illness.

PAID OBITUARY

Earl R. King

Earl R. King, 83, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 28, 1996, in a Midland hospital. Service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30, 1996, at the Rosewood Chapel at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. Claude Craven, a retired Baptist minister, officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mr. King was born on Nov. 24, 1913, in Lee County and married Leona Ellen Mears on Sept. 26, 1945, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death on Dec. 6, 1985.

He lived most of his life in Big Spring and worked as a mechanic, retiring in 1965. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Survivors include a son, Leroy King of Stratford; two brothers, Harold King of Big Spring and Vernon King of Lewisville; two sisters, Eunice Harris of Midland and Carmen Wilson of Denver City; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

Lorraine Smith

Lorraine Robinson Smith, 73, of Midland died Thursday, Dec. 26, 1996, at a Midland hospital. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, 1996, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

Mrs. Smith was born on April 25, 1923, in Big Spring, the daughter of Benjamin and Nettie Rice Robinson. She married Clarence E. Smith in September of 1940 in Big Spring.

She and her husband moved to Midland in 1954, and she owned and operated the U-Save Grocery in Odessa for many years.

Survivors include her husband, Clarence E. Smith of Midland; one son, Sonny Smith of Odessa; three daughters, Dorinda York of Comanche, Sheila Kuteman of Arlington and Debra Fambro of Odessa; one brother, Earl Robinson of Midland; 16 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 11 nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Smith will lie in state at Ellis Funeral Home in Midland through Sunday and then will be in state at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home on Monday.

The family suggests memorials to the American Heart Association, 3525 Andrews Highway, Suite 111, Midland, Texas 79703.

John Birmingham

John Roy Birmingham Jr., 71, of Houston, died Saturday, Dec. 28, at a Houston hospital. Service will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, in the Kiker-Seale Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Ted Spear officiating. Burial will be in the Westbrooke Cemetery.

Mr. Birmingham was born on Feb. 3, 1925, in Wortham and had lived in Houston since 1961. He married Penny Benson in Sulphur Springs in 1948. He was a retired sales manager for several Ford dealerships in the Houston area. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, a Baptist and a veteran, having served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Penny Birmingham of Houston; his mother, Minnie Birmingham of Big Spring; one son, John Roy Birmingham Jr. of Simonton; two daughters, Carin B. Russo of Houston and Kathy Kuecker of Brenham; one brother, Jim Birmingham of Colorado City; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

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SPRINGBOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRINGBOARD ITEM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA GARZA, 263-7331 ext. 238, BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 2 P.M. All Springboard items must be submitted in writing. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79720; bring it by the office at 710 Scurry; or fax it to 264-7205.

TODAY
•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.

MONDAY
•Big Spring Evening Lion's Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third. Call Jan Noyes, 267-5811.
•Project Freedom, Christian support group, 7 p.m. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241.

•TOPS Clubs (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30 to 6 p.m. weigh in and 6 p.m. meeting, Carriage Inn, 501 W. 17th. Call 263-1340 or 263-8633.
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.

TUESDAY
•Comanche Lake Duplicate, 1 p.m., Dora Roberts Civic Center.
•Most Excellent Way, a chemical dependency support group, 7 p.m., Living Water Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-1424 after 5 p.m. or 263-3168 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m.; Spanish services.
•Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., 615 Settles.
•Narcotics Anonymous, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. Big Book Study.

Stories

Continued from page 1A
newspapers chronicled the top stories of the year.

In two high-profile criminal cases, prosecutors in the Dallas-Fort Worth area fingered an unlikely set of suspects — two seemingly straight-arrow teenagers on the cusp of fast-track military careers; and a young suburban mom accused of knifing her two young sons.

Fresh-faced Naval Academy midshipman Diane Zamora and her boyfriend, Air Force Academy cadet David Graham, landed on the cover of People magazine after being arrested last September in the killing of 16-year-old Adrienne Jones of Mansfield.

Police contend the pair killed Miss Jones to exact revenge for a short-lived tryst Graham had with the victim. Graham reportedly told police that his fiancée's "womanly vengeance" required appeasing.

"Well, Diane's beautiful eyes have always played the strings of my heart effortlessly," Graham allegedly wrote in a

Clue

Continued from page 1A
security camera videotape shows the man raising the pan above his head with both hands and striking Nanji on the head.

The tape shows the man then reached across the counter, grabbing Nanji and pushing his face onto the counter. The robber then reached into the cash register, took the cash drawer and headed out the door with the woman behind him.

Nanji was hit so hard on the head with the pan that the handle broke off. He was treated at the scene and was back on the job Friday.

"I'm damaged, but it's OK," Nanji told the Houston Chronicle. Sheriff's Lt. Dan Norris said leaving the purse was the couple's crucial mistake.

"It definitely was our foremost clue," he said.

Detectives headed to the current Montgomery County address on Mrs. Morrison's drivers license. They arrested her when she returned home Friday morning, Norris said. Her husband also was arrested Friday in Conroe.

Nanji had some choice words for his attacker. "He's a stupid idiot," Nanji said. "He left the purse with the woman's wallet right on the counter. It's so stupid it's hard to believe."

"I don't blame the woman so much because she didn't hit me," he added. "But the man — I hope he gets to be in jail for a long time."

Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.

WEDNESDAY
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. 12&12 Study.

THURSDAY
•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

•Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright, has free food for area needy, 10 a.m. to noon.
•Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classed, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., 55 and older.

•Support Group for Depression, 7 p.m., Dora Roberts Rehab Center, Third and Lancaster.

•Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting, 615 Settles, 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria.

•Genealogical Society of Big Spring, 7:15 p.m., Howard County Library conference room. Enter through west entrance. Call Bernice Cason, 267-8542 or 267-7236.

•Masonic Lodge #1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster. Call Preston Harris, 263-7136.

FRIDAY
•Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Music by CW & Co. Area seniors invited.

•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m. Bible study.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. Big Book Study.

SATURDAY
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open meetings at noon, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

TEXAS LOTTERY

LOTTO: 2,11,19,28,31,35
PICK 3: 0,5,6
CASH 5: 5,7,12,15,21

IN BRIEF

DON'T THROW AWAY your Christmas cards! Rainbow Girls are recycling cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children as a service project. They will pick up the cards anytime. Call 264-9455. They are also collecting pantyhose and canceled stamps still attached to envelopes.

BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL students involved in Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) are currently selling a Big Spring Steer card for \$10 offering discounts at various merchants. The owner of the card can use it once a day for a full year to receive such discounts as buy one food item, get one free, discounts on oil changes and dry cleaning, free second set of prints and buy one bowling game and get one free. For more information and to purchase a card, contact DECA Sponsor Lee Lowery at the high school at 264-3641, extension 151.

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH administers flu shots Monday through Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. They moved back to their regular location at College Park Shopping Center, 501 Birdwell. The cost is \$5 and TDH will file on Medicare, if necessary. Call 263-9775 for more information.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE will be training volunteers interested in assisting with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program next year. The program will be at First Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Rannels, and the volunteer training is scheduled for Monday through Friday.

CREDIT CARD ABUSE was reported on the 2200 block of Duke.

HINDERING A SECURED CREDITOR was reported on the 1600 block of South Gregg.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported on the 1400 block of Lincoln, the 1100 block of Johnson and the 1500 block of Stadium.

GAS THEFT was reported on the 300 block of Gregg Street.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported on the 1400 block of East Sixth, the 800 block of Scott, the 2200 block of Carol, the 3600 block of Parkway, the 4200 block of Dixon, the 4000 block of Vicky and the 1100 block of Gregg.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported on the 300 block of N.W. Fifth.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Saturday:

• **BENJAMIN DEANDA JR.**, 32, 704 E. 15th, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **MARTY DEANDA**, 28, 204 Rannels, was arrested on a charge of non-payment of child support.

• **THEFT** was reported on South Highway 87.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in Coahoma.

RITZ
491 S. Main
263-7400
MARS ATTACKS PG-13
2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD PG-13
2:10-4:10-7:10-9:10
MY FELLOW AMERICANS PG-13
1:00-4:00-6:00-9:00
All shows feature a pre-show
Tuesday Night All Shows On
Video & Laserdisc

CINEMA 1
BIG SPRING, TX
4001 E. FM 770 BIG SPRING MALL 263-3476
1200 ALL SHOW REPORTS & 5 PM ALL SHOWS
STEREO SOUNDING & 5 PM ALL SHOWS
*MICHAEL (PG)
2:00-4:30-7:00-9:00
*JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50
101 DALMATIANS (G)
1:00-4:10-7:00-9:30
*ONE FINE DAY (PG)
1:00-4:00-7:00-9:00

Jan. 13-17, 1997. Volunteers will begin assisting with the preparation of income tax returns for individuals in February. For more information, call Dorothy Kennemur at 398-5522.

THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, also known as Meals on Wheels, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Saturday:

• **JOHN ANTHONY OLIVA**, 21, 1014 Rannels, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **RAYMOND GONZALES**, 26, 3309 W. Highway 80, was arrested on local warrants.

• **LASANDRA LAVERNE JOHNSON**, 31, Dallas, was arrested on a charge of no driver's license.

• **MATTHEW STEPHEN VAH**, 36, no address given, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ASSAULT** was reported on the 1600 block of Martin Luther King and the 1400 block of Settles.

• **THEFT** was reported on the 400 block of Johnson, the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway, the 800 block of Highland and to the police department.

• **HARRASSMENT** was reported on the 2500 block of Central.

• **CREDIT CARD ABUSE** was reported on the 2200 block of Duke.

• **HINDERING A SECURED CREDITOR** was reported on the 1600 block of South Gregg.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported on the 1400 block of Lincoln, the 1100 block of Johnson and the 1500 block of Stadium.

• **GAS THEFT** was reported on the 300 block of Gregg Street.

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Howard Cou locked 2-2 dur meeting on th ing in county Judge Be Commissioner favor of the ba Choate and opposed.

Commission means the co issue during i When the is da, local a addressed co personally thid ed institution commissioner tion that prote smoke from b

TEXAS B

The ASSOC

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Commissioners deadlock over proposed smoking ban

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners deadlocked 2-2 during Thursday morning's meeting on the issue of banning smoking in county buildings, with County Judge Ben Lockhart and Commissioner Jerry Kilgore voting in favor of the ban. Commissioners Sonny Choate and Emma Brown were opposed.

Commissioner Bill Crooker's absence means the court will again tackle the issue during its Jan. 13 meeting.

When the issue came up on the agenda, local attorney R.H. Weaver addressed commissioners saying, "I personally think this is a tax supported institution and it's past time for the commissioners' court to pass a resolution that protects those of us who don't smoke from being exposed to it every-

time we come into the courthouse.

"Those of us who don't smoke shouldn't have to put up with it," Weaver added. "Places like Wal-Mart, H-E-B and the post office have signs prohibiting smoking in their buildings and besides, scientists have told us that second-hand smoke is just as bad as first-hand smoke."

Lockhart made a motion, which was seconded by Kilgore, in favor of banning smoking on the inside of all county buildings, but Choate objected during discussion.

"We have a large number of people, even employees, who come to the courthouse and they do smoke. Imposing such a ban is an infringement on their rights. We would be taking away their freedom to live in the manner they've chosen," Choate said.

Weaver added that on any given occasion, he can come into the courthouse and the landings on all three

floors are full of smokers.

"I shouldn't have to be subjected to someone else's smoke," Weaver said. Because the issue was a 2-2 tie, Lockhart said it would come up again on the agenda when the entire court is available.

Weaver also requested to be on the agenda when all five commissioners vote on the issue.

The issue of janitorial service for the courthouse and courthouse annex was temporarily solved Thursday morning as well.

Commissioners voted to hire a group from Howard County Mental Health and Mental Retardation to clean and maintain both buildings for a month, including waxing and buffing floors, until the county can get its bidding process underway.

Another issue tackled by commissioners was approving the county's participation in sharing the fencing

cost at the Howard County Fairgrounds with the Howard County Fair Association and the Howard County Rodeo.

Commissioners voted 3-1 in favor of sharing the \$27,121 cost to fence the area, with each of the three groups being responsible for a little more than \$9,000.

Brown voted against the idea because she didn't feel like the bidding process was fair and she objected to the type of fence that is to be built. Choate was hesitant to vote with Lockhart and Kilgore at first because he was concerned about vandalism.

"I'm all for protecting the property and if we build something for \$20,000 plus, someone is probably going to tear it up," Choate said. "This is vandalism with bells on. I think we're going about this thing backwards."

Choate suggested all three groups take the \$27,121 it will cost to build the

fence and consider putting a caretaker at the fairgrounds and then build a fence.

"I hate to see the fairgrounds look like a prison and if will if we put up a fence," Brown said.

Brown was referring to a wire fence topped by razor wire or barbed wire, similar to that used at prison facilities.

In other business, commissioners voted to award the pest control contract for the new library to Terminix for \$4,826; approved a part-time employee for the road and bridge department for up to 30 hours; and approved District Attorney-elect Hardy Wilkerson's continued participation in the Texas District and County Retirement System for at least two more years.

Wilkerson will pay about 7 percent of the contribution from his own pocket and the county would pay about 9 percent or \$975 per year for the two years.

TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newlyweds killed in single-engine plane crash

AUSTIN — A newlywed Austin couple died when their single-engine plane crashed shortly after visiting family in Del Rio on Christmas Day.

After a day of searching, the Civil Air Patrol found the bodies of Cary and Jamie Lindley on Friday among the wreckage of the Cessna 210 airplane Cary Lindley was flying, said Lt. Col. Fred Deyeso, mission coordinator.

While returning to Austin, the plane crashed about 25 miles north of Brackettville in an isolated area Deyeso described as a graveyard for aircraft.

The abundant hills and sparsely populated terrain north of Brackettville can make it difficult for pilots to fly because there are few lights on the ground to help pilots of small aircraft orient themselves, Deyeso said.

Brackettville is about 160 miles southwest of Austin, near the U.S.-Mexico border at Del Rio and Ciudad Acuna.

Cary Lindley, a 37-year-old real estate broker with Robinson Management Corp., graduated from the University of Texas, where he had been a member of a piloting club, said his brother-in-law Alan Givens.

Jamie Lindley, 32, grew up in San Antonio and attended Texas A&M University. She was an administrative assistant for ABC Pest Control.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators on Friday were beginning an evaluation to determine why the small plane went down.

The Lindleys were reported missing by family members Wednesday when the couple failed to arrive in Austin after leaving from Del Rio at about 7 p.m. The flight should have taken no more than two or three hours, Deyeso said.

Tiltons' divorce focuses on church assets

DALLAS — An attorney for Word of Faith World Outreach Center in suburban Farmers Branch, Texas, says the second wife of evangelist Robert Tilton doesn't have the authority to start a new church with all the assets of Word of Faith.

"All of a sudden we have someone coming in with the stroke of a pen saying, 'I can convey all this church property ... to my church,'" said attorney J.C. Joyce. "Hell, no, it's not legal. If they thought it was legal, we wouldn't have held services there last Sunday, would we? 'It's greed — nothing in the world but greed.'"

An attorney for Leigh Valentine Tilton maintained that the transfer of all assets of Word of Faith to the New Word of Faith World Outreach Center is legal and allowed under the original church's charter.

Ms. Tilton, an evangelist, is pastor of the new church; although she said she will not take a salary.

Widow sues Walgreen's in man's death

HOUSTON — The widow of a man killed during a robbery has filed a lawsuit against Walgreen Co., accusing her husband's former employer of not providing proper security on the night the crime occurred.

Cynthia Cedars alleges in a federal court lawsuit that Walgreen's was grossly negligent in a variety of ways, including failing to provide proper security, assistance at closing time and security cameras.

John Cedars, 33, a night manager of the pharmacy at the Walgreen's store on Sawdust Road, was attacked, beaten and fatally shot from behind as he was closing the store at about 11 p.m. Sept. 21.

Task force trying to make divorce easier for all

HOUSTON (AP) — The idea is to reduce the anxiety and hostility that almost inevitably accompany getting divorced.

A group of law professors, psychologists, Texas Supreme Court justices, lawyers and family court judges have been quietly meeting for over a year to think up ways to ease divorce cases through court in a calmer, faster fashion.

They call themselves the Family Law 2000 Task Force, and one view they seem to share is that the existing system, which permits spouses to go to court seeking revenge, lawyers to "churn cases" to increase fees, and children being yanked this way and that, is a mess.

"There's an extremely great need for improvement in our family law system. It just isn't working," Texas Supreme Court Justice Greg Abbott said.

"With an adversarial system like we have, parents use their children to attack each other. Children are used as pawns to jerk around the spouse being sued for divorce," he said.

Efforts to improve the Texas system are part of a much larger trend. Kansas, California, Oregon and Connecticut, among others, also have been wrestling with the "adversarial" aspects of the situation.

The Family Law 2000 Task Force's mission statement zeroes in early on the problem of bitterly unhappy couples and their lawyers turning courtrooms into combat zones.

"The reason the present system is so adversarial is cultural," the statement begins. "It's American to win. Being an advocate means being adversarial. It doesn't mean negotiation and compromise. The current system is like everyone entering a one-lane tunnel where the attorney-muscle and money push the case through. The advocate gets his or her results by magnifying the problems in the relationship. Attorneys taking a polarized position and playing it to the hilt causes damage."

"I think anybody who's been through a divorce knows it's a bruising experience for every-

body," Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen explained.

"Our goal was to figure out how to make (the divorce system) more interdisciplinary and to keep lawyers from escalating the adversity between the parties," she said.

Trying to keep lawyers from doing their usual advocate numbers in courtrooms is an utter impossibility, some say.

"They'll never get rid of the adversarial system. A spotted cat can't change its spots," Baytown divorce court lawyer Bruce Baughman said. "You get caught with your pants down, you think your wife won't get adversarial?"

Houston attorney Imogen "Immy" Patadopoulos, head of the Houston Bar Association's family law section, said she screens incoming clients to see if they really want to get a fair divorce or if they actually want legal revenge on their ex-to-be.

If the client's object is strictly to get even, she said, she suggests they find another attorney.

There are several changes

being considered for handling new divorce cases, and hopefully getting them settled short of a court fight, but no one wants to eliminate lawyers from the process. People will always need advice on what to do, how to do it and the consequences of their chosen paths.

"We can't eliminate lawyers, but we can sure try to figure out a way to make contested trials a last resort," said state District Judge James Squier, administrator of Harris County's nine domestic relations courts.

There will always be a need for lawyers in any court system, but the plans being discussed by the Family Law 2000 Task Force seem to be far more focused on the clients seeking divorces than perpetuating the livelihoods of the attorneys who represent them.

State District Judge Linda Motheral, who has been very active with the task force, said everything under discussion thus far has been tentative, but there has been consensus on certain approaches.

Motheral is considering starting a pilot project in her 257th

District Court to test things out.

If she has her way, months from now 10 new incoming cases in her court will be separated for special treatment.

Each spouse will be interviewed so the court can get a good idea what the basic issues in the case are and how agreeable the spouses are to settling disputes.

They might be provided educational materials to let them know what they can and cannot expect out of a divorce action.

Another county worker, perhaps someone from the Domestic Relations Office, will then track the case as it progresses through the system and whether a spouse is making support payments and the other matters agreed to as the case was ending.

The judge would be kept aware of how the cases are going, whether the litigants should simply be left alone to work things out together, whether the speed of the proceedings should be increased or whether a mediator might steer the couple through thorny issues on child visitation.



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Dr. S. "Steve" Ahmed of Family Medical Center of Big Spring is a pediatric specialist. He worked four years in a rural health setting and completed a residency in pediatrics at Columbia Presbyterian, Columbia University, New York City. Dr. Ahmed is on the staff at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, and he and his wife, Lucy, and their children, Loveita and Schon, make their home in Big Spring. They are avid supporters of community and school projects.

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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"Failures are usually the most conceited of men."

-Peter Drucker

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

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OTHER VIEWS

TV programming, strained relations

Responding to mounting public complaints that violent and risqué content on television programs could corrupt young viewers, President Clinton signed a bill last February giving the TV and cable industries one year to devise a system to guide parents. Cable and TV executives ... went to Jack Valenti, the man who nearly three decades ago devised the motion picture rating system. ... His proposal for a TV rating system evaluates shows on the basis of what is appropriate for child viewers at various age levels. The reaction from a broad coalition of educators, psychologists and media scholars has been resoundingly negative. A ratings system based on age level alone, they argue, does little to help parents decide which TV shows they should let their kids watch. What's needed, they say, is a system geared toward a more specific criteria, like whether a show includes graphic sex, profane or lewd language or violence. Valenti's guidelines ... have to be approved by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC should reject them unless the final wording promises ... the ratings should not be set by TV producers alone ... and ratings carry specific sex, language and violence warnings.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Curious how strained relations can get between the United States and France, otherwise firm and fast allies. The present state is unusually raw. France now has a Communist president, Jacques Chirac, determined to assert the nationalistic values associated with his political forbear. Further, France has an economy and social system under duress — far more so than in this country. Still, Americans don't need to give up on the French, nor, for that matter, do the French need to give up on the Americans. The disputes that have erupted in public in the past few months do not go to fundamentals, notwithstanding grumbles to the contrary, but to tone. ... It is worth the effort it sometimes takes to remember who the French are: very old friends working through the same institutions, serving the same broad interests and sharing the same democratic values. If the temperature in France is running a bit high these days, Americans are entitled to expect the fever will pass.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Over the last decade, the fight to save the nation's diminishing wetlands has focused on the bigger and more obvious threats. Former Vice President Dan Quayle and, later, Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa., advanced various schemes that would have transferred millions of these valuable acres to developers and industry almost overnight. Their efforts failed ... but all the while, under 10-year-old regulations, the Army Corps of Engineers has been transferring land to private interests in small enough chunks to escape radar detection. ... This has contributed mightily to the steady erosion of the wetland inventory, which is declining at a rate of some 70,000 acres a year. Now, thanks to legal threats ... and complaints from the White House ... the corps has agreed to new and stricter procedures. This is a positive sign for the country's ecological health generally ... and is further evidence those who believe in sound conservation policies have gained the upper hand in Washington.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Remember how the FBI got onto Theodore Kaczynski as the Unabomber suspect? They persuaded The New York Times and The Washington Post to publish the Unabomber's manifesto; Kaczynski's brother recognized it as similar to some of the suspect's unpublished writings and turned him in. The point is that the agency relied on the public for help and was rewarded. (Now, more than four months after the event, the FBI decided to turn to the public for help in solving the bombing that killed one person and injured many more during the Olympic Games in Atlanta last July 27. Why did the FBI delay so long in turning to the public? Part of the answer — but only part — is Richard Jewell. Clearly — and all its protestations to the contrary — the agency thought it had its man in the hapless security guard. But that notion turned out to be embarrassingly false. No doubt the law enforcement tendency to guard information closely and rely on "the professionals" also played a part. But now ... the public has become their last resort — and their only hope.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Clinton's Asian connection either irony or cunning

By ANN McFEATHERS
Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — It is either irony or diabolical cunning that the core of President Clinton's global economic strategy is to beef up trade with Asia.

Thanks to the paper trails that seem to be the only valid aspect of current campaign finance laws, we now seem to see a direct path between the contributions to Clinton political campaigns from some very aggressive and very wealthy Asian and Asian-American businessmen and shining new opportunities for them to get even wealthier.

The billionaire Indonesian Riady family, restaurant-owner-turned-importer Charles Yeh Lin Tzie, fund-raiser John Huang and who knows how many others who gave big bucks to Clinton's 1996 presidential campaign all began to get interested in him while he was governor of Arkansas. And when he became president, they and their friends got unusual access to the White House.

And despite human rights violations and forbidden arms sales to countries such as Iran, China found its trade with the United States expanding, not shrinking. In fact, there is a huge network of Asians and Southeast Asians who are rich

and getting richer who seem to have no scruples about whom they do business with but who have amazing political ties all over the world.

One of Clinton's first acts in foreign policy was to signal that expansion of U.S.-Asian trade would be of paramount importance in his administration. He organized the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Seattle and ever since has pushed APEC members relentlessly to drop tariffs and work toward free trade.

His friend Ron Brown, who used to head the fund-raising Democratic National Committee, was put in charge of the Commerce Department. And until his death last spring in a plane crash, Brown assiduously pushed new business opportunities abroad for American businesses, many of them Asian Americans.

Not surprisingly, it was at the Commerce that John Huang, formerly of the Riady's Lippo bank, which had connections to Arkansas, furthered his international network. Then Huang went to the DNC and began raising money from that network to help ensure Clinton's re-election. And despite human rights problems because of its annexation of East Timor, Indonesian ties to the White House flourished.

Clinton said his foreign policy was never changed by political donations. But that begs the

point; his foreign policy toward Asia was always to promote trade and business interests.

Clinton's friend Tzie, who started out running a restaurant in Little Rock that somehow grew into a giant import business, ended up collecting vast sums for Clinton's legal defense fund, \$640,000 of which had to be returned. Now the records have been subpoenaed because the handwriting on some of the money orders was the same. Legally, no individual can give more than \$1,000.

Trie had so much pull and access he could arrange to get Wang Jun, a high-ranking, wealthy Communist and one of the biggest Chinese arms dealers selling cruise missiles to Iran, invited upstairs in the White House to talk and drink coffee with Clinton along with big political donors. Clinton said he remembers nothing about meeting Wang. "Nothing inappropriate came from it," he said.

The line now is that the White House didn't know who Wang was when they let the Communist arms merchant schmooze with Clinton although everybody else who meets with Clinton has to have thorough background checks. "We'll do better," Clinton said.

Meanwhile, Clinton continued to hold meetings with top Chinese officials, at the White House and abroad, and in the Philippines last month again

pressed for a free trade agreement between the United States and the rest of Asia, much like the North American Free Trade Agreement.

As George Bush did before him, Clinton has taken the position that China, with one-fifth of the world's population, must not be isolated but will be reformed internally by associating with the West. But Clinton has taken this approach much further, to the clear delight of businesses that stand to make billions of dollars.

Once again it's all about money and power, which begets more money, which begets more power. It was true when Republicans controlled the White House. It's true now that Democrats control the White House, although they seem to be a little more flagrantly obvious about it.

What may be new is the growing outrage of the American voter, angry that big money buys access which leads to more money. The voter is more cynical now, after Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich publicly shook hands and promised to reform campaign finance and then both reneged on it.

But why should Clinton care? With the help of a lot of money from very rich people, he's been re-elected so he can help his friends even more.

Should men be protected from same sex harrassment?

By BONNIE ERBE
Scripps Howard News Service

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a little-noticed move last week, began the process of delivering what could be one of its most important decisions of the decade. It is whether men have a right to sue under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act when they are sexually threatened or harassed on the job — by other men.

This keenly significant question arose in a case filed by a Louisiana oil worker. Joseph Oncale worked as a roustabout assigned to an offshore oil rig with Sundowner Offshore Services in 1991. In a lawsuit filed against Sundowner and several of its employees, Oncale recounts the smarmy facts as follows:

He says he was sexually assaulted, battered, touched and threatened with rape by his direct supervisor and a second supervisor. A third co-worker also stands accused of assisting Oncale's supervisor in one of the alleged attacks.

Oncale claims he reported the situation to his employer's highest-ranking representative on the job site two times, but

got no response. Oncale then quit, according to court papers, because he feared the harassment would escalate to rape.

The Supreme Court has asked the Clinton Administration for its opinion on whether Oncale's claim can be brought under Title VII before the Justices decide whether to hear the case. Anything but a resounding "yes" from the Justice Department is a slap in the face to America's men.

Title VII was passed in 1964, following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and largely as a tribute by Congress to his work in the field of civil rights. Its main purpose was to protect African-Americans from discrimination on the job.

Since that time, many ethnic minorities and women have used this law as a sword in the fight against race and sex discrimination and harassment. But as a point of fact, Congress only threw in protection for women, almost as a joke, at the last minute as the bill was being debated on the Senate floor. Women's rights were not as much of a concern in the early '60s as were racial rights.

The women's movement would enter full swing a decade later.

But what is clear is that Congress meant to protect all targets of discrimination on the job when it passed the civil rights laws. The federal district courts have split on this issue, meaning that men in certain parts of the country have the right to sue under Title VII and men in other parts do not. Only a Supreme Court ruling or another act of Congress (which is highly unlikely) can produce uniformity on a national scale.

America is thin-skinned right now on the issue of legal protections for certain classes of persons. Sex and race discrimination are still undeniably rampant (if you have any doubt, ask black Texaco employees or female auto workers in Normal, Ill.). But in trying to create opportunities for groups who faced wholesale discrimination decades ago and remnants of it now, there are many instances where white men have been denied their due.

If we are to bring the two sides together, we must make it plain that our laws were meant to give the disenfran-

chised legal weapons with which to fight injustice and unfairness. Allowing white men who are targets of sexual harassment on the job to use Title VII as protection is a perfect example.

The only possible objection to widening Title VII's scope is that the "plain language" of the law refers only to women and minorities. But courts routinely reinterpret old laws to encompass situations the original authors never anticipated. Case in point: the Second Amendment to the Constitution has been reinterpreted so far out of whack by the gun lobby as to be completely unrecognizable.

If the Supreme Court wants to bring men, women and minorities together, it will give Joseph Oncale the right to sue under Title VII. If it does not, it lays claim to widening the gap that affirmative action unintentionally created.

(Bonnie Erbe is host of the PBS program "To the Contrary" and legal affairs correspondent for the Mutual/NBC Radio networks. She writes this column weekly for Scripps Howard News Service.)



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WASHINGTON Economists, practitioners of "the dismal science" of economics. The object of the good old U.S. economy. No less an Alan Greenspan Reserve chair the economy a the best he has decades.

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Robust economy has even experts giddy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Economists, normally staid practitioners of what is called "the dismal science," are sounding downright giddy these days. The object of their delight — the good old U.S. economy.

No less an authority than Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, described the economy as fundamentally the best he has seen it in three decades.

Searching for their own superlatives, some private economists have taken to calling this the "nirvana economy," a state of perfect economic bliss.

And as they prepare their outlooks for the new year, they're predicting the good times will continue to roll in 1997, with no threat of recession to disrupt an economic expansion that is already the third longest in U.S. history.

"We have never been this far in an economic cycle with nothing that looks like it is going wrong," said Bruce Steinberg,

senior economist at Merrill Lynch in New York.

Finishing up its sixth year of uninterrupted growth, the current recovery's growth rates have not been stellar. But its slow, steady growth has avoided past boom-bust cycles in which overly rapid growth created inflation and forced the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates, triggering a recession.

"The Fed is looking for a tortoise economy at this stage of the expansion. Slow and steady wins the race," said David Wyss, chief financial economist at DRI-McGraw Hill Inc. in Lexington, Mass.

While President Clinton cited his stewardship of the economy as a principal reason for his reelection, economists generally give most of the credit to Greenspan and his colleagues at the Fed.

In 1995, the central bank raised interest rates, trying to dampen growth to keep inflation from veering out of control.

The effort succeeded and produced the so-called soft landing in which growth slowed enough to keep inflation in check but without a recession.

Economists believe 1997 will in many ways be a replay of 1996: moderate growth will keep inflation levels low and let the Fed stay on the sidelines for another year.

The consensus forecast shows:

GROWTH — As measured by the gross domestic product, the economy should grow 2.2 percent in 1997, very close to the 2.3 percent expected for 1996. The forecast is based on a belief that consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the economy, will revive after a mid-1996 break that saw purchases slump to the lowest pace in five years.

INFLATION — Consumer prices, based on the current consumer price index that many feel overstates inflation, rose at a 3.3 percent annual rate in 1996, up from 2.5 percent last

year. But the acceleration occurred in food and energy costs. Absent those areas, the so-called core rate of inflation is at its lowest level in 31 years. Analysts believe this good performance will continue in 1997. The big threat to the forecast is wage pressure, which could start accelerating with unemployment at such low levels.

UNEMPLOYMENT — The jobless rate stands currently at 5.4 percent, very close to a 23-year low, where it is expected to stay through 1997. As long as economic growth stays in the 2 percent to 2.5 percent range, that amount of activity will generate enough jobs to absorb new entrants into the labor force but not enough to drive unemployment lower.

TRADE — Rising trade deficits was the one black mark on the economy in 1996. The deficit is running at a seven-year high of \$114 billion, shaving about 1 percentage point off growth.

Islamic University reopens after 10 months

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — Hebron's Islamic University reopened today, 10 months after the Israeli army closed the campus because it was a suspected stronghold of Muslim militants. The reopening came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reported progress in talks on an Israeli army pullback from four-fifths of Hebron, the only West Bank city still under Israeli occupation.

Both sides have said they expect to sign an agreement next week and redeployment to be completed by Jan. 5.

Talks resume today, with PLO leader Yasser Arafat set to meet Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Gaza this evening in an effort to conclude the agreement before New Year's Eve.

The latest negotiations concern Israeli demands to restrict the weapons Palestinian police carry in the vicinity of the Jewish enclaves, and Palestinian demands for reopening a downtown street to Palestinian vehicles.

Some Republicans withhold support from Gingrich

WASHINGTON (AP) — While House Republican leaders want firm commitments for Rep. Newt Gingrich's re-election as speaker, at least eight Republican members want more information first about his ethical wrongdoing.

Several of the uncommitted Republicans want the House ethics committee's guidance — before the scheduled speaker's election Jan. 7 — on how Gingrich should be punished.

Gingrich admitted to ethics violations Dec. 21, confessing "I did not seek legal counsel when I should have" on projects financed through tax-exempt organizations. He also acknowledged, "In my name and over my signature, inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable state-

ments" were given to the committee.

The eight rank-and-file Republicans commented during the past week, including Friday. During that time, the collective Republican leadership has written all GOP members that Gingrich owned up to his mistakes — and said his errors were not serious enough to deny him a second term.

"I just think it's premature to get too far out in front at this point," said Rep.-elect John Thune, R-S.D., liaison for GOP freshmen to the House leadership. Thune said he won't make a decision until the ethics committee finishes its work and makes a recommendation.

The committee's chairwoman, Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn.,

said she wants to press for an early and public decision on Gingrich's fate before the 105th Congress convenes on Jan. 7.

"My goal has been and is to wrap this up as promptly as possible and finish our business on our own watch," she told The Washington Post in an interview in today's editions. She said she hoped to have a timetable early next week.

None of the eight Republicans said Gingrich had lost their votes. Republicans control the House 227-208, so if 20 members say simply "present" — meaning they aren't voting — Gingrich could lose his job.

Thune, despite his own uncertainty, predicted Gingrich would win in the end. "I think there's an expecta-

tion there that he will be elected speaker and that people will fall in line behind him," Thune said. "I haven't detected any sign of defection at all."

Nonetheless, Republicans awaiting the committee's guidance may have a dilemma Jan. 7, because Democrats are pursuing a strategy that would delay a recommendation for punishment. The Democrats want to keep Gingrich under a cloud a while longer.

Gingrich is hoping for nothing worse than a reprimand, a House vote that would admonish him for wrongdoing but allow him to retain his speakership. If the House supports a more serious censure resolution, party rules would prevent him from serving as speaker.

Peru's negotiator meets rebels face-to-face

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru's official negotiator today entered the Japanese ambassador's residence where leftist guerrillas hold 103 hostages — apparently the government's first face-to-face contact with the Tupac Amaru rebels.

There was no official word on the reason for the visit by Education Minister Domingo Palermo, who entered the house accompanied by Michel Minnig, the Red Cross chief in Peru, and Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani. Until today, communication between the two sides has been conducted through the Red Cross. The agency said it has been encouraging the government to establish direct contact.

About 20 Tupac Amaru rebels ambushed the ambassador's residence Dec. 17 during a cocktail party, taking more than 500 hostages. Most of them have been freed, but rebels still hold 103 captives — including

ambassadors from Japan, Malaysia, Bolivia, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

The rebels' main demand is that Peru release their jailed comrades, who number about 300. President Alberto Fujimori has refused publicly to negotiate until the rebels lay down all arms and free all hostages.

Peru's Congress voted Friday to support Fujimori's policy, as well as his decree of a 60-day state of emergency in Lima and the nearby port of Callao.

The measure authorizes police to stop and search anyone on the streets or in their houses, and to arrest people without warrants.

Constitutional guarantees have been periodically suspended in the capital since the 1980s to combat rebel insurgencies.

Police arrested three people suspected of having ties to the Tupac Amaru. The arrests were made near the ambassador's

home.

The hostage-taking brought worldwide recognition to an insurgent group many had dismissed as a spent force. It dealt a strong blow to Fujimori, who has staked his political fortune on pledging to eliminate terrorism.

Foreign news media received a statement late Friday reportedly from the Tupac Amaru. It accused the government of human rights abuses, widespread corruption and economic policies that hurt the poor.

"The publication of this statement in the foreign press ... is one of the conditions for the freeing of other prisoners, who are now under the custody of our comrades in arms," the statement read.

The guerrillas have released several other similar statements during the hostage-taking, and there was no indication they were prepared to release any hostages.

Yugoslavian opposition calls off daily protest

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Thousands of people walked through the snow to pay their last respects today to a man who became the first fatality of demonstrations against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

At least 10,000 mourners joined the funeral procession for Predrag Starcevic, who died Tuesday after a severe beating by Milosevic's supporters. That day's violence was the first in more than a month of peaceful protests against the annulment of Nov. 17 local elections won by the opposition.

The three opposition leaders — Vuk Draskovic, Zoran Djindjic, and Vesna Pesic — walked slowly behind the black hearse, along with Starcevic's widow, 10 Orthodox priests bearing lighted candles and 50 mourners carrying wreaths. At the front of the procession was a wooden cross and the victim's portrait.

"One day, when Belgrade becomes the way you wanted it to be, a street will be named after you," Draskovic said of Starcevic during a ceremony in the cemetery chapel.

The church bells pealed in lightly falling snow, and a brass band accompanied the procession to the grave. After the burial, mourners filled nearby streets and, as they have during their protests, blew whistles and small horns.

Draskovic on Friday called on opposition supporters to attend the funeral. About 60,000 of them had gathered in defiance

of riot police and celebrated a report that backed their election victories.

Under U.S. pressure, Serbian authorities had called on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to assess the elections. The group, made up of 54 nations, sent former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on a fact-finding mission to Belgrade last weekend.

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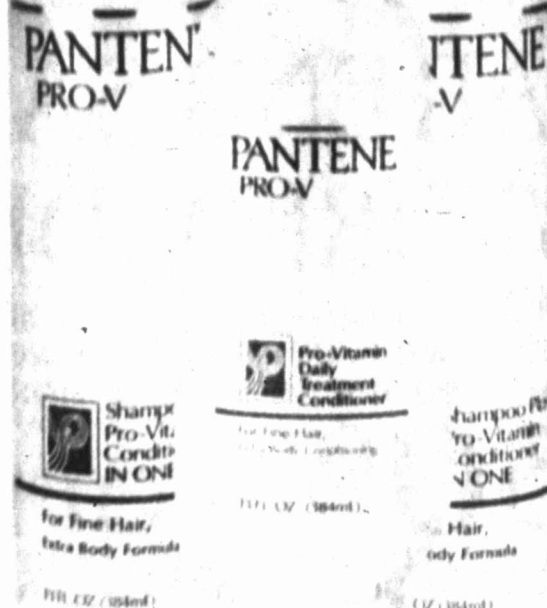
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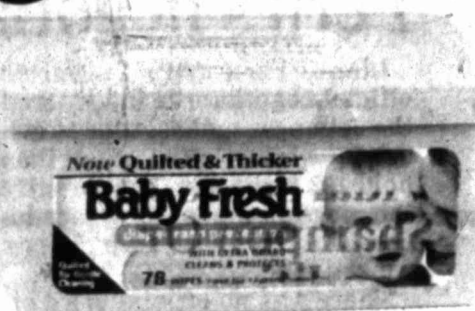
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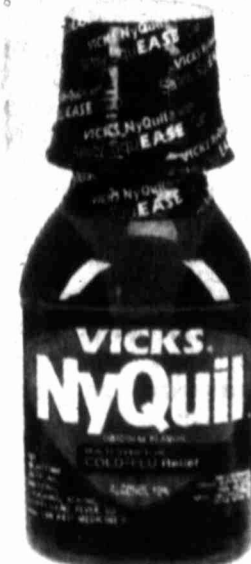
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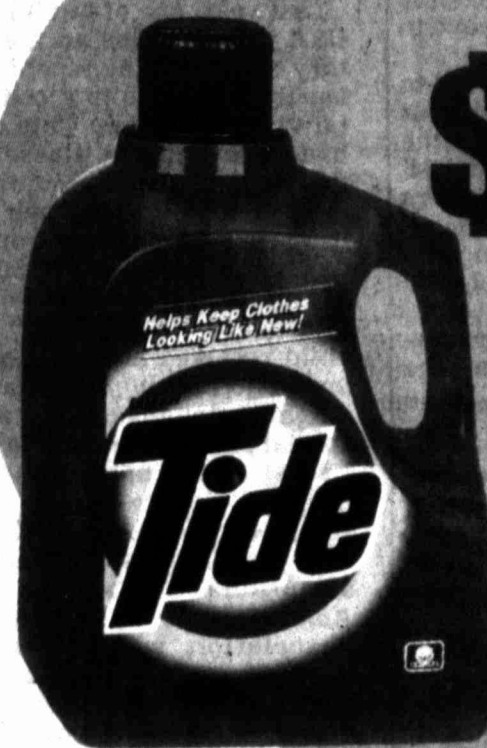
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Zap! Pow! Splat! Marvel Entertainment announces bankruptcy

NEW YORK (AP) — Not even Spiderman, Captain America and the Incredible Hulk could save Marvel Entertainment Group from its creditors.

The comic-publishing company filed for bankruptcy protection Friday because of debt and a clash of executives.

Marvel's downfall began when the comic and trading card boom of the late '80s and '90s began to wane.

Further complicating the plot was the intrigue pitting Marvel owner Ronald Perelman against bondholder Carl Icahn, both renowned takeover artists.

Marvel was once a stock-market superhero that made big money for investors. Adjusted for stock splits, the price climbed 16-fold past \$34 about 21/2 years after it was sold to the public in 1991.

The stock closed at \$2.37 1/2 Thursday, down 121/2 cents. Marvel trading was halted Friday on the New York Stock Exchange following the news.

"It's been pretty disappointing," said Alexander Paris Jr., senior investment analyst at Barrington Research in Chicago. "The Marvel brand has a lot of intangible value. It's going to survive one way or the other."

So far, though, Perelman, who owns about 81 percent of Marvel through his Andrews Group and other companies, has been doing everything in his power to keep the company. Touching off the bankruptcy filing was the unwillingness of creditors, including Icahn, to accept a restructuring plan.

Under that plan, Perelman would have spent \$350 million for about 80 percent of new Marvel shares. Perelman then would have merged Marvel with another company, Toy Biz Inc., which has enough cash flow and assets to shore up Marvel's finances.

Icahn rejected Perelman's plan, saying it would give Perelman control of the company for a fraction of its value. Icahn suggested instead a \$350 million takeover of the company by himself and others.

Now, the U.S. bankruptcy court in Delaware will have to sort it out.

"We would have preferred to recapitalize Marvel without having to seek the aid of the court, but the actions and positions taken by the bondholders prevented that approach," Scott Sassa, chairman and chief executive of Marvel, said in a statement.

Icahn responded with a statement of his own, calling the bankruptcy court filing "unconscionable."

"It is patently clear that Ron Perelman has adopted this course to realize a windfall profit for himself at the expense of those to whom he owes a fiduciary responsibility," Icahn said.

Andrews responded by characterizing Icahn's position as "disingenuous." The bankruptcy of Marvel is part takeover battle, part entertainment industry story. Icahn, who invests in the debt of distressed companies, has enjoyed his share of successes. So has Perelman.

Visionary program helps low-income workers see

DEAR ABBY: The 1997 VISION USA program is about to get under way, and once again we hope you will help to spread the news that low-income workers with no health insurance can apply to this program for free eye care.



Abigail Van Buren
Columnist

We are among 8,000 optometrists who, for the last six years, have volunteered our services to provide more than 200,000 children and adults with needed eye care.

Last year, one of our VISION USA patients was an elementary school student who was legally blind due to a congenital vision problem. This child had gone without glasses for two years because there was no money to replace the pair that had broken. With help from us, the Indiana University School of Optometry and the Ronald McDonald Foundation, this child received an eye exam, a low vision evaluation, glasses, a lighted stand magnifier and a special pair of filter sunglasses.

Most of the approximately 200,000 people who have received care through VISION USA don't have such dramatic situations. However, the American Optometric Association, which sponsors the program, reports that nine out of 10 have eye health or vision problems that can interfere with their ability to work or go to school. Some have sight-threatening conditions such as glaucoma.

Abby, we appreciate your passing the word along to your readers. There are many people

out there who need eye care and could benefit from VISION USA. —DEBRA MCCONNAHA, O.D., LILLEN VOGL, O.D., RICHARD SCHAMERLOH, O.D., INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR DR. MCCONNAHA, VOGL AND SCHAMERLOH: I'm pleased once again to alert my readers to your worthwhile volunteer program.

To qualify for free eye care, persons must have a job or live in a household where there is one working member; have no health insurance of any kind; have an income below an established level based on household size; and have had no eye examination within the last two years. (Eligibility requirements may vary in some states.)

From Jan. 2-31, 1997, low-income working people and their families can be screened for eligibility for the 1997 VISION USA program by calling 1-800-766-4466. Phone lines will be open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (CST). Because phone lines are sometimes very busy, it may be easier to apply by mail. Application forms are available from VISION USA, 243 Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63141. (Completed forms must be postmarked by Jan. 25.)

The comprehensive eye exams will be given in optometrists' private offices in March, coinciding with the celebration of Save Your Vision Week, March 2-8.

DEAR ABBY: In your column concerning the late Harry S. Truman, you made a grammatical error. You wrote: Your story about Harry Truman does not surprise me.

Abby, you should have said "astonish," not "surprise." To help you avoid making this mistake in the future, I offer this true story:

Shortly after he published his first dictionary, Noah Webster's wife came home and found Noah in bed with the maid. She shouted, "Noah... I am surprised!"

He then sat up in bed, shook his head ruefully and said, "No, Madame, YOU are astonished. I am surprised." —NORMAN M. HULINGS JR., TULSA, OKLA.

DEAR ABBY: Add this to your list of things for which Harry Truman can be admired: When Truman's term as president expired, he and Bess were offered the use of the presidential train to make their trip back to Independence, Mo.

He turned down the offer. Harry and Bess left Washington with Harry driving their relatively old Dodge automobile — CALVIN S. HOLM, THIENSVILLE, WIS.

DEAR MR. HOLM: According to an archivist at the Truman Library, you have your stories

mixed up: After a farewell luncheon in Washington with Cabinet members, Harry and Bess returned to Independence by train on Jan. 20, 1953. When the train arrived the next night, they were welcomed by an enthusiastic hometown crowd. But they did drive their new Chrysler back to Washington in June of 1953 to visit friends.

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby: P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Take a break. Use a change in plans as an opportunity to recycle. Recharge your batteries. It is hard to keep the high energy going. Errands still need to be done. Get a head start on tomorrow. Schedule a discussion with an important person. Tonight: Get some extra ZZZs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A loved one comes down on you hard. It takes an effort to not lose your temper. Don't get involved in an either-or situation. Pull back. Voice your caring feelings. Don't get into a power struggle. Make time for a special child. Tonight: Milk every drop out of the weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A partner throws you off balance. You are forced to confront a changing situation. Try not to make snap decisions. Spend time with family at home. Don't push. The holidays may have taken a toll on you. Say as little as possible. Tonight: Go to bed early.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might be overly tired. Be smart, and take a nap. Then you can enjoy your day. Make calls, catch up on news and write a thank-you note. A conversation proves lively, as well as irritating. A level approach may defuse a potential disagreement. Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A financial risk could backfire. Stay on top of a change. A loved one needs your attention, but he doesn't choose the best way to let you know. Be tolerant with this person. You need time to yourself now. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Pressure is intense with a family member. A problem arises during a discussion. Being happy makes all the difference in the outcome. Give someone space to work through a problem. Smile, and beam in what you want. Tonight: Be your wonderful self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You feel an underlying tension, and may want to retreat. Do your own thing, and enjoy yourself. Be careful; a conversation may have a volatile undertone. Another is in an off mood. Take a walk in the country. Tonight: Make it an early tuck-in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Hold your wallet close. Though you usually have control financially, there could be an unexpected event or request. Focus

on the more ethereal, spiritual side of caring. A loved one lets you know how much he values you. Tonight: Do what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You are definitely out of sorts. You feel pushed by events, a powerful person and responsibilities. Put a halt to this, especially if it is throwing you into a tizzy. Take care of yourself. Feel free to cancel plans. Let spontaneity take over. Tonight: Dote on yourself tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Stay in contact with your long-term goals. There is a vaguely self-destructive streak affecting you. Be as clear as possible when making decisions. Your instincts are likely to be off. A loved one has much to share. Tonight: Rent a movie, and mellow out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You become unhappy when you see something you really wanted dissolve. Talk to a friend who cares a lot about you. One-to-one relating adds perspective. It is wise not to push someone, or say anything harsh. Above all, stay calm. Tonight: Be with your best friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Someone you give a lot of power to may push you. You might say or do something you'll regret later. Don't take a stand. Join a group of friends. Let everything happen. Try not to control. Tonight: Enjoy dinner out.

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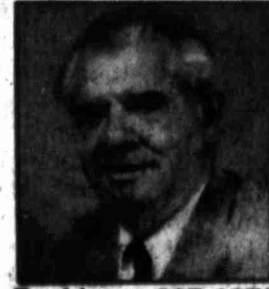


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Cowboys crush Minnesota

Revitalized offense, turnovers pace 40-15 victory

IRVING (AP) — Dallas discovered its missing offense, George Teague was a one-man gang on defense, and the Cowboys finally played like defending Super Bowl champions in knocking the Minnesota Vikings out of the playoffs 40-15 in an NFC wild-card game Saturday.

The Cowboys, who struggled to a 10-6 regular-season record before winning the NFC East for the fifth consecutive time, will play the Carolina Panthers at Charlotte at 3 p.m. next Sunday in the NFC divisional round.

The Cowboys took out all their frustrations on the Vikings after a chaotic regular season of suspensions, injuries and underachieving performances.

The Vikings self-destructed in the scoring half in Dallas playoff history as the

Cowboys rolled to a 30-0 lead at intermission. The Cowboys forced five turnovers and cashed them into 23 points.

On offense, Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith executed like they did in winning three Super Bowls in the last four years. Teague made three big defensive plays to stun the Vikings, who qualified for the playoffs with a 9-7 regular season and were seeded sixth.

Smith, dogged by injuries and even benched at one time during the season, scored twice and set or tied five NFL playoff records for rushing and scoring. He rushed for 116 yards on 17 carries.

Aikman ran for a touchdown, passed for one and completed 19-of-29 passes for 178 yards. He is 11-1 in playoff starts and is second only to Green Bay's

Bart Starr in playoff ratings.

Irvin, who missed five games under NFL suspension, had his best game of the year by catching eight passes for 103 yards.

Aikman, Smith and Irvin sat out most of the fourth quarter resting for next week's game.

Dallas, ranked 24th offensively in the NFL, struck on its first possession as Aikman completed four passes for 65 yards to Irvin in an 88-yard touchdown drive. The payoff came when Aikman rolled right and scored from 2 yards out.

Then came a bizarre play that took the heart out of the Vikings. Amp Lee took a short pass over the middle and appeared on the way for a 43-yard touchdown. However, Teague caught Lee at the Dallas 1 and poked the ball out of his hands and out of the end zone for a touchback.

Chris Boniol then kicked the first of his three field goals, a 28-yarder.

Minnesota gave the Dallas the ball again when Teague hit Leroy Hoard, who fumbled to Deion Sanders. On the next play, Smith followed textbook blocking 37 yards for a touchdown.

Teague, a free agent refugee from Green Bay, struck again as Brad Johnson, making his first playoff start, threw across the middle. Teague picked off the pass and went 29 yards for a touchdown to make it 24-0.

Sanders' interception off Johnson, his former Florida State teammate, set Dallas up for a 31-yard Boniol field goal.

Then came another Minnesota goof. Orlando Thomas intercepted Aikman's

Please see DALLAS, page 10A

Steers shut down Santa Fe at tourney

HERALD Staff Report

CLOVIS, N.M. — A strong defensive stand in the second quarter Friday night allowed the Big Spring Steers to advance to the fifth-place game of the Sunwest Holiday Classic in Clovis, N.M.

The Steers (6-10) limited Santa Fe Capital to only two points in the second quarter en route to a 63-54 victory over the Jaguars Friday night.

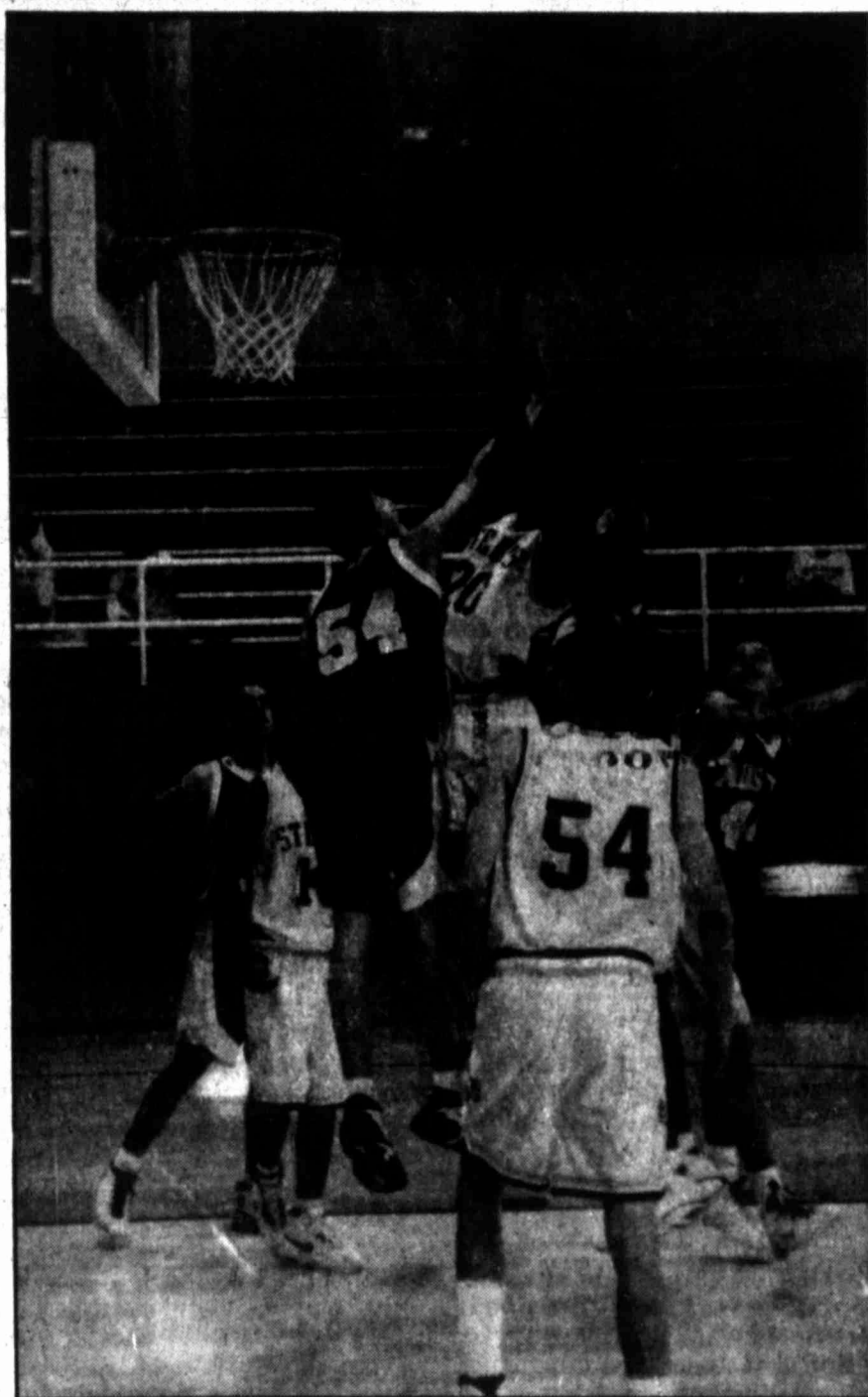
The victory allowed Big Spring advance to the fifth-place game of the tournament. The Steers faced Amarillo Tascosa in that contest.

Shooting guard Justin Myers, limited to only three points in the Steers' opening-night loss to Clovis, led the Steers with 16 points, while post player Paul Foresyth chipped in 13 points for Big Spring.

Other scorers for Big Spring included John Smith with 8 points.

The Steers trailed Capital 22-18 heading into the second quarter, but took advantage of their defensive stand to grab a 33-24 lead at intermission, and maintained that nine-point edge the rest of the way.

Beau Anderson led Capital with 30 points.



Big Spring's Tory Mitchell (20) fires a shot during a recent Steers' game. Big Spring advanced to the fifth-place game against Amarillo Tascosa at this weekend's Sunwest Holiday Classic in Clovis, N.M.

In wake of tragedy, Hawkeyes may dedicate game to teammate

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Iowa Hawkeyes may dedicate Sunday's Alamo Bowl game to the mother of reserve linebacker Mark Mitchell, who was killed in a one-car crash on an icy road while traveling to the game with her family.

Coach Hayden Fry said he met with his players Saturday afternoon before their walk-through at the Alamodome, but the coach said the Hawkeyes' hadn't immediately decided how to commemorate the game.

"They're all kind of in a shock," he said.

The Mitchell family was driving on U.S. Highway 34 in south central Iowa Friday night when their van lost control after trying to pass another vehicle, the Iowa Highway Patrol said.

Lucas County Deputy Sheriff Paul Cochran said the van rolled onto its top, pinning Diane Mitchell underneath. The driver, her husband Bob Mitchell, was reported in serious condition at a Des Moines hospital.

Four others were in the van, including Mark's two brothers, David and Brian, David's wife Shari, and Eric Martinez. None received life-threatening injuries. Brian Mitchell and Martinez are Iowa baseball players.

Mark Mitchell is a senior linebacker for the Hawkeyes who also played on special teams.

Mitchell, linebacker coach

Bret Bielema and trainer John Streif were flown to Des Moines by a bowl sponsor's corporate jet. Bielema and Streif returned Saturday, but Mitchell will miss the game, Fry said.

His replacement will be freshman Raj Clark, who's been injured most of the year but is healthy now, he said.

Mrs. Mitchell's death hit the team hard, the coach said.

"Mark's such an outgoing guy. You give him a break and he's out deer hunting or duck hunting, or whatever, and he always takes along seven or eight other guys who've never been hunting in their lives."

"Then they go over to the house and mama fixes them something to eat. The kids, they just love the Mitchell family."

School spokesman Phil Haddy said none of the Iowa players would be available to comment on the death.

Fry was asked how Mrs. Mitchell's death would affect the Hawkeyes against Texas Tech.

"I think it will be positive. I think this ball club may possibly want to dedicate the game for Mark Mitchell's family. They're that sensitive and loving," Fry said. "They're not going to forget about it. But whether it helps them or hinders them, remains to be seen."

Fry also revealed that the parents of offensive tackle Ross Verba were critically injured in a car crash on Dec. 22, the day the Hawkeyes arrived in San

Antonio.

"They were in intensive care for several days. And lo and behold, they showed up last night — here — after surgery. It gives you an idea how strong the love and support of the Hawkeye fans are," Fry said.

On Nov. 2, 1991, Iowa opted to play Ohio State in Columbus the day after a gunman killed six people at the University of Iowa's campus. Fry said the players wore black patches on their sleeves in commemoration of the shooting victims and their families.

"It really got to us. That next evening we played Ohio State and they had a tremendous football team and our guys won the ball game. So I guess it works different ways," Fry said.

Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes said Mrs. Mitchell's death puts the football game in perspective.

"I think it's tragic. I think it's one of the things that takes a lot of the fun out of anything like this. It sort of brings us back to the reality that life is pretty fragile, really," Dykes said. "We're sorry and our heartfelt ... warmth and, certainly, remorse goes out to those people."

Bob Mitchell also played football for the Hawkeyes, lettering in 1964. He is co-owner of Mitchell-Phipps-Molinski Building and Design as well as Fairview Golf Course in Iowa City.

Johnson cool toward new 'Kidd' on the block

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns expect Jason Kidd to take over as point guard when Kevin Johnson retires. So does KJ, but not quite this soon. He even may be a bit miffed.

Johnson remained at home today while Kidd, obtained from the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday in a six-player trade, was set to handle KJ's role tonight in British Columbia as the Suns face the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Though Johnson attended practice Friday morning, he said he didn't feel well. He also said the Kidd deal was disturbing "because you lose players you like and some things you find out in the paper for the first time."

And though he said he told coach Danny Ainge he wished he'd been told a few things in advance, "I'm not upset or frustrated," Johnson said Friday. "From an organization standpoint, I think it's a great trade as far as getting a great point guard for the future."

Ainge, who told Johnson of the trade just before it was announced, said later he intends to make Johnson the starter at shooting guard, a role Johnson often has played.

However, Johnson — when

he's healthy — also is accused of being the man controlling the ball offensively, penetrating and creating shots for teammates — the job Kidd will take on tonight. Once he has a chance to sit down and exchange opinions, he said he'll be ready to go on from there but added, "I probably need a day or two to do that."

Kidd said he was raring to go with his new club.

"I gave 110 percent in Dallas, but there was something missing," Kidd said while meeting the media Friday in Phoenix. "Things weren't going right and basketball just wasn't fun for me anymore. I think my teammates knew that I was not the same Jason."

"I never went to Dallas and asked to be traded, and up until (Thursday) I never thought they would trade me. But I am really excited about this opportunity to play for the Suns. Mentally I feel great, like I am a new person and everyone will see the old Jason playing."

Kidd's feud with teammate Jimmy Jackson was well publicized and Kidd did tell the Mavericks in the off-season that if Jackson wasn't traded, he might want to leave.

"Many of the things said about Jimmy and I in the

media were not true," Kidd said. "Me not having fun out there this year had nothing to do with my relationship with Jimmy."

As for Johnson, he said, "I always looked up to KJ. I look forward to playing with him and hopefully we can save this season."

"I compare the situation here to what I went through with Dallas. When I first got there they had won 13 games the year before and in my first year we won 36 and came close to making the playoffs. This is the same challenge in trying to rebuild the Suns."

Suns center Joe Klein said that "you hate to see guys leave" but that getting Kidd was a good move.

"There are so many things he can do for a team," Klein said of the 23-year-old. "He has the ability to make players around him better, and that's the mark of a real star player."

Rookie point guard Steve Nash said he didn't know how adding Kidd would affect his future but that, meanwhile, he'd simply learn all Kidd could teach.

"I'm just going to stay positive and try to keep improving," Nash said. "I'm not going to worry about how it affects

me but rather think about how I can affect it."

Even Johnson came down on the positive side.

Kidd, he said, "is one of the few players I'd pay to see play. This guy is unbelievable."

In addition to Kidd, Phoenix acquired guard Tony Dumas and center Loren Meyer in exchange for Michael Finley, A.C. Green, Sam Cassell and a future second-round draft pick.

Dumas, who averaged 11.6 points in 19 minutes off the bench last season and burned the Suns for 39 points in a game last Jan. 12, saw his minutes dwindle to just 12.6 this season in Dallas.

"I needed a change," said Dumas. "When we acquired Derek Harper in the off-season, I asked management to find me a new place to play. They said they would try to move me and I was glad it was here."

Meyer, who was the Mavericks first-round pick (24th overall) in 1995 out of Iowa State, started 16 of 19 games this season and averaged 4.1 points and 2.6 rebounds in 13.6 minutes.

"Initially I was disappointed because when I was drafted, I thought I would be part of the Mavericks organization for a long time," said Meyer.

Upstart Jaguars best Bills in AFC playoffs

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Intimidated? Overmatched? Nervous?

Try gutsy, resourceful and patient, all traits the Jacksonville Jaguars displayed in stunning the Buffalo Bills 30-27 in an NFL playoff game Saturday.

Mike Hollis' 45-yard field, his third of the game, was decisive. The kick, with 3:07 remaining, hit the top of the right upright and went through, sending the second-year team into the divisional round next week, at either Denver or New England.

The Bills, the AFC's dominant team this decade with four Super Bowl appearances — and as many losses — lost their first playoff game ever at Rich Stadium, where they were 9-0.

But they couldn't handle Natrone Means, who rushed for 175 yards, or Mark Brunell, who improvised under constant pressure to hit Jimmy Smith and Keenan McCardell for big plays.

The biggest play was an 11-yard third-down pass to McCardell on which Jeff

Burris, earlier a hero, missed a tackle that would have forced a punt.

The winning kick was set up by Jim Kelly's fumble on a run. Aaron Beasley recovered and ran it to the Buffalo 42, and Kelly left the game with an undisclosed injury.

Todd Collins could do nothing in Kelly's place, and the Jaguars won their first playoff appearance.

Brunell finished 18-for-33 for 239 yards and two touchdowns. But Means, who starred for San Diego when it won the AFC title two years ago, was the key to victory, helped by second-year left tackle Tony Boselli, who effectively neutralized Bruce Smith.

Means had a 30-yard TD run on which he ran over Smith and a 62-yard run, set up by Boselli's block on Smith, that set up Hollis' first field goal, from 27 yards.

David White and Jeff Burris, two unlikely heroes from the Bills defense, combined on a 38-yard interception return for a touchdown, putting Buffalo

Please see BILLS, page 10A

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Columnist

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QUICK TRIVIA

◆ The first oil pipeline was two inches in diameter and six miles long. It was constructed in 1865 in Pennsylvania.

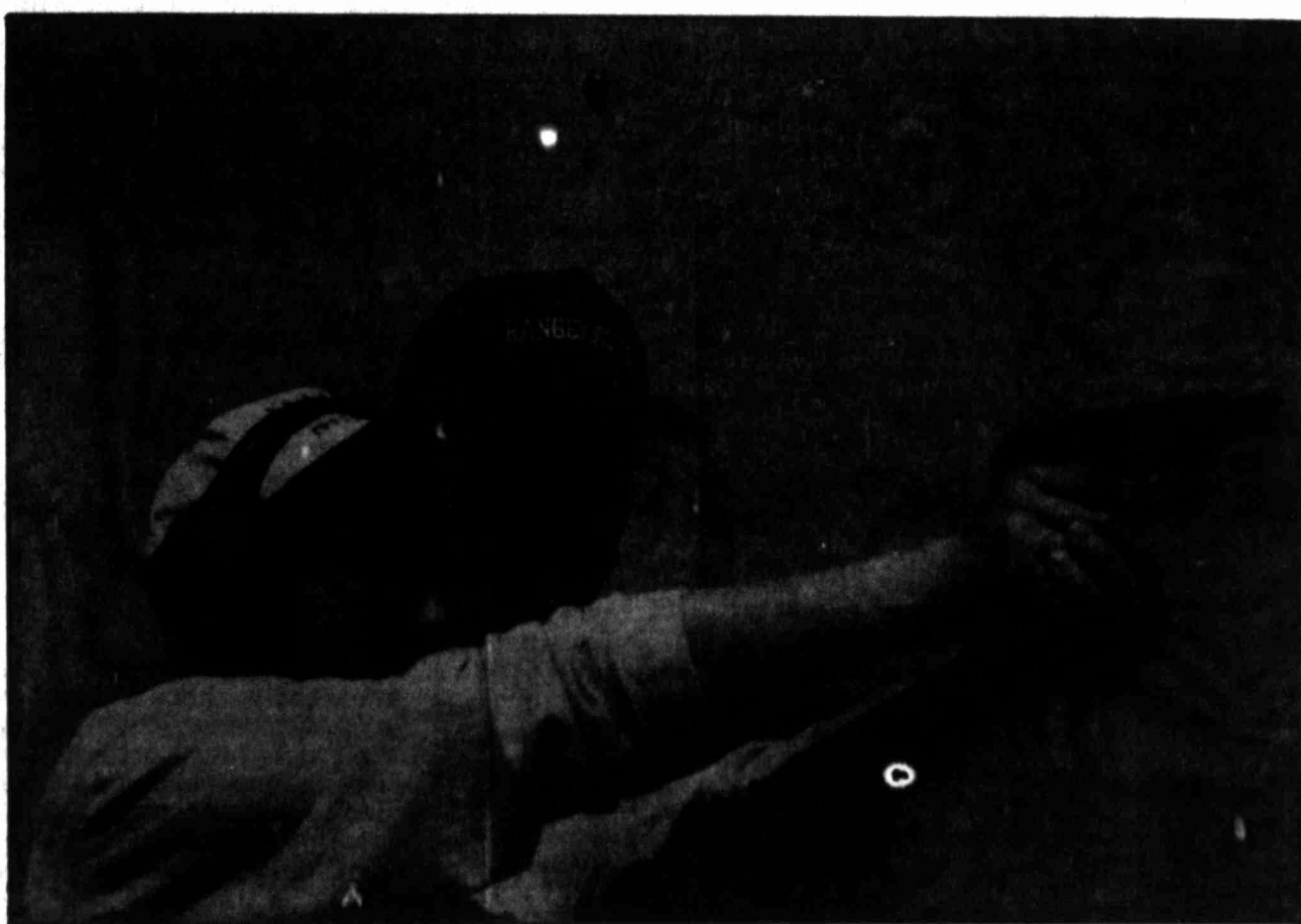
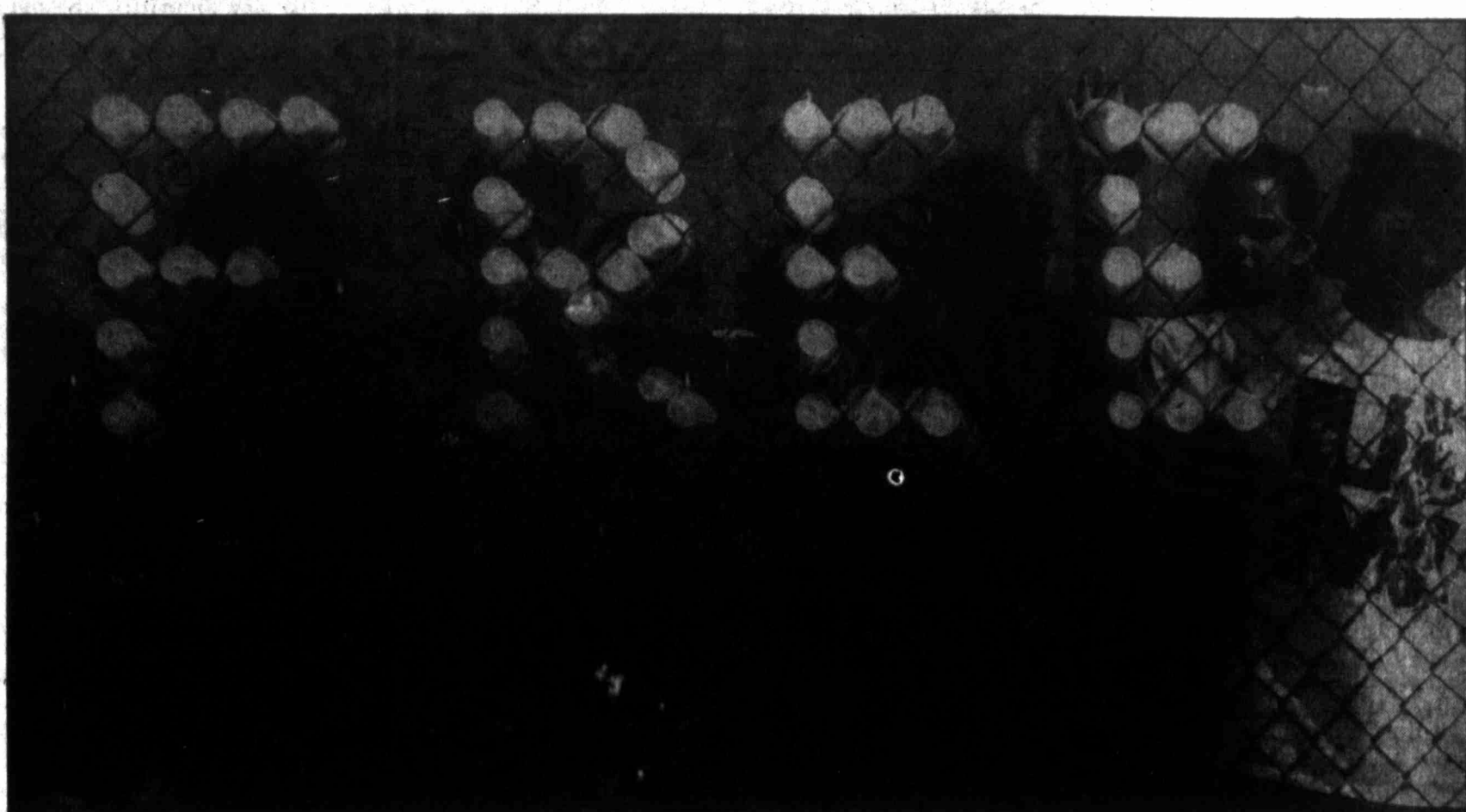
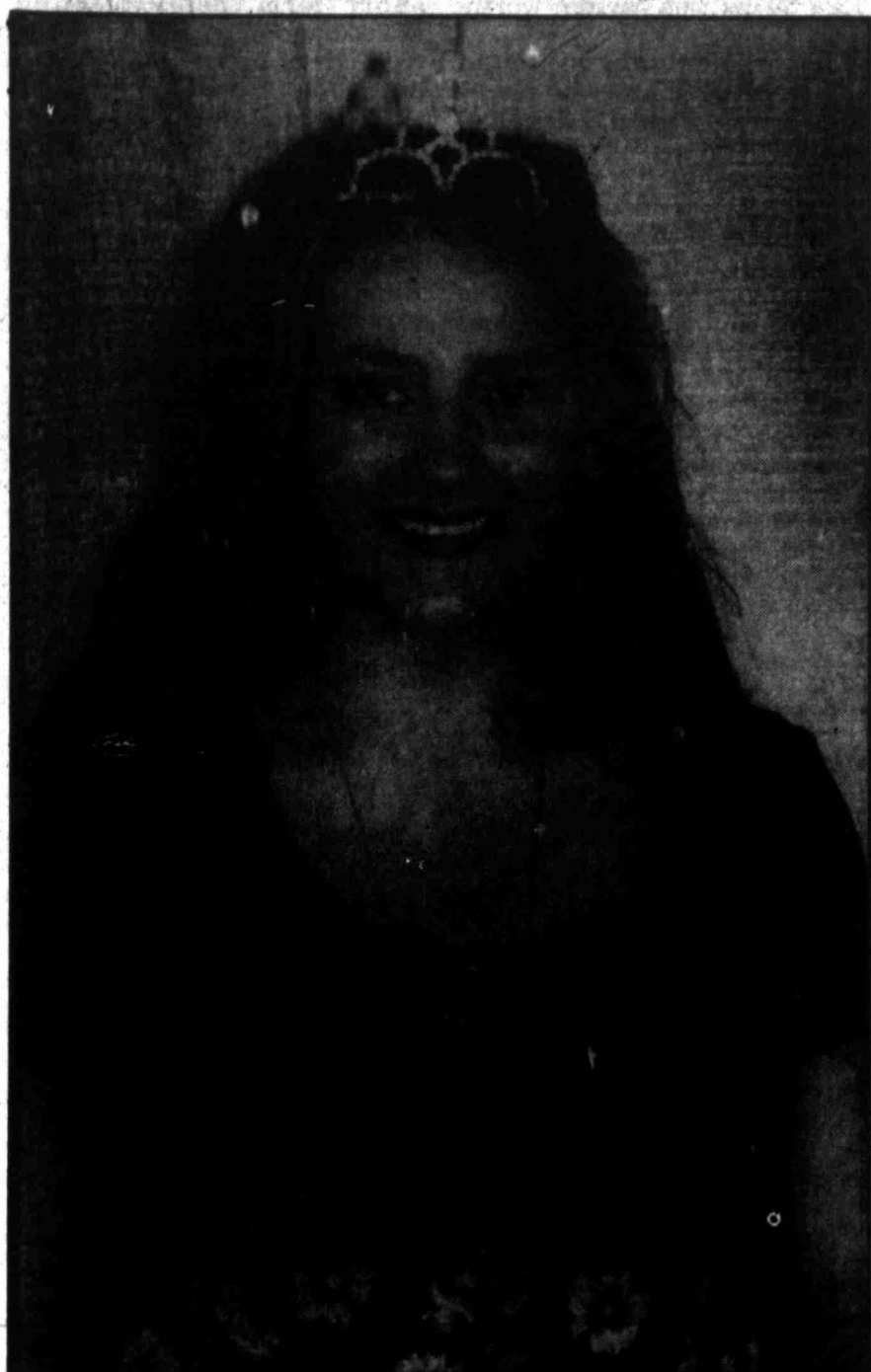
◆ Dimes were made almost completely of silver until 1965. That year, Congress ruled dimes should be made with a solid copper center between two layers of a copper-nickel alloy.

Do you have a good story idea for the life! section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 235.

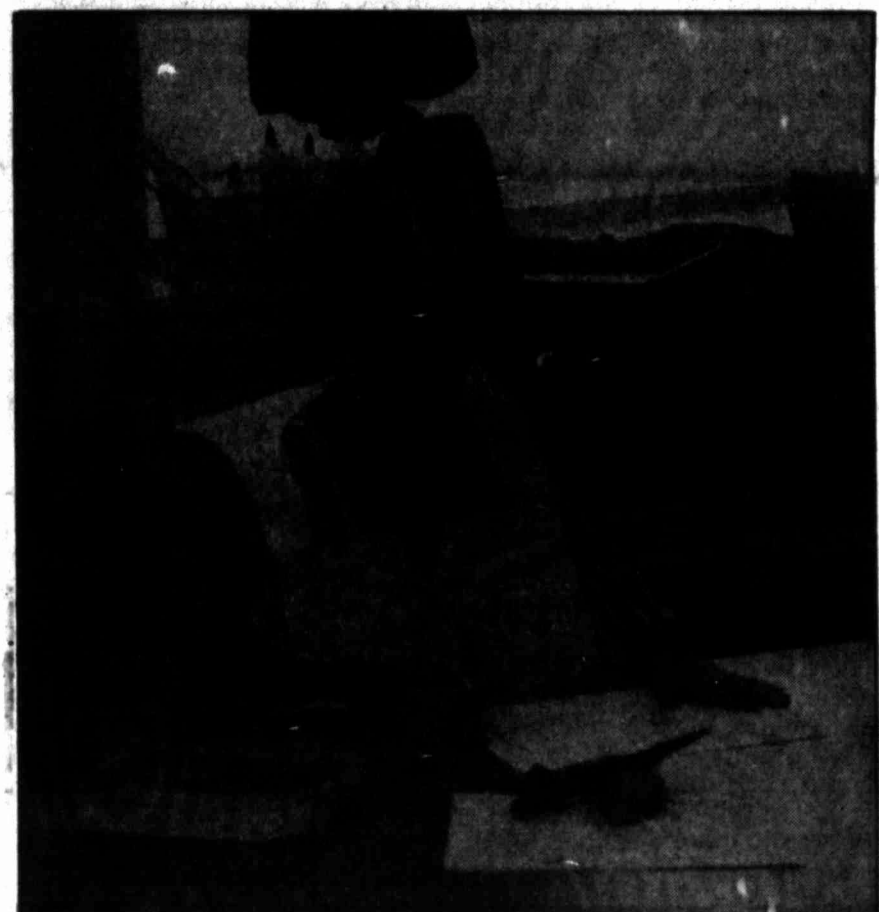
Big Spring Herald

Sunday, December 29, 1996

A look back at 1996: Fair queen, pilgrims and Red Ribbon Week



HERALD file photos
This is a look back at a selection of pictures from some of the 40-plus life! covers that appeared in the Herald in 1996. A variety of subjects were reported on including Emergency Medical Services and the Howard County Junior Livestock Show in January; the Senior Citizens Police Academy and the Humana Society in February; Texas Public Schools Week, and the one-year anniversary of Selena's death in March; Easter, First Baptist Church of Coahoma celebrating 150 years and the Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo in April; the features editor taking the concealed handgun course, memories of Runnels Junior High and Kids' Zone in May; the cowboy boot exhibit at the Heritage Museum, Kids College and the First Church of the Nazarene's missionary trip to the Amazon in June; Salvation Army school supplies program, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center's 35th anniversary and Stephanie Stewart winning a national award in gymnastics in July; back to school tips and exercising in August; Howard County Fair, Citizens Police Academy symposium and the trip Tiffany Sayles and Kristen Thixton took to New Mexico to hike a mountain for one week as part of the Explorers in September; Fire Prevention Week and Red Ribbon Week in October; St. Mary's Thanksgiving, and Cheriden's (a new business) in November; the Living Christmas Tree and the Drive-Through Nativity at the First Church of the Nazarene in December.
Above: Some students at Bauer Magnet Elementary School use cups to spell out "Proud to be Drug Free" on a fence at their campus. Left: Mary and Joseph stop for water along their trip to Jerusalem during the drive-through Nativity and bottom: John Laubner shows me how to shoot a weapon during the concealed handgun course I took in late April.



Top: Anna Castaneda was crowned the 1996 Howard County Fair Queen in September.
Middle: A kindergarten student at St. Mary's Episcopal School is dressed as a pilgrim as part of the school's Thanksgiving Pow Wow.
Left: Slain Tejano music star Selena was remembered on the one year anniversary of her death in March.

■ SEE RELATED STORIES IN THE 1996 YEAR IN REVIEW

Decorating a Christmas tree with an attitude for all seasons

Three days after Christmas I'm sorting out the little things that made it memorable. There was the green fireball I saw one evening over Gregg Street just after sunset. It streaked across the sky heading north at five minutes after six. My husband saw it too, from another part of town. He checked the time. When we found that the other had seen it, it made it twice as special. On the commercial side of



Eunice Choate
Columnist

Christmas, I like the Christmas tree best. We've had ours for 15 years and she's like a member of the family. An eccentric member. She is similar in temperament to an old ironing board I used to have. She's made a lot of Christmases memorable. It's an artificial tree, of course, but it doesn't know it. She's as real in her own mind as most of us are in ours. She thinks so highly of herself she insists that we put her on a pedestal. Won't stand up without it. Other than that, I never know what to expect. She changes her attitude according to the ornaments she wears. Once she strikes a pose, there's nothing much I can do about it. I just give her a name and let her be herself. She was Miss Piggy the year

she was so snooty and kept flipping her angel hair behind her shoulder. Feliz, the time she was all in red and green and clanking with wooden ornaments. Once she was Eva Gabor, decked out in frothy white garlands and sneezing at the dust. That was the year the sand blew so bad. I don't know what got into her this year, but my grandchildren had something to do with it. She sleeps in the barn in a big wooden box, usually from Jan. 3 until Dec. 15. When I unpack her, I bring her in to the sunshine and fresh air to sort her branches and fluff her up. This year the kids came over Nov. 30 and said, "Let's decorate!"

Now, that tree is made up of about 22 separate parts that must be put together in specific places. Each branch has a steel spine, at the end of which, is a star-shaped circle of smaller branches—each with a smaller, more pointed, steel spine. All the parts are covered in tough little needle-nosed pine sprigs. I have spent entire holiday seasons, gone to fancy parties, and shopped at Wal-Mart, looking like I'd been drug up by a truck, after putting that tree together. She resists assembly. What could I say to three nice kids who wanted to decorate? "Get after it!" I said, and gave them all high-fives. She was unpacked, brought in and put together before she was awake enough to resist.

They strung on the lights first and left them lit as they trimmed from head to toe. They used everything in the decoration box. It wasn't until the next morning that I saw her with the lights off. My first impression was of a circus costume seen in broad daylight. I could almost guess there was a seam split somewhere. I knew the hem was hanging. The overall effect was she'd stumbled into the street during Mardi Gras. Instead of the expected scent of pine, I caught a whiff of talcum. The word 'sullen' came to mind. You know how it is when the imagination kicks in; I could picture a trailing scarf - see her leaning on a lamppost. The busiest time of the year and

here stood Blanche DuBois. Ordinarily, when she assumes an attitude, I leave her alone. But I was in no mood for Blanche. Over the next few days I made subtle changes; I fixed her lipstick, hiked up some bangles that drooped, pulled the straps back up on her shoulders. At night, with her lights on and Christmas carols playing on the radio, she looks more respectable, a little fresher. Maybe (a little) like Anne of Green Gables. But I've seen her in the early mornings. I know her stockings are slipping. We've made a deal. She can stay up for New Years, but, the day after that, Blanche goes back to the barn.

WEDDINGS

Collins-King

Misty Rose Collins and Terry King were united in marriage on Dec. 14, 1996, in the Sand Springs Church of Christ with Dennis Greenfield, elder of the church, officiating.

She is the daughter of John and Patsy Collins, Coahoma.

He is the son of Bud and Carol Wright, Sand Springs.

The couple stood before an altar of white and lavender roses and ivy.

Vocalist was Teri Potts, bride's sister.

Given in marriage by Harry Beyer, her grandfather, the bride wore a white satin gown with embroidered neck and train.

She carried a bouquet of white and lavender roses.

Maid of honor was Brooke Barber, Coahoma.

Best man was Rusty Ginnitti. Cory Anderson and Patric Robinson served as ushers.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the fellowship hall.

The wedding cake was a three-tiered white and lavender cake.

All photos must be picked up within 30 days after publication or they will be discarded.



MR. AND MRS. TERRY KING

The bride is a graduate of Coahoma High School and is presently attending Howard College.

The groom is a graduate of Coahoma High School and is employed by Tate Co.

Following a wedding trip to Ruidoso, N.M., the couple will make their home in Coahoma.

Dad Joiner: Father of the East Texas oil field

Columbus Marvin Joiner brought in a successful oil well seven miles from Henderson in

Tumbleweed Smith
Columnist

early September of 1930. In doing so, he opened up the largest oil field in the world up to that time (the largest until later discoveries in the Middle East).

The well changed the mood of the entire area from an agriculture-oriented community to that of a bustling oil town. Large oil companies became eager buyers and paid the farmers in cash for their land.

The East Texas Oil Field, as it became known, covered Upshur, Gregg, Rush, Smith,

and Cherokee counties. By the end of 1931, nearly 3,400 wells had been drilled. In October of that year, one well was completed every hour. Peak production in the field was 205 million barrels in 1933.

Oil was plentiful. The price dropped from \$1.10 a barrel to 10 cents a barrel. By 1938, the field had 24,000 wells.

From 1930 until 1944, it produced an estimated two billion barrels of oil, twice as much as any other oil field in the United States. Joiner became known as the father of the East Texas field and acquired the nickname Dad.

C.M. Joiner was born near Center Star, Ala., in 1860. He began a law practice in Tennessee in 1883 and was a member of that state's legislature from 1889 to 1891.

He moved to Oklahoma in 1897 where he made and lost two fortunes in oil before coming to Texas in 1926.

He arrived in East Texas with only \$45 in his pocket. He quoted the Bible to men and poetry to women. He began buying leases at a dollar an acre.

Geologists had already explored the land. To them, East Texas was barren, worthless.

Most thought any oil found might be deep and not favorable for commercial development.

Joiner brought in A.D. Lloyd who was a chemist with a colored and checked past. He had been a druggist, veterinarian and gold prospector in the Yukon and Mexico. He had been married six times and peddled patent medicines made from oil.

On a map, he drew straight lines to connect every major oil field in the country. His prediction was that oil would be found where all of the lines intersected.

The lines crossed near

Henderson, Texas. Lloyd predicted the oil was at 3,500 feet. He missed it by just 30 feet.

Some years later Dad Joiner, in debt and sought by his creditors, sold his leases to H.L. Hunt for \$30,000 cash, four short term notes totaling \$45,000 and \$1.26 million to be paid out of production. Within days, Joiner was offered more than \$3 million for his holdings.

Dad retired in Dallas in 1940 and died in 1947 at the age of 87. A small cluster of houses located about six miles west of Henderson on the Tyler highway was named Cyril.

Because of the increasing number of people on the road, the town grew and the name was changed to Joinerville to honor Dad.

The community once had a population of 10,000 and a school with 800 students, the largest rural school in the world, the second richest.

STORK CLUB

Allyson Mae Pfluger, girl, Dec. 19, 1996, 3 p.m., six pounds, three ounces and 19 inches long; parents are Reid and Tanya Pfluger, San Angelo.

Grandparents are Eston and Faye Hollis, Big Spring, and Bill and Karen Pfluger, San Angelo.

Michaela Susanne Foy, girl, Dec. 19, 1996, 11:01 a.m.; parents are Blake and Susan Foy.

Grandparents are Mike and Sandra Roy, Odessa, and Karen Pace, Plano.

Priscilla Kay Salazar, Dec. 20, 1996, 6:38 p.m., seven pounds, six ounces, 19 1/2 inches long; parents are Benita Kay and Christopher Michael Salazar.

Grandparents are Rosa Correa Salazar and Richard Vela Salazar, Big Spring.

Kelsey Marie Garza, Dec. 26, 1996, 6:14 a.m., seven pounds, 10 ounces, 19 inches long; parents are Felix and Jennifer Garza.

Grandparents are Donna Dugger, Big Spring, and Felix and Mary Garza, Lenorah.

Karissa Nicole Kinard, girl, Dec. 20, 1996, 1:56 p.m., 5.134 pounds, 19 inches long; parents are Charles and Sherry Kinard. The big brother is Brandon Kinard.

Grandparents are Sonny and Bonnie Kinard, Big Spring, and Ann Edgar and Darrell King, Miles.

Great-grandparents are Archie and Della Kinard and Charollette Gilbert, all of Big Spring.

Paid announcement

Recipe Corner
Readers Corner

Submissions for the next Recipe Corner page should be at the Herald office by Dec. 30. The next Recipe Corner is scheduled for Jan. 8.

Readers are encouraged to submit recipes they would like to see published.

Submissions for the next Readers Corner page should be at the Herald office by Jan. 20. The next Recipe Corner is scheduled for Jan. 29.

Readers are encouraged to submit poems, short stories and photographs. Some photo suggestions: children or pets doing funny or interesting things. We also accept five-generation pictures. Please print legibly or type all submissions. For more information, call 263-7331 ext. 235.

Honey Tax
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has recently acquired the Tax & Bookkeeping records of

Hal Rosson

We gladly offer you our services.

If you prefer, you may also pick up your records.

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The many fuzzy faces of fleece

Scripps Howard News Service

Polar fleece is one of those fabrics that keeps showing up in new guises. First donned a decade ago by serious outdoor athletes who wore it mountain climbing or navigating icy rivers, it now keeps babies cozy on morning strolls and warms the laps of octogenarians during their afternoon naps.

A fuzzy polyester that wicks perspiration from the skin, it also dries quickly, which is why athletes love it.

But even people who wouldn't dream of working up a sweat while skiing or skating are discovering the fabric's comfort, warmth and versatility while they explore the supermarket or drive the carpool.

Ten steps to make a living while making a difference

Scripps Howard News Service

Here are 10 steps author Melissa Everett suggests in her book "Making a Living While Making a Difference":

• Wake up. Pay attention to your heart and mind and the world around you.

• Stabilize your life. Create a foundation in your finances and lifestyle that helps you seek meaningful work.

• Create a vibrant support system. Identify the specific supports you need and reach out creatively to bring them into your life.

Scripps Howard News Service

DEAR DR. FOURNIER: Apparently, there have been recent problems with cheating at my daughter's school. The school has an honor code under which students must sign their names to every paper that requires a grade, promising not to cheat.

Now, my daughter tells me "Everyone has signed his name so many times the rule doesn't mean anything anymore." She says cheating goes on anyway. I don't know how to respond to her.

THE ASSESSMENT: Cheating is just one symptom, but the basic "illness" lies in a lack of honesty and values.

The type of system you have

described is a classic example of trying to treat the symptom, but it does nothing to cure the basic problem. Although most parents have instilled in their children a solid sense of values, there are some students who either do not comprehend the value of honesty or fail to see how it is relevant to them.

An honor code system can only shame the students who have a sense of honor. It does nothing to encourage truth and honesty from the students who do not practice those values.

As your child quickly realized, this is a failing system. You should validate her sense of values and let her know that what she perceives is correct.

However, while you celebrate that your child has clearly shown her own value system,

the responsibility from them to you. Find actions that are within your power to take as a volunteer or entrepreneur.

• Let go of assumptions about your work. Don't assume that something is impossible without checking.

• Mine your experience for gems. Use your whole self, including painful experiences, in your search.

• Be a co-creator of the workplace you want to see. Understand that you are creating your career all the time, not just when you're looking for a new position.

you may also use this opportunity to teach some life lessons: The system isn't always fair, and we can't always measure others by our own yardstick.

Just about everything in life is a double-edged sword. So, too, is the teaching of values. You have accomplished an important part of your parenting mission, but don't let it backfire into a judgmental attitude and needless pain.

WHAT TO DO: Your child knows who is cheating in class. What should she do?

Despite what a personal value system may tell you, there is no "right" or "wrong" answer. Help your child realize that there are many options, and each carries its own advantages

Please see CHEATING, page B3

HUMANE SOCIETY



Pictured: "Lucille Ball" small spayed female Collie/Sheltie mix, red and white fluffy coat, white spots on feet, big brown eyes, agreeable, well-behaved and willing to please. She will make a devoted friend and companion.

Special Note: All dogs and cats presently available for adoption at the shelter have received their vaccinations, including rabies.

"Spanky" male full-blooded Blue Heeler, classic spots and markings, frisky and loves to play.

"Chi-Chi" young male tan colored Heeler/Pit mix, very outgoing and inquisitive.

"Betty Marjory" short-legged spayed female Basset/Bulldog mix, sleek black coat with white markings; extremely friendly and outgoing.

"Ringo" spayed female red Chow mix, beautiful animal with a sweet disposition, one of our friendliest shelter residents.

"Bertie" sturdy spayed female Basset/Terrier mix, liver and white spotted coat, calm and loves people.

"Alex and Daniel" Lab mix neutered brothers, very large and love to romp and run, a terrific twosome!

"Shadow" spayed female with black coat, retriever mix, loves to play in the water, would love to become part of your home and family.

"Cher" female small chocolate Lab mix, loves people and is most willing to please.

These, plus many more dogs and cats are awaiting adoption. Adoption fees for dogs are just \$45 and cats are \$35. This includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, wormings and rabies shots. Also covers feline leukemia tests for cats. All pets come with a two-week trial period.

Sunday deadlines

All Sunday items (weddings, anniversaries, engagements, birth announcements, Who's Who, military) are due to the Herald office by Wednesday at noon.

Wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcement forms are available in the editorial department.

Pictures are to be picked up no later than 30 days after publication or they will be discarded.

IN THE MILITARY

Army Spec. Johnny R. DeLeon has graduated from the U.S. Army Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) at Fort Drum, Watertown, N.Y.

Students received training in supervisory skills, leadership principles, and small unit training techniques essential to a first-line supervisor in a technical or administrative environment.

DeLeon, a team leader, is the son of Ray and Janie DeLeon, Big Spring. The specialist is a 1992 graduate of Big Spring High School.

WHO'S WHO

Cody Cummings, Garden City, recently received academic honors at Western Texas College in Snyder.

He has been named to Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges. Cummings is a sophomore drama major and was selected as Outstanding Drama Student last spring. He's also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He's the son of Glenda and Gerald Cummings.

ON THE MENU

BIG SPRING SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER LUNCH

MONDAY - Chicken; rice; carrots; fruit salad; milk/rolls; pie.

TUESDAY - Chicken fried steak; potatoes; broccoli; salad; milk/rolls; lime swirl.

WEDNESDAY - CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY.

THURSDAY - Steak; potatoes; squash; fruit; milk/rolls; cake.

FRIDAY - Catfish; potatoes; coleslaw; okra and tomatoes; milk/rolls; fruit.

Top five best sellers

Scripps Howard News Service

Fiction

1. Airframe, Michael Crichton.
2. The Christmas Box, Richard Paul Evans.
3. Executive Orders, Tom Clancy.
4. The Fallen Man, Tony Hillerman.
5. Silent Honor, Danielle Steel.

Non Fiction

1. A Reporter's Life, Walter Cronkite.
2. My Sergei: A Love Story, Ekaterina Gordeeva with E.M. Swift.
3. Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt.
4. Dogbert's Top Secret Management Handbook, Scott Adams.
5. Everyone Is Entitled to My Opinion, David Brinkley.

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Myrtle Griffith
Columnist

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Thoughts of 1996 include Christmas lights, high gas prices and new dishes

Dear Reader, could we just chat for a while? By the time this reaches you, Christmas



Myrtle Griffith
Columnist

will be over and Santa will have retired to headquarters for another year. Toys will have run-down batteries, and some grown-ups will be making New Year resolutions. These are fine and well-intentioned, but within a week or perhaps a month, how many will remain unbroken? Personally I never make them because I change my mind or break them anyway.

Today my thoughts scatter like dandelion fluff in a West Texas sandstorm. Some are happy and up-beat, others are

gripy. One: My sincere wish that everyone had a nice Christmas and can look forward to a bright 1997. Big wish, I know, and impossible in some cases, nevertheless, it is meant sincerely.

Two: Weren't the Christmas lights this year outstanding? I can't remember a year when there were so many unique and remarkable lighting themes. Have you driven around to see them? If not you missed a treat for the eyes.

Three: Did your family try out at least one new dish for the big dinner? It is a fun thing to do and sometimes results in a new favorite food.

Four: If you stayed warm during the cold spell you were probably shocked when the fuel bill arrived. Count your blessings. There were many who died of the cold during that time. So often we take our comforts for

granted.

Five: I think a gripe thought is coming up. Stay with me! During our October vacation we traveled in Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Oklahoma. NOWHERE did we find gasoline prices above \$1.19 and we did go into the Ozark mountains where trucks bring in all fuel. Why is Big Spring so much higher when we have a refinery just outside the city limits? This question has been in the news more than once. Doesn't it make one wonder about the reason or reasons this is true? You figure it out. It's beyond my understanding.

Six: To all senior citizens - don't you just hate it when business people and often doctors and nurses talk "down" to you. Or if a relative is nearby, they talk to that relative about you even though you are sitting right there?

I'm sure at one time or another it's happened to you if you

are over 60 and it gets worse as you add on more years.

Sometimes I have my daughter go along on consultation to help me "hear." I do have a problem with low tones, more especially men's voices.

So often the whoever (doctor, nurse, lawyer) will talk to her as if I were not present or at least couldn't understand simple English.

I have the urge to stand up and yell at these people. If we aren't senile, why act as if we are?

Seven: I think at this point I'd like to dedicate a poem I wrote some years ago to all grandparents or grandparents-to-be. I wrote this several years ago but it could apply to most any grandchild.

Ode to a Grandson

(It could just as well be to a granddaughter.)

He is trouble, bubble, bounce and vim,

Mischief fills him, complete to the brim.

His hands must always busy be,

There is little those bright eyes fail to see;

A bundle of noise, temper, impishness and glee,

How can one small child mean so much to me?

He's a treasure, a problem, a spirit of motion it's true.

His eyes shine bright, innocent, wide and blue;

Blond tousled hair tumbles over his head.

He has untiring energy, till it's time for his bed.

Suddenly all is quiet and still,

A tired little boy has gone over the hill;

To hide away safely in his own slumberland,

With a toy resting in his loosened hand.

A faint little smile plays hide and seek

On the soft round curve of his pink little cheek;

Are the angels whispering as he drifts into sleep?

Or do they a nightly vigil keep?

Such a proud little boy, whose years number five;

So happy, so alert, so eager, and so much alive;

'Tis a miracle true in him I behold.

Heaven sent, to love, cherish and hold.

This child I'll remember when I'm weary and old,

By this time you've already guessed

My reason for feeling so many times blessed;

This prize, this despair, this treasure, this joy,

Is my very own grandson, sweet imp of a boy!

With that my random thoughts have come back together.

If you'd like a special subject printed, please let Kellie know

and she, in turn, will see that I get the message. I'll do my best to discuss whatever it may be (within reason of course).

So until next time, Happy New Year!

Walk toward better health in 1997

Two thousand years ago, Hippocrates made the following observation on exercise: "...all



Wanda Denson
Columnist

parts of the body which have a function, if used in moderation and exercised in labors to which each is accustomed, become thereby healthy and well developed, and age slowly; but if unused and left idle, they become liable to disease, defective in growth, and age quick-

ly." Doctors and researchers consider these words just as relevant today as they were then. They agree that one of the best things you can do, whatever your age, to keep yourself healthy, happy and looking good is to get fit.

Inactivity is associated with a host of medical and functional problems including: diabetes, depression, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and heart disease.

This doesn't mean exercise is a perfect preventative because there are other factors that increase risks, but exercise does reduce risks.

Researchers say people who start exercising even in their sixties and beyond can increase

their life expectancy and look forward to a number of other benefits such as: improved cardiovascular fitness, greater

Researchers say people who start exercising even in their sixties and beyond can increase their life expectancy and look forward to a number of other benefits.

muscle strength, flexibility and balance which helps prevent falls and fractures.

Walking is recommended by more doctors than any form of exercise.

It is especially appropriate for older individuals - and people with heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and

diabetes.

Walking boosts immunity by spurring disease-fighting cells to move from your organs into

the blood stream.

In addition - studies show even a 10-minute walk increases energy for up to two hours and raises levels of optimism and confidence.

Why not make a commitment to better health in 1997 by resolving to walk regularly?

Some interesting stories about wedding ceremonies

G.A. McGee, interim pastor at College Baptist Church, has had many interesting experi-



Jean Warren
Columnist

ences as a minister. One of the most interesting was the time he married a couple in the barrow ditch. It all happened when a young man McGee had baptized during his 13-year pastorate at Eunice, N.M., wanted McGee to conduct the wedding service for him and his fiancée at the church in Eunice. At the time, McGee was on the staff of

Sherwood Baptist in Odessa, and, Dennis, the prospective bridegroom, was working in Midland.

Arrangements for the June wedding at Eunice were completed. The day of the wedding arrived. Wedding guests were assembling, and the organ was playing while the prospective groom paced nervously. McGee said, "Dennis, I need to see your marriage license."

Immediately he realized there was a problem.

The marriage license, which Dennis had secured in Midland, was not valid in New Mexico.

A quick check with the county clerk of Midland County, Rose Nell Cherry, confirmed the fact the wedding could not be legally performed in New Mexico.

Mrs. Cherry suggested they go ahead with the wedding and wait until after the reception to tell the bride the license was not valid.

After the reception, McGee and the wedding party could drive to Andrews, the nearest town in Texas, and find a place to repeat the ceremony.

McGee asked if it was necessary to go all the way to Andrews. The county clerk said any place in Texas would do.

He thought of an historic spot, known as the Tree Windmills, just over the state line. It was six miles from Eunice. He asked the wedding party to meet him there after the reception.

It was getting dark by the time they assembled in the barrow ditch by the roadside. In

the headlights of passing motorists, all of whom slowed down at the sight of a wedding party in formal attire, they repeated their vows.

McGee is happy to report that the couple are still married - 18 years later.

A reluctant ringbearer enlivened another wedding ceremony McGee conducted.

The four-year old had to be urged down the aisle by his mother. Suddenly the little boy burst into tears and began to run. He by passed the altar and took a side exit for the parking lot.

The wedding was on hold until an usher could catch him and retrieve the rings.

McGee retired in 1994, after 43 years as a pastor. Since that time, he has served a number of churches as interim pastor.

HOME TIPS

Scrpps Howard News Service

So what's "in" in design colors for the new year? Everything.

Many design trends are heading for neutral backgrounds. Some decorators stop there for that rich, elegant, sophisticated look with the entire house done in neutral colors.

Others leave the backgrounds basic, and punch the rest with bold, bright color.

For example, start with walls, floors, ceilings in basic off-white. If the tone-on-tone, monochromatic look is the goal, variations of the off white should be used on the upholstery and woodwork using several off whites right up to the dark ones.

Be sure the "colors" are all of the same constitution. In other words, if the off white is on the yellow side, continue that theme.

If the off white is on the gray side, be sure all the coordinates are grayed rather than yellowed.

Sometimes the samples have to be looked at in various lights to be sure they actually look good together and are made up of the same "colors."

If, on the other hand, the punch of colors is preferred, start with the walls, floors, ceilings in basic off white again. Upholstery then might take on a wild look with dynamic colors in solids and prints.

A variation of this is to keep the backgrounds neutral, the upholstery neutral also, then punch color area rugs, furniture finishes and bright, bright accessories including wall hangings.

Spicy colors such as zesty lemon, herbal green and tangy oranges are making a splash. These colors can be used with the neutral backgrounds or they can be the background colors themselves.

Herbal green walls, off white woodwork, cream colored floors, sage, brown, yellow and orange in the upholstery will make for a great color theme.

If bright yellow is used as a hue in the design palette, make it an accent rather than the main theme.

Yellow is fun but too much can cause irritability. Orange and yellow go well together, but here again, keep the orange to a minimum as orange tends to create a feeling of anxiety, rushing, hurrying - certainly not a desirable attitude for a peaceful home.

Yellow and orange, though, do work well together. To solve the irritable/anxiety feeling, add blue to the scene.

Blue will calm down the other two colors while adding to the interest of color combinations.

The important thing to remember is the beauty of any color is in the eye of the beholder.

Everyone has different tastes in color and color combinations.

The best designed home is the one in which the occupants are happy and comfortable in the furnishings and the color decor.



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PRIME POEMS

Autumn Time

Its Autumn time
I hear wild geese
the leaves fall down
pile up in heaps

The winds come by
and quickly sweep
the fallen leaves
on up the street

Again I hear the
cry of geese
and the cold wind blows
on golden leaves

The leaves so lovely
red and gold
brings memories of
long years ago.

But now the years
are dark and deep
I feel cold wind
blow on my cheeks

I look from door
for golden leaves
but the wind
has swept them
down the street

Field of Poppies

One night I walked
in no man's land
on sacred ground
I tread

The poppies blowing
in the breeze
and I walked
among the dead

I saw some friends
I use to know
their names wrote
on their cross

waling there in dream land
but last among the foe

I could hear the larks a
singing
aimed the guns, that night
and the men fell
down in Flanders field
It was a dreadful sight

but some slept on
beneath their cross
the crosses all in white
the poppies growing
in the rows
cast out a glowing light.

Lullaby for Margaret

Kitty, kitty, my pretty gray
kitty
I've hunted the house all
around

looked under the stairs
and under the chairs
but nowhere can kitty
be found.

Oh, kitty, kitty, my
pretty gray kitty
Why don't you come
home to me now
I've looked everywhere
but you are not there
and I'm wondering
where you can be found.

Kitty, kitty, pretty
gray kitty
so lonely without
you I am,
but when I get
to Heaven
I'll find my gray kitty
'cause that's where
she can be found

Kitty, kitty, pretty gray kitty
You were lost but now
you've been found
waiting in Heaven
there under the stars
what a beautiful mansion
we've found.

By: Bernice Reed Jones

Cheating

Continued from page B2

and disadvantages. Your daughter may know who is cheating, but she does not know why. She doesn't know what experiences they have gone through that made them give up on honesty. Maybe when they were honest, all they had were failing grades and the humiliation that goes with it.

Help your child look for the available options and learn how to evaluate them in a non-judgmental way.

One option is: "Tell the teacher." But in a school system that treats symptoms instead of going for the cure, I'm not sure that this option will really produce the result of

encouraging honesty.

Another option is for your daughter to create a study group that will help a cross section of students learn to study for the test. This option allows your child to help others in a more positive way.

As you discuss options with your child, you may arrive at many other possibilities. Remember that the ultimate goal is to let your child continue in her values without feeling superior because of it.

Parents - and students - may send questions about homework, education or parenting to Dr. Yvonne Fournier at Fournier Learning Strategies, 5900 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38119.

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Howard County receives \$286,527 December tax rebate

By CARLTON JOHNSON
 Staff Writer

For the month of December, 1,084 Texas cities and 117 counties received a total of \$158.9 million in sales tax payment from the State Comptroller John Sharp's office.

December sales tax payments included sales taxes collected by monthly filers in October and reported to Sharp in November.

According to Sharp, total

rebates for calendar year 1996 are 9.2 percent higher than total rebates for 1995, and the Texas economy is continuing a healthy upward trend.

Cities received rebates totaling \$144.9 million, a 25.9 percent increase compared to last year's December payments. Rebates of \$13.9 million were paid to Texas counties, a 20.7 percent increase over last year's \$11.5 million payment.

Locally, Howard County, including the cities of Big

Spring, Coahoma and Forsan, received a payment of \$286,527.98, a 34.53 percent increase over last year's December payment.

Big Spring received \$281,665.54 of that payment, 34.17 percent more than last December; Coahoma received a payment of \$2,929.37, a 142.79 percent increase over last year; and Forsan received a payment of \$1,933.07, a 4.9 percent increase over last December.

To date, Howard County has

made a total of \$3,654,523.18 in sales tax payments, a 1.45 percent increase compared to last year's year-to-date total.

Martin County, including the city of Stanton, received a payment of \$7,430.13, a 47.77 percent increase over last December's rebate.

As for the larger rebates issued in December, the city of Houston received a payment of \$19 million, 23.3 percent more than last year.

Dallas' \$12.7 million rebate

was 26.3 percent more than it received last year.

San Antonio received a rebate of \$8.2 million, an increase of 26.1 percent compared to last year.

Sizable rebates were also received by the cities of Austin, \$6 million; Fort Worth, \$4.1 million; Arlington, \$3.6 million; El Paso, \$2.9 million; Mesquite, \$1.6 million; Abilene, \$1.5 million; McAllen, \$1.4 million; and Longview, \$1.3 million.

IN APPRECIATION OF...



Big Spring's Fina Oil and Chemical Company recently showed its appreciation for the work the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department does, including occasional help to the refinery, by donating a \$1,000 check to Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan for the purchase of needed equipment. Sullivan (second from right) is being presented the check by Fina employees (left to right) Don Riley, Bill Swafford and Charlie Kosh. Next to Sullivan is Fina Plant Manager Phil Carruthers.

Texas business in 1996 a mixed bag, including second-worst drought

DALLAS (AP) — Business news in 1996 saw several Texas companies combine their businesses, while a severe drought meant farmers were grateful they were able to combine their fields.

The states' second-worst drought stressed crops, cattle and bearing trees this spring and summer, depressing some prices and supplies.

Farmers in eight counties qualified for emergency federal loans because of drought, wind and heat damage to their crops.

It was a disappointing year for pecan growers who produced below-average crops at extremely low prices while hay supplies in Texas were so low that members of Kentucky's Community Farm Alliance donated to dairy and cattle farmers. The high costs of feed and water meant Texans ultimately sold off herds resulting in depressed beef prices and a dip in costs for consumers at the meat counter.

Torrential rains in the late summer doused dire predictions that Texas was heading for a repeat of the 1950s drought, the worst on record.

Beef started a long drive back up with the rains at the end of the summer.

And where cotton did grow, it grew robustly. Figures indicate a state record 517-pound per bale mark, compared to 372 pounds per bale last year. That means that even though the number of bales was down, there was a greater cotton total. Texas Agricultural Statistical Services estimates show Texas on track to produce 4.2 million bales of cotton, just 6 percent off of last year.

The dry weather also allowed Texas' citrus to get the jump on Florida because of early ripening. The Valley produced about one-fourth more grapefruit and 54 percent more oranges than the previous season.

Meanwhile, Texas corporations spent 1996 joining the national trend of merging forces. Some of the deals include:

— Walt Disney Co. bought Capital Cities/ABC, owner of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth WBAP-AM and KSCS-FM, in February for the third-largest corporate merger ever.

The Federal Communications Commission gave the company a year to sell either the newspaper or the radio stations because of rules that prevent one company from owning both in the same market. But the agency launched a re-examination of the situation on Oct. 1.

— The fourth-largest merger ever occurred on April 1 when San Antonio-based SBC Communications Inc. agreed to buy Pacific Telesis Group for \$16.7 billion in stock. The deal unites the companies that serve the nation's two most populous states, California and Texas, and five others, creating a combined Baby Bell that operates 30 million lines.

— The \$5.4 billion marriage of Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads won approval in July. Some Texas industries and consumers had argued that the merger would inhibit com-

petition within the state. Fort Worth, Texas-based Burlington Northern didn't oppose its rivals' merger, under which it was given the right to purchase 335 miles of track and gain use of an additional 3,900 miles. New trackage rights for Texas Mexican Railway Co. were also carved out as a response to concerns that the new combined railroad would have excessive dominance of freight to Mexico and along the Gulf Coast.

— San Antonio-based Diamond Shamrock Inc., which has the best-selling gasoline in Texas, and Ultramar Corp. announced they would merge in September in an all-stock deal. The merged company, Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp., will remain based in Texas.

— In November, Duke Power Co. announced it was buying Houston-based PanEnergy Corp., the nation's largest natural gas company, for \$7.4 billion in a move designed to help the North Carolina electric utility branch out nationally. The deal creates a new, integrated power company called Duke Energy Corp. and came amid a spate of mergers as the utility industry moves toward deregulation.

— Plano-based J.C. Penney announced in November it would buy Eckerd Corp. for \$2.59 billion in cash and stock, doubling the catalog company's revenues from the retail drug business.

Wealth doesn't always mean generosity says Fortune

NEW YORK (AP) — They know how to make money but they're not necessarily good at giving it away, according to a survey of the nation's tycoons by Fortune magazine.

In its Jan. 13 issue, the magazine ranked the nation's top 25 philanthropists and found they gave away more than \$1.5 billion this year.

Topping the list is George Soros, president of Soros Fund Management, who donated \$350 million this year, followed by retired grocery and drug store magnate L.S. Skaggs, who made gifts of \$155 million.

Computer whiz Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, was ranked third, with \$135 million in donations. Walter Annenberg, former chairman of Triangle Publications, made gifts of \$128 million, and William Hewlett, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard, \$100 million.

The magazine, which released the ranking Monday, said it gleaned the information from community foundations, financial filings and interviews with wealthy Americans. The totals reflect donors' new giving commitments for 1996.

Most are self-made; only four inherited fortunes. Most are religious and attributed their generosity in part to their religious backgrounds. And most have been giving to others for years, even before they had much themselves.

The magazine chided some for not doing more.

"Many billionaires whose names you might expect to find aren't listed, some because their giving (in relation to their wealth) is stingy," it said.

Some have made large contributions in the past but didn't in 1996, and others have put off their biggest gifts until after their deaths, it said.

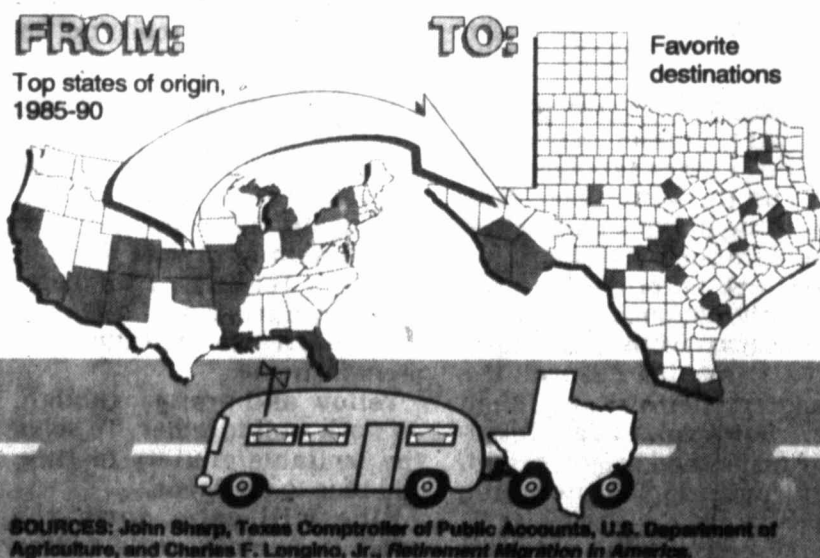
The nation's top philanthropists as ranked by Fortune magazine according to 1996 donations include:

1. George Soros, \$350 million.
2. L.S. Skaggs, retired chairman of American Stores, \$155 million.
3. Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, \$135 million.
4. Walter Annenberg, former chairman of Triangle Publications, \$128 million.
5. William Hewlett, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard, \$100 million.
6. Leslie Gonda, chairman of International Lease Finance Corp., \$73 million.
7. Jay A. and Robert A. Pritzker, Hyatt Corp., Marmon Group, \$70 million.
8. Ted Arison, retired founder of Carnival Cruise Lines, \$60 million.
9. Robert Galvin, retired chairman of Motorola, \$60 million.
10. William Davidson, chairman of Guardian Industries, \$35 million.
11. Joan Kroc, widow of McDonald's former chairman, \$33 million.
12. Robert Bass, president of Keystone, \$30 million.
13. Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP, \$30 million.
14. John Kluge, chairman of Metromedia, \$30 million.
15. Thomas Lee, president of Thomas H. Lee Co., \$30 million.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Retirees: Headin' to Texas

Texas lures retirees with its relatively low cost of living, low taxes, and natural amenities. From 1985-90, the state posted a net gain of more than 8,000 retirees, most of whom settled in East Texas, the Hill Country, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Mountain West.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Charles F. Longino, Jr., Retirement Migration in America.

Marinating venison makes for a very tasty treat

I never expected to get much response from last week's article but we sure did! Anyway, with Christmas turkey about all gone from most folks' homes, here are some more tips on venison people requested.

Hopefully, for those of you lucky enough to have a little of this Texas treat around (maybe a good friend gave you some for Christmas), this will help you



Don Richardson
 County Agent

out in preparing some of this post-holiday treat.

A lot of folks complain about venison being tough. This does not have to be a problem. Mature game and less tender cuts of young game can be tenderized by any of the following methods: mechanical — grinding, cubing or pounding; adding commercial tenderizers; moist heat cooking — braising, pan frying, cooking in liquid; marinating — can help overcome gamey flavor and can tenderize.

Marinating is my personal favorite.

To marinate venison, cover the meat with your favorite marinade and allow it to stand in the refrigerator for at least 24 hours.

Then it will be ready to broil,

roast or braise...or choose one of these wild-game marinades: vinegar to cover steak or roast; French dressing; tomato sauce or undiluted tomato soup; fruit juice such as lemons or pineapple, or a mixture of many juices, one-quarter cup cooking oil, one-half teaspoon of pepper and one-quarter teaspoon of garlic salt; two cups water, two cups vinegar, one to two tablespoons of sugar, four bay leaves, one teaspoon of salt, 12 whole cloves, one teaspoon allspice and three medium size onions; or garlic salt, salt and pepper to taste, and equal parts of Worcester sauce and two of your favorite steak sauces.

This gives a blend of flavors and is also excellent for basting game roasts or thick steaks during cooking; two table-

spoons vinegar, one and a half teaspoons of ground ginger, one glove minced garlic, two tablespoons of brown sugar, one and a half cups soy sauce and three-fourths cup of vegetable oil; commercial marinades (there are many to choose from); and milk.

Cook big game the same as lean beef. Most game has little fat, and corresponds in quality to beef carcasses with little or no external fat. It should be cooked in the same way. The tender cuts such as the loin and rib can be pan fried or roasted with basting.

Round steak, meat from the leg and less tender cuts are best when cooked by moist heat-braising, stewing or pot roasting. Do not overcook big game meat. It has short fibers

that toughen quickly if overcooked or cooked at too high a temperature. Plan to serve it medium to well-done, never rare or overcooked.

Reduce the sugar in sauce recipes. The normal flavor is sweeter than other meat. Sauces made for domestic meats may be too sweet. Use one-fourth less sugar. Remove all visible fat before cooking. The gamey flavor is exaggerated in the fat. If fat is desired, ground pork or beef may be substituted. Big game is a dry meat, so moisten it to prevent dryness. Add chunks of beef fat to self-baste it, or cover the surface with bacon strips anchored with tooth.

May 1997 be a most happy, healthy and prosperous New Year for each of you!

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

HIGH DEFINITION

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's the biggest change to television since color.

The government approved a plan Thursday to deliver crisp, movie-quality TV signals, CD-quality sound and sharper pictures in a format called high definition. It could appear as early as 1998, but probably only in the nation's largest markets such as New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

RADIO GROUP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Removing the last regulatory obstacle, the government agreed to let Westinghouse Electric Corp., and Infinity Broadcasting Corp., merge into the nation's largest radio group.

The Federal Communications Commission's approval Thursday of the \$3.9 billion deal had been expected. The new group will operate 79 radio stations in 17 markets, accounting for more than \$1 billion in revenues, said Westinghouse, which plans to close the deal by the end of the year.

Westinghouse is the parent company of CBS.

AFTER CHRISTMAS

For those who didn't get that cashmere sweater or Craftsman power saw before Christmas, the wait may pay off.

Consumers found a bonanza of bargains Thursday as retailers, some of whom had less-than-spectacular holiday sales, slashed prices hoping to ignite some post-Christmas buying.

TOBACCO SUIT

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A tobacco industry bid to block Connecticut's \$1 billion lawsuit has been turned back by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Peter C. Dorsey is letting the state proceed with a suit in state court that attempts to recover from tobacco companies the taxpayer money spent on treating smoking-related illnesses.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said Thursday he believed it was the first time a judge has thrown out one of the lawsuits tobacco companies have filed to block states from bringing Medicaid claims against them. Nineteen states, including Connecticut, have such claims against the industry.

GODDU CEO

CHICAGO (AP) — Former Toys R Us executive Roger Goddu has been chosen as the new chairman and chief executive of Montgomery Ward & Co., the nation's largest privately held retailer.

With the appointment, announced Thursday, Goddu replaces Bernard F. Brennan. The company said Brennan, 68, is stepping back from day-to-day responsibilities to assume a more strategic role at the retailer's parent, Montgomery Ward Holding Corp., where he will remain chairman.

GENERAL MILLS

WASHINGTON (AP) — General Mills Inc. can move forward with its \$570 million purchase of Ralcorp Holdings Inc.'s Chex brand cold cereals, but with some restrictions, the Federal Trade Commission said.

St. Louis-based Ralcorp makes the Chex brands. It is the fifth-largest cereal maker and largest producer of private label cereals — products that are identical or very similar to name brands but which carry the grocery store, retailer or wholesaler name on its label.

Ralcorp keeps its private label business under the acquisition and Minneapolis-based General Mills has agreed, in a settlement Thursday with the FTC, to permit the introduction of private label competitors to the Chex brands.

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Chevron ordered to pay contractor \$61 million

BEAUMONT (AP) — A jury has ordered Chevron U.S.A. to pay nearly \$61 million to a contractor that claimed its workers were sickened by unsafe conditions at one of the oil company's refineries.

The Dec. 17 jury decision stemmed from maintenance and construction work that AltairStrickland did during a shutdown of the El Paso Chevron refinery in March 1995.

Chevron will appeal the verdict and may ask District Judge Gary Sanders to set aside the judgment, El Paso Chevron spokesman Santana Gonzalez said Thursday.

The jury found Chevron guilty of fraud and gross negligence in the contract dispute. The award includes \$43.5 million in damages for AltairStrickland and \$17.4 million in its attorney fees.

AltairStrickland sued Chevron U.S.A. Products Co., a division of San Francisco-based Chevron U.S.A., in June 1995 in Beaumont, where Chevron

also has a refinery.

The lawsuit claimed that Chevron did not pay AltairStrickland for work it did nor had it warned the company of unsafe conditions at the El Paso refinery.

AltairStrickland's workers suffered rashes and respiratory problems from their exposure to sulfur dioxide, said William Carmody, a Dallas attorney who represented the industrial contracting firm based in Deer Park, east of Houston.

Chevron was accused of replacing AltairStrickland as the contractor when the company refused to work in those parts of the refinery where its workers were falling ill.

Chevron knew about the sulfur dioxide problem but was more concerned about productivity than safety, Carmody said.

"They knew how dangerous the conditions were and they concealed the dangerous conditions to keep work going," he said.

Christmas a working holiday for many

GRAPEVINE (AP) — As Americans crisscrossed the skies Wednesday for last-minute trips home for Christmas, some unlucky people had to fly them and some had to serve them snacks and drinks.

American Airlines pilot Jeffrey Dawkins said he doesn't mind working on the holidays, but concedes he'd rather be home with his 9-year-old daughter and wife of 14 years. "I wish Santa could just pack a few people into his sleigh and drop 'em off on his way back to the North Pole," Dawkins said as he walked through the terminal at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. "But someone has to take Grandma home safely."

Harding is among thousands of workers for hotels, airlines, radio stations, law enforcement agencies and other businesses that just can't stop operating on Christmas.

At a nearby Marriott hotel, janitor Henry Jonah, 54, said Christmas is the busiest time of year.

"I know that I'm never really going to get off for Christmas," Jonah said. "You've got people coming into town for the holidays and their relatives don't have enough room."

Dallas homicide detective Cathy Harding says she enjoys her job on Christmas Day more than any other day of the year.

"There is 100 percent job security around here the other 364 days of the year, but today, generally, everyone has good will towards men," Harding said.

But someone has to man the post, no matter how quiet things may be, she added.

"This is a job where I'm grateful when I'm not busy, but you never know when something could happen."

Scott Jenkins, a technician at 24-hour news station KRLD, said he got the holiday shift because his family lives in Louisiana.

"We had an early Christmas last weekend so I'm OK with working," Jenkins said. "If I weren't doing this I'd just be sitting at home watching television."

Philip Gregory, 17, grimaced while sweeping the aisles of an empty movie theater at the Spectrum in Dallas.

"I don't understand why people want to come see movies on Christmas Day," Gregory said. "What do movies have to do with Christmas?"

He said he'd rather be anywhere but at work, but admitted he might "sneak a movie" himself to make the time go faster.

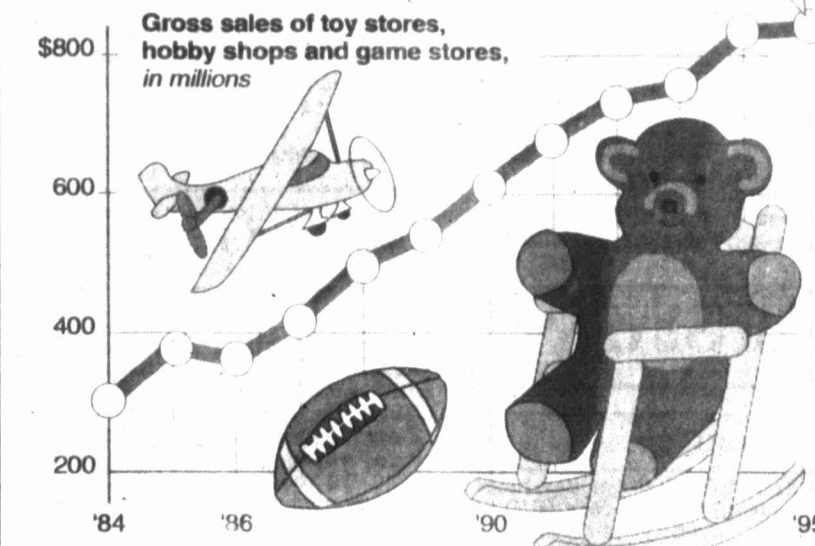
An Arlington Walgreens was open to provide saving grace for forgetful shoppers, as most of the drug store's small televisions and stereos sold out by noon.

"People come in here desperate and leave here looking like we just saved their life," said clerk Rashida Johnson. "I guess that, and the holiday extra pay, makes it worth it."

Keeping an eye on Texas

Toy sales bounce back

Toy stores quickly recovered from Texas' 1986 economic slump.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Experts questions marketing companies methods in recruiting college students

FORT WORTH (AP) — Some firms are using high-pressure tactics with religious overtones to entice college students to sign up as sales people, a practice that many experts find questionable.

The ads can be seen on college campuses across Texas, boasting that students can earn hundreds of thousands of dollars in just a few months by selling company products. The modest brochures, which don't include company names, are posted at student hangouts and university post offices.

"These organizations are just like any other cult out there," said Diane Patric, an expert on cult issues at the Loyola University in Louisiana.

"They prey on college kids that need a place to belong and they provide that place. I don't think there's any question that these companies know the kids they're recruiting won't be able to sell the product," Ms. Patric said. "That's what makes it unethical."

Better Business Bureau officials say the companies, which use students as salespeople for their products, find college campuses a successful site for recruits. There are no statistics that record how many college students join the ventures, said Fort Worth BBB executive officer John Riggins.

"This is just one more thing that college students will have to watch out for," said Riggins.

The problem is that some students find they are saddled with thousands of dollars in debt from buying the products which they in turn are supposed to sell.

The multi-level marketing firms require also suggest that recruits convince their friends to sell. The recruits receive some of the profit made on sales by the people they get to join the companies.

"When people join, they've been converted," said Chris

Crouch, a student at Texas Christian University. "The students I joined with would've done anything to help us succeed. It's not just a job... it becomes your life."

Crouch says he was lured in by the promise of big bucks and the friendly atmosphere at Millennium Marketing, a Fort Worth independent branch of Equinox International.

"They make it like a family environment," Crouch said. "It's almost like it's a privilege to be brought in. They make it seem like there is a lot of money to be had."

But several months after joining the company, Crouch and a friend had lost thousands of dollars.

"I feel lucky... I have parents that can help me out, but I know there are people who are stuck with the debt and quit school."

Crouch says he was unable to sell the products, and couldn't convince friends to join him in the venture. The company's response was that he could not get his money back.

Equinox headquarters in Las Vegas called Fort Worth product distributor Millennium Marketing completely independent, while local officials refused to comment, saying that only the national office could speak for the company.

Equinox officials refused to answer questions posed over the telephone and released a statement saying recruits are not guaranteed success.

The company's practices have been criticized in 13 states, including Texas. The attorney's general offices recently agreed to a settlement with Equinox that requires the company to regulate claims by its independent offices.

The settlement also declares that as of September, Equinox must offer a 90 percent refund to employees if they return products in good condition within a year.

But critics say the settlement with the state agencies may do little to change the high intensity persuasion techniques. And that even a one year buy-back policy won't necessarily keep students from losing money.

"It's not unusual for it to take more than a year for someone to come to the conclusion that they aren't going to make money on this kind of venture," Riggins said.

The loyalty garnered to the companies also creates a problem. Patric says the "high intensity persuasion tactics" are similar to those used in cults.

Charismatic speaking starts from the beginning for prospective employees at Millennium Marketing.

"It was kind of like a revival," said Loralyn Horton, a former TCU student who responded to one of the campus ads last month.

She said in her interview a man was "ranting and raving" about the deadly toxins that exist in toothpaste, make-up and water.

The company often tied the environmental products to spreading Christianity during seminars, Crouch said.

"I am a Christian and they really make it sound like you're doing God's work by selling these products," he said.

The company's products include such items as "mind-power" tablets, "respiratory support" pills, shampoo and toothpaste.

Not only was Crouch convinced that he was "doing God's work," he also was told by local company executives to beware of those who told him that investing might be a bad idea.

He said local executives used this phrase, "let them be right... you be rich."

Anthony Pratkanis, a professor of psychology at California criticized that practice.

Major carriers battle smaller carriers for cut of FAA funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The headquarters from which Robert Crandall and Herb Kelleher run their dueling airline empires aren't far apart, one anchored in the Fort Worth area, the other nestled within the city of Dallas.

Far greater is the philosophical gulf yawning between Crandall's American Airlines and Kelleher's Southwest Airlines in a high-stakes battle that could rearrange the aviation landscape.

At issue is how to fund the Federal Aviation Administration, which operates the nation's air traffic control system.

While some may dismiss the topic as a wonkish policy matter, the debate has far-ranging implications for the traveling public, air cargo shippers and not least of all the airlines themselves.

"It affects the entire nation," said Henry Ogrudzinski, president of the National Association of State Aviation Officials.

Seven big airlines — American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United Airlines, USAir and TWA — are lined up on one side. On the other are short-haul discount carriers, most prominently Southwest and America West, and an array of general aviation interests.

Most of the FAA's operations are funded through a 10 percent tax on domestic airline tickets. That tax expires on Dec. 31, along with a smattering of other aviation taxes. Altogether, the taxes pumped \$5.7 billion into the airport trust fund last year.

Congress has yet to endorse a system to replenish the trust fund — which will run dry next year without new funding.

Stepping into the breach, the long-haul airlines have devised a plan of their own. Not surprisingly, the proposal spearheaded by American would

shift a chunk of the financing off the larger airlines' shoulders.

The low-cost carriers want to retain the status quo, saying that the decades-old ticket tax is serving the nation well while having the advantage of being easy to collect.

The Clinton administration and a growing roster of congressional and aviation interests, meanwhile, favor a short-term reinstatement of the aviation excise taxes. Extending the taxes would give Congress and others time to scrutinize the FAA's costs and provide a more equitable financing system, they say.

The Big Seven argue that the present arrangement discriminates against them, forcing their passengers to bear too much of the financial burden while discount airline travelers are skating by with a smaller tax bite.

The majors contribute 82 percent of the ticket tax while serving just 73 percent of U.S. passengers, according to the Coalition for Fair FAA Funding, which represents the seven big carriers.

Far more fair, the majors say, would be a system of user fees: a \$4.50 charge per originating passenger; \$2 per seat on aircraft with 71 or more seats and \$1 per seat on smaller planes; and a half-cent tax per non-stop passenger mile.

Support on Capitol Hill for that formula appears tepid at this point.

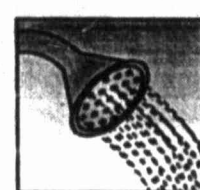
The chances of getting the Big Seven's current plan through Congress "are somewhere between zero and zero," said a Senate Republican staffer involved in the debate, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The General Accounting Office, which is the investigative arm of Congress, estimates that the majors' plan would save them nearly \$600 million in taxes annually.

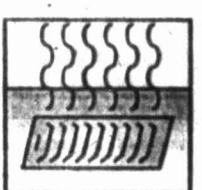
Caring for your Poinsettia Plant



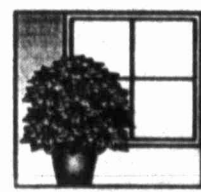
Check your Poinsettia daily.



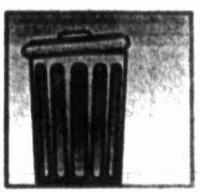
Water your Poinsettia frequently but don't drown it.



Keep the plant out of drafts, hot or cold.



Place the plant in good light inside the house



After blooming, discard or prepare the plant for next year.

Source: Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Graphic: Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M System

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Announcements 036

ATTENTION READERS
THE BIG SPRING HERALD cannot vouch for the credibility or legitimacy of classified ads that may be published in this newspaper. We advise readers to use caution when responding to advertisements listed in the following categories: Business Opportunities, Education, Instruction, Financial, Personals and Help Wanted. If you have questions about a particular business, call the Better Business Bureau.

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Personal 039

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FURNITURE MOVERS

24 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Tom and the guys can move anything
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Help Wanted

085

SOUTHWEST COCA COLA is now hiring for the position of merchandiser. MUST HAVE GOOD DRIVING RECORD! ANY PERSONS WITH MORE THAN ONE MOVING VIOLATION, OR ANY AT FAULT ACCIDENTS OR D.W.I. IN THE LAST (3) THREE YEARS NEED NOT APPLY! RECORDS WILL BE CHECKED! Must be willing to become C.D.L. & D.O.T. with successful completion of requirements within 14 days of employment. Must pass drug, strength & endurance tests. Must work weekends & most holidays. COME & JOIN A WINNING TEAM! Apply at T.E.C. 3 rd & Owens: We are an AA/EEO Employer. AD paid for by employer.

NEED DRIVERS for our Lamesa & Ackery yard. Must have Class A-CDL License. Day/night shifts, good benefits, furnish insurance. 800-522-0474.

NEEDED AUDITOR. Top Dollar for right person. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Please call 263-7621.

Registered Nurses
Pool Your Talents With Us

Hendrick Medical Center is seeking experienced RNs for Resource Pool positions in the following areas:

Operating Room
Medical Telemetry
Medical/Surgical

Qualifications:

TX RN license
3-4 years recent OR, Med/Surg or Medical Telemetry experience
Able to work two 12-hour shifts per week.

Benefits:

\$28/hr + \$3.50/hr shift & weekend differential
Housing & Mileage reimbursement available

Qualified candidates, please call or fax resume to:

HENDRICK MEDICAL CENTER

ATTN: Pam Eason,
Human Resources
1242 North 19th Street
Abilene, Texas 79601
(915)670-3181
(800)933-2288
FAX (915)670-4417
Equal Opportunity Employer
Smoke-Free & Drug-Free Environment

Help Wanted

085

DENTAL ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST. No dental experience necessary. Some typing skills. Send resume to: Box 625, c/o Big Spring Herald, Big Spring, TX 79720.

BURGER KING now hiring for management position. Experience in fast food a plus. Salary \$1200 plus insurance, KOI & dental. Apply applications at 800 W. I-20.

PIZZA HUT NOW HIRING delivery drivers. Apply in person, 2601 Gregg.

LVN NEEDED for charge position, night or days. 12 hour work shift, every other weekend off. Benefits include \$9.25/hr for days, \$10.25/hr for nights, mileage, insurance, vacation and double pay for holidays. Come by Loraine Manor, Inc. 402 Campbell Avenue in Loraine for an application and interview. EOE.

Mountain View Lodge currently has an opening for a certified nurse aide. Benefits include 2 weeks paid vacation after 1 year, insurance plan available and quality performance bonuses. Apply in person, 2009 Virginia, Big Spring, TX. EOE.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING delivery drivers fulltime & part-time. Apply in person 1702 Gregg. No phone calls please.

Norwest Bank Texas, N.A. is currently seeking qualified individuals for Teller opportunities in Big Spring. Qualifications must include a minimum of 6 months Cashiering, Customer Services and Retail Sales experience. Previous banking experience is a plus. Please fax or mail resumes to:

Norwest Bank Texas, N.A.
Attn: Sandra Walker
P.O. Box 1241
Lubbock, Texas 79408
facsimile (806) 767-3805

Help Wanted

085

METHODIST MALONE & HOGAN has immediate opening in our maintenance department. Ideal candidate must have a valid Texas drivers license with dependable transportation, and verifiable work experience in one or more of the following areas: plumbing, electrical pump and motor repair, heating and air conditioning, or yard work, which includes sprinkler system maintenance and repair. Biomedical experience would be preferred but is not required. Salary is commensurate to experience and a full benefit package is available.

Only qualified applicants need to apply to the Personnel Office of Methodist Malone & Hogan Clinic, 1501 West 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or fax resume to 915-264-7019.

NEEDED FRONT desk personnel. Will train. Will pay Top dollar for right person. 263-7621.

NEED EXPERIENCE Cashiers & Assistant Managers. Apply at Buffalo Country Fina, Hwy 87 & Hughes Rd.

Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Midland Therapist, Ft. Stockton and Odessa Case/Case Manager, Odessa Secretary, Midland Case Coordinator, Midland Intake Specialist, Midland

For details call our job line 915-570-3424 or submit application to: Permian Basin Community Centers 401 E. Illinois, Suite 301, Midland TX 79701. EOE.

Help Wanted

085

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST Beautiful, diverse hospital setting. flexible schedules/outstanding salaries. 800-378-6825.

TEXAS THERAPY MANAGEMENT, INC.

OUTSIDE SALES. Self-starter, salary plus commission. Send resume to P.O. Box 1043, Big Spring, TX 79720.

EXCITING AND CHALLENGING ROUTE Sales opportunity! Sales experience preferred and a CDL is required. Come by between 8 & 5. Dr. Pepper/Pepsi/7-up, 3611 N. Hwy. 87.

POSTAL JOBS Start \$12.68/hr. plus benefits. For application and exam info. Call 1-800-299-2470 ext. TX 109. 7am-8pm 7 days.

RECEPTIONIST- Temporary during busy season. Must be organized, pleasant and reliable and have basic office skills. Send resume to c/o P.O. Box 3709, Big Spring TX 79720.

TEAM & SINGLE DRIVERS WANTED We offer an excellent benefit package: Sign-on-bonus, competitive wage package, 401k with company contribution, retention bonus, Health/Dental/Life insurance, and uniforms.

REQUIREMENTS ARE: 1 year semi driving experience or completion of an accredited truck driver school, CDL with haz-mat and tanker endorsements, pass, DOT and company requirements. We will help train your for a successful future in the tank truck industry.

Apply in person at STEERE TANK LINES INC., 1200 St. Hwy 176, Phone # (915) 263-7656.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE- INSTITUTIONAL DIVISION has the following positions available at the Wallace Unit located in Colorado City, Texas:

PLANT MAINTENANCE MANAGER I- CARPENTER/PAINTER/LOCK TECHNICIAN, annual salary \$25,140 plus benefits. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or GED and five (5) years full-time, wage-earning experience as a carpenter or painter. Experience as a millwright preferred.

Applicants must submit a State of Texas Application for Employment to TDCJ-JD, Facilities Division Personnel, ATTN: Terri Hall, P.O. Box 4011, SPUR 59 OFF HWY. 75 North, Huntsville, TX 77342 by 5:00 P.M. MONDAY DECEMBER 30, 1996. A complete job description and all application forms may be obtained at the above address or by calling the Facilities Division Personnel Office at (409)294-6423 or 294-6912.

STOP!

What you are about to read may excite you.

Trainers earn over \$70,000 a year. (excited yet?) As a Covenant team, earn over \$100,000 and run \$225,000 miles a year. (shouldn't you call Covenant now?)

Covenant Transport

A Satisfied Driver is our #1 Concern

Experienced Drivers and Owners Operators Team
Call 1-800-441-4394
Graduate Students Call 1-800-441-4394

Help Wanted

085

WEST TEXAS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY has an immediate opening for an experienced cost accountant with computer operation capability. Must be able to post all records thru general ledger and prepare monthly financial statements and supporting statistical data. C.P.A. preferred but not required. Compensation includes retirement and medical benefits. Base salary will be commensurate with experience and credentials. EOE. Send resume to Box 800, c/o Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

WILDLIFE/CONSERVATION JOBS Now hiring Game Wardens, Security, Maintenance, Park Rangers, etc. No exp. necessary. For application and info call 1-800-299-2470, ext. TX109C. 7:00am-8:00pm, 7 days.

The City of Big Spring is now accepting applications for the position of Housing Director. Responsible for the overseeing of the federal housing rental assistance program. Preference will be given to those with a four year college degree in business, public administration, or a closely related field. Must have 3 years experience in progressively responsible managerial work, it would be beneficial to have knowledge of HUD regulations governing housing assistance. For more information and to apply contact City Hall Personnel, 310 Nolan Big Spring, TX 79720, or call (915)264-2346. Applications will be accepted thru 5:00 P.M. December 31, 1996. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The City of Big Spring is now accepting applications for the position of Golf Professional to oversee the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Qualifies Applicants must hold a PGA certificate. Preference will be given to a Four-year college degree in Agronomy, Turf Grass management Horticulture, Landscaping or related field and must have five years experience of Golf Course work. For more detailed requirements and to Apply Contact City of Big Spring Personnel Office, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720, or call 915-264-2346. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 1996. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LOANS

Loans

095

DELTA LOANS

LOANS
\$100 to \$396.88

Let us help! For Fast, friendly service. Call or come by today!

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Stop Collection Calls.
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\$100.00 to \$435.00

Call or come by
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If you can't work - call
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Free Consultation

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Grain Hay Feed 220

ROUND BALES OF RED TOP CANE
HAY. Johnny Middleton, 267-7625.

MISCELLANEOUS

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-6:30pm.

Appliances 299

GUARANTEED USED WASHERS, DRYERS, REFRIGERATORS, AND STOVES. BRANHAM FURNITURE, 2004 W. 4th., 263-3066.

RENT-TO-OWN

REBUILT APPLIANCES
Easy terms, guaranteed, delivery and connect. will buy Kenmore, Whirlpool & GE washers. We have evaporative and refrigerated air conditioners for sale 264-0510 and/or 1811 Scurry.

Dogs, Pets, Etc 375

AKC MALE CHIHUAHUA puppies. Parents on premises. \$200.00. Taking deposits. Call 267-5420.

FREE KENNEL CLUB BREEDER REFERRAL SERVICE. Helps you find reputable breeders/quality puppies. Purebred rescue information. 263-3404 daytime.

Firewood 378

BEST MESQUITE IN THE COUNTRY! Firewood for sale. Call 915-695-5638 or 673-2060.

Garage Sale 380

MOVING SALE: 4204 Muk. Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm. Refrigerator, washer/dryer, furniture, & lots of miscellaneous.

Miscellaneous 395

ALL CHIMNEYS NEED A SWEEP! CLEANING, REPAIRS, SMOKING CORRECTED. PROMPT DEPENDABLE SERVICE!!!! FERRELL'S 267-6504.

CHIMNEY CLEANING BY ERIC Cleaning, repairs, & caps. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 263-7015. FREE pallets may be picked up at the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry.

REGULATION POOL TABLE. Leather pockets, good felt & bumpers, accessories included. 393-5746, after 5:00pm weekdays.

WAHOO BOARD GAMES, well built, colorful, four or six players, marble and dice furnished. See at CRAFTS-MART, 215 Main, 915-264-1606.

WEDDINGS, CAKES, ETC.

CREATIVE CELEBRATIONS

ATTENTION BRIDES OF 1997.

10% discount on wedding cakes; 15% discount on cakes plus silk flowers when you plan and commit during January for '97. We rent florals for our auras and arches for the church. Call now to get your date.

Hours: 9:00am-12:00noon
3:00pm-6:00pm
Later appointments if needed

The Grisham's
267-8191

Portable Building 422

A FULL LINE OF STORAGE BUILDINGS!! 8x8 to 16x60
Custom orders welcome!!
Sierra Mercantile
263-1460
I-20 East S. Service Road

Produce 426

PECANS in shells .75 a pound. Pecans shelled \$3.54 a pound. Call 263-5766.

REAL ESTATE

Acreage for Sale 504

120 ACRES near Knott. CRP surface only. \$425.00/acre/ B. Weaver Real Estate 263-3093.

Small tracks of land for sale 5 to 7 miles south of town. Have land that will make more than 50 gallons of water per minute. Will consider terms or Texas Veterans. Also have land 1 1/2 West of Coahoma. 263-8785.

Commercial Real Estate 511

FOR LEASE, 2 fenced 1 acre yards with small building. Call 263-5000. Westco Auto Parts, Inc.

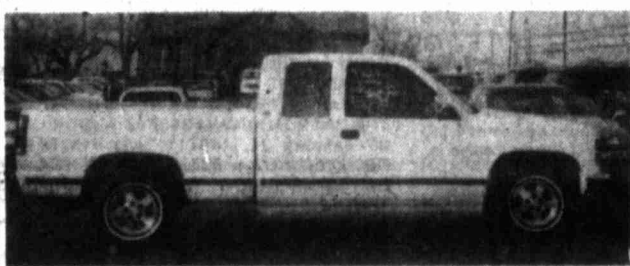
Houses for Sale 513

BEST LOCATION in town! 3,800 sq. ft. 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Beautiful 1-1/2 acre yard. \$225,000. 263-2382, 263-4667.

BRAND NEW in Coronado Hills, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, huge living room with built in entertainment center, lawn, sprinkler, mini blinds, and large country kitchen. Open house Saturday and Sunday. Call 1-815-520-9448 for showing.

FOR SALE: 3212 Drexel, 3/bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, single garage, fenced backyard, new heater and A/C. Call 263-7825 and ask for Jim.

87 AUTO SALES YEAREND SALE



Local One Owner 1994 GMC EXT Cab SLF 350 - Auto, bucket seats, hard loaded, mint condition, white w/blue cloth, 39,000 miles. \$16,900



Local One Owner 1995 Buick Park Ave. - 27,000 miles, new Michelin tires, factory warranty, priced below wholesale. \$16,900



1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee Larado 2 WB - Hunter green w/tan cloth, all options, 79,000 miles. \$12,900



Local Two Owner 1989 Ford Crown Victoria LX - 38,000 miles, hard loaded, super condition. \$6,950

87 Auto Sales wants to thank Big Spring & Howard County for a great 1996. We are starting our 25th year and look forward to serving you in 1997.

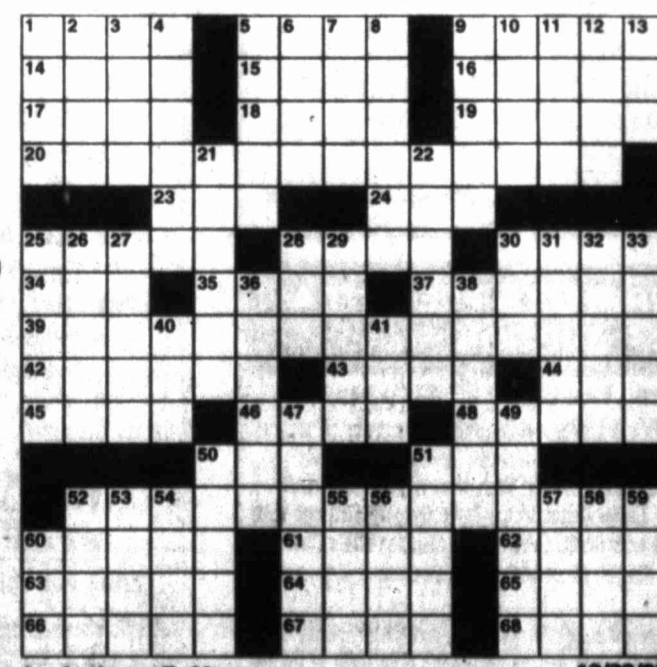
87 AUTO SALES
3RD & GREGG
263-2382

Se Habla Espanol

THE Daily Crossword

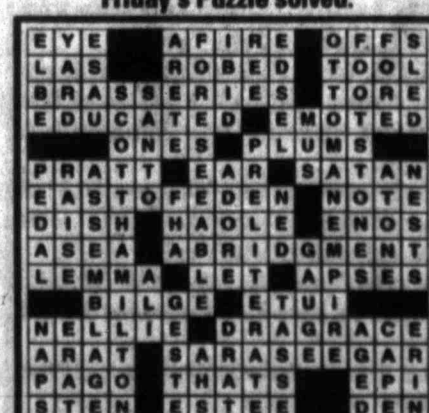
ACROSS
1 Hold back
5 Oh my!
9 Cry of approval
14 Skirt length
15 Melville work
16 Stately
17 Whitney and Wallach
18 Fastener
19 Liqueur flavoring
20 Parental foot condition?
23 — poetica
24 Fall mo.
25 Hang in folds
28 Sharpness
30 Spar
34 Feel sick
35 Japanese aborigine
37 Anticipate
39 "Middle"-aged advice?
42 Begudges
43 Penny
44 Hawaiian instrument
45 Song or game ending
46 Yearn
48 Capri and Wight
50 Widebeest
51 Paid athlete
52 Silcom about a schrozzle?
60 Singer Lanza
61 — Linda, CA
62 NV city
63 Farewell
64 Short-list ending
65 Wading bird
66 Oyster find
67 Friendly
68 Sole add-ons

DOWN
1 Merganser
2 Ankibones
3 W. out
4 Accident
5 Germanic invaders
6 Bus or potent start
7 Spiritual part
8 Show off



by Anthony R. Mupo

Friday's Puzzle solved:



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Now available, a collection of your favorite crossword puzzles in a single volume. Send \$3.75 to THE DAILY CROSSWORDS 4, P.O. Box 4410, Chicago, IL 60680-4410. Include your name, address and zip code. Make checks payable to Tribune Media Services.

Unfurnished Apts. 532

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APARTMENTS.**

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FHO**

JOE SKREEN, SR., Auctioneer
TX. LIC. #06670-10% BUYERS PREMIUM
For information please call 667-4230
All Consignments Welcome

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ay Inn Brunch

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263-1252

LEBARO, 4 door, loaded, extra clean
Get it while it last \$2950. 263-0309
267-3631.

Technical questions should be directed to J. Philip Furquerson, Architect, 500 Johnson Street, Big Spring, TX 79720, 915-267-3764. Bidding questions directed to Terry Hansen, Vice-President for Administration, Systems, 1001 North I-10, Suite 200, Big Spring, TX 79720, 915-267-3764.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE
BY January 21, 1997. IF NO PROTEST IS
RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUEST-
ED PERMIT WILL BE GRANTED ADMINISTRA-
TIVELY.
1455 December 20, 1996 &
January 2, 19, 19, 1997

THE BIG SPRING HERALD LOOKS BACK

1996: The Year in Review

January

A special supplement
to the Dec. 29, 1996
Big Spring Herald

The beginning of a very memorable year

Toots Mansfield and Margaret Lloyd were named Man and Woman of the Year at the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet Jan. 5. Marj Carpenter was the guest speaker.

Lloyd is best known for her work with the Big Spring Humane Society and former executive director of the Boy Scouts. Mansfield is a world champion calf roper who has been inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma. He's also been inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and was the first cowboy to be recognized by the organization.

Frances Wheat was installed as the chamber's president during the banquet as well. She was only the second woman in history to be named to the position. Johnnie Lou Avery was president in 1979.

The other big story in January was the renaming of the Big Spring Police Department building to the Troy M. Hogue Law Enforcement Center. A

crowd of nearly 200 people showed up Jan. 24 for the dedication to honor slain Department of Public Safety Trooper Troy M. Hogue. He was killed Dec. 30, 1994, by Levy Lee Edmondson Jr. during a traffic stop near Sand Springs.

A granite memorial was erected near the spot where Hogue was killed. It's located on the south service road of Interstate 20. The memorial was put up by Richard Metcalf of Lago Vista who places memorials where law enforcement officers lost their lives.

A plaque hangs in the lobby of the building explaining the circumstances behind the renaming of the building along with a photograph of the trooper. Also on the walls of the lobby are plaques honoring other officers who lost their lives while protecting the citizens of Big Spring and Howard County. They include Henry Franklin Howie, Jimmy Parks, Elijah Cass and William J. O'Leary.

Other highlights from January include:

- The concealed handgun law goes into effect allowing Texans to carry the weapons.
- Five accidents in occur in Howard County during the New Year's holiday due to the cold, icy weather. No serious injuries were reported.
- As the federal government shutdown continues, TU Electric, Ennergas and local financial institutions pitch in to help area federal employees by offering no or low interest loans and assistance with paying their bills.

- The sealcoating project is completed and involved 36 miles of city streets and was done by both city and county workers.
- Sheriff A.N. Standard announces he is not seeking re-election. He had been sheriff of Howard County since 1964.

Ruben Juarez, 35, escapes from the Howard County Jail early that morning by tying bed sheets together to form a rope and scale down the wall of the courthouse. It was discovered a jailer had helped him escape. Juarez was in jail facing aggravated sexual assault charges of his former wife. He was captured the next day after a tip came in that he was hiding in a building on N.W. Seventh Street. His sister Gumisinda Juarez was arrested and charged with hindering apprehension or prosecution for hiding her brother.

Jury selection begins in the murder trial of Carman Viasana Jr. He fatally stabbed his brother-in-law Marcos Aguilar on July 4, 1995. The jury took less than one hour to find him guilty and only 15 minutes to sentence him to 99 years in prison. Aguilar had made a dying declaration to BSPD Officer Jerry Penny stating Viasana was the man who had stabbed him.

Howard County Commissioners approve a measure to ban weapons on all county property because of the recent passage of the concealed handgun law. Commissioners approve hiring Keith Klement as the assistant extension agent. He replaced Michael Kelsey who left in 1995 to work in Upton County.

A centralized voting place for city, Howard College and the Big Spring Independent School District will be in place in time for the March primaries.

City council members discuss helping with dependent insurance costs of city employees. The premiums went up \$58.40 a month because \$800,000 in claims in 1995. The measure is passed at the Jan. 23 meeting to use \$30,000 from the utility fund to make the increase only \$28 per month for employees.

A Howard County jury found Ruben Juarez guilty of aggravated sexual assault and he was given 60 years in prison. He was also sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to the escape charge.

More than 200 students graduate from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. This is the first time all schools come together for one ceremony at the Big Spring High School Auditorium.

Airbase Road construction to begin and offers new and improved road around Anderson Kindergarten Center.



Toots Mansfield and Margaret Lloyd are named man and woman of the year by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.



Steve Madry, a resident of the Capehart Addition, fights a grass fire in his own backyard Jan. 17. A downed electrical line, dry grass and high winds all played a part fueling a fire that destroyed more than 100 acres of land.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Abreo, Esther, Austin, Jan. 19
Archer, Jesse W., Ackerly, Jan. 20
Bradley, Charles, Big Spring, Jan. 23
Casselman, Frances, Forsan, Jan. 2
Cobb, Dora, Houston, Jan. 7
Cook, James, Athens, Jan. 11
Cotten, Alice, Big Spring, Jan. 4
Cox, Zemma, Garden City, Jan. 8
Crawford, Sam, Socorro, N.M., Jan. 16
Eslinger, June, Big Spring, Jan. 23
Estep, Ruth, Big Spring, Jan. 30
Flores, Miguel G., Colorado City, Jan. 1
Fortenberry, Jimmy, Big Spring, Jan. 22
Franklin, Emma, Lamesa, Jan. 14
Garnier, Mary L., Big Spring, Jan. 5
Gilstrap, Cecil, Big Spring, Jan. 29
Goertz, Dorothy, Big Spring, Jan. 1

Graham, Mammie, Big Spring, Jan. (no date)
Grant, Jeff, Big Spring, Jan. 6
Green, Winnie, Turkey, Jan. 25
Griffith, Veta, Forsan, Jan. 9
Gustin, John, Sr., Big Spring, Jan. 1
Hamill, Pam, Big Spring, Jan. 31
Hille, Neva, Big Spring, Jan. 20
Hodnett, David Craig, Buda, Jan. 14
Hoffman, Geraldine, Big Spring, Jan. 13
Howell, Floyd, Big Spring, Jan. 27
Knox, Mary E., Lake of the Pines, Jan. 6
Lee, Berne, Stanton, Jan. 26
Lewis, Rita, Big Spring, Jan. 16
Lovelace, Tommie, Big Spring, Jan. 24
Marcum, Dr. Carl, Big Spring, Jan. 30
McMahan, Harold, Big Spring, Jan. 20

McWhorter, Barbara, Big Spring, Jan. 26
Mikeska, Gene E., Big Spring, Jan. 24
Milam, Mrs. T.L., Ross, Jan. 27
Moreno, Christine, Sand Springs, Jan. 6
Morton, Ella Ruth, Big Spring, Jan. 18
Murphy, E.S., Abilene, Jan. 18
Nuckoles, Weldon, Big Spring, Jan. 6
Oldaker, Velma, Stanton, Jan. 31
Perryman, L.V., Big Spring, Jan. 11
Raley, Mary, Big Spring, Jan. 2
Richardson, C.L., Big Spring, Jan. 6
Richardson, Myrtle, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 15
Robinson, Clifford, Lubbock, Jan. 14
Rodriguez, Rodolfo, Big Spring, Jan. 24
Rodriguez, Merejildo, Big Spring, Jan. 6
Rudd, Chester, Haskell, Jan. 2

Schafer, Ellen, Garden City, Jan. 24
Shaffer, Rosie, Big Spring, Jan. 17
Simpson, Rubye, Big Spring, Jan. 4
Smith, Eugene, Lorraine, Jan. 19
Thurman, Dana, Big Spring, Jan. 15
Valdez, Ismael, Sr., Fort Worth, Jan. 18
Wallace, Rev. Floyd, Big Spring, Jan. 24
Walraven, Mrs. Ike, Big Spring, Jan. 2
Weeg, Reta, Big Spring, Jan. 12
White, Mrs. Ralph, Big Spring, Jan. 1
Wilson, W.A., Big Spring, Jan. 8
Womack, Novis, Big Spring, Jan. 31
Wright, Chris, Big Spring, Jan. 13
Wright, Naomi, Big Spring, Jan. 14

EDITOR'S NOTE: The dates shown are dates of death as provided in obituaries.

SPORTS



Howard College Lady Hawks Joyce Howard dribbles the ball up court.

The first month of 1996 was full of high school and junior college basketball, but perhaps the biggest story was the Dallas Cowboys winning their third Super Bowl within the last four years. They defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 27-17 on Jan. 27.

The Big Spring Lady Steers were perfect in district play during the month of January. The Howard College Hawks and Lady Hawks provided lots of entertainment during January for those who attended games at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. When Hawks player Walter Williams broke his leg during the second half of a game Jan. 22, the team rallied to beat the Odessa Wranglers 86-80.

Big Spring Steers basketball team loses to Sweetwater Mustangs 80-53. Lady Steers beat San Angelo Lake View 36-32 and remained perfect in District 4-4A play.

Klondike Cotton Classic begins. The basketball tournament is the first one the Klondike Cougars have hosted. Dawson County, Borden County, Midland Christian, Southland, Wink, Union and Lorraine participate in the tournament. In the opening game, Klondike beats Union 102-29 and the Lady Cougars win 79-6.

Lady Steers crush Fort Stockton 78-37, allowing Big Spring to remain atop the district standings with a 3-0 record (11-6 overall).

Garden City Lady Bearcats beat Forsan Queens 53-47.

Stanton Buffaloes open their 6-2A basketball season by beating Winters 83-60. Meanwhile, the Winters Lady Blizzards beat the Lady Buffaloes, 56-25.

Howard College Hawks beat Grayson College 86-82 in their first basketball game after the holiday break.

Big Spring Steers win their first district basketball game by beating Monahans Lobos 64-61. The Lady Steers defeat the Lady Lobos 48-37 and remain 4-0 in district play.

Coahoma Bulldogettes remain perfect in district play. They beat the Forsan Queens 59-55. The girls basketball team is 2-0 in district play and 10-11 overall. The Coahoma boys team beat their cross-county rivals 67-53 and are also 2-0 in district.

Howard Hawks beat New Mexico Junior College 101-88. Lady Hawks beat NMJC 49-47.

Big Spring Lady Steers remain alone at the top of the district with a win over Andrews Lady Mustangs. The score was 57-40. The boys team lost 61-53.

Coahoma Bulldogs win 54-51 over Jim Ned Indians. The girls team lost 57-51.

Howard's Hawks beat Midland Chaparrals 74-70. Lady Hawks lost to the Lady Chaps 78-72, dropping them into a first place tie.

Lady Steers beat Pecos Lady Eagles 61-54. Big Spring Steers beat Pecos Eagles 88-48.

Forsan Queens snap losing streak by beating Stanton Lady Buffaloes 55-46. Guards Deborah Light and Amie Evans combined for 34 points to help their team rally from a half-time deficit 25-24.

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DEC 29 1996

February

Old Man Winter places city in icy grip

Old Man Winter was a tame old geezer in 1996 — until the first week of February hit. Then the old man found his bite.

An Arctic cold front hit Big Spring and Howard County in the first week of February, and the resultant severe cold caused problems for almost everybody in the area.

The most severe problem came in the area of water service. City officials were forced to declare an emergency after the severe cold resulted in an extremely high number of water-line breaks.

The emergency resulted in several city offices closing so that additional personnel could help with repairs, and extra hours for offices directly

involved in relief efforts.

City Engineer Ralph Truszkowski presented a series of requests for citizens to follow. Among those were drawing an emergency supply of water in bathtubs and other containers, and patience in requesting repair service.

Icy conditions also made driving hazardous at the least and fatal on at least one occasion. Suilsido Pineda, 76, died when his vehicle was rear-ended by a truck near Cisco. Another Big Spring resident, Randy Moore, 44, was critically injured when his vehicle struck an 18-wheeler east of Big Spring.

In other February news:

• Moore Development of Big Spring announced it was washing its hands of Wright Fibers. The board of directors said they would conduct a public sale of equipment and machinery that once belonged to Wright Fibers and its owner, Herb Wright.

Signal Homes, a mobile home manufacturer based in Georgia, would take over the building later in the year and announced plans to open a plant in Big Spring in early 1997, bringing more than 100 jobs to the Big Spring area.

• Local reaction to federal passage of a new farm bill was mixed. Several farm programs had been in limbo since the old farm bill had expired in 1995.

U.S. Congressman Charles Stenholm, who represents the Big Spring area, praised the U.S. Senate for working overtime to pass the bill, but said some provisions of the bill needed further work.

State Rep. David Counts was even more direct in his criticism.

"As the farm program is presented now, it appears to be unfriendly to the small farm family. Right now in its present form it is detrimental to family farms."

• Chris Christopher, the former Big Spring res-

ident convicted of insurance fraud in a Rhode Island federal court, had his sentencing delayed once again Feb. 8. Before the year was up, Christopher received a 10-year prison sentence and was ordered to pay millions of dollars in restitution.

• Howard County crime statistics released in February showed that many categories of reported crimes decreased in 1995 from the previous year.

Burglaries, thefts and homicides all decreased in 1995, the figures showed, while the same number of sexual assaults were reported as in the previous year.

• A giant crane offered testament to a multi-million-dollar turnaround project at the Fina Refinery. The major portion of the turnaround involved the installation of a new catcracker unit, replacing a unit that served the refinery since 1949.

• A Fisheries Department biologist was in Big Spring in February to examine the mysterious number of dead fish at Comanche Trail Lake.

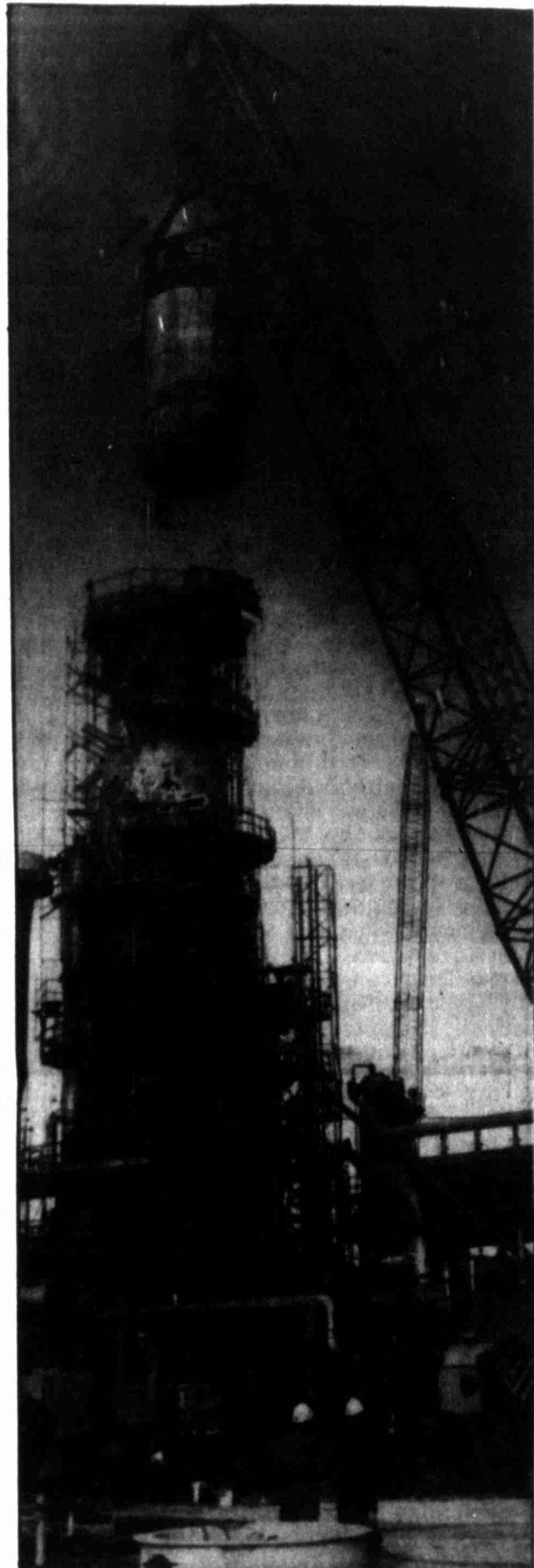
Bobby Farquar, district fisheries biologist, determined that the fish kill was caused by temperature stress from cold snap earlier in the month.

It would be the first of at least two fish kills at the park lake in 1996.

• The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board of Directors unanimously voted to discontinue funding for the annual Cranefest, citing low attendance and lost revenue.

Recent Cranefest celebrations allowed bird-watchers to view rare breeds such as the great blue heron, snowy egret, mallard and red-tailed hawk. These breeds annually migrate through the Big Spring area.

• Wal-Mart announced that Bud's Warehouse, which opened in 1995 at Coronado Plaza in Big Spring, was being closed.



A huge crane lifts the top of the old cat-cracker off at the Fina Refinery. The project was part of a multi-million dollar upgrading of facilities and equipment.

IN FULL FLIGHT



Sandhill cranes have been migrating to the Big Spring/Howard County area for hundreds of years. The birds look for grain in fields by day and sleep in the many, shallow playa lakes in the area for safety at night.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Adams, Nella D., Colorado City, Feb. 12
Allensworth, Col. (Ret.) William Burton, M.D., Big Spring, Feb. 10
Ashinhurst, Leo, Jacksboro, Feb. 29
Awtry, Norma Lee Adkins, Big Spring, Feb. 13
Barrera, Eleno Subia, Slaton, Feb. 25
Bates, Viola, Coahoma, Feb. 20
Bolte, Bobbie Halbrook, Big Spring, Feb. 8
Box, M. Ray, Stanton, Feb. 16
Cooper, Ernest E. "Mutt", Big Spring, Feb. 8
Deal, Richard, Arlington, Feb. 5
Deweese, Kenny, Big Spring, Feb. 25
Duke, Vivilene Murphy, Dimmitt, Feb. 5

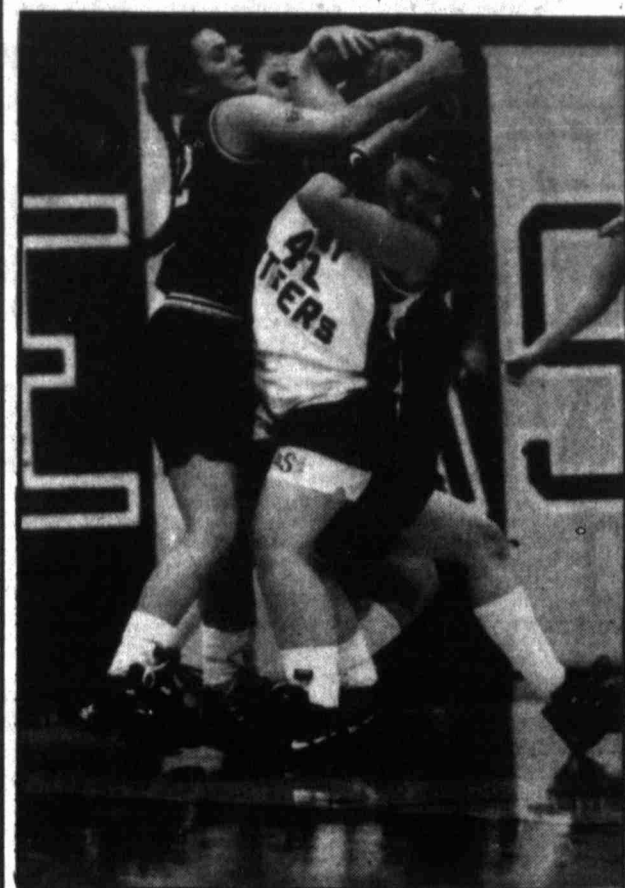
Feb. 8
Eggleston, James Leo, Sweetwater, Feb. 23
Emrick, Gladys, Big Spring, Feb. 12
Gill, Mary, Abilene, Feb. 29
Guevara, Santos, Stanton, Feb. 14
Hall, Lillian Dealva Barber, Big Spring, Feb. 10
Harvell, Noel "Fat Boy, Dude", Jr., Sand Springs, Feb. 9
Helms, Brenda, Stanton, Feb. 24
Henry, Arvin, Big Spring, Feb. 26
Hewitt, Ernestina, Big Spring, Feb. 3
Lawson, Laura, Big Spring, Feb. 22
Lee, Mae, Big Spring, Feb. 4
Lewis, Leslie Lee "Red", Midland, Feb. 5

Mann, Patricia, Big Spring, Feb. 21
Martin, Jim, Lubbock, Feb. 18
Mason, Truman, Big Spring, Feb. 22
Mize, Rodger, Big Spring, Feb. 16
Morellon, Agnes, Big Spring, Feb. 13
Morgan, Polly, Big Spring, Feb. 14
Murdock, Norma, Big Spring, Feb. 4
Napper, Wallace, Big Spring, Feb. 21
Parsons, Floyd William, Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 4
Phillips, V.E. "Vic", Glasscock County, Feb. 9
Rasher, Ella Lenora "Grandma", Big Spring, Feb. 23
Rogers, Jolette (Jolly), Coahoma, Feb. 22
Shepard, Suzanne Fisher, Carrollton, Feb. 16

Feb. 16
Smith, Bessie, Big Spring, Feb. 5
Smith, Melvin, Colorado City, Feb. 7
Tiller, Mrs. Jewell, Colorado City, Feb. 8
Yan, Elsie, Big Spring, Feb. 7
Wallin, Horace, Jr., Sand Springs, Feb. 23
Wheat, Ann, Lamesa, Feb. 1
White, Alpha Bell, Rockport, Feb. 22
Wilkinson, Villa Tom, Stanton, Feb. 12
Willey, Donald J., Big Spring, Feb. 23
Wilson, Myrtle, Big Spring, Feb. 19

EDITOR'S NOTE: The dates shown are dates of death as provided in obituaries.

SPORTS



For years, the Big Spring Lady Steers have dominated District 4-4A basketball. In 1996, they finally started doing damage outside the league.

The Lady Steers capped a season which featured their fifth straight district title with their first-ever playoff win in February.

Big Spring earned the milestone by defeating El Paso Parkland 56-41 in Alpine on Feb. 13.

The Lady Steers had long dominated their district, but success in the playoffs had proved elusive. And their first victory was anything but easy, as Parkland held a 39-38 lead heading into the final quarter.

But Big Spring responded with an 18-2 run in the final eight minutes, and the Lady Steers were finally able to wrap their arms around a playoff trophy.

"I'm happy we're the first (Big Spring girls' team) to win a playoff," said senior Molly Smith. "I'm ready to go play our next game."

In a coaching career that spanned more than 20 years, Ron Taylor had experienced his share of playoff victories. But the win over Parkland marked his first postseason win in five tries at Big Spring.

"It feels fantastic," he said. "I'm just happy for the kids. We started this season as an inexperienced team, and I didn't know if we could make it this far. But these kids believed that they could, and they did it."

In other February sports news:
• Several area teams joined the Lady Steers in the basketball postseason. Among the girls' teams, Coahoma, Garden City, Klondike and Sands joined the playoff parade. Coahoma and Klondike suffered first-round losses, Garden City was eliminated in the area round, and Sands advanced to the regional tournament before bowing out.

• Big Spring's boys narrowly lost a spot in the playoffs when they suffered a one-point defeat to Monahans in a district playoff game in Odessa. The Steers and Monahans ended the season tied for second in District 4-4A, forcing the extra game.

• Stanton's boys rained on Coahoma's playoff hopes, defeating the Bulldogs and knocking them out of the District 6-2A playoff race. The Buffaloes advanced to the second round of the playoffs before bowing out.

• Boys teams from Sands and Klondike almost had an all Crossroads Country final at the Region 1-1A basketball tournament. Klondike advanced to the tournament finals, while Sands advanced to the semifinals before being eliminated.

• Garden City's boys' team advanced to the playoffs for the first time in several years. The Bearcats were eliminated by Westbrook in the opening round of the postseason.

• UIL realignment affected almost every school in the area, but none more than Stanton. The biennial shuffling of school districts moved Stanton into District 6-2A, which ranged from Stanton in the east to beyond El Paso on the west.

In other realignment news, Big Spring lost one long-time district foe but regained another. Monahans dropped out of 4A, but District 4-4A regained longtime member Sweetwater, which had moved north in the previous UIL shuffling. • Big Spring's boys' and girls' track teams both took division titles at the Tiger Relays in Frenship.

"Invest" In Your Community!

Your tax deductible investment in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce assures that the following groups continue to be a reality:

Dora Roberts Community Center
West Texas Ag Expo
Cultural Affairs
Jr. Leadership
Community Luncheons
Retail Development (Seminars & Advertising)

Health Fair
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Leadership Big Spring
Transportation
Trail of Lights
Business After Hours

We invite you to become a part of any of these task forces and welcome your input. Please contact the Chamber office 263-7641 for more information.



March

Political races, Kids' Zone draw attention

Local politics and the Kids' Zone Creative Playground dominated the month of March in Big Spring, as the city saw several candidates seeking the offices of Sheriff and Howard County Commissioner, Precinct 3.

In what turned out to be a very informative evening one week before the primary election, some 250 local residents turned out for a candidates forum between five candidates for Howard County Sheriff and four candidates for Howard County Commissioner, Precinct 3.

The 37.94 percent of Howard County's 16,863 registered voters who cast ballots in the March 12 primary election was not a record, but it was a huge increase over numbers received from recent elections.

Election numbers, according to Howard County Clerk Margaret Ray, reflected the increase in the number of Republicans participating in the primary due to the interest in the race for Sheriff.

Republican Sheriff candidate W.B. "Bill" Jennings received 3,045 (84.65 percent) of the 3,597 ballots cast to Woodie Howell's 552 (15.35 percent) to earn the right to challenge Democratic opponent Barney Edens in November to become Howard County Sheriff.

Jennings went on to defeat Edens in the November general election.

The only runoff from the primary was between Democrats Marvin Wise and Bill Mims who were running for their party's nomination to challenge Bill Crooker for his Precinct 3 county commissioner's seat. Wise received 279 votes (47.13 percent) out of 592 cast; Mims received 197 votes (33.28 percent); and Gerald Wooten 116 votes or (19.59 percent).

On the Republican side, incumbent Precinct 3 Commissioner Bill Crooker received 636 votes (62.05 percent) to 389 votes (37.95 percent) for Republican challenger Max Green.

Mims defeated Wise in their April 9 runoff, and went on to challenge Crooker in what turned out to be a close race in November. Mims would die a few weeks later.

Howard County and the city of Big Spring lost Mims shortly after the election. He succumbed to a brief illness on November 15.

The area where the Kids' Zone Creative playground would be built was full of cactus, weeds and grass, but that was on March 1, when the 10,000 square feet of fun was still just a dream.

Leathers and Associates architect Mark Leathers was in Big Spring in early March as part of the Kids' Zone organization day to determine where each of the Kids' Zone committees were on their particular projects.

More than \$100,000 in cash and donated tools and materials was donated for the project, which became a reality in early May.

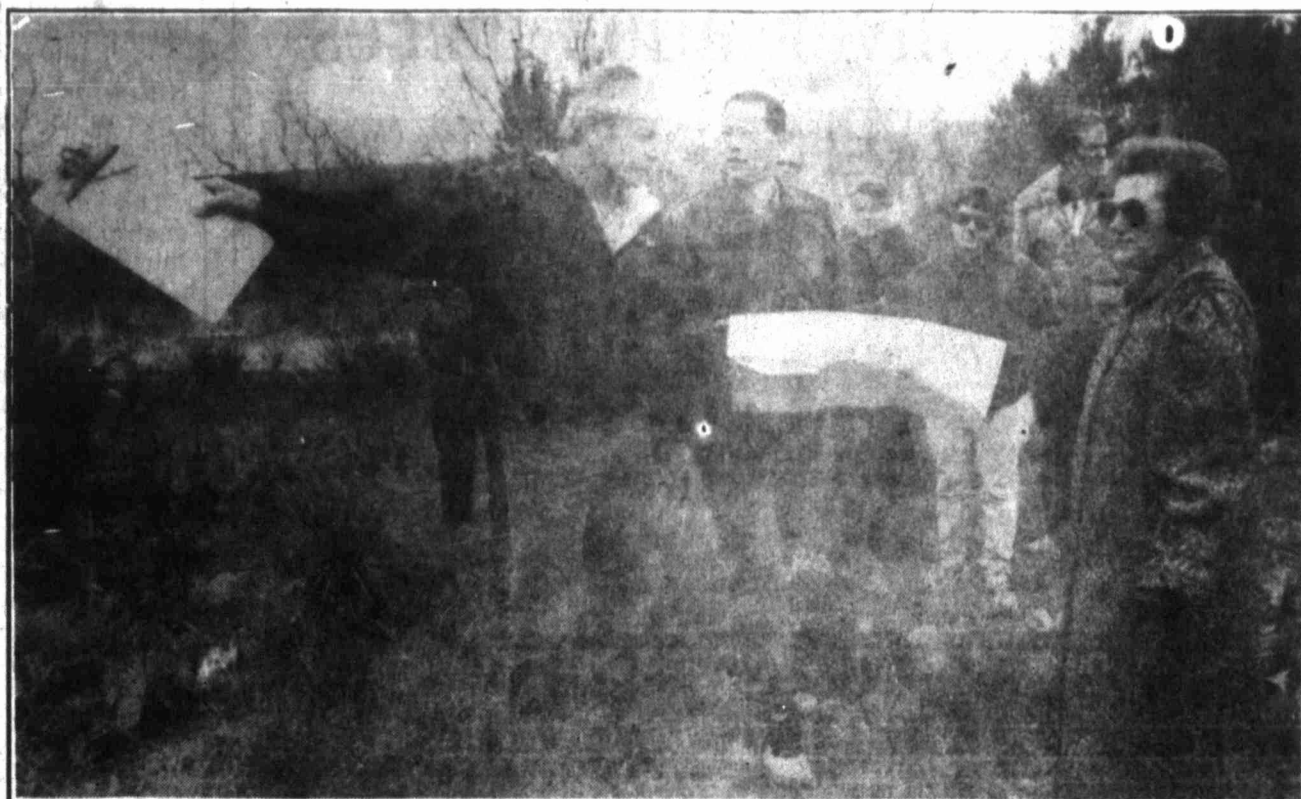
On March 9, Big Spring resident Laurie Churchwell, in a fundraising effort for the Kids' Zone playground, tapped her way into the Guinness Book of World records while helping raise funds for the Kids' Zone playground.

Churchwell set out to break the then current world tap dancing record of 13.2 miles by dancing 16 miles around Howard College.

Seven hundred and four area residents turned out on March 10 to have blood drawn for 16-year-old Meagan Stanley of Forsan, with hopes of becoming a compatible bone marrow match for Stanley, who was diagnosed with acute leukemia.

To assist with the Hangar T-25 Restoration Project, a Citizen's Advisory Committee was formed.

In the fall of 1995, the hangar was declared historical by the Texas Historical Commission, making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places.



John Richard Sparks, architect Mark Leathers, Assistant City Manager Emma Bogard and members of the Kids' Zone playground committee, are gathered at the location that is now the Kids' Zone Creative Playground. This early meeting in March was a survey of the land to decide how to clear it and determine exactly how the playground would come together.

The 25th Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner was March 21 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, as part of the fifth West Texas Ag Expo that ran through March 22.

Howard County native Derwood Blagrove was named Ag Producer of the Year for 1995 at the annual Ag Expo.

Local residents found out that LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, had filed suit against the Big Spring Independent School District and its board of trustees. The suit was filed in an attempt to get the district to establish single member voting districts.

LULAC and San Antonio Attorney Rolando Rios later sued Howard County over the method in which the county's Justices of the

Peace are elected. A settlement was later reached by where the county would look at the issue when boundaries are redrawn again.

Big Spring City Council members Stephanie Horton (District 1) and Chuck Cawthon (District 3) draw multiple challengers for their seats. Horton won reelection easily in the May 4 election, but Cawthon missed reaching the 50 percent plus one vote margin of victory by one vote. He later defeated Greg Biddison in a runoff election.

A settlement between May 1995 Texas Lotto winner Carol Rains (\$12.87 million) and R.G. Mills was reached out of court.

The suit between the longtime friends drew nationwide attention.



Shrylee Reid joins in to help build Kids' Zone. Several hundred residents helped in the five-day construction project, which ended on May 12.

SPORTS

Basketball, playoff basketball to be exact, was the main topic for the month of March.

The Howard College Hawks, beat Frank Phillips College in the final game of the season to tie Odessa College for



ROBIN WISE

third place in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJAC) and earn a birth in the Region V basketball tournament for the first time in two seasons.

The Hawks then stunned conference champion South Plains College in the semifinals of the Starburst Texas-New Mexico Championships (Region V tournament) and were one win away from the NJCAA national tournament, but came up short against New Mexico Junior College, 79-63, in the Region V finals.

The Howard College Lady Hawks, with only two sophomores on their squad, exceeded their own expectations to claim their fifth consecutive WJAC title, posted a 28-4 overall record and a No. 5 national ranking.

After two years of owning the Grayson Lady Vikings, the Lady Hawks eventually fell to No. 1 ranked Grayson, 59-53, in the semifinals of the region V tournament in Odessa.

Robin Wise was selected Girls' Most Valuable Player on the Herald's All-Crossroads Basketball Team. She helped lead the Lady Steers to their fifth straight District 4-4A title and their first-ever playoff victory.

Daniel Franks was selected Boys' Most Valuable Player on the Herald's All-Crossroads Basketball Team. He average 20.5 points per game and 11.3 rebounds.

The Big Spring YMCA Sidewinders gymnastics team finished second in the Level 10 division at the USA Gymnastics state championships in Houston.

The second place finish qualified teammates Stephanie Stewart, Casey McKim and Hayley Whiteside for the USAG regional meet in April.

Sidewinders Brooke Lawrence and Jana Duncan also qualified for the USAG Level 9 regional meet in Houston.

The team placed third at the national meet in Toledo, Ohio in June, and Stewart's individual performance earned her the junior division national all-around title.



Coahoma rodeo clown Quail Dobbs could always be counted on for community service work.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Alvarez, Juan, Big Spring, March 17
Archer, Clara Grace, Lamesa, March 7

Baker, Harold "Red", Big Spring, March 5

Barrera, Rita Rodriguez, Stanton, March 12

Becker, Jean, Big Spring, March 7

Bishop, Juanita, Big Spring, March 21

Bryan, Johnnie, Dallas, March 5

Caffey, Daisy, Stanton, March 5

Castle, Reginald, Big Spring, March 6

Cooper, George F., Big Spring, March 26

Cosby, Berniece Lynn, Lubbock, March 8

Crawford, Mildred, Big Spring, March 30

Driver, Charlene, Big Spring, March 5

Faulks, Avery, Big Spring, March 23

Fields, Jeff C., Big Spring, March 24

Fowler, Lillian, Garden City, March 3

Franco, Juan P., Big Spring, March 10

Gibson, Frank P., Midland, March 27

Gonzales, Angel Lynn, Coahoma, March 27

Grantham, Viola B., Big Spring, March 23

Griffin, William H., Big Spring, March 12

Hallford, Georgia, Leona, March 3

Hatch, H.B., Big Spring, March 16

Hendricks, Madeline, Big Spring, March 4

Hull, Dorothy, Big Spring, March 14

Joiner, Odie "Ocho", Kermit, March 21

Jones, Helen (Grisham), Big Spring, March 3

Kinman, Ola J. Fuson, Big Spring, March 14

Mauldin, Travis, Big Spring, March 6

McGee, Judith Christian, Big Spring, March 23

McLean, Sharon Elizabeth, El Paso, March 2

Milam, Mrs. Odie "Maud", Big Spring, March 4

Molpus, Morris, Sr., Sherman, March 4

Muncke, Mattie Katherine, Breckenridge, March 19

Nieves, Ret. MSGT. Noel, Big Spring, March 13

Olivas, Guadalupe Garcia, Big Spring, March 31

Painter, Byrdene, Big Spring, March 4

Perez, Ernesto, Big Spring, March 26

Poe, Yvonne, Stanton, Monday, March 1

Price, Clifford, Kingsland, March 10

Riden, Ruby Ruth, San Angelo, March 30

Robinson, Lucy Bell, Big Spring, March 14

Rodriguez, Jessica Marie, Big Spring, March 26

Smith, James Chrisman "Chris", Big Spring, March 17

Snodgrass, C.L. Jr., Stanton, March 27

Snowden, George, Lake Thomas, March 8

Sorley, Peggy Carol, Stanton, March 15

Spencer, Norman Stuart, Jr., Big Spring, March 7

Stevens, Verna Evalena (Hull), West Columbia, March 19

Turner, Billy Ray, Abilene, March 1

Wilburn, Phyllis Marie, Merkel, March 22

White, Wimley, Big Spring, March 3

EDITOR'S NOTE: The dates shown are dates of death as provided in obituaries.

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Loraine, TX

695-9297
Abilene, TX



April

Gas price-fixing lawsuit, prison sale and freak Good Friday snow are all conversation pieces

Citizen's committee reviews prison sale after public outcry regarding offering

The first week of April's events promised a busy month, as Attorney General Dan Morales filed suit against six local gasoline distributors and three individuals alleging they conspired to fix gasoline prices two years earlier.

Morales' office filed suit April 3 contending the defendants agreed to raise the retail price of gasoline by 4 cents per gallon

in April of 1994.

Two days later, Mid-Tex Detentions and Cornell Corrections Inc. presented the Big Spring City Council with an offer to purchase the city's three prisons. The initial offer to the city was \$4.3 million and an annual cash contribution to the city's general fund of \$155,000 more than it was currently earning from the facilities.

Before the month was done, the council had appointed a negotiating team headed by City Manager Gary Fuqua and joined by Max Green, Jim Purcell, Eddie Cole and Chuck Williams to review and discuss the offers made by Mid-Tex and Cornell.

When the negotiations were



Youngsters build a snowman after Good Friday's surprise six-inch snowfall.

finished in June, its initial sale price had been reduced to \$3.7 million, but the city's annual take for its general coffers had climbed to almost \$400,000.

The defendants in the gasoline price fixing case — Big

Spring Fuel Company; Southwest Convenience Stores Inc. of Odessa; Charles Byron Harris, doing business as Desert Oil Company of Big Spring; Parks Fuels Inc. of Big Spring; Ackerly Oil Company Inc. of Big Spring; Town and Country Food Stores Inc. of San Angelo; Robin Dijon Stanford, vice president of Big Spring Fuel Co.; Charles Wesley Dunnam, president of Ackerly Oil Co.; and Bob Charles Parks, vice president of Parks Fuels Inc. — would seek a change of venue, claiming it would be impossible to find a fair and impartial jury in Howard County.

District Judge Robert Moore III agreed with the defendants and in September granted a change of venue. The case is now scheduled to go to trial in May 1997 in Nolan County's 32nd District Court in Sweetwater.

In other news events during April:

• Assault charges filed against Big Spring High School teacher Kay Wilson in March for throwing her shoe at a student were dropped by the student's mother.

Wilson had thrown the shoe in an attempt to get the students' attention. His mother said her decision to drop the charges were prompted by her son's requests to do so.

• After 300 consecutive days primary runoff for the right to face Republican Bill Crooker, the incumbent Precinct 3 county commissioner, in the November general elections. Crooker would win re-election.

tion, and Mims died shortly thereafter.

• Chris Christopher received a seventh sentencing delay on his conviction of 11 counts of wire fraud and 10 counts of interstate transfer of stolen goods in a Rhode Island federal court.

Christopher would receive one more delay, but was finally sentenced in December. He received a 10-year prison sentence and was ordered to pay \$26.7 million in restitution.

• Big Spring High School student Ramnath Subbaraman took top individual honors in the Permian Basin Academic Challenge.

• About 10,000 Cap Rock Electric customers were caught in a blackout April 16. Cap Rock's members were among the 600,000 people who receive power in one way or another from Southwestern Public Service Co. that were affected by the power outage.

The six-hour blackout affected the entire 17-county area served by Cap Rock.

• Ackerly farmer Eddy Herm was named Howard County Soil and Water Conservation District Farmer of the Year during the HCSWD's annual awards banquet.

• Curtis Mullins, a 20-year veteran of the banking business in Big Spring, was elected chairman of the board of Norwest Bank Big Spring.

• Danette Toone was named executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. She had served as interim director during the board's eight-month search for an executive.

• Lou Vincent was named the recipient of Big Spring State Hospital's Jack Y. Smith Award as its "volunteer of the year" during the hospital's annual volunteer appreciation banquet.

SPORTS

It was a big month for girls' athletics in Crossroads Country. Big Spring's Lady Steers chalked up the first ever Region I-4A track and field championship at Angelo State University on April 27, scoring 105 points, in easily outdistancing runner-up Cedar Hill, which managed a 50-point total.

A couple of days earlier, Coahoma's Bulldogettes knocked off defending state champion Hawley, 5-3, in the area round of the Class 3A softball playoffs in Snyder.

The youthful Bulldogettes went on to take a regional championship and advanced to the state tournament in Austin behind the leadership of senior ace Audra Bingham.

Big Spring's female thinclads were every bit as dominant when they hosted the rain-shortened Big Spring Invitational track meet earlier in the month. However, their male counterparts fell short in a bid to sweep both titles, as San Angelo Lake View took the boys' team title with 99 points. The Steers were runners-up with 67 points.

The Lady Steers harriers then went on to dominate the field in the District 4-4A track meet. Once again, Big Springs' boys had to take a back seat to Lake View, but not without throwing a scare into the host team. The Steers piled up 150 team points, only to fall one point short of Lake View's 151.

In other sports news in April:

• Coahoma's boys took the District 6-2A golf title, while pre-season Forsan finished third — marking the first time in five years that the Buff linksters failed to qualify for regional tournament play.

Forsan still had a representative in regional play, however, as Rusty Baker took district medalist honors.

• Howard College hires Matt Corkery, who was an assistant under Terry Gray during the 1994-95 season, as head coach of the Lady Hawks basketball program.

• Philip Ringener, a professional bowler from Big Spring, won the Bud Light Championship in Stony Brook, N.Y. The victory earned him a payday of \$40,000 and qualified him to compete in the Brunswick World Tournament of Champions.

• Klondike senior Tanner Etheredge qualified for the Class A state track and field meet by winning the Region II-1A long jump title with a leap of 22 feet, 5 3/4 inches.

• Todd Davis of Stanton finished second in the 100 meters of the Region I-2A meet at Abilene Christian University with a 10.5 clocking, thereby qualifying for the state meet. He also finished third in the 200 meters with a time of 21.83.

• Kelly Lankford of Garden City was also a state qualifier with a Region I-1A title in the high jump. His winning leap was 5 feet, 4 inches.

• Shelby Isaacs of Borden County won the girls' 300 hurdles at the Region II-1A meet with a 47.31 clocking. In addition, Borden County's 1600-meter relay team finished second with a 4:20.05.

• Angela Welsh of Grady finished second in the 1600 meters at the Region II-1A meet, earning a state tournament bid with her clocking of 5:50.09.

• Brant Murphy, a jailer for the Howard County Sheriff's Department, learned there are some pretty big fish in Comanche Trail Lake while fishing for crappie off the rebuilt dam on April 1.

The hard tug on his line wasn't a crappie, nor was it a bass. And it wasn't an April Fool's joke. Instead, after a somewhat lengthy struggle, Murphy landed a 23-pound catfish.



Big Spring's Lady Steers track team was the most dominant in West Texas in the spring, winning the Region I championship by more than 50 points over Cedar Hill.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Bigony, Amalie H. Muschi, Hialeah, Fla., April 15
Branham, Bill, Big Spring, April 27
Brooks, Donald R. "Daddy Don", Big Spring, April 15
Cano, Clemencia G., Big Spring, April 26
Childers, William T. "Bill", Sand Springs, April 14
Christopher, C.E., Odessa, April 7
Coates, Lois E., Big Spring, April 19
Cottongame, Mary, Big Spring, April 14

Creeley, George, Jr., Big Spring, April 23
Cruz, Abel Sr., Big Spring, April 10
Dennis, Raymon, Garden City, April 12
Dyer, Virgie May, Crowley, April 19
Early, E.B., Big Spring, April 16
Esparza, Blas, Stanton, April 28
Flores, Juana Fierro, Big Spring, April 28
Gibson, Kay, Odessa, April 27
Griffice, Grover "Griff", Big Spring, April 6
Griffith, Burl D., Forsan, April 3

Hale, Terry W., Big Spring, April 9
Herrera, Pantaleon, Stanton, April 16
Hodnett, Mary Lois Guffee, Big Spring, April 10
Holiody, Roy Joe, Big Spring, April 22
Homfeld, Garry L., Midland, April 9
Jeffcoat, Addie Nichols, Big Spring, April 26
Johnson, Ida Belle, Big Spring, April 11
Kimble, Erma Maxine, Big Spring, April 8
Knowlton, M.L., Big Spring, April 30

Koonce, Sandra Lou, Dublin, April 2
Majors, William Argie, San Antonio, April 10
Martin, Mary M., Big Spring, April 10
Merrick, Mattlyn, Big Spring, April 3
Reyna, Juan Miguel, Big Spring, April 23
Sample, Barbara Jean "Constant", Kelso, Mo., April 25
Sandell, Nancy L., Big Spring, April 11
Stanley, John R., Big Spring, April 5

Taylor, Alma Banks, Big Spring, April 30
Taylor, Jean Lois, Big Spring, April 2
Tunnell, J.S. "Sterling", Stanton, April 15
Tunnell, Mary Barnes, Stanton, April 24
Villa, Emilio R., Stanton, April 17
Ward, Mildred E., Big Spring, April 18
Wright, Daisy Pearl, Big Spring, April 7

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May

Worst hailstorm in history hits on May 10

Hailstorm doesn't dampen spirits of Kids' Zone workers as project finishes

At about 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 10, a violent hailstorm — the most violent in city history, some said — hit Big Spring.

The storm, which moved across the city from south central to north west, caused an estimated \$25 million to \$30 million in damages.

More than 1,500 homes and businesses were damaged during the storm, which lasted about 30 minutes and dropped hailstones as large as grapefruit.

Hailstones crashed through the roof of Dorothy Garrett Coliseum during Howard College graduation ceremonies, sending more than 25 persons to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Among the hardest hit of the businesses were the city's auto dealerships.

Pollard Chevrolet suffered the most severe damage, with damage to virtually every vehicle — except those on the show room floor and in the various shops — on the property.

Shroyer Motor Company also received heavy damage but, at the same time, wound up with the largest inventory of undamaged vehicles in town because of a large canopy on the property.

Both Bob Brock Ford and Big Spring Chrysler also received extensive damage, although not nearly as severe as either Shroyer or Pollard.

At year's end, vehicles would still be seen around town with glass shattered by the storm still to be replaced, while roofers were still working to repair storm damage.

As the storm rolled across the southern portion of the community, work on Kids' Zone, a large, computer-designed playground in Comanche Trail Park, was heading into the home stretch.

Kids' Zone was funded by more than \$100,000 in donations — of money, time and equipment — from the community, and the target date for completion was at 7 p.m. on May 12.

Despite the temporary setback, there was no damage done to the playground by the storm and work was delayed only as long as the storm lasted.

With hundreds of persons



City engineer Ralph Truszkowski (from left), mayor Tim Blackshear, councilman John Paul Anderson, city manager Gary Fuqua and building inspector Todd Darden go over a city map following May 10's hailstorm.

working during "Kids' Zone Construction Week," the project was completed on-time.

The news that Furr's Cafeterias would return to Big Spring was also announced in May. The restaurant is expected to employ about 50 persons, based on the needs of the business.

Lubbock-based Furr's had been a community fixture for more than 25 years when Highland Mall was razed on Feb. 13, 1994 to make way for the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

The Big Spring store, slated to open in January 1997, will be the first new store constructed by Furr's in more than a decade and symbolizes the company's return to financial stability.

In other news: O.L. Cooper is named president of Norwest Bank, a position he will later leave to move to a newly formed competitor.

A consultant specializing in outlet malls advises the Big Spring Factory Outlet Task Force that the demographics of the community are not sufficient to warrant a manufacturer's factory outlet and suggests a mixed-use facility.

Stephanie Horton and Chuck Cawthon withstand reelection challenges for a second term on the Big Spring City Council. Horton wins her race outright, but Cawthon falls one vote shy of an outright win. In a runoff, he turns back challenger Greg Biddison.

Bruce Griffith is named president of First Bank of West Texas. Griffith had been a long-term employee of First

National Bank.

Tara Kersch is hired by the city of Big Spring to serve as master plan coordinator, the long-term planning project developed throughout 1995.

Stanton's historic Carmelite Monastery is re-dedicated and a two-year long renovation project is begun.

Students from Forsan and Coahoma capture a total of 26 "Best of State" awards at the Technology Students Association's state competition and annual convention.

The Big Spring Independent School District and LULAC reach an out-of-court settlement in LULAC's claim that district boundaries deny minorities adequate representation. Under the agreement, the district's three at-large positions will be elected by cumulative voting beginning in 1998.

Howard County settles its lawsuit with LULAC over Justice of the Peace representation. LULAC had alleged the method of electing JPs was discriminatory to Hispanics.

Sixteen local residents traveled to Lubbock to attend a Texas Department of Transportation hearing on the proposed expansion of I-27 south of Lubbock.

The Public Utility Commission gives its OK to a proposed wind farm to be located on the Morgan Ranch, south of Big Spring.

A Holiday Inn Express is announced for a location on Gregg Street, just south of I-20. By year's end, all that is on the property is the pile of rubble

from where a former implementation dealership stood.

Howard County and Sheriff A.N. Standard are cleared of any wrongdoing in three suits.

The Howard/Glasscock Old Settlers Reunion, dropped in 1995 after more than 70 years, is reorganized by a group of concerned citizens, including Mack Underwood. Underwood would see the reunion held in August, but would die before the year ends.

A total of 189 students receive diplomas at Big Spring High School.

The body of 18 year-old Jonathan Jerome "J.J." Thompson of Coahoma is found in the murky waters of Lake J.B. Thomas. Thompson became the 34th drowning victim in the lake's 34-year history.

The Colorado River Municipal Water District begins mixing water from Lake E.V. Spence with water from Lake O.H. Ivie in response to prolonged drought conditions.

Pathfinders, a Dallas-based economic development consulting firm, participates in a public meeting and advises Moore Development for Big Spring that it should concentrate its marketing efforts on the McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark.

City council members review city manager Gary Fuqua. Fuqua receives rave reviews but would be in trouble with the council before year's end.

SPORTS

Coahoma's Bulldogettes, in only their third season of competition, advance to the finals of the state Class 2A softball tournament before losing, 6-4, to Blooming Grove.

Audra Bingham, Stephanie Stone, Tori Elmore and Cassie Tindol were all named to the all-tournament team.

The Bulldogettes overcame injuries to key personnel during the season to make it to the tournament.

In the title game, Coahoma took an early lead over Blooming Grove before fielding miscues let the game get away.

Off the diamond and into the gymnasium, Big Spring's Sidewinders gymnastics team won its seventh consecutive YMCA state gymnastics title.

Before the year is over, one member of the team, Stephanie Stewart, would bring home a national title.

In other sports news:

Big Spring's Steers wrap up a sixth straight trip to the baseball playoffs with a 7-0, three-hit win over San Angelo Lake View. The Steers would win against El Paso and Dumas before being eliminated by Fort Worth Arlington Heights.

Howard College's baseball Hawks earn a state tournament berth, winning the WJCAC championship. In the state tournament, the Hawks open with a win before a loss sends them into the loser's bracket. The Hawks battle through the loser's bracket, advancing to the state title game before losing again and being eliminated.

Howard College honors its athletes at the school's annual athletic banquet. Stan Feaster is inducted into the Hall of Fame while team MVPs and Ben Phillips in baseball, Ronnie DeGray in men's basketball and Joyce Howard in women's basketball.

Big Spring's Lady Steer track and field team sweeps the Region I-4A meet in San Angelo, qualifying four individuals and all three relays for the state meet in Austin.

At Austin, little, if anything, goes right as the Lady Steers' potential 80 points and dreamed-of state title goes down the drain. The best finish turns out to be a sixth-place.

Big Spring's Sandra Mendez, a trainer at Howard College, makes history when she signs a scholarship agreement with Texas Tech to become that school's first female football equipment manager in history.

Daniel Franks, the former Big Spring Steer who signed to play collegiate football with the Miami Hurricanes, is selected to the North squad in the annual McDonald's All-Star Football Game in Houston.



CELEBRATING!!!

Coahoma softball pitcher Audra Bingham is mobbed by her teammates after the Bulldogettes won to advance to the state tournament in Austin. In Austin, the Bulldogettes, in only their third year of existence, made it to the championship game before losing 6-4 to Blooming Grove.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Alvarez, Henry, Big Spring, May 21

Bogard, Mattie, Big Spring, May 4

Bostick, Bertha (Bert), Big Spring, May 19

Cardwell, Blanche M., Odessa, May 10

Carstensen, Wanda Lee, Big Spring, May 15

Chandler, Georgia Mae, Stanton, May 16

Cranford, Thomas Edd, Stanton, May 31

DeLaRosa, Rafael, Big Spring, May 7

Dullnig, Phyllis E., Midland, May 24

Eddins, Penbroke, Big Spring, May 19

Escobedo, Big Spring, May 4

Gutierrez, Richard M., Big Spring, May 19

Hernandez, Enrique "Henry", May 2

Lubbock, May 2

Holbrook, Jimmie D., Big Spring, May 31

House, Irma Mae, Stanton, May 25

Irvin, Matilda M., Big Spring, May 20

James, Panzy "Pat", Midland, May 15

Jennings, Juanita Ralph, Big Spring, May 3

Kemper, Velah "V.E.", Big Spring, May 30

Kirby, Berva E., Big Spring, May 9

Lamb, Katharine Bettie, Big Spring, May 13

Mancill, Jerry E., Big Spring, May 28

Mashburn, Erlene, Stanton, May 6

McComb, Eli, Arlington, May 26

Moore, Lee Brooks, Stanton, May 2

Morrison, Alma M., Pasadena, May 24

Nix, Gladys, Carlsbad, N.M., May 26

Norman, James J., Big Spring, May 23

Otwell, Alpha, Big Spring, May 6

Padilla, Crescencio G., Big Spring, May 15

Patterson, Virginia, Big Spring, May 24

Payne, Mrs. Paul "Marjorie", Big Spring, May 11

Poindexter, Hobart Casey "Chick", Lubbock, May 16

Pope, Raymond Dunlap, Goldthwaite, May 31

Powell, Esther May, Big Spring, May 17

Sikes, Charles Ray, Abilene, May 30

Smith, Nettie Marie, Coahoma, May 2

Smith, Peggy, Big Spring, May 13

Southard, Lillie, Big Spring, May 18

Stewart, Fern, Big Spring, May 27

Sturdivant, James Allen Sr., Corpus Christi, May 17

Thames, J.C., Abilene, May 29

Thompson, J.J., Coahoma, May 24

Young, Gracie Mae, Reno, Nev., May 4

Wallin, Juanita Young, Sand Springs, May 20

Warren, John Wesley, Kansas City, Mo., May 7

Weir, Betty F., Big Spring, May 22

White, F.W., Big Spring, May 11

Williams, Irby Newton, Big Spring, May 18

Williams, Ray Van, Big Spring, May 1

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ENERGAS.

June

Sale of prisons finally approved by council

The biggest story in June is the sell of the city of Big Spring's interest in three prisons. After many meetings and some feuding, the city council decided to sell to Cornell Corrections. The sale was approved during a special meeting June 14. The council agreed to a restructuring of the prison management agreement for a term of about 35 years. City Manager Gary Fuqua, Eddie Cole, Max Green, Jim Purcell and Chuck Williams were part of a five-member committee assigned the task of working up the agreement between the two entities.

The contract includes a 70-cent per man-day payment to the city's general fund, a \$6,000 secondary sublease payment per unit a month and a lease of the Interstate unit for a yearly income to the city of \$216,000 and city airport rental revenues totaling \$44,620 annually.

Under the restructuring contract, Mid-Tex Detentions personnel as well as city employees will come under the employment of Cornell. Mid-Tex, as a legal entity, remained, but it no longer operates.

• The Heritage Museum features "Sole of the West: The Art and History of Cowboy Boots" for the month of June. The exhibit featured more than 40 pairs of boots including those worn by Val Kilmer during the filming of the 1993 film "Tombstone."

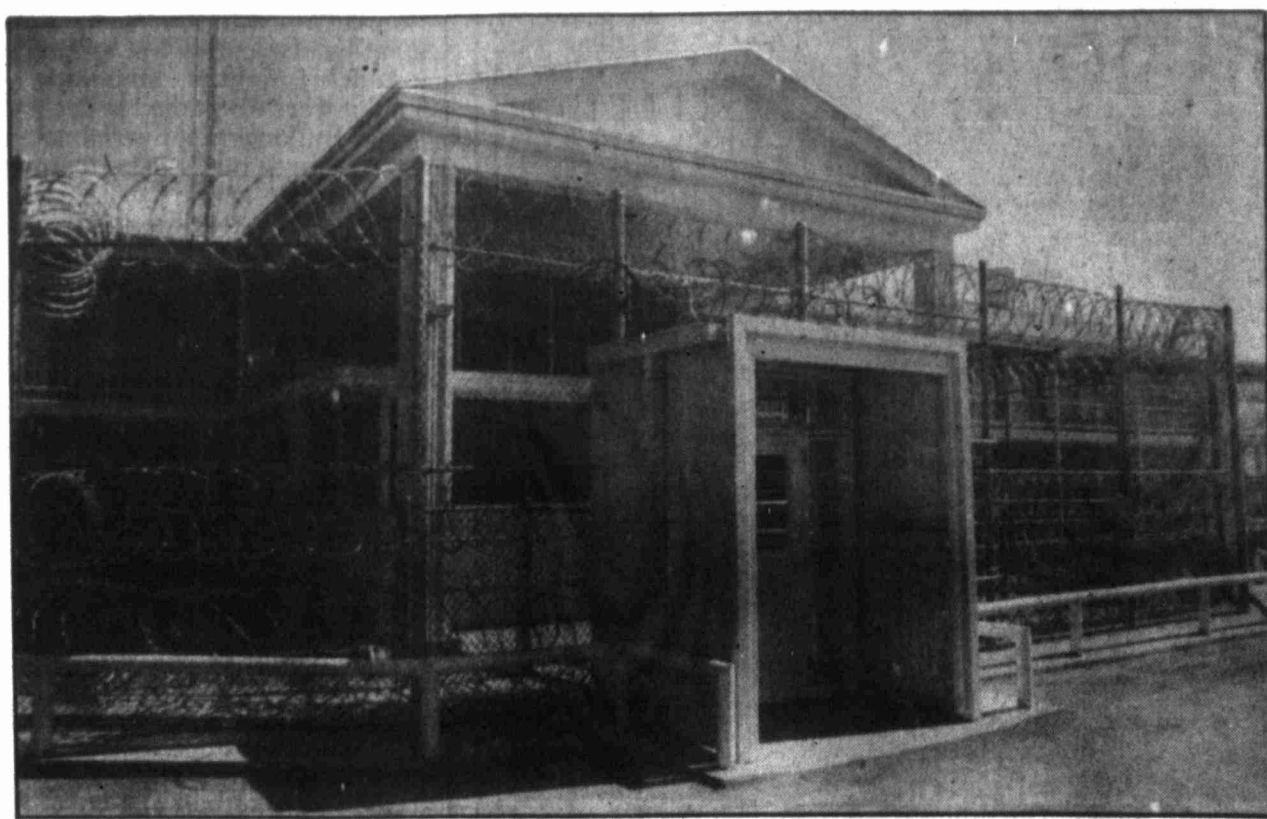
• The Big Spring/Howard County Grant Partnership takes on new duties and becoming more involved with Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. Enterprise zones, tax abatements and other governmental projects were added to Grant Writer Leigh Corson's responsibilities.

• Big Spring resident John Edwards faces a battle of where to park his 18-wheeler rig. His neighbors don't want him to park it on the street. He requests the city ordinance be changed so he can. Later, city council members passed a measure allowing Edwards to park his rig behind his home.

• Commissioners are considering being the local liaison for the library project. They are considering hiring architect Phil Furquerson to facilitate the renovations of the old Bluebonnet Savings building into the new library. At their June 7 meeting, commissioners do approve the measure to hire Furquerson to supervise both the library renovations and the roofing repairs.

• Commissioners declare the damage sustained by the May 10 hailstorm was so severe it requires emergency repair. The damage was on the library and courthouse roofs.

• Commissioners discuss establishing a fireworks ban in the county due to the severe drought. At this time, they



The Interstate Unit was one of three prison facilities sold by the City of Big Spring during June. Discussions leading up to the sale were often heated.

decide not to pass the ban.

• Big Spring police officers begin issuing warnings to those drivers who haven't had their windshields repaired after the May 10 hailstorm. The broken windshields are considered obstructions and can cause accidents.

• TU Electric and the Big Spring Police Department announce they will continue the McGruff program. The TU Electric trucks feature stickers with McGruff on them.

• Representatives from the TxDOT come to Big Spring to inform city leaders how to request funding for high-priority projects.

• The Aid Association for Lutherans donate \$700 to the Boy Scout Council to put storm windows on the new Boy Scout Services Center at 610 Scurry.

• More than 90 people attend the 19th annual Cannibal Draw Reunion at Golden Corral. The reunion is for those who grew up in the area of Big Spring known as the Cannibal Draw. It would be organizer Mack Underwood's last gathering of the East Side Gang.

• It's announced Howard County's drought conditions are rated as severe.

• The 1996 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills Test results are better than in 1995 for the BSISD.

• Construction is under way in Garden City on two of three phases to supply the citizens with a quality municipal water system. The two phases are scheduled to be complete by October.

• Blockbuster Video says it will open a store in a portion of the old Winn-Dixie building. However, that deal will fall through and Movie Gallery will move in instead.

• Fire doors are installed at Runnels Junior High to sepa-

rate the hallways from the stairwell as a safety measure. A bond election has been called to ask voters to support building a new junior-high and to air-condition several other campuses.

• City council members give their OK on a first reading to sell their interest in the city prisons. They are wanting to sell to Mid-Tex Detentions and Cornell Corrections.

• Martin Co. commissioners approve a fireworks ban in their county due to the drought.

• Big Spring is declared a disaster area as a result of the May 10 hailstorm. Residents can begin applying for low-interest loans Thursday.

• BSISD's Personalized Achievement Center met its self-imposed 1995-96 standards for alternative program campuses, successfully avoiding a peer review by the Texas Education Agency.

• County commissioners ask Gov. George Bush to ban fireworks in the county. Meanwhile, the local agriculture industry braces for the worst as the drought continues.

• Big Spring police officers begin a bicycle patrol at Comanche Trail Park. Two officers will patrol the area on weekends and holidays during the summer.

• Glasscock County residents threaten to sue the school district because of the way the trustees are elected. The residents claim there isn't enough minority representation on the board because all members are elected at-large.

• Howard County will receive \$10 million from the Texas Department of Transportation. The money will be used to upgrade Highway 87, Third and Fourth Streets, FM 669, FM 700 and Interstate 20.

• Carl Dorton, 911 coordinator,

resigns his post to accept a job in Waco.

• The FAA questions a Western Container loan from the city. The FAA is questioning the \$1.4 million the city invested in the business so they could expand. The FAA is withholding a \$700,000 grant for the resurfacing of the airport runway pending an agreement on the fund's reimbursement.

• A mistrial is declared in the trial of G. Wayne Reeder, Chris Christopher's business partner.

• Fifty years ago, a group of 20 city officials met at the Settles Colorado River Municipal Water District.

• A roof collapses at Neel's Transfer and Storage building on First Street and two roofers are slightly injured. roof

• Furr's Cafeteria will have a ground-breaking ceremony July 10. The cafeteria is returning to Big Spring after a two-year absence.

• Allen Wayne Damron performs at the Amphitheatre in a Kids Zone concert. Two-hundred persons donate \$350 for upkeep of the playground.

• Robert Louis Valentine, an inmate in the Howard County Jail, hangs himself following a visit from his parole officer.

• City council members, for the second time, deny a request from the Howard County Association for Retarded Citizens for a bingo permit.

• Before year's end, a permit would be granted to HCARC for the old Elrod's Furniture building.

• Ground is broken on the Beals Creek Flood Control Project breaks ground. The long-awaited work funded by the city and Corps of Engineers is designed to reduce flooding in the area.

SPORTS

The month of June was busy in the sports world with the annual City Little League Tournament, the Chicago Bulls winning another NBA title, the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo and the YMCA gymnastics team Sidewinders going to the national competition.

The Coahoma Reds won the baseball tournament by defeating the American League Stars 3-2. The Reds were the only team to go undefeated during the tournament that lasted almost two weeks. The team rallied from behind in the final two innings to win.

• It's announced that the Coahoma Bulldozer softball coach resigned his post. Danny Randolph accepted a position as a teacher/coach at Sundown, a Class 2A school. He had been a coach at Coahoma for four years and took the girls softball team to the state University Interscholastic League playoffs.

• Big Spring High School graduate Max Woodall signs scholarship papers to attend Howard College in the fall.

• The annual baseball City Little League Tournament gets underway. The American League Colts beat the National League Yankees 15-3 and the Coahoma League Rockies beat the International League Panthers 13-3.

• The City Little League Tournament continues with the Coahoma Angels defeating the International Indians 7-6. The American League Cardinals beat the International League Rebels 5-2.

• American League Cardinals lose to the AL Stars 9-4.

• AL Braves beat defending City League champs NL Rangers 5-0. The other winners bracket game was the CL Reds beating the AL Stars 11-4. In the consolidation bracket, the IL Panthers beat the AL Astros 8-7 and the CL Angels win 9-5 over the NL Yankees.

• IL Panthers beat Coahoma Rockies 4-3 in an extra inning victory during an elimination game. Panthers pitcher James Simpson struck out the first eight batters he faced, ending the night with 18 strikeouts.

• Little League tournament action continues with AL Stars defeating the CL Angels 17-2. Ryan Guinn of the Stars was both pitcher and hitter of the game with two home runs, a double, six RBIs and four runs scored. As pitcher, he struck out seven and walked two batters.

• AL Stars beat AL Colts 4-3 to earn semifinal spot in tournament.

• AL Stars beat AL Braves 5-3 to advance to title game in the tournament.

• Coahoma Reds defeat AL Stars 3-2 to win the tournament.

• Chicago Bulls win the NBA title by defeating the Seattle SuperSonics in game 6 by a score of 87-75.

• Randy Crockett of Big Spring and Duane Thomas of Midland teamed together for a 9-under par round of 62 on the Comanche Trail Golf Course, taking a one-stroke lead into the final round of the Best of Rest Golf Tournament.

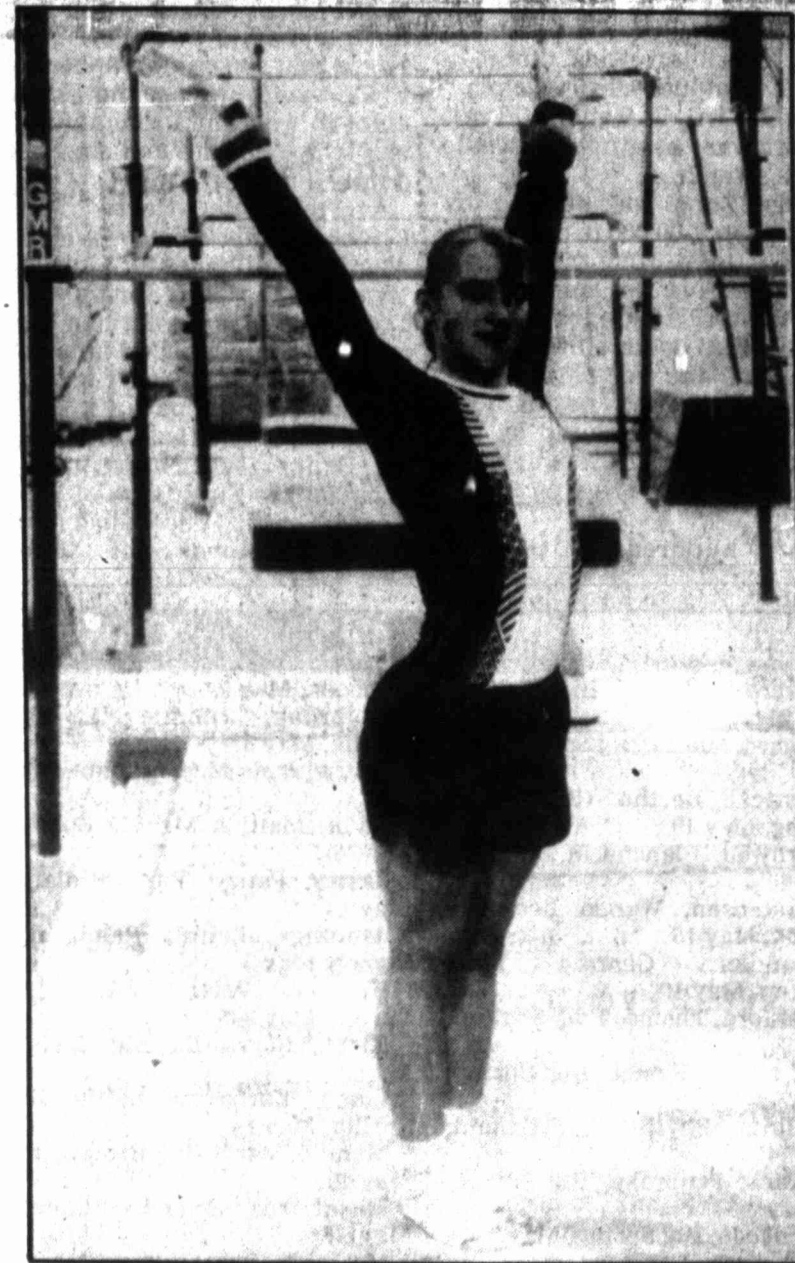
• Mike Weaver and Johnny Rutherford win the golf tournament. They finished with a 9-under par 62.

• Local calf roper Wayne Carper takes first place in the opening night of the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo. His time of 10.5 seconds beat out the 10.6 time of Iraan Juan Flores.

• Big Spring YMCA Sidewinders gymnastic team leads at the Nationals with a one-tenth point lead over Flushing, N.Y. Stephanie Stewart and Hayley Whiteside are first and second, respectively, in individual competition.

• Delbert Davis wins the steer wrestling competition at the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo.

• Sidewinders slip to third at YMCA national gymnastic finals. Stephanie Stewart scored 73.975 points to win the junior division national all-around competition — a first for the Sidewinders.



Stephanie Stewart won the YMCA National Gymnastics championship in June.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Akins, Burl, Big Spring, June 7
Bailey, Walker G., Big Spring, June 8
Bates, Mrs. Roy (Odell), Big Spring, June 21
Bond, T.E. "Buster," Coahoma, June 6
Cain, Charles E., Big Spring, June 3
Dawes, William Robert (Bill) Jr., Big Spring, June 24
Dobbins, Charline "Pat," Burleson, June 13
Harrington, William James,

Odessa, June 15
Henry, Dortha, Big Spring, June 24
Holliday, Victor Herbert, Big Spring, June 29
Jeffcoat, Laverne, Seminole, June 15
Kemper, Grace, Big Spring, June 8
Langley, William E., Sand Springs, June 5
Lay, Lois V., Big Spring, June 1
McKiski, Russell Edward, Big Spring, June 1

Miears, Robert Lee, Big Spring, June 4
Moncada, Inez, Big Spring, June 29
Nunez, Gavina, Big Spring, June 16
Patton, Boyce H., Big Spring, June 21
Paylor, Tobe E. Jr., Irving, June 14
Perkins, Lovie, Big Spring, June 7
Phillips, Roy Mathis, Big Spring, June 28
Saucedo, Margarita Sanchez,

Big Spring, June 8
Solomon, Robert Ross "Bob" Sr., Big Spring, June 19
Stewart, Betty, Big Spring, June 6
Stewart, Clinton, Big Spring, June 8
Vince, Beulah F., Big Spring, June 9
Wanner, Rudolph O., Big Spring, June 8
Williams, O.B. "Barney," San Angelo, June 5
Winn, Annie Belle, Odessa, June 18

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Bransom,

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Bruton, Pe

July 27

Bugg, Finis

6

Cervantes,

Spring, July

Daniel, Em

July 12



July

City gets \$3.7 million from prisons; Furr's breaks ground on new cafeteria

After months of negotiations, public hearings and false starts, Big Spring officials were finally able to get out of the prison business — in a way.

Cornell Corrections of Texas Inc. took formal control of the Big Spring Correctional Centers on July 9. The deal netted the city \$3.7 million.

City Council member John Paul Anderson, who had been a first-hand witness to months of effort to sell the prisons, was understandably pleased to see the deal signed.

"My personal belief is that this is the start of a good relationship with a very strong company. I think Cornell Corrections and the city of Big Spring will do additional projects together," he said.

The \$3.7 million went into a temporary savings account before being put to use in the annual city budget.

Under terms of the agreement, the city will receive more than \$500,000 annually for the lease and a per-prisoner per diem payment. Also, the airport fund will receive \$44,620 annually for the use of several airport buildings.

In return, Cornell received a 20-year operating agreement with three 5-year renewal options.

In other July news:

• Kay Kennemur, who previously served as secretary to county judges John Coffee and Ben Lockhart, was named the new Howard County 911 Emergency Telephone System



Members of Furr's management team are joined by chamber and city officials to break ground on the company's first new cafeteria in more than a decade. The Ambassador's Club joined in on the gathering. The cafeteria is expected to open in late January or early February 1997.

administrator.

Kennemur replaced Carl Dorton, who accepted a similar position in Waco.

• The drought continued to have a negative impact on Howard County. In early July, dry conditions forced the cancellation of the annual July 4 display.

But the drought proved to be far more devastating to area farmers. Before the year was out, it would destroy about 75 percent of the county cotton crop.

• Damage estimates and repair efforts from the May

hailstorm continued to make headlines in July. Government officials continued their assessment of damage from the hailstorm, which deposited softball sized hail across a large portion of Big Spring.

Although final damage estimates were far from complete, officials said total damage would cost county residents "millions and millions" of dollars.

The storm proved to be a boon to roofing companies. City Engineer Ralph Truszkowski said more than 1,900 permits were issued to roofers by early

July.

• The Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees called for a bond election to construct a new junior high school at the site of Boydston Elementary. The bond issue overwhelmingly passed in September.

• The parent company of Scenic Mountain Medical Center was sold in early July. Community Health Systems Inc. was bought by Forstmann Little & Co., a New York investment firm. FL&C agreed to purchase all outstanding CHS shares for \$52 each.

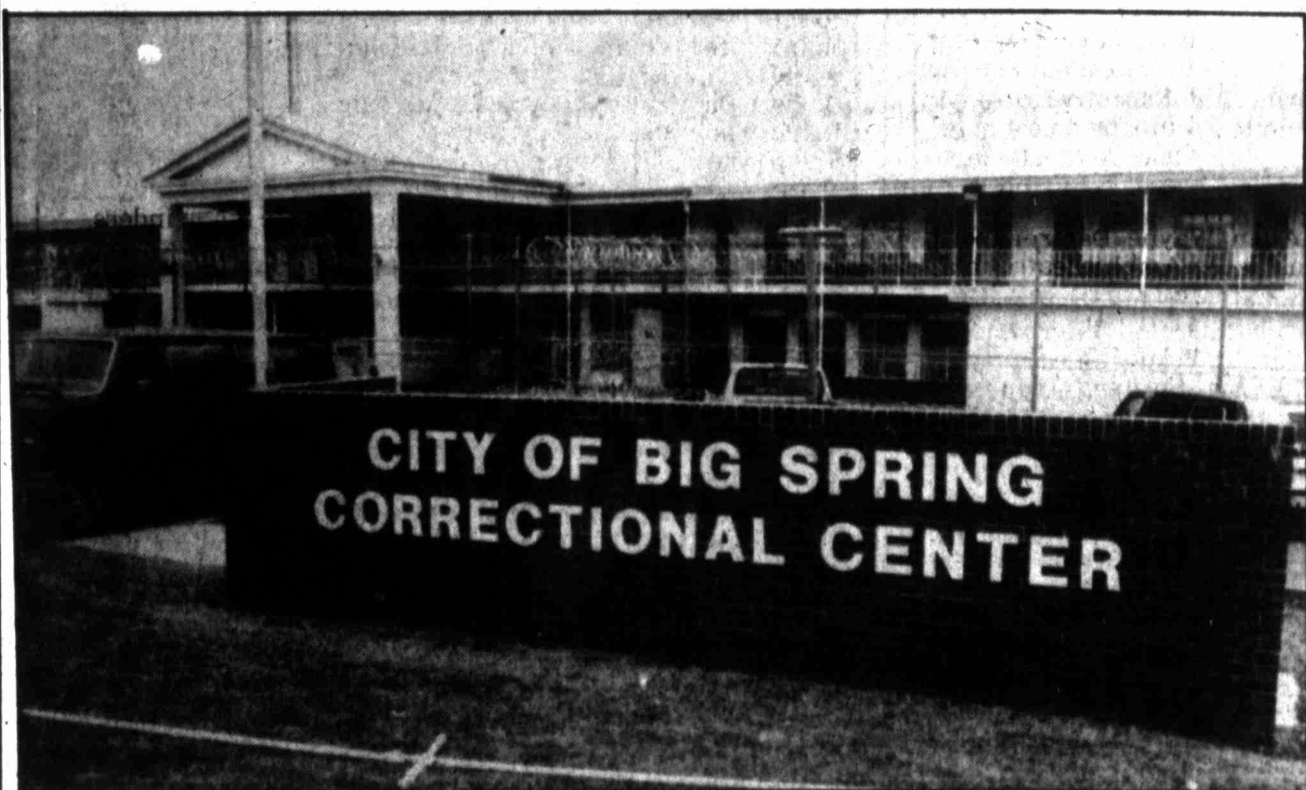
SMMC administrator Kenneth Randall said the sale would have little if any impact on the hospital.

"The sale won't affect us," he said. "We have a plan of action mapped out and we'll be following it."

• Ground-breaking for the new Furr's Cafeteria was held July 10. Construction plans call for it to be complete by late January 1997.

• The price-fixing trial for several Big Spring gas jobbers was moved to Sweetwater after attorneys for the defendants successfully pursued a change of venue motion. The trial is scheduled for May 1997.

• Glasscock ISD named a citizens panel in response to threatened litigation over the method of elected school board members. The board studied possible change in district boundaries before reporting back to the board later in the year.



The Interstate Unit was one of three sites sold in the prison package, which brought the city \$3.7 million.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Arant, W.W., Big Spring, July 3
Arnold, Bertha Shaw, Weatherford, July 11
Baker, Mildred Pauline Armstrong, Big Spring, July 16
Blagrove, Nona Shortes, Ackerly, July 17
Booth, Robert Elmer, Stanton, July 16
Bransom, Ollie, Amarillo, July 26
Bruton, Pearl, Big Spring, July 27
Bugg, Finis W., Odessa, July 6
Cervantes, Guadalupe, Big Spring, July 26
Daniel, Emily E., Arlington, July 12

Dedmon, Carla, Forsan, July 16
Edwards, James Bonnell, Sr., Granbury, July 28
Gilbert, David W., Sr., Big Spring, July 3
Graham, De Alva Elizabeth McAlister, Abilene, July 22
Henderson, Mary Lou, Coahoma, July 22
Hickerson, Cecil Couch "C.C.," Big Spring, July 22
Holsenbeck, Charlene, Big Spring, July 13
Isbell, Dwight George, Big Spring, July 1
Keisling, Jean, Lubbock, July 9
Kemper, Voyde W., Big Spring, July 20

Lawrence, Louise "Babe," Big Spring, July 4
Lebkowsky, Frances Marie "Bobby" Taylor, Big Spring, July 8
Lee, Calvin Wesley, Sr., Stanton, July 28
Liles, Margaret, Big Spring, July 9
Marino, Michael, Big Spring, July 12
Minchew, Willa Cornelia (Connie), Big Spring, July 24
Mitchell, Leon Henry, Big Spring, July 28
Moore, Altie Lee, Sand Springs, July 21
Moore, Miles Eugene, Lawton, Okla., July 28
Morehead, Jimmy L., Big

Spring, July 29
Overton, Brent, Big Spring, July 27
Ramirez, Juanita, Big Spring, July 20
Smith, Katie, Big Spring, July 17
Steagald, Elsie Marie, Lubbock, July 29
Stehle, Minnie, Big Spring, July 29
Stevens, J.C., Big Spring, July 5
Stevenson, Garry L., Westlake, Ore., July 14
Yates, Sudie Rebecca, Flomaton, Ala., July 6
York, Jimedith, Fort Worth, July 26
Wash, Diane, Forsan, July 15

SPORTS

Big Spring became the temporary home in July to hundreds of 11- and 12-year-olds, who descended on Howard County for the District 3 Little League Tournament.

The tournament, which featured teams from Big Spring, Coahoma, Greenwood, Lamesa, Midland, Odessa and El Paso, lasted two weeks and gave fans and parents plenty to cheer about.

As they have in recent years, Howard County teams struggled at the tournament. Only one local team, Big Spring National, survived past the first week, and it was eliminated early in the second week of play by Midland Western.

Midland teams dominated the event. Midland Northern advanced through the loser's bracket, then defeated Western twice to take the championship and advance to the area Little League playoffs in Lubbock. Another Midland team, Tower, finished third.

But the team area fans may remember the most wasn't among the top finishers.

El Paso's Socorro League All-Stars came to Big Spring on the proverbial shoe-string budget, staying at Howard College dormitories to save money and scrimping in other areas as well.

Several local residents learned about Socorro's plight, and figuratively adopted the team, treating the boys to movies or trips to a local video game arcade.

Those actions left Socorro officials grateful.

"The thing that's going to stand out in our minds is the way people welcomed us and treated us while we were here," said Socorro coach Coll Bramlett. "Everybody went out of their way to check up on us. The hospitality was really something special."

In other July sports news:

• Final attendance figures from the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo showed that more than 15,000 people attended the annual event. That figure was close to an all-time record.

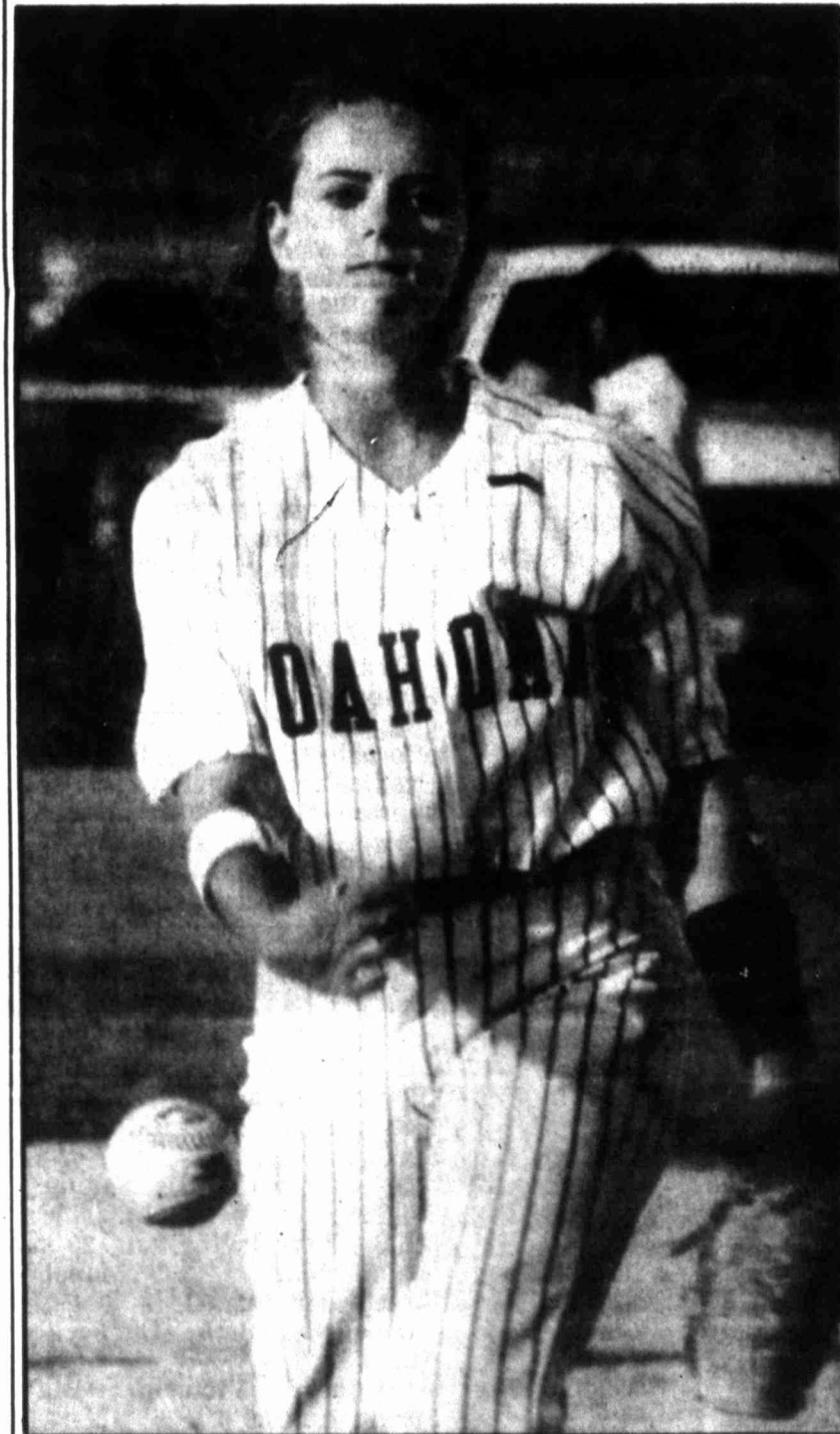
• Howard County 4-H Club shooters Billy Kinsey and Paul Kinsey won high overall honors in their respective divisions at the District VI Trap, Skeet and Five-Stand Meet in Midland.

• Two teams each from Big Spring and Coahoma won state titles at the United Girls Softball Association state tournament. Coahoma won state titles in divisions II and III, while Big Spring was champion in divisions II and IV.

• Coahoma High School's softball team placed several players on the Texas Sportswriters Association all-state team. Audra Bingham, Tori Elmore and Cassie Tindol were first-team selections, while Shana Earnest was named to the second team.

• Two Howard College baseball players — outfielder Brady Mills and pitcher Jeff Lewis — were named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-American team.

• The Fourth Annual Comanche Warrior Triathlon was held July 28. Tim Key of Lubbock was the men's overall winner, while Carri Rustad of Iraan won the women's title. Ty Purcell of Roscoe was the winner in the 10K run.



Coahoma High School's softball team placed several players on the Texas Sportswriters Association all-state team, including pitcher Audra Bingham. Others selected were Tori Elmore and Cassie Tindol to the first-team selections and Shana Earnest to the second team.



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August

Residents get fourth straight cut from city

Recycling, a tax cut for Big Spring residents, high gas prices and boll weevil eradication were but a few of the items concerning local residents in August.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Big Spring City Council voted to lower the tax rate for local citizens.

After several budget work sessions to iron out a 1996-97 fiscal budget, the council voted 4-3 to accept the proposed budget submitted by City Manager Gary Fuqua.

Because there were some items in the budget that were considered additions after Fuqua submitted his proposed budget, Mayor Tim Blackshear and Councilmen Chuck Cawthon and Tom Guess voted against accepting the proposed budget.

Fuqua said proposed revenues for 1996-97 was estimated at \$9,401,227 and proposed expenditures were estimated to be \$9,272,029.

One of the major topics during budget discussions was the city's proposed September takeover of the compost facility at the landfill.

The council agreed to raise the city's sanitation fee by \$1 in order to fund the operation of the compost facility, which will generate the \$115,000 needed to operate the facility.

By continuing to operate the compost facility, space is saved in the city's landfill, according to Fuqua.

Fuqua said raising the sanitation fee from \$7.50 to \$8.50 still puts the city of Big Spring among the lowest rates in the area for residential sanitation fees.

A change of venue hearing involving six local gasoline distributors and three individuals began Aug. 13 in Howard County's 118th District Court for their part in an alleged gas price fixing conspiracy in Big Spring.

After two days of testimony and a two week delay allowing attorneys to present detailed briefs to the court, District Judge Robert Moore granted the change of venue and the trial is scheduled for May in Sweetwater.

The price fixing lawsuit was filed by Texas Attorney General Dan Morales' office in April.

The defendants named in the suit by Morales' office for allegedly fixing retail gasoline prices in Big Spring were Big Spring Fuel Company; Southwest Convenience Stores Inc. of Odessa; Charles Byron Harris, doing business as Desert Oil Company of Big



Efforts to eradicate the pesky boll weevil continue and discussion over the Boll Weevil Eradication Project heads into court.

Spring; Parks Fuels Inc. of Big Spring; Ackerly Oil Company Inc. of Big Spring; Town and Country Food Stores Inc. of San Angelo; Robin Dijon Stanford, vice-president of Big Spring Fuel Company; Charles Wesley Dunnam, president of Ackerly Oil Company; and Bob Charles Parks, vice-president of Parks Fuels Inc.

The defendant companies control retail gasoline prices at most of the retail gasoline outlets in Big Spring, which has about 30 outlets.

The motion for change of venue further stated that Big Spring residents were also prejudiced against wholesalers because of the location of the Fina refinery.

District 28 State Senator John T. Montford, a member of the Texas Senate since 1983, stepped down to accept the job of first Chancellor of Texas Tech University.

Montford's resignation from the Texas Senate created a lot of concern for Big Spring residents and officials because of his stature in the Senate, including being chairman of the Senate finance committee, and the assistance gave Big Spring on a variety of issues and projects.

While members of the High Plains Boll Weevil Recall Organization were opposing efforts by the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to shorten the amount of time growers would have to put together a recall petition to remove the eradication pro-

gram, the Texas Supreme Court appeared to be the next stop for Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) Inc.

The reason was because of a Hale County lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of legislation passed in 1993. The legislation in question authorized the creation of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to conduct eradication activities in cotton producing areas of the state.

An initial ruling on behalf of 10 Hale County producers who filed the suit forced PCG to take the issue to the Texas Supreme Court.

A Supreme court decision on the program is expected sometime in January, following hearings in November that allowed both sides to present their arguments before the high court.

Pending a final ruling by the Texas Supreme Court, all programs under the wing of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation operated as usual, including the High Plains Enhanced Boll Weevil Diapause Control Program.

According to local officials, the cost of the diapause program appears to be the cheapest route for producers in the next three to four years. Texas Agricultural Extension Service entomologist Dr. James Leser predicts that without an aggressive diapause program, treatment costs and cotton yield losses could total more than \$250 million each year at the

farm level.

Howard College trustees approved a half-cent tax increase to help fuel the college's financial package.

The hike marked the fourth time in 12 years that Howard college raised its tax rate above effective tax rate levels, and the 7.94 percent increase was the largest hike since the college raised taxes by 8 percent in 1981.

The increase was due to increased education costs, which were fueled by technological innovations.

Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Bill McQueary was reported to be resting comfortably in the intensive care unit at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Aug. 27, after suffering a mild heart attack in the early morning hours of Aug. 25.

McQueary has since recovered and is back on the job.

The Howard County Commissioners' Court voted to hire Grapevine-based Conradt and Company to reevaluate the damage to county buildings caused by the May 10 hail-storm.

Conradt appraised the damage to county buildings and then attempted to negotiate with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) to try to increase the county's settlement.

TAC was willing to pay the county \$105,000 as a settlement, but if the county had done its own roof repairs, TAC was willing to pay the county \$155,000, of which \$49,000 had been paid to the county in advance.

The county estimated the total damages to county roofs was somewhere around \$237,000.

Sept. 2 was Labor Day, but for Moore Development For Big Spring Inc. Executive Director Danette Toone and board member Eddie Cole, it was business as usual - business in London, England that is.

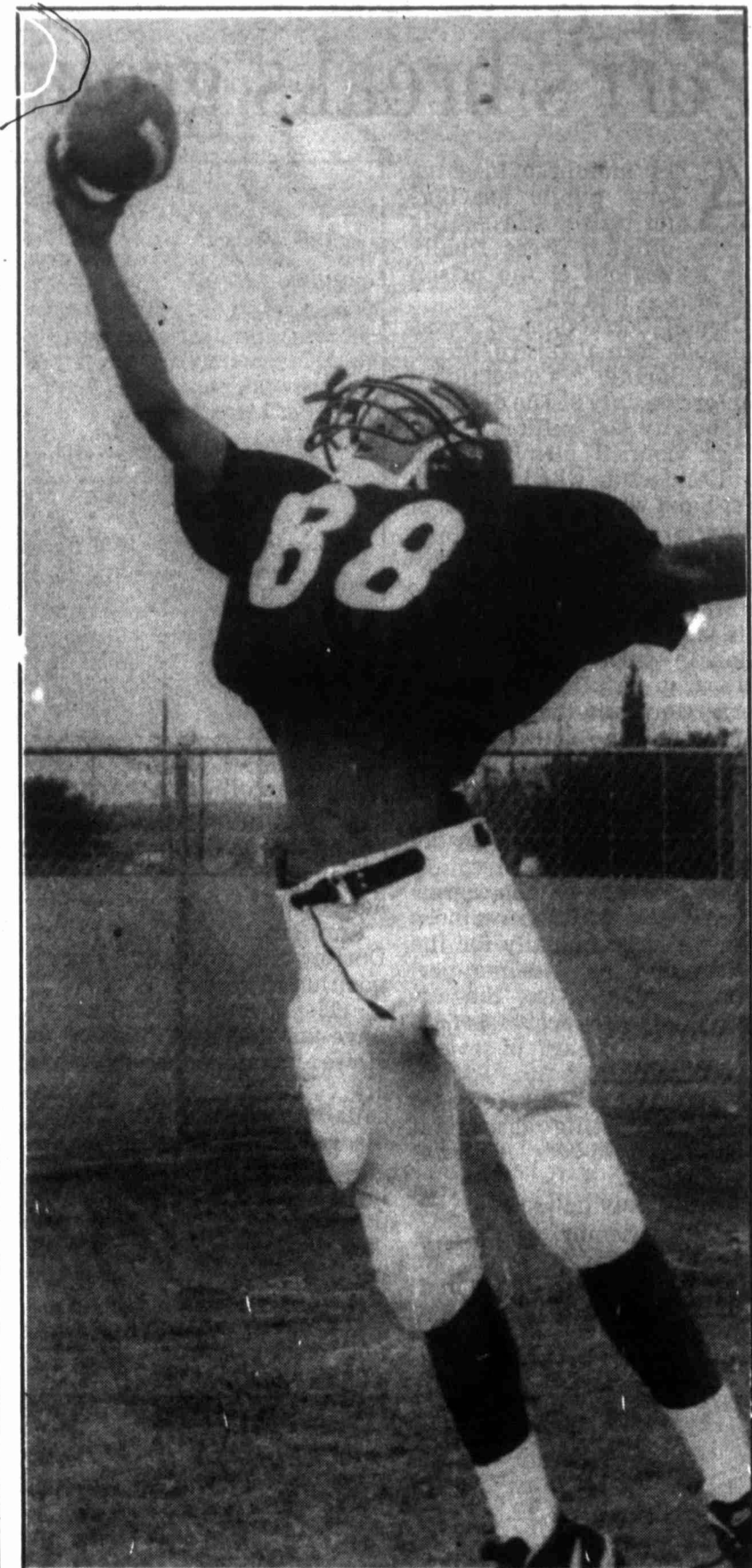
Cole and Toone spent much of August planning a trip to London, England to attend the Farnborough International Aviation Trade Show to promote Big Spring's industrial facility.

The trip was prompted by consultants hired by Moore Development which told Toone and the board that Big Spring was not fully utilizing the airport like it could in the way of economic development.

At the show, Toone and Cole worked a booth handing out information about Big Spring and its airport.

According to Toone most of the companies at the trade show were involved in aviation in some form or other.

SPORTS



Big Spring High School football player John Smith make a one-handed grab during preseason workouts. Smith was a double-duty athlete for the Steers, playing wide receiver and defensive back.

All eyes were on the Big Spring Steer football team, with expectations of a playoff birth running high.

The Steers and fans alike were eager to rebound from a 1995 season that saw the team bumped from the UIL playoffs because of a rule violation involving a junior varsity player inadvertently getting into a varsity game the same week he also participated in a junior varsity contest.

The Steers went through the 1996 season managing only a 2-8 record, playing several close contests, but falling short because of several injuries as well as having to overcome a problem most teams face at some point - a lack of size.

While football season was just getting started and everyone was wondering how the Dallas Cowboys would fare during the first five games of the regular season without suspended wide receiver Michael Irvin (eventually 10-6), all eyes were on the Centennial Summer Olympic games in Atlanta and whether Carl Lewis would win his 10th gold medal in Olympic competition (no) and whether Michael Johnson would become the first man to win gold in both the 200-meter and 400-meter races (yes).

Sandy Jones, a freshman at Howard College, signed a scholarship as an athletic trainer at the college. She assists with all of the college's athletic programs.

In mid August, Clay Hart distinguished himself in the eyes of the Big Spring community and the nation by winning the 14-and-under division of the USA Shooting National Junior Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo.

He made the shoot's all-star team by winning his age group and placing fifth overall among the nation's best international skeet marksmen aged 21 and younger. Hart was the only member from his age group to make the all-star team, of which the remaining spots were composed of a 17-year-old and competitors in the 18-21 age group.

JONES



CROSSROADS DEATHS

Campbell, Edith, Stockdale, Aug. 20
Campbell, Pauline "Daisy", Big Spring, Aug. 10
Cunningham, C.C. (Cliff), Big Spring, Aug. 7
Cunningham, Corynne, Big Spring, Aug. 12
Diaz, Gilbert, Stanton, Aug. 17
Dierschke, Ben, Garden City, Aug. 5
Dolloff, Cecil Weldon, Big Spring, Aug. 26
Drake, Lois, Big Spring, Aug. 27
Echols, Sterling P. "Pete", Blanket, Aug. 30
Edwards, Mary Addline, Broken Arrow, Okla., Aug. 12
Epley, J.C. "Snooks", Dallas, Aug. 24

Goodson, Richard Gilbert, Big Spring, Aug. 7
Gonzales, Jesusita, Big Spring, Aug. 25
Gring, Myrtle, Big Spring, Aug. 28
Hale, Tony, Irving, Aug. 25
Hambrick, Mabel, Sweetwater, Aug. 11
Luedecke, Beth, Lubbock, Aug. 4
Marquez, Victoria, Big Spring, Aug. 30
McMahan, Garland, Colorado City, Aug. 27
Mei, Li Chen Shun (Grandma), Taiwan, Aug. 13
Morrison, Lela, Stanton, Aug. 7
Newton, Troy M., Big Spring, Aug. 5

Ossorio, Joe, Big Spring, Aug. 8
Puckett, Mildred Gill, Luther, Aug. 25
Radford, Bulah (Bea), Big Spring, Aug. 21
Reagan, Robert L. "Bob", Big Spring, Aug. 12
Redding, Dorothy M., Big Spring, Aug. 7
Reyes, Rodrigo, Jr., Big Spring, Aug. 24
Rios, Jessie, Big Spring, Aug. 22
Roberts, Lillian E., Porter, Aug. 23
Rodriguez, Tomas R. (Tony), Sr., Stanton, Aug. 26
Rojo, Susana, Big Spring, Aug. 22

Rosson, Harold Thomas, Big Spring, Aug. 1
Stanford, Jerry Eugene, Stephenville, Aug. 16
Valdez, Elia B., Big Spring, Aug. 25
Viera, Mary Lou, Big Spring, Aug. 14
Villa, Mary L., Lubbock, Aug. 6
White, Lavelle, Stanton, Aug. 29
White, B.F., Stanton, Aug. 23
White, Del Alexander, Lubbock, Aug. 2
Wood, Weldon C. "Woody", Big Spring, Aug. 1
Yates, Clarence H., Big Spring, Aug. 5

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September

Voters overwhelmingly approve school bonds

Voters in the Big Spring Independent School District voted in favor of a \$12.52 million bond issue to build a new junior high school and air-condition five other campuses in September, while the Transportation Committee of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce was successful in persuading the Texas Transportation Commission to decide against extending I-27 south from Lubbock.

In addition, the Big Spring and Howard County United Way kicked off its 51st annual fund-raising campaign with a luncheon that featured NFL official Red Cashion as the keynote speaker.

The United Way campaign turned out to be one of the most successful, as it exceeded its goal of \$210,000 in December — the first time it had managed to attain its goal in the 1990s.

School trustees' decision to put the bond issue to voters would result in a close vote, but when the ballots were counted Sept. 14, the issue had been approved by a 73-27 percent margin.

The majority of the money raised by the bonds will be used to build a new junior high school at the old Boydston Elementary School site.

Runnels Junior High School will not be demolished, but will be used as a storage facility by the school district.

The bond vote was hailed as a victory for community groups that had tirelessly campaigned for passage of the issue.

Later in the month, First Southwest Co. outbid four other investment houses and was awarded the \$12.52 million in bonds.

In deciding not to construct a controlled-access freeway south from Lubbock, the Transportation Commission nixed plans supported by a number of West Texas communities including Big Spring.

While those communities had been supportive, they had basically divided into three camps — those wanting the I-27 expansion to be routed through the Midland-Odessa area; those preferring a route through Big Spring; and those wanting it to turn eastward and intersect I-20 in the vicinity of Abilene.

In other major stories:

- The family of Roy E. "Gene" Strickland, who was killed when a multi-piece wheel he was repairing exploded in the Yale E. Key Inc. yard at Forsan in April of 1995, was granted a new trial in its wrongful death suit against Key.

- On Dec. 19, a 118th District Court jury awarded the family \$1.5 million.

- The Tri-City Citizens Police Academy Symposium was staged by academy alumni from Big Spring, Odessa and Midland. More than 200 people from throughout the nation attended.

- Howard College celebrated first opening its doors to students 50 years ago with a scholarship donor/recipient luncheon and burial of a time capsule near the Hawk statue near the student union building.

- The Big Spring City Council unanimously approved a \$22 million budget for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

- Jim Finley, a Lubbock native, was appointed by the Big Spring City Council to fill the city attorney's vacancy that will be created in January when Mike Thomas becomes Howard County Attorney.

- Howard County commissioners approved a tax rate of 46.471 cents per \$100 valuation for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

The rate was a little more than one cent less than the previous year's rate, but was 3 percent more than the effective tax rate — the rate necessary to raise the same money the county received the year before.

- More than 100 local residents turned out for a candidates forum at St. Paul Lutheran Church which featured five candidates seeking state or national offices.

- Herman's Restaurant, which had been open for business 24 hours a day since first opening its doors in 1960, announced it was changing its hours, opening at 7 each morning and closing at



Area farmers were in the field in September, trying to take advantage of August moisture to do some soil preparation.

10 p.m.

- The Big Spring Evening Lions Club held its 37th annual barbecue prior to the Big Spring Steers' home opener at Memorial Stadium.

- Richard Logan was named president of Norwest Bank of Big Spring. Prior to assuming his duties here, he had spent 18 years with the Victoria Bank and Trust and Norwest Bank Victoria.

- The 14th and Main Church of Christ announced that Rick Cunningham was its new preacher, replacing Royce Clay who accepted a preacher's position at the Ackerly Church of Christ.

- Despite prospects of an extremely poor cotton harvest, the third annual Holland Cottonseed Field Day drew about 200 farmers for demonstrations, including representatives from the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan.

- The city of Stanton received a \$350,000 grant from the Texas Community Development Program to be used in replacing old 2-inch water mains with 6-inch mains.

- Sharon Fleming, a senior honor student at Big Spring High School, was crowned Big Spring Evening Lions Club Queen.

- Coahoma High School's cheerleaders staged their annual mini-cheerleader camp, drawing more than 70 area participants and raising more than \$1,000 for the program.

- District Judge Robert Moore III issued a

change of venue order in the trial of six local gasoline distributors and three individuals accused of conspiring to fix retail gasoline prices in Big Spring.

The suit, brought by Attorney General Dan Morales, was moved to Nolan County's 32nd District Court in Sweetwater. The trial is now slated to start in May of 1997.

- Howard County commissioners approved an \$8.2 million budget for the 1996-97 fiscal year which included a \$40 per month raise for county employees.

- Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. representatives Danette Toone, the executive director, and board member Eddie Cole reported making a number of important contacts while attending the Farnborough International '96 Trade Show in England.

- Anna Castaneda, an 18-year-old Howard College student, was named 1996 Howard County Fair Queen.

The fair closed after having had more than 3,000 visitors. In addition to having a record number of visitors, the fair also established records in steer show entries and ranch rodeo participation.

- Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent W.A. McQuary underwent triple bypass heart surgery at Lubbock Methodist Hospital.



Charlene Ragan and Gloria Feddersen with the Big Spring Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association await attendees of the Tri-City Symposium for the continental breakfast while two Midland CPA members look over their agendas. More than 200 people attended the event.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Armstrong, Prudence Clinton, Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 21	Gregg, Lurline, Big Spring, Sept. 24	Miller, Mary Frances, Big Spring, Sept. 26	Sept. 1
Atchison, Wieland Wright, Stanton, Sept. 6	Guzman, Kenny, Sr., Big Spring, Sept. 5	Morales, Santiago (James), Big Spring, Sept. 27	Smiedley, Thelma D., Clyde, Sept. 18
Barfield, Lillian Maude, Arlington, Sept. 18	Haggard, Robert Fred "Rob", Stanton, Sept. 8	Murphy, Marguerite, Abilene, Sept. 2	Spears, Meddie Robert (Bob), Glen Rose, Sept. 18
Bradley, Madred Joyce, Big Spring, Sept. 8	Hernandez, Luis, Jr., Big Spring, Sept. 6	Patterson, Ricky Wayne, Victoria, Sept. 6	Stallcup, Geraldene I., Odessa, Sept. 25
Cain, Lillie Johanna, Big Spring, Sept. 3	Jamison, Lillian, Dallas, Sept. 25	Pearce, Gaines Ray, Garden City, Sept. 18	Tucker, Bert D., El Dorado, Ark., Sept. 25
Cartwright, Emma, Big Spring, Sept. 12	Jones, Bill, Big Spring, Sept. 15	Pitts, John T., Big Spring, Sept. 14	Vick, Mary Jane, Big Spring, Sept. 30
Davidson, Lillian Estelle, Abilene, Sept. 7	Lewis, R.S., Stanton, Sept. 7	Ray, David M. (Mike), Granbury, Sept. 22	Watkins, Ira L., Midland, Sept. 23
Fields, Arnold, Panama City, Fla., Sept. 2	Marion, Marguerite D., Big Spring, Sept. 14	Robinson, Clara Allison, Big Spring, Sept. 8	Weeks, Betty Rose, Big Spring, Sept. 9
Flores, Eulalia Palomino "Laya," Big Spring, Sept. 16	McCauley, Big Spring, Sept. 17	Schoenfeld, Karl, San Angelo, Sept. 4	Whitt, Betty, Monahans, Sept. 14
	McDaniel, Opal, Big Spring, Sept. 26	Sepulveda, Luciano, Big Spring, Sept. 26	Wright, Ava Kaye Self, Big Spring, Sept. 26
	McElhannon, Lynette, Dallas, Sept. Sept. 7		

SPORTS

High school football is more than just tradition in Texas, and in some areas borders on becoming religion. And many would claim that's true no where more than it is in West Texas.

As a result, there was plenty of excitement in the Crossroads Country air when September rolled around and another school-boy gridiron season began.

Coahoma's Bulldogs got the jump on the rest of the area, opening the season against Denver City on a Thursday night in Odessa's Ratliff Stadium.

The result was not a pretty one, however, as Denver City took a 35-0 win.

On the following night, the rest of the area's teams got into action and probably no community enjoyed the result more than Garden City.

The Bearcats, who had endured a 1-8-1 season the year before opened with a 15-10 victory over Forsan, thanks to a last-minute, 52-yard touchdown pass from Bradley Batla to Michael Cox.

Big Spring's Steers made it 0-3 in season openers for Howard County teams, as they were defeated by Monahans, 34-28, and seemed to set a pattern of close, heartbreaking losses.

Most of the area's other teams opened the season successfully, as Borden County hammered Klondike, 54-20; Grady edged Rogers, 34-32; and Colorado City slipped past Stanton, 21-17. Sands' Mustangs had a long night, though, suffering a 52-20 defeat at the hands of Grand Falls.

By the end of the 10-game regular season in mid November, four Crossroads Country teams had earned playoff berths, but none of them was able to advance past the first round of play.

Stanton's Buffs saw their season end in a thrilling 32-31 shootout with Shallowater, while Colorado City had one of its best seasons in recent years come to a close when Monahans clipped the Wolves, 23-13, in bi-district play.

In the 6-man bi-district playoffs, Borden County dropped a 52-37 loss to Southland, while Grady's Wildcats fell 59-14 victims to Balmorhea.

In other September sports events:

- Big Spring's Lady Steers volleyball squad was on the road in Seminole as football season opened, and finished a respectable 10th of 16 teams at the Seminole Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

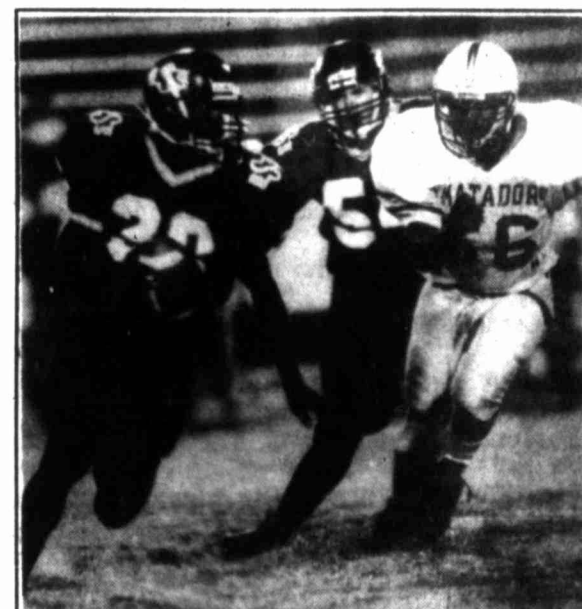
The Lady Steers opened the tourney defeating Midland Lee and the next day topped Vernon. However, losses to Hereford and Pecos, combined with a time limit draw with Lamesa left them in 10th place.

- Big Spring High School hosted its annual cross country meet, and Steer standout Jason Sandman took the individual boys title in a field that included top distance runners from schools of all classifications throughout West Texas.

- Cotton Mize of Big Spring returned home after having coached D&R Engine of Odessa to its third consecutive National Fast Pitch Class B Softball championship in Hastings, Neb.

- Tonya Phifer clocked the second fastest time in Big Spring High School cross country history in finishing third at the San Angelo meet.

- Stacy Martin, a junior from Big Spring, was named "Top Lobo" at Sul Ross State University following Sul Ross' 43-26 win over Panhandle State.



Big Spring and Lubbock Estacado squared off on the gridiron as the 1996 high school football season got under way.

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Model	PTO Horsepower
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8920	155 (115 kW)
8930	180 (134 kW)
8940	205 (152 kW)
8950	225 (167 kW)

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October

Drought could cause cotton losses of \$60 million

Cotton losses could top \$60 million as the reality of nearly a two-year old drought strikes home.

Agricultural officials cite a "normal" year production of 90,000 bales in Howard County versus an anticipated 20,000 bales in 1996.

In an effort to reduce overhead while still providing service to those farmers who did make a crop, the Big Spring Co-op and the Glasscock County Co-op at St. Lawrence pool their efforts, will all cotton being ginned at St. Lawrence.

And if problems on the farm wasn't enough, Bill Fryrear, who has served as research leader at the Big Spring USDA Research Station for more than 20 years, is notified his supervisory responsibilities are being moved to Lubbock.

The news that Fryrear was being removed as research leader was not received well in West Texas and before the situation would ease itself, the help of numerous state and federal officials would be enlisted.

In other news:

- Dan Wise retires from the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees after 13 years, including a turn as president.

- Higher interest rates than expected on bonds approved by voters in September results in BSISD trustees to look at a higher tax rate than anticipated.

- Fifteen students from Big Spring High School earn spots on the all-region choir.

- The 14th class of Leadership Big Spring, a leadership training program of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, gets under way with 25 students.

- Two local residents, David Garcia and Ronald Hays, are killed in separate vehicle accidents.

- State Rep. David Counts (D-Knox City) and challenger Scott McLaughlin square off in a debate in Sweetwater. Counts, the incumbent, would defeat McLaughlin by less than 800 votes out of 35,000 cast in November's general election.

- The Big Spring Country Club celebrates its



The Inter Tribal Gathering was extremely popular among school-age children, with about 1,000 taking field trips to the Coliseum. Others were visited at Anderson Kindergarten Center.

70th anniversary.

- The 20th Big Spring Arts and Crafts Show opens in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, attracting more than 15,000 persons.

- Two cases of viral meningitis are confirmed in Coahoma. School officials respond quickly to the illness.

- The Federal Aviation Administration tells the city of Big Spring and Western Container that a lease executed between the two must be renegotiated. The FAA says the terms of the lease are too favorable.

- The second National Inter Tribal Gathering

and Pow Wow attracts nearly 10,000 spectators and participants during its three-day run at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, making it the biggest chamber project in more than a decade.

By year's end, members of the chamber's board of directors are working to discontinue the popular event.

- Tosha Wilbert is named homecoming queen at Big Spring High School.

- Shannon Lépard is named homecoming queen at Forsan High School.

- Cindy Birdwell is named homecoming queen at Coahoma High School.

SPORTS

Big Spring harriers Jason Sanderson and Tonya Phifer fare well at the District 4-4A cross country meet in Big Spring.

Sanderson finished first in a time of 16 minutes, 24.87 seconds while Phifer finished second in a time of 12:42.62.

Both would fare well in the regional meet in November.

On the hardcourt, Big Spring High School's netters win the District 4-4A title and finish second at regional to powerful Wichita Falls High School.

Before losing in regional play, the Steers had battled their way to a No. 7 ranking in the state.

In other sports news:

- Ben Garcia, Jr. wins the rain-delayed city golf championship.

- Howard College hires 16-year coaching veteran Peggy Fuller as an assistant for the Lady Hawks basketball team.

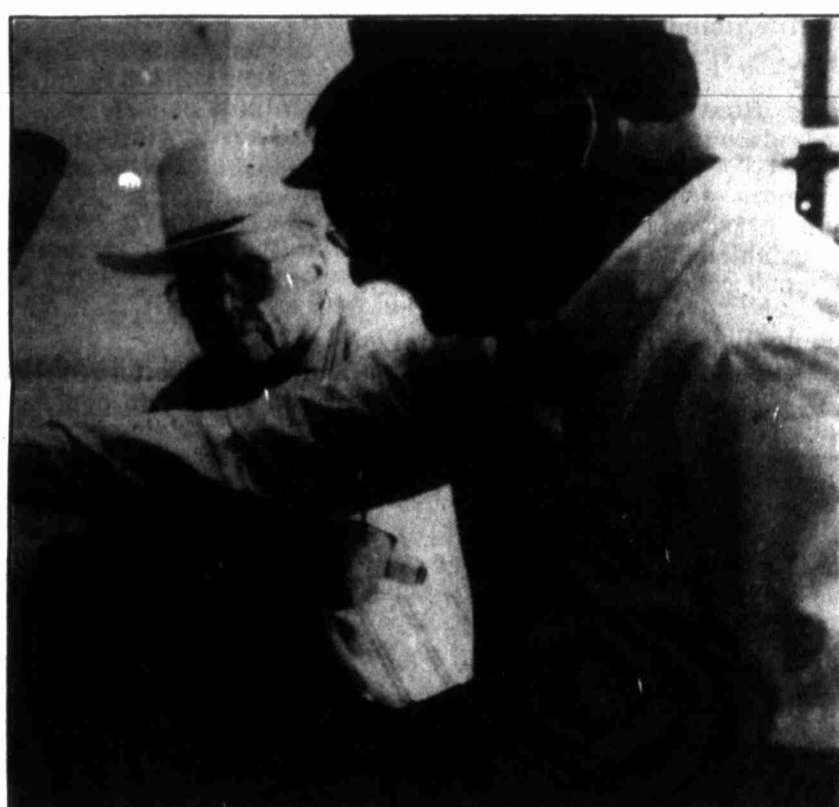
- The Big Spring High School Hall of Fame inducts the 1992 and 1994 baseball teams that qualified for the state tournament.

- Howard College Hawk baseball finishes the fall season with a promising 9-5-1 record after being hit hard by graduation in the spring.

- Big Spring finishes pre-district football play with a 1-4 mark. After a 50-0 romp over Pecos to open district play, the Steers lose their last four — all close games — to finish 2-8.

- Stanton, Grady and Colorado City all make the playoffs, although none meet with a great deal of success.

Both Stanton and Colorado City, along with Garden City, would have players make all-state teams when they are announced in December.



Verl Shaw (left) and Jeff Watkins (right) explain the function of a piece of equipment used in the ginning process at Ackerly Gin. Because of the drought, Ackerly ran a minimal operation this year while Big Spring Co-Op Gin (upper right), didn't open at all.



Kim Dominguez reaches high to return a double-handed backhand in a match against Andrews. Dominguez won her match 1-6, 6-5 and 6-2 as the Steers clinched the District 4-4A title with a 13-5 win over the Mustangs. The Steers found themselves ranked as high as No. 7 in the state as they finished the season at regionals, losing in the championships to powerful Wichita Falls High School.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Alexander, Dorothy; 80, former Big Spring, Montrose, Colo., Oct. 28
Allen, Hannah Louise; infant, Big Spring, Oct. 8
Allen, Markee Jean; infant, Big Spring, Oct. 9
Anderson, Thelma; 94, Big Spring, Oct. 17
Birdwell, Roberta Phelan, 78, Big Spring, Oct. 30
Carson, Prudie Mae; 79, Lamesa, Oct. 25
Castillon, Oscar E.; 75, Big Spring, Oct. 9
Cordova, Maria, no age, Pearsall, Oct. 2
Cox, Doris; 74, Sonora and formerly Big Spring, Oct. 19
Dickson, Ellen; 75, Big Spring, Oct. 8
Dodrill, Tommie McCray; 74, Fort Worth, formerly Big Spring, Oct. 23
Findley, Sarah C.; 99, Big Spring,

Oct. 20
Garcia, Robert David; 30, Big Spring, Oct. 5
Garling, Lee; 69, Big Spring, Oct. 14
Green, Edna; 70, Big Spring, Oct. 20
Griffin, Winnie, no age, Big Spring, Oct. 4
Hartley, Christine; no age, Oct. 3
Haynes, Michael, infant, Big Spring, Oct. 15
Hays, Ronald (Ronnie) J.; 35, Big Spring, Oct. 4
Herndon, Buster; 87, Lamesa, Oct. 18
Hunter, Orville; 83, Big Spring, Oct. 6
Jennings, Ruby; 76, Big Spring, Oct. 10
Juarez, Nazario, 89, Big Spring, Oct. 29
Lopez, Lidia C.; 81, Big Spring,

Oct. 19
Mauldin, Jane; 59, Big Spring, Oct. 14
Merrell, R.T.; 79, Big Spring, Oct. 23
Miller, James Pierce; 79, Stanton, Oct. 25
Minter, Novella; 61, Seminole, Oct. 25
Myers, Peggy; 67, Big Spring, Oct. 17
Nichols, Diana Lu Currie; 43, Big Spring, Oct. 21
Nichols, Hazel; 80, Midway, Oct. 23
Paredes, Santiago; 71, Big Spring, Oct. 9
Phelan, Mary; 42, Big Spring, Oct. 18
Pipes, Jack; 73, Big Spring, Oct. 10
Reeves, T.D., Rotan, Oct. 29
Richardson, Jasper J. "Jap"; 88, Big Spring, Oct. 20
Robinson, Bernard James; 55,

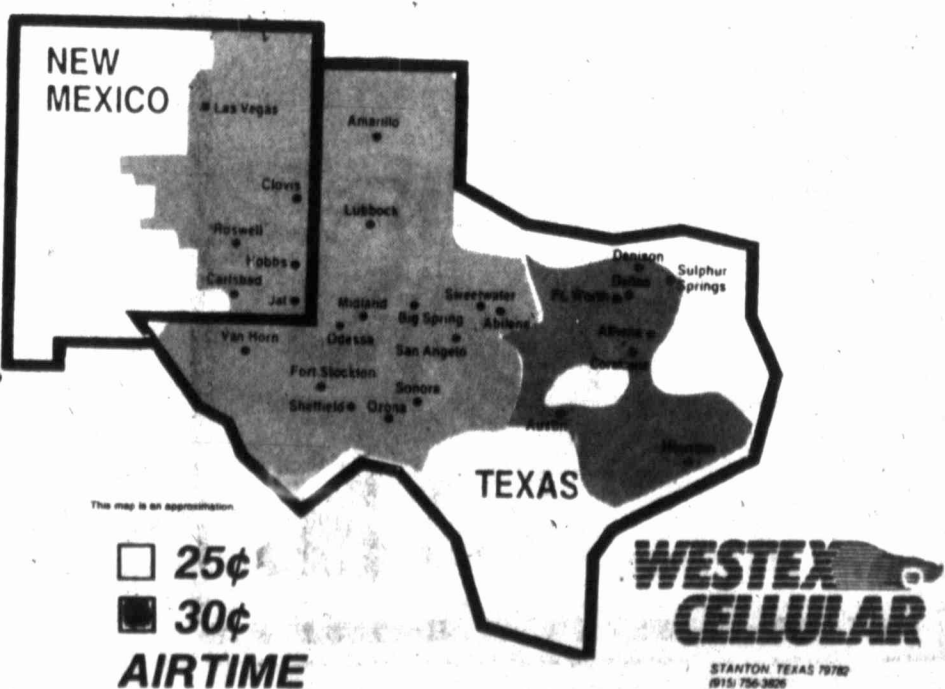
Edmond, Okla., Oct. 3
Robinson, Myre; 84, Big Spring, Oct. 17
Ryan, Bobby Jack; 65, Snyder, Oct. 1
Salmon, Ronald; 59, Big Spring, Oct. 18
Smith, Anna Vivian; no age, Fredericksburg, Oct. 1
Smith, Dimple D.; 80, former Garden City and Big Spring, Oct. 18
Smith, Elder; 75, Big Spring, Oct. 2
Spargo, Alvia Jr., 61, formerly of Big Spring, Mansfield, Oct. 28
Sumruld, Alton Edwin, 87, Snyder, Oct. 31
Taylor, John Rufus; no age, Oct. 3
Underwood, H.M. "Mack"; 83, Big Spring, Oct. 19
White, Vaughnea Elizabeth; 84, Lubbock, Oct. 1
Wiley, Irene Duval; Albuquerque, N.M., formerly Big Spring, Oct. 1.

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Area elections dominate month of November

The biggest story in November was the elections on Nov. 5. For the first time in more than 30 years, Howard County has a new sheriff. Residents voted in Bill Jennings to replace retiring Sheriff A.N. Standard who had been with the department since the early 1960's.

Jennings, a Republican, defeated Democrat candidate Barney Edens by a 60 to 40 percent margin. In the early voting totals, 63.30 percent (2,980 votes) compared to Edens who received 36.70 percent or 1,728 ballots cast in his behavior. Jennings has 20-plus years in law enforcement as a peace officer for the Department of Public Safety.

Incumbent Bill Crooker, a Democrat, defeats Bill Mims, a Republican, to keep his District Three seat on the Howard County Commissioners Court. Stan Hughes is elected constable.

Local resident Scott McLaughlin barely loses his bid for a state representative seat. David Counts, a Democrat from Knox City, wins another term to the office he has held since 1988. Counts received 17,825 votes compared to McLaughlin's 17,035.

Congressman Charles Stenholm, D-Stamford, beats out Rudy Izzard, R-Abilene, for another term to the U.S. Congress. Stenholm won by a 52 to 48 percent margin.

The Hillcrest Foundation in Dallas gives a \$10,000 grant to the Howard County Library to be used for its renovation project.

It's announced Howard County voters set a record in early voting totals with 4,777 ballots cast. That's an increase of 516 votes from the 1992 general election.

The Parks and Recreation Board meet to discuss the future of the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Golf Pro Al Patterson is retiring and there were some concerns because the golf course was losing money.

Congressman Charles Stenholm declares Howard County a primary disaster area as a result of the drought that occurred between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 and continuing.

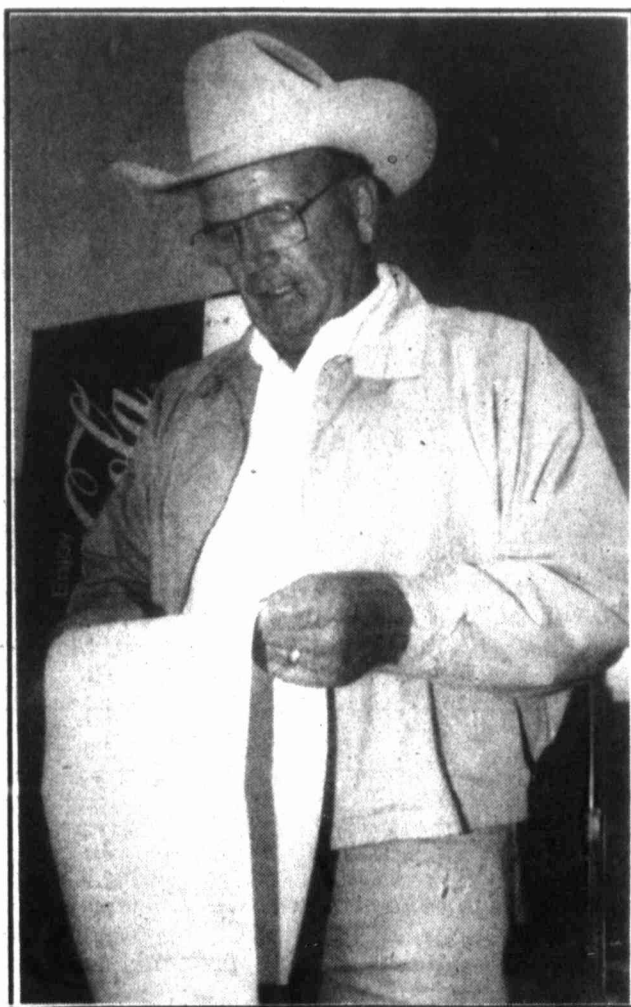
Chiropractor Bill Chrane pleads guilty in federal court to mail fraud. As part of his plea agreement, Chrane will have to permanently surrender his license to practice. His sentence is scheduled for sometime in January 1997. Chrane faces up to five years in prison and/or \$250,000 in fines plus three years of supervisory release. The U.S. Attorney's Office charged Chrane and Edward Martinez, who was not named as a defendant in the case, conspired and agreed to defraud and obtain money and property from Service Lloyds Insurance Company. Martinez would sign in that he had received treatment and Chrane would forward the bills to the insurance company. The two men would then split the reimbursement checks from the insurance company.

Chrane agreed that \$15,110 seized from his office during a federal search would be applied as partial restitution to the insurance company. He will also have to pay an additional \$35,426 in restitution as well as \$2,465 to the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund.

Animal cruelty charges were expected to be filed against Ameen Hashem following the death of two animals that were in his care.

Members of the Harley Owners Group sponsor a fund raiser to raise the money needed to mount a Huey helicopter at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The event kicked off with a parade down Gregg Street Saturday morning, followed by a Seafood Fest at the Harley Davidson Shop. From there, the entourage went to the memorial to celebrate Veterans Day.

Salvador Trevino was found guilty of drug trafficking in El Paso Federal Court. Trevino and Ricardo Armendariz of Odessa were convicted on 18 counts including narcotics possession, distrib-



ution and money laundering involving \$16 million. The convictions capped a three-year investigation by Big Spring Police Department, Department of Public Safety, U.S. Customs, and the Drug Enforcement Agency.

It was discovered the two men were heads of a drug trafficking operation that used tractor-trailers to haul 500-1,000 pounds of illegal drugs from Mexico to El Paso then on to buyers in several states.

Medal of Honor winners from Big Spring were honored during a special ceremony at the VA Medical Center.

Nov. 11 - City Manager Gary Fuqua fires Housing Director Marva Scurlark. She was fired after an external audit showed a misappropriation of funds as well as failing to follow personnel policies and procedures. The discrepancies in the department mostly involved travel expenses and the lack of documentation for those expenses.

Big Spring resident Steve Fraser is appointed to the Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees. He replaced Dan Wise who retired after 13 years of service. Fraser will stay in office to fill out the balance of Wise's term which expires in May 1997. At that time, Fraser can seek election if he wishes. Fraser was instrumental in assisting school officials with the passing of the bond election to build a new junior high school and to build a new athletic facility for the district.

City council members pass a measure to extend the emergency certification an additional 30 days to Cornell Corrections employees. It allows the guards to continue to carry weapons under the city's umbrella until the company can become certified.

City council members heard a proposal from BSPD Chief Jerry Edwards to take the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program to Coahoma and Forsan. The communities don't have the funds needed to bring the DARE program to fifth graders in their schools.

Big Spring Evening Lions Club agrees to donate \$3,600 a year to the Mobile Meals program

to keep it afloat. The program serves hot meals at lunch time to elderly needy residents.

It's announced the Big Spring Herald and TCA Cable TV of Big Spring will co-sponsor a candidate's forum Dec. 4 so voters can get to know the two men vying for the state senate seat. Robert Duncan and David Langston had to have a run-off election after no one of the five candidates won a majority of the vote earlier this month.

Former Howard County Engineer Bill Mims died after a brief illness. He had an unsuccessful bid to unseat County Commissioner Bill Crooker earlier this month.

AMBUCS donates \$3,800 to the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. The money is used to purchase a ProII SciFit machine designed to strengthen the patient's endurance and increase their range of motion.

Former Howard County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Robert Puente resigns amid allegations he falsified a report that he was shot at while on patrol during the early morning hours of Nov. 17. The Texas Rangers investigated the alleged incident and found no evidence to back Puente's story.

Former resident and outstanding athlete and honor student Dustin Waters is slain at Fort Riley, Kan. He was stabbed to death while leaving the basketball court on base.

The Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union has a celebration to show off its new expansion of a drive-through area and parking lot.

It's announced the city and county unemployment rate dropped for the fourth consecutive month. The city labor force increased between September and October by 5,871 persons while the county's unemployment rate fell from 5.3 percent in September to 3.3 percent in October.



David Counts was successful in his efforts to turn back challenger Scott McLaughlin for the District 70 Texas House of Representatives seat.

SPORTS



Big Spring's Jason Sanderson qualified for the state cross-country meet.

It wasn't exactly David smiting Goliath, but it was close.

The Grady Wildcats — all 10 of them — surprised many observers (including some of their fans) by capping a Cinderella-type season with their first-ever district football title.

To appreciate the Wildcats' 1996 season, one should consider their 1995 campaign, which, in retrospect, wasn't much to consider.

Coach Roger Smith almost had to pull the plug on the season before it began, as he had trouble fielding enough players to make a team.

That problem was eventually solved, but Grady struggled all season, staggering home with a 1-9 record that was the worst in Smith's five years in Lenora.

Things didn't look much better in 1996, when Smith greeted 10 players to preseason practice. Forecasts for a middle-of-the-pack finish — or worse — were numerous this season.

But, despite being outmanned in almost every game, Smith and the Wildcats pulled a worst-to-first job on District 7 Six-Man. Led by all-purpose running back Brad Cox — who accounted for almost 3,000 all-purpose yards — Grady put a mirror to their 1995 record and finished 9-1.

Along the way, 1996 also marked the first time that Grady defeated Wellman, Klondike and Sands all in the same season. And, as noted, the team clinched its first-ever district football title. That accomplishment more than eased the pain of a 59-14 loss to Balmorhea in the first round of the playoffs.

Also qualifying for the football postseason from this area was the Stanton Buffaloes, who finished second in District 6-2A. The Buffaloes, led by all-state selection Leo McCallister, were defeated in the first round of the playoffs by Shallowater.

Despite struggling to a 2-8 record, the Big Spring Steers had a chance of making the playoffs up to the final week of the season, but a 7-6 loss to rival Andrews dropped the Steers out of playoff contention.

In other sports news in November:

Big Spring High School's Toshia Gilbert was named to the All-District 4-4A volleyball team for the third year in a row.

BSHS runners Jason Sanderson and Tonya Phifer qualified for the state cross-country meet.

Grady placed three players — Crx, Cody Peugh and Trey Herrell — on the All-District 7 team. Sands placed Josh Richter, Michael Wigington, Justin Hambrick and Bill Barnes on the team.

The Howard College Lady Hawks opened their quest for a sixth straight Western Junior College Athletic Conference title with a 78-57 win over New Mexico Junior College.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Armstrong, June, 68, Big Spring, Nov. 6
Coker, Lonnie, 87, Big Spring, Nov. 6
Cole, Effie, 86, Abilene formerly of Big Spring, Nov. 14
Cox, Joe, 82, Big Spring, Nov. 14
Cummings, Ada F., 93, Big Spring, Nov. 5
Davis, R.F., 87, Big Spring, Nov. 29
Deats, Byrd Lea, 96, Big Spring, Nov. 2
Ditto, Darrell, 66, Big Spring, Nov. 23
Dyess, Jewell, 88, Dallas, Nov. 11
Foster, Charley, 80, Ackerly, Nov. 12
Gibson, Bernice, 76, Stanton, Nov. 13
Gillespie, Perry, 45, Shady Springs, W. Va., formerly Ackerly, Nov. 6

Nov. 27
Green, William, 68, Big Spring, Nov. 23
Hart, Esta, 82, Brenham, formerly of Big Spring, Nov. 15
Hasvold, Leann, 20, Big Spring, Nov. 10
Hesson, Charles W. "Chuck", 60, Big Spring, Nov. 3
Hilario, Juan, 57, Big Spring, Nov. 6
Holley, Mrs. Warren "Lila", 86, Big Spring, Nov. 11
Hollis, Margaret, 57, Big Spring, Nov. 19
Ingram, Jay Doug, 46, Coahoma, Nov. 30
McCartney, Clayton, 52, Midway, Nov. 7
McElreath, Kenenth "Bob", 68, Big Spring, Nov. 4

Mendoza, Frank, 78, Midland formerly of Big Spring, Nov. 27
Mims, Bill, 71, Big Spring, Nov. 15
Minchew, Rosalie G., 84, Big Spring, Nov. 12
Morgan, Ernie Sr., 74, Big Spring, Nov. 4
Morrison, Garland, 88, Houston, Nov. 15
Pendleton, Truman, 51, Eden, Nov. 29
Ratliff, Henry Etta, 81, Midland, Nov. 11
Richardson, Opal, 92, Sweetwater, Nov. 17
Rodriguez, Elisa Shanice, 3, Big Spring, Nov. 10
Rodriguez, Fred Sr., 73, Big Spring, Nov. 7
Rosene, Roy W., 84, Big Spring, Nov. 10

Sanderson, Billie Ann, 57, Big Spring, Nov. 5
Staggs, Shirley, 67, Abilene, Nov. 29
Sutphen, Robert Vernon, 79, San Angelo, Nov. 6
Talamantes, Severiana, 83, Garden City, Nov. 5
Thompson, James, 57, Big Spring, Nov. 17
Trevino, Manuel, 81, Pearsall, Nov. 11
Underwood, Alta Lee, 87, Farmersville formerly of BS, Nov. 27
Waters, Dustin, 19, Fort Riley, Kan., formerly Big Spring, Nov. 21
Williams, Juan Earl Sr., 50, Midland and formerly BS, Nov. 6
Young, Rodney, 34, Big Spring, Nov. 23

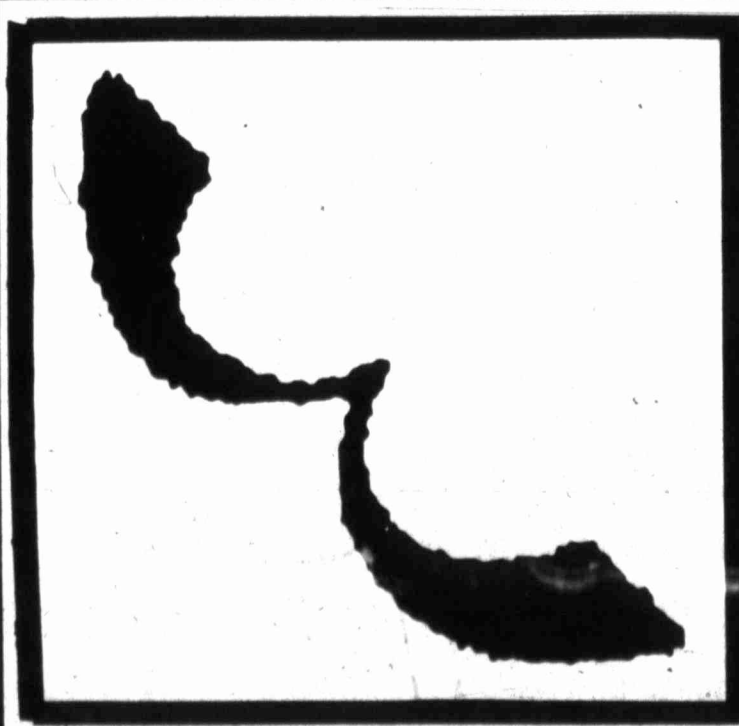
WESTERN CONTAINER... 17 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

Since its beginning in 1979, Western Container Corporation is proud to be a drug-free workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer. The company has experienced continual growth and has expanded to include facilities located in Big Spring, Houston, Texas, Rancho Cucamonga, California and Benicia, California. Western supplies plastic soft-drink bottles to bottlers across the Southern and Southwestern United States.

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Western Container welcomes new employees who embrace an upbeat attitude and are dedicated to team achievements. To place your application, please see any area Texas Workforce Commission office (formerly TEC).



December

Moore Development lands 100-plus job firm

United Way exceeds its campaign goal of \$210,000

The announcement that a new manufacturing concern was coming to Big Spring, the community's most successful United Way campaign in recent memory, as well as the biggest ever Herald Community Christmas Parade made December a keynote month in 1996.

Signal Homes, a builder of manufactured housing that will create as many as 130 new jobs in Big Spring, agreed to an incentives package from Moore Development of Big Spring on Dec. 13.

The firm's initial payroll is expected to be \$1.5 million annually and eventually peak at the \$2.5 million mark in the year 2000.

Signal will occupy what Moore Development named its 11th Place Marketing Facility — the former Wright Fibers Building and earlier the home of Berkeley, Apple and Cameo Homes.

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County announced that it had surpassed its \$210,000 goal even before the final reporting meeting of the 1996 fund-raising drive.

Drive chairman Carroll Jennings reported that contributions had exceeded \$212,000, surpassing the goal of \$210,000. It was the first time in the 1990s that the local United Way campaign had even been able to meet its projected goal.

And the Big Spring Herald's 10th Community Christmas Parade featured more than 70 entries, including 17 lighted entries for the first ever twilight parade.

Longtime civic leader Dr. P.W. Malone served as grand marshal of the parade which stretched 17 blocks as its moved north on Gregg Street toward downtown.

A 118th District Court jury awarded the family of Roy E. "Gene" Strickland \$1.5 million in their wrongful death suit against Yale E. Key Inc in a retrial.

Strickland was killed when a multi-piece wheel he was repairing in Key's Forsan yard exploded in April of 1995.

Frances Wheat turned over the reins of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce to incoming president Curt Mullins, chairman of Norwest Bank.

Lynette Brooks, owner and manager of Blum's Jewelers Inc., was awarded the Sam Walton Business Leader Award from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

Brooks was nominated for the award by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, which will receive a \$500 grant from the foundation in her name.

Five Big Spring High School students — Qwin Tyler, Angela Sturm, Josna Adusumilli, Stefanie Waggoner and Nick Puentes — were named to the all-region band.

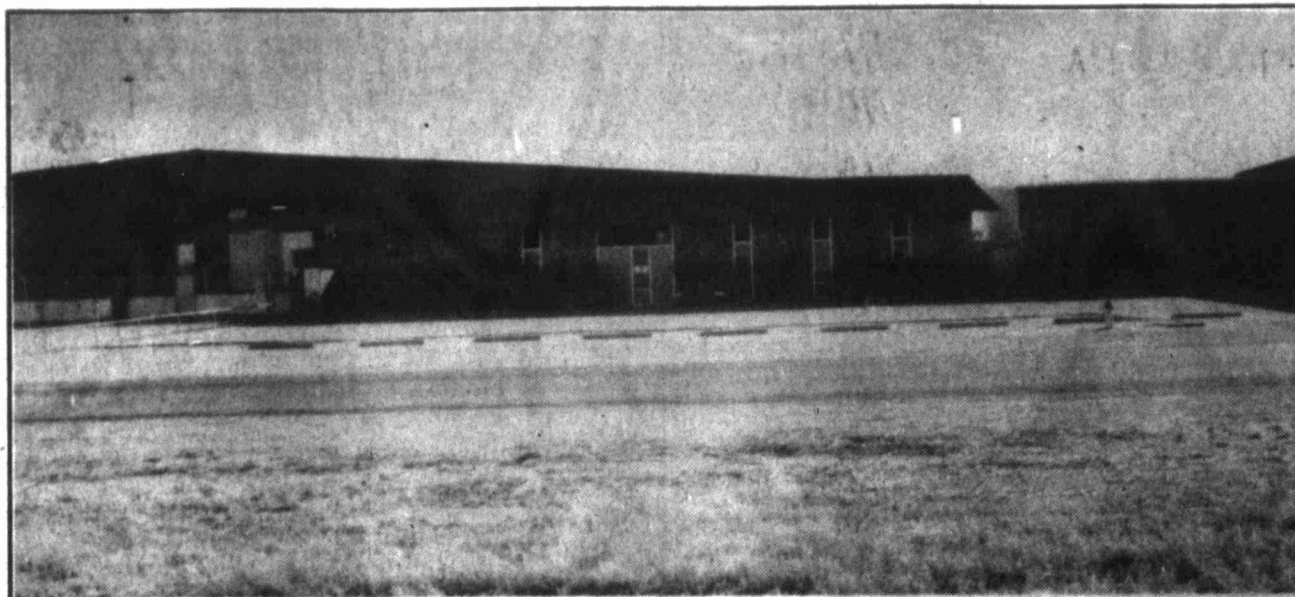
The home of Stan and Sue Partee and Trinity Memorial Park took "Best of Show" honors for a second straight year in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas Lighting Contest.

Three Coahoma Junior High School students — Tiffany Hancock, Lauren Hamilton and Natalia Tucker — earned spots in the all-region junior high school choir.

Republican Robert Duncan of Lubbock took both the Howard County vote and that district-wide in defeating Democrat David Langston in a runoff for the 28th Texas Senatorial District seat vacated by John Montford when he became chancellor of the Texas Tech University system.

Duncan's victory gave Republicans a majority in the Texas Senate for the first time since Reconstruction.

Charles "Chris" Christopher of Big Spring was



Signal Homes, a manufactured housing concern, will occupy the former Cameo and Apple Homes building on 11th Place Extension after accepting an incentives package from Moore Development.

sentenced to 10 years in prison in a Rhode Island federal court and ordered to make \$26.7 million in restitution.

Christopher was convicted on 11 counts of mail fraud and 10 counts of interstate transportation of stolen property in 1995 in connection with his management of two insurance companies he and a partner sacked, but had seen his sentencing date delayed on nine different occasions.

Justice of the Peace Bill Shankles announced his retirement after 10 1/2 years of filling the Precinct 1, Place 2 post. His retirement will be effective Jan. 1, 1997.

After weathering what had promised to be a fight for his job when disgruntled members of the Big Spring City Council failed to show up for a special meeting, City Manager Gary Fuqua declined a \$2,000 raise offered by the council, but

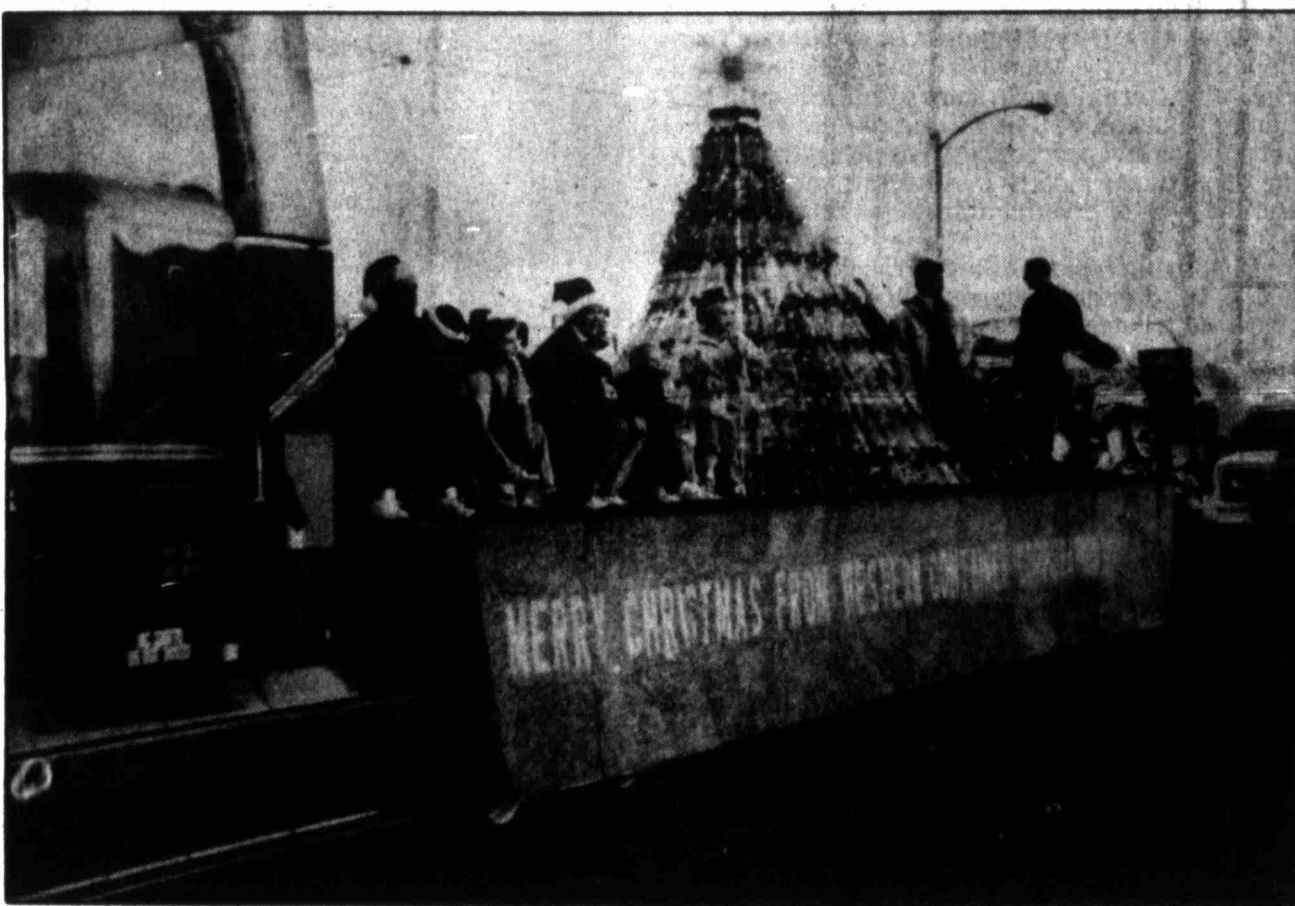
did accept a six-month extension of his contract's severance pay provision.

What little cotton harvest there was in Howard County was in full swing. The county's harvest was way down with County Agent Don Richardson estimating it at approximately 20,000 bales.

Big Spring High School student Matthew James Woodall was one of 17 students across the state to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the American Association of State Troopers for academic excellence.

Wanda Johnson was named grand champion and commercial champion of the Howard County Pecan Show.

Students from the Forsan High School home economics class took three of four classes in the youth division of the food show.



Western Container won the Commercial/Manufacturing Division in the 10th Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade.

CROSSROADS DEATHS

Acosta, Jose, 58, Stanton, Dec. 4
Anderson, Billie, 87, Big Spring, Dec. 1
Bell, Margie, 96, Lake Jackson, formerly of Big Spring, Dec. 7
Blankenship, Ruby, 90, Dallas, formerly of Big Spring, Dec. 3
Bristow, P.M. "Doc" II, 77, Stanton, Dec. 21
Brooks, Julia, 86, Big Spring, Dec. 1
Burdine, Chester, 81, Muskogee, Okla., formerly of Big Spring, Dec. 4
Caton, Ralph W., Dec. 21
Coates, Mona, 69, Big Spring, Dec. 21
Coots, George C. "Bud", 73, Big Spring, Dec. 22
Cox, Duell, 91, Big Spring, Dec. 22
Day, Jody Lynn, 20, Big Spring, Dec. 15

Dubose, Lorene, 76, Big Spring, Dec. 14
Fleming, Lettie, 89, Lenorah, Dec. 4
Galindo, Felipe, 56, Big Spring, Dec. 21
Glenn, Mattie, 87, Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring, Dec. 10
Goodnough, Alta, 101, Fort Scott, Kan., formerly of Big Spring, Dec. 4
Hagen, Frank, 63, Big Spring, Dec. 3
Hart, Lillian, 92, Bryan, Dec. 18
Henderson, Alice Melinda, 90, Big Spring, Dec. 19
Henderson, Charles, 62, Big Spring, Dec. 1
Hinojos, Manuel, 54, Big Spring, Dec. 19
Hughes, J.D., 87, Big Spring, Dec. 15

Madrey, Fannie, 72, Big Spring, Dec. 12
McAdams, Weldon "Nubs" Kelly Sr., 66, Sand Springs, Dec. 18
McMeekin, Ruby, 87, San Angelo, Dec. 7
Miller, Dayton M., 88, Big Spring, Dec. 24
Odom, Florence Louise, 78, Austin, Dec. 17
Olague, Rosa, 68, Big Spring, Dec. 9
Perdue, Artie, 86, Big Spring, Dec. 9
Reynolds, James Lee, 56, Stanton, Dec. 12
Robertson, Sam Sr., 64, Big Spring, Dec. 21
Salgado, Esperanza Portocarrero, 37, Big Spring, Dec. 19
Santellan, 81, Big Spring, Dec. 14

Smith, Edna Mae, 60, Big Spring, Dec. 21
Spears, H.T. "Jack", 85, Big Spring, Dec. 18
Springer, John, 21, Austin, Dec. 15
Stanley, Ira, 80, Ballinger, Dec. 4
Underwood, Marge, 60, Big Spring, Dec. 10
Vess, Samuel Porter, De Soto, Dec. 13
Villareal, Paula, 49, Big Spring, Dec. 25
Wash, Delan D., 88, Big Spring, Dec. 18
Weaver, Melvin, 74, Big Spring, Dec. 8

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of publishing deadlines, the last date included in the year-in-review is Friday, Dec. 27, 1996.

SPORTS



Coahoma's Bulldogettes were among the teams taking to the court as the 1996-97 basketball season got under way.

Big Spring gymnast Stephanie Stewart is named "Sportsperson of the Year" by the Big Spring Herald.

During her seven-year career, Stewart, 14, has captured four state YMCA all-around titles, and added an appearance at the USAG Junior Olympic national meet to her YMCA national title this year.

And, to put a caper on an extraordinary year, Stewart learned that her trademark dismount from the uneven bars — two flips with a twist — was noted by USAG and placed in its code book of officially recognized moves. "The Stewart" may soon be coming to a gymnastics meet near you.

In other December sports news:

The Big Spring High School girls win their first swim meet ever, taking first place at Seminole.

Both the BSHS boys and girls teams are expected to challenge for the district title.

Grady coach Roger Smith is named coach of the year while Grady's Brad Cox and Sands' Josh Richter are honored as MVPs on the Herald's All-Crossroads Six-Man Football Team.

Arian Emerson and Zach Love, both of Colorado City, are named to the Texas Sportwriters Association Class 3A all-state football team.

Leo McCalister of Stanton is named to the Texas Sportwriters Association Class 3A all-state football team.

Bradley Batla of Garden City is named to the Texas Sportwriters Association Class 3A all-state football team.

The Big Spring High School girls swim team wins its first meet ever, at Seminole.

Both Stanton's boys and girls basketball team win their own Hooptown Classic in the Martin County seat.

Moore Development
For Big Spring, Inc.
Reflects On A Year of Opportunities
For Big Spring in 1996

1996 Opportunities Include . . .

NEW RESTAURANTS
NEW SUBDIVISIONS
NEW MEDICAL CLINICS
NEW MOTELS

What's ahead for 1997?

SIGNAL HOMES
INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW JR. HIGH SCHOOL
STRATEGIC MARKETING PLAN FOR THE AIRPARK

Positive Things Are Happening In Big Spring