

BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

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50 cents

Reflecting A Proud Community

Despite setbacks, BSISD officials remain confident junior high will open on time

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring school officials are still confident the new junior high will open as scheduled in August, but recent construction delays have them weighing their options.

Construction at the new junior high — which is scheduled to open in time for the 1998-99 school year — is behind schedule because of weaknesses discovered in the wall mortar. The mortar, which is supposed to withstand 1,800 pounds of pressure, has tested out to less than half that amount in certain areas.

While other aspects of the construction project are proceeding as scheduled, the mortar problem has school officials concerned about whether Monterey Construction — the building's contractor — will meet its July 24 target date for completion of the new school.

"This will throw the project behind schedule," said assistant

business manager Ron Logback. "Whether they can catch up ... remains to be seen."

The school board even met with district lawyers in executive session Nov. 30 to discuss possible litigation. But no action was taken, and BSISD Superintendent Bill McQueary said the district still has faith in Monterey's ability to finish the job on time.

"We were considering legal action in case we came to an impasse," McQueary said. "But the contractor has shown some good faith in rectifying the problem, although a solution has been slow in coming."

There is a solid economic reason, McQueary and others remain confident the project will be finished on time.

"On July 24, (Monterey) starts paying a penalty if the building's not completed," McQueary said. "We're still confident, but we still don't know how long it will take to solve the wall problem."

Monterey has consulted with

a construction engineer over the problem, and is scheduled to present district officials with a remedial plan this week.

With the new school year starting around Aug. 15, Monterey needs to complete construction around Aug. 1 for the transfer to be accomplished smoothly, McQueary said. Completion after that date, however, may throw a few plans into turmoil.

McQueary said he has discussed contingency plans with other district officials over what to do if the new school isn't ready on time. Among the options are delaying a move into the building until the Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays, or holding off until the start of the next school year.

Further complicating matters is the scheduled moving of College Heights Elementary students to the Goliad Middle School building and several personnel moves that will come as a result of that relocation. Those actions can't be under-



The Settles building is visible through the steel of the superstructure at the new junior high school. In this photo, steel beams are being erected for the seats in the gymnasium.

taken until the new junior high is ready for occupancy.

For the time being, however, school officials can do little except wait and hope that con-

struction gets back on schedule.

"We're not ready to get into the planning stage with any of this," McQueary said. "I think that my the middle of March,

we should have a real good idea where we stand. We don't want to over-react ... but if it's not ready, we want to look at a Plan B."

DRCC fete to benefit civic center

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

For supporters of the Dora Roberts Community Center, it's party time!

Friday beginning at 9 p.m., members of the DRCC Gala Committee will host a fundraising dance at the center. Tickets, available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Kothmann's Klassic Kleaners at 2107 Gregg, and at the door, are \$20 a person or \$30 a couple.

A pre-party is planned for benefactors, patrons and sponsors, who contributed in support of the community landmark.

"It's such a good cause," said Beverly McMahon, an organizer of the dance. "I can't begin to tell you how many people use the center every week. If you can call anything in Big Spring a success story, in terms of how much it's used, the center is a success story."

Money raised by the dance will go toward day-to-day operating expenses, including salary of Kathy Lusk, who manages the building. There are also long-term plans to make improvements, McMahon said.

"We are hoping to do some major landscaping," she said. Included among plans is the construction of a pavilion on the lake side of the facility.

Another goal of the fundraising effort is financial stability, and independence, for the community center.

"If we only make enough money to be sure the building doesn't get in (financial) trouble, that's enough," McMahon said. "Be we want to establish a fund that will take care of the facility for the future. We want to know that it will always be taken care of."

Operated through the chamber, the building is supported by a group of about 20 local residents who plan fundraising events such as the Friday dance.

Volunteers began a campaign

See DRCC, Page 2

CHRISTMAS STAR

Katherine Calvert puts the star on top of the Community Christmas Tree in the park Saturday in Coahoma.

The placement of the star was just part of Saturday's "Winter Wonderland" celebration in Coahoma.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett



Southern Mesa Ag Conference set for Lamesa in January

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

With the 1997 cotton crop harvest all but complete, the focus for many are producers will now shift to next year, meaning the Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference in January.

According to Dawson County Extension Agent John Farris, the conference scheduled for 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, is a direct result of producer requested educational programming and will focus on regulation and policies affecting Texas agriculture.

The conference will also focus

The nine-county meeting is a direct result of producer-requested educational programming and will focus on regulations and policies affecting Texas agriculture.

on the best management practices (BMPs) for cotton, grain sorghum and peanut production.

The program is being sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAES) offices in Dawson, Howard, Martin, Borden, Scurry, Mitchell, Lynn, Garza and Midland, and will feature information on the latest production technology for crop production,

insect control, and weed control of cotton, grain sorghum and peanuts, according to Farris.

Risk management and production outlooks will be discussed and top speakers from across the state will make presentations concerning current research production trials.

Speakers will include Mindy Shugart, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA); Drs. Randy Bowman, Robert Lemon, Mark

McFarland, Jackie Smith and Peter Dotray; TAES agents Farris and Tommy Doederlein; and Dr. Wayne Keeling with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Producers will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences with experts, specialists and other growers and will be able to visit commercial booths throughout the day.

Five Continuing Education

Units (CEUs) will be provided for private, commercial and non-commercial applicators for attendance at the conference. Producers wanting their updated CEU information may contact TDA at (800) 835-5832.

Registration fees for the conference will be \$15 if paid before Jan. 15 and \$20 after Jan. 15. The fee includes technical sessions, door prize tickets, lunch, educational materials and access to exhibits.

Registration forms and fees, payable to "Dawson County Ag Fund," should be mailed to the P.O. Box 1268, Lamesa, 79331.

See PROMOTIONS, Page 2

WEATHER

Tonight:



Tues:



Wed:



Thur:



Tonight, mostly clear. Lows 30-35. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs 60-70. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows from the upper 20s to the mid 30s. Extended forecast, Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs from near 60 to the mid 60s. Thursday, fair. Lows in the lower to mid 30s. Highs in the 60s. Friday, fair. Lows near 30. Highs from near 68.

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Pollen used as forensic tool at A&M

HOUSTON (AP) — Pollen, the bane of allergy sufferers, is a friend to a Texas A&M scientist who is helping to pioneer a new technique for helping to solve some of the most inscrutable crimes.

Vaughn Bryant is the head of A&M's anthropology department and one of the nation's leading exponents of forensic palynology — the study of pollen to help solve crimes.

The 57-year-old pollen expert has helped the FBI, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and many local

law enforcement agencies in pollen cases.

Bryant believes the microscopic particles ultimately could be as valuable a detection method as DNA testing.

"When it works," he said, "it works marvelously."

In Germany, the technique is credited with getting one murder confession. When the suspect was confronted with the fact that his muddy boots had trapped pollen from plants that grew only near the murder site, his denials of guilt buckled.

Bryant, who entered the field

about 20 years ago as a honey expert, can tell dozens of stories of how palynology has solved a case or provided key evidence.

However, he knows full well that persuading detectives to routinely test for pollen is an uphill battle.

The state's top medical examiners said it is done rarely.

Dallas County Medical Examiner Jeffrey Barnard likened the procedure to studying insects found at a crime scene, a field called forensic

See POLLEN, Page 2



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Snow buries Mississippi, Alabama in record weekend storm

JACKSON (AP) — A record-breaking storm dumped snow on Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, knocking out power and leaving icy roads even as some took time to play in the rare winterlike weather.

"My kids have been outside since 8 o'clock this morning. I'm afraid they're going to freeze to death," Angela Wright said Sunday as she watched her sons Brian, 10, and Hunter, 7, build an igloo in the front yard of their Jackson home.

"They've never seen snow like this before. They think it's magic."

Up to 10 inches of snow covered parts of south-central Mississippi in the state's biggest December snowstorm on record. It also was the heaviest snowfall since Jan. 22, 1982, when 5.5 inches fell.

Scattered power outages, downed trees and traffic accidents were blamed on the storm, which gave way to a late-afternoon thaw.

"I'm loving it," Cari Price of Madison, Miss., said as she used a broom to push several inches of snow off her car windshield. "It's so beautiful. I wish we got this every year."

While parts of Louisiana were recording more than 4 inches of snow, parts of the often frigid and snowy Midwest were basking in warm weather. While it was 35 degrees with freezing rain in Birmingham, Ala., it was 66 in Rapid City, S.D., and 53 in Bismarck, N.D., under fair skies.

In west-central Alabama, Teri and Lindsay Holliman used plastic bags as makeshift sleds near Brookwood High School's football field.

"We were so excited because it hasn't snowed in such a long time," said Lindsay, 15.

The storm tapered off in most areas by Sunday evening, replaced by an overnight freeze that threatened to make morning commutes dangerous for drivers. Schools were closed today in several Alabama counties.

Emergency shelters in Jackson were opened for people who had lost electricity in their homes. Entergy Mississippi Inc. reported that 18,000 customers had lost power at one point.

Alabama Power spokesman J.G. Brazil said fewer than 2,000 outages were reported in the Tuscaloosa area, with most in Sumter and Greene counties.

The company expected to have all power restored by today.

Maj. Jimmy Dees of the Mississippi Highway Patrol in Jackson said state troopers had responded to dozens of accidents. At least one traffic death in Alabama was blamed on weather-related driving conditions.

The storm surprised even the National Weather Service in Alabama.

"It kind of slipped up on us, the heavier snow anyway," meteorologist Jim Smith said. "It had been calling for snow all week and we were about to give up on it."

'Carlos the Jackal' blames crimes on U.S. CIA and Israel's Mossad

PARIS (AP) — Carlos the Jackal insisted today that the CIA and Israel's Mossad committed the killings for which he is being tried, and his lawyers quit in protest when the court refused to order a new investigation.

The court temporarily suspended the 2-day-old murder trial. When it resumed nearly an hour later, the defense table was empty and Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was defending himself from the dock.

Presiding Judge Yves Corneloup ordered Ramirez's lawyers to stay, but they left anyway and could face disciplinary measures for breaking a French law requiring the presence of a lawyer during a criminal trial.

Earlier, the court rejected a motion by Ramirez to set him free because of the way he was captured by French intelligence agents in 1994, ending decades on the run by one of the most-wanted terrorist suspects of the Cold War.

The court is trying him in the 1975 killings of two French intelligence agents and a Lebanese colleague of Ramirez, allegedly killed because Ramirez suspected he was a police informant.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," the Venezuelan-born

Ramirez told the court loudly in Spanish-accented French, adding profanities.

Lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre told the court she and two other attorneys were quitting because the court refused to rule right away on the defense's request to order a new investigation.

"They want to hide the truth from us," Coutant-Peyre said outside the courtroom. She said the court declined to make French intelligence services turn over the names of sources who provided information on Ramirez.

The court opened the trial's second day by rejecting Ramirez's argument that he was arrested illegally when French agents spirited him out of the Sudan in 1994.

Coutant-Peyre said Ramirez had been "illegally kidnapped."

The court also put off a decision on Ramirez's request to remove a terrorists' victims association, SOS-Attentats, from the trial. The group is a civil party to the case against Ramirez and as such can participate.

Ramirez denounced what he called the "incestuous relations" between the judges and SOS-Attentats.

Ramirez gained international notoriety as the alleged mastermind of deadly bombings, assassinations and hostage dramas.

Kentucky couple eludes yearlong international manhunt

MADISONVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Nearly a year ago, David and Martha Crowe disappeared in a rented U-Haul, leaving behind frustrated authorities and convictions for a pyramid scheme that raked in millions of dollars.

The Crowes were allowed to remain free after a federal judge sentenced them to jail for mail fraud and money laundering, an arrangement authorities say is routine for some white-collar crimes.

The Crowes simply never showed when they were to report to prison.

Since then, the couple from a quiet community in western Kentucky has eluded authorities in a year long international manhunt.

"We don't think they're here anywhere in this country," George Walsh, a supervisor for the U.S. Marshal's Service in Louisville, said last week.

During a trial in Owensboro last summer, prosecutors described the family's Gold Unlimited Inc. as a pyramid scheme with 96,000 customers across the country

and Canada. Company assets reportedly ranged from \$8 million to \$13 million.

Participants could buy a \$400 coin or invest in the company. They could earn commissions on products they sold and get the gold coin if they brought more people into the company.

But payouts were based largely on others paying in, and the government said two-thirds of Gold Unlimited's customers failed to make a profit.

"It was their version of the American dream, paid for with other people's money," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Campbell, who helped prosecute the case. "It was a scam."

The defense described Gold Unlimited as a legal sales company. The jury disagreed.

In November, U.S. District Judge Joseph McKinley sentenced the couple to more than 10 years in prison each on seven counts of mail fraud and eight counts of money laundering.

They were allowed to remain free on bond until Jan. 21, the day they had been

ordered to report to separate federal prisons. They never showed. The couple's \$277,000 home was bare.

"Obviously, in retrospect, you would treat these people differently," said Kent Wicker, another assistant U.S. attorney. "At the time, they were treated just like 95 percent of other white-collar offenders."

In a letter mailed to their hometown newspaper the day they disappeared, the couple maintained their innocence: "I hope that every day, something will remind you of how you have destroyed our lives." The letter also was sent to prosecutors and apparently to at least some jurors.

How can the fugitives evade an international manhunt that's included the work of federal marshals and Interpol?

"It's not as difficult as you think it is, OK?" Walsh said. "These people obviously have connections, and they're able to hide. Who's to say they don't have the money to obtain some sort of other identity, some other legal means to get to another country? They certainly have the money."

Police investigating baby beauty pageant after no trophies presented

HOUSTON (AP) — A police investigation is under way after unhappy parents complained about not getting trophies that were promised to participants in a baby beauty pageant.

Many of the 200 parents who attended the pageant at The Braeswood Hotel and Convention Center on Sunday had sold hundreds of dollars worth of raffle tickets to qualify for free trophies for their babies.

When it came time for the trophy presentation there were no trophies and the 1997 Annual Houston Area Baby Pageant & Diaper Derby was canceled.

A pageant promoter says it was a "mixup" and promised that the trophies will be given out.

The pageant is under investigation, according to Houston Police Sgt. D.W. Hallene.

"I know the hotel received their money," Hallene said.

The parents left puzzled and unhappy.

"I never thought this was a big hoax. Now I have to go back and explain to those who bought raffle tickets that we all got ripped off," said Kim Cooper, 33, of Suburban Spring.

She said she spent four weeks selling the tickets to raise \$275 for her 6-month-old son Bryce, who would have received a \$40 trophy.

The size of the trophy was

based in part on the number of raffle tickets sold by parents, parents said.

Joel Guajardo, who manufactured the trophies in Brownsville, was at the hotel, but said he did not hand over the trophies because they were not paid for.

Pageant representatives told him they were leaving the hotel to get the \$2,800 to pay for the 300 trophies and 200 ribbons. They never returned, he said.

You deserve a factual look at... Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") Can Israel survive without it?

There is incessant agitation for Israel to turn over most or perhaps even all of Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") to the PLO. Such a move would inevitably lead to the creation of a Palestinian State—perhaps even with Jerusalem as its capital. Can Israel survive this dismemberment? Is it in the best interests of the United States?

What are the facts?

The Root of the conflict. The conflict between Israel and the Arabs is not about borders and not about the Palestinians. The conflict is not about the size of Israel. It is about Israel's very existence. Israel, of whatever size and within whatever boundaries, is unacceptable to the Arabs. In surrendering strategic territory, Israel is gambling with its very life. The PLO still adheres to its infamous "phased plan." It calls for first creating a Palestinian state on any territory vacated by Israel and then using that state to foment a final allied Arab assault against the truncated Jewish state.

The Importance of territory. Many believe that in this age of missiles, territory is of little importance and that Israel should therefore not hesitate to relinquish "land for peace." But that is not the case. The Arab states have acquired over \$50 billion of the most advanced armaments since the end of the Gulf War. And those are not just "conventional" weapons—enormous quantities of tanks, aircraft of all kinds, and much more. The Arab state possess large arsenals of chemical and biological weapons, and all of them work feverishly on the development of their nuclear potential. All of those weapons have only one single purpose: the destruction of the state of Israel. And that goal is not being cancelled for any agreements that Israel may make with the Palestinians.

For both "conventional" war and for war of mass destruction, territory and topography are critical for self-defense and deterrence. The mountainous territory of Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") is an indispensable line of defense, especially for a country as small as Israel. It totally controls access to Israel's heartland from the east. Israel needs this high

ground for defense, to be able to peer deeply into the enemy's territory and to get early warning of any attack. The high ground allows Israel to detect missiles while they are still in the launch stage and to destroy them, with the Arrow or other sophisticated anti-missile systems. Unlike the U.S., Israel cannot maintain a fleet of nuclear submarines for "second strike" deterrence. But it can maintain dozens of mobile missile launchers safe in underground tunnels hewn into the rock of the Judean mountains.

Would the "West Bank" be demilitarized? Even those who want Israel to retreat to its pre-1967 borders are agreed that the evacuated areas must be demilitarized. But that would be useless. Because the Palestinians will have thousands of trained soldiers, camouflaged as their police force. In case of war against Israel, these troops could be helicoptered in minutes to their positions, with armored forces reaching them within the same night. In any case, it is highly doubtful that the surrounding hostile Arab nations would allow such a military vacuum to exist. And finally, there is the matter of terrorism. There are over fifteen Palestinian terror organizations that neither Yasser Arafat nor any other Palestinian authority can control. There would be a constant rain of Katyusha rockets launched into the Tel Aviv area and into the entire coastal plain, which is only nine miles wide at its waist. It contains 80% of Israel's population and of its industrial and military potential. Ben Gurion airport, every incoming and outgoing flight, would be subject to mortar fire or shoulder-held Stinger attack. Does anybody doubt that the Arabs would not exploit that irresistible opportunity?

"Without Judea/Samaria (the 'West Bank') Israel would be totally indefensible; therefore, neither the purposes of Israel nor those of the United States are served by Israel's relinquishing control of the 'West Bank.'"

Without the "West Bank" Israel would be totally indefensible. That is the professional opinion of over 100 U.S. generals and admirals. Israel's strong defensive posture makes it most inadvisable for Israel's enemies to attack her. But once this defensive strength is removed, a coordinated war against Israel can only be a matter of time. The example and fate of Czechoslovakia, which preparatory to the Second World War was dismantled and shorn of its defensive capacity, insistently come to mind. What does all this mean to the United States? In a part of the world in which our country has the most far-reaching geopolitical stakes, Israel is the only democracy, the only country that is unquestionably aligned with us. It is the guarantor of American interests in the area. With Israel in a position of weakness, the role of the United States in the area would collapse and radical states such as Syria, Iraq and Iran would dominate. That is why, despite the heady prospect of "peace in our time," neither the purposes of Israel nor those of the United States would be served by Israel's relinquishing control over the "West Bank."

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SPORTS

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Reality sets in for Cowboys with 31-24 defeat at Cincinnati

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — As soon as Troy Aikman's desperate, last-second pass deflected off a final set of hands and landed harmlessly in the end zone, reality hit the Dallas Cowboys. "No more playoffs," linebacker Vinson Smith said. A team that has won three Super Bowls in the 1990s won't get a chance at a fourth. A 31-24 loss Sunday to the Cincinnati Bengals eliminated the Cowboys (6-9) from playoff contention and doomed them to their first losing season since 1990. The saddest part is that the record fits. "Let's not sit here and fool each

other and say what would happen if we got into the playoffs," receiver Michael Irvin said. "We're not playing good football, and that's the bottom line." Instead of making a late run at a wild-card berth, the Cowboys have lost four consecutive games for the first time since 1989, when quarterback Troy Aikman was a rookie. That was the first year in coach Jimmy Johnson's rebuilding program that ultimately produced those three Super Bowl titles. This skid is something very different. "There are so many factors, and you just couldn't put your finger on it," safety Bill Bates said. "If you could have done that, we would have done it the second game of the season."

"Sometimes you just have seasons like this. In my 15 years, I've had seasons like this where you know you're good enough to win, you just can't turn it around." The Bengals (6-9) have proven over the past month that they had enough talent to make the playoffs, if they could have turned their season around sooner. Instead, they're in a familiar position — looking good when it no longer matters. "The same thing happened last year," said cornerback Ashley Ambrose. "You think you might've made the playoffs, but you can't worry about it." The Bengals had something different in mind Sunday: wrecking the Cowboys' slim playoff chances. There

was no sympathy for Dallas. "A lot of people ask me if I feel sorry for the Cowboys," quarterback Boomer Esiason said. "What are they thinking?" "The Cowboys get everybody's best games. They're like the New York Rangers in hockey or the Yankees in baseball. The owner and the coach are always on TV. You want to give your best effort to beat that kind of team." The Cowboys put in one of their best efforts in weeks during the first quarter, which they dominated behind Aikman, Smith and Irvin. Dallas went ahead 10-0 as Smith picked up 56 yards on nine carries, Irvin had six catches for 69 yards and Aikman completed eight of 13 passes for 83 yards. Then the Bengals took over. Esiason

threw touchdown passes of 48 and 32 yards as Cincinnati scored 31 straight points. The Cowboys made it close when Aikman threw a pair of touchdown passes to David LaFleur in the fourth quarter, but came up short on their two final possessions. Aikman was intercepted to end the first chance to pull even, and his desperation pass closed out the game and got the Cowboys thinking of next year. "Everybody who has been with us during the tough times will still be there," running back Sherman Williams said. "If anybody has anything negative to say about our team, we really don't need them anyway. Everybody who loved us before will love us tomorrow."

Defensive stand keyed Buff win

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

With 10 minutes remaining in their Class 2A semifinal playoff game with Italy Saturday, the Stanton Buffaloes had a lead that was anything but secure. Although holding a 21-7 advantage, the Buffs were unable to stop Italy, as the Gladiators marched swiftly and surely toward another touchdown. If Italy scored at this juncture, the lead would be down to seven points, and it would be anyone's ball game. The Buffs weren't thinking about advancing to the state championship game. At this point, they were merely thinking about survival. "I looked for it to be a defensive game — maybe I just hoped it would be," Stanton coach Mark Cotton said. "We didn't want to get into a track meet with them, by any means. (Italy) had such great athletes, that if we got into a track meet with them, we were in trouble." But when the Gladiators earned a first-and-goal at the Stanton 4, trouble was knocking on Stanton's door. The Buffs' defense, which had played heroically up to this point, had to be a wall one more time. "We knew that if we let them score, they'd be right back in the game," defensive lineman Chad Smith said. On first down, Italy's Randy Johnson gained a yard to the 3. On the next play, Edwin Wallace swept right and gained another yard, setting up third-



HERALD photo/Jim Fiero

Stanton quarterback Kyle Herm (3) breaks loose from an Italy defender during the second quarter of Saturday's Class 2A state semifinal game. The Buffs took a 35-7 win over the Gladiators and now face Rogers in a showdown for the state championship.

UIL CLASS 2A CHAMPIONSHIP
STANTON BUFFALOES (15-0)
VS. ROGERS EAGLES (14-1)
6 P.M. SATURDAY,
TEXAS STADIUM, IRVING

tripped up behind the line for a two-yard loss. Then, on fourth-and-goal, linebacker Jody Lauder intercepted DeJuan Davis' pass at the 1-yard-line, denying the Gladiators. After the defense put a huge dent in Italy's championship hopes, the Buffs' offense crushed them altogether two plays later. Stanton quarterback Kyle Herm ran an option-keeper play to the left on second down from the 3. Seeing an opening, he cut back up the middle, followed a clearing block from running back James Jenkins to the right and was off on a 90-yard gallop that gave the Buffs a first-and-goal on Italy's 7. Two plays later, Jenkins scored from five yards out to cement the victory. "I think those two plays (Lauder's interception and Herm's run) were the turning point," Cotton said. The game was just one long highlight reel for the Buffs' defense, which rendered Italy virtually punchless. Stanton's line neutralized Italy's size advantage.

Steer swimmers win at Seminole, girls take fourth

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring's Steers managed 122 points in taking the boys' championship of the Seminole Invitational Swimming and Diving meet Saturday, edging district rival Pecos by 20 points, while the Lady Steers finished fourth in the girls' field. Both Big Spring teams got crucial points in Friday's diving competition, Jill Johansen taking the girls' one-meter diving competition, while Brent Sisson was fourth in the boys' division and Brian Willberg added sixth-place points. The Steers started their scoring early with a second-place clocking in the 200-meter medley relay — Slate Broyles, Billy Beckworth, Stephen Smith and Justin Ball finishing with a 2:01.22 clocking. Ball followed with a second in the 200 freestyle, while Justin Williams was fifth. Ball late finish fourth in the 500 freestyle, while Williams was sixth. Smith scored the Steers' first top finish with a 2:33.01 in the 200 individual medley, while Dustin Navarro was third and Sisson was seventh. Smith would add a fifth in the 100 freestyle. Beckworth took a first in the 50 freestyle for the Steers and added a second in the 100

breaststroke. Broyles added a first in the 100 backstroke and a second in the 100 butterfly. Navarro was fifth in the 100 butterfly, while Manfred Robinson tied for eighth place. The Steers iced the win when Smith, Ball, Beckworth and Broyles powered to a five-second win in the 400 freestyle relay, while Williams, Navarro, Zach Zilai and Willberg combined for sixth-place points. Allison Thomas scored the Lady Steers' first points Saturday with a second-place finish in the 200 freestyle and later added a first in the 100 freestyle. Somer Leubner took a first in the 200 individual medley, winning with more than a six-second margin, and then edged Pecos' Liz Parent in the 500 freestyle for a second win. Melissa Sheedy was third in the 200 individual medley, while Tz Marsch added eighth-place points. Sheedy was also second in the 100 butterfly. Marsch, Thomas, Leubner and Sheedy finished sixth in the 200 freestyle relay. They would later combine for fourth in the 400 freestyle relay, and Marsch would add a seventh in the 100 backstroke. The Big Spring swimmers will now take an extended break, their next action coming during the district meet set for Jan. 31 at Monahans.

North Carolina moves into No. 1 spot

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina moved to No. 1 in the Associated Press college basketball today, its first time as a top-ranked team without Dean Smith as coach in almost 39 years. The Tar Heels' move also made Bill Guthridge the first coach in his first year at a school to have a No. 1-ranked team since Tom Davis at Iowa in 1986-87. The last rookie coach, as the 60-year-old Guthridge is, to lead a top-ranked team was Bill Hodges of Indiana State in 1978-79. The Tar Heels (10-0) moved up one spot to replace Duke at No. 1 after the Blue Devils (9-1) lost 81-73 at Michigan on Saturday. North Carolina was last ranked No. 1 during the 1994-95 season. The last time a team followed

one from the same conference to No. 1, it was the same schools. North Carolina also replaced fellow-Atlantic Coast Conference member Duke as No. 1 in the poll released Feb. 7, 1994. North Carolina, which beat then-No. 22 Princeton hours after Duke's loss, received 68 first-place votes and 1,747 points from the national media panel. Kansas (11-1), which held the No. 1 spot until Duke took it over two weeks ago, moved from third to second with one first-place vote and 1,612 points. The Blue Devils were third with one No. 1 vote and 1,599 points, and were followed by Kentucky, which held the No. 4 spot, and Arizona and South Carolina, which switched places from last week. Utah moved up two spots to

seventh and was followed by Purdue, Stanford and Xavier. UCLA moved up one place to lead the Second Ten and was followed by Connecticut, Arkansas, New Mexico, Iowa, Temple, Florida State, Mississippi, Princeton and Georgia. The last five spots were held by Michigan, Maryland, Wake Forest, Texas Christian and Syracuse. Michigan, Texas Christian and Syracuse were the week's newcomers, replacing No. 17 Clemson, No. 18 Fresno State and No. 24 Georgia Tech. The loss of Clemson (5-3), the preseason No. 5 which lost to Illinois on Saturday, and Georgia Tech (5-2), which lost to Kentucky, gave the ACC five teams in the Top 25, the same as the Southeastern Conference.

STATE CHAMPIONS



Borden County's Coyotes display their state championship trophy after taking the six-man football crown with a 48-16 win over Panther Creek's Panthers in Abilene Saturday. The Coyotes were really never threatened in the title game, turning a scoreless first quarter into a 20-0 halftime lead and never looking back.

Bulldogs take overtime win for third place in Stanton tournament

HERALD Staff Report

Coahoma's Bulldogs pulled out an 83-76 overtime win over Brady Saturday to take third place in the Stanton Hooptown Tournament staged at Midland Greenwood High School. The "Dogs," who suffered a 68-49 loss to Merkel in the tournament's semifinals earlier in the day, managed to put four players in double figures in out-lasting Brady. Blake Nichols paced the Bulldogs with 22 points in the finale, while Robert Lain added 20 more. Regi Roberts had 16 points and Ryan Peckham closed out the double-digit scoring with 13. In the day's earlier loss to Merkel, Peckham and teammates Kurt Bennett and Jason Gwyn scored 11 points

apiece, but that combined effort barely offset the 31-point explosion by Merkel's Chris Sparks. In addition, Merkel got 14 points from Landry Meeks and another dozen from James Dietz. Nichols, who also led the Bulldogs in scoring during their opening round win, was named to the all-tournament team, as was Gwyn. **Steers fall to Lake View** "Big Spring's Steers saw their record drop to 3-8 on the season with a 74-62 loss to San Angelo Lake View during the second round of the Concho Classic in San Angelo. Travis Womack paced the Steer effort with 13 points, while teammate Andy Hall had 12. Justin Myers and Chauncey Ford added 10 points apiece

in the loss, but game-high scoring honors went to Lake View's Jorge Villarreal who had 21. The Steers opened the game matching the Chief and took a 14-13 going into the second quarter. However, by halftime, Villarreal and his teammates pulled out to a 34-28 lead. And when Big Spring attempted to pull even with a 20-point third quarter, Lake View responded with 21 of its own and then outscored the Steers, 19-14, down the stretch. The Steers' next outing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday when they play host to Frenship-Wolforth at Steer Gym. **Lady Steers JV take second** Big Spring's Lady Steers junior varsity, dropped a 49-29 loss to Midland's

young Lady Bulldogs in the finals of the Seminole JV Invitational tournament Saturday. It was the second loss Big Spring suffered at Midland's hands and left the Lady Steers JV with a 7-3 record on the season. After dropping a 59-28 decision to Midland in the tournament's opening round, the Lady Steers worked their way back into the championship round with a 48-40 win over Seminole's host team. Nina Evans paced the Lady Steers with 19 points in the win over Seminole, and was again Big Spring's top scorer with 11 points in the title game loss. Monica Rubio had 10 points in the win over Seminole, but was limited to just five by Midland in Saturday's

finale. **Mavs 7th drops three straight** Goliad's seventh grade Mavericks dropped three consecutive hard-fought decisions during the weekend's Lamesa tournament. In the opening game, they suffered a 40-38 loss at the hands of Jal, N.M., despite the 14 points scored by Jesse Vanderbilt. Clayton Weaver and Brandon Mendoza each added six points in the loss. Brownfield dealt the Mavs a 48-37 defeat in the second round, despite Tye Butler's 10 points and Mendoza's eight. And in the final game of the tournament, Frenship took a 42-36 win. Weaver, Butler and Adam Cobos scored six points apiece.

MONDAY												DEC. 15											
Time	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	FSN (29)	ESPN (30)	AMC (31)	BET (33)	
6:30 PM	News (CC)	Simpsons	Science Guy	Walkers	News	News (CC)	News	Andy Griffith	Esmeralda	Disney	Dukes of	Best of	Habit	(CC)	Light of	Law & Order	Gimme	Lois & Clark	Snowboarding	ESPN	Movie: Holiday Inn	Planet Groove	
7:30 PM	World of Discovery (CC)	Melrose Place (CC)	Carols From Atlanta (CC)	Amer. Country Christmas	Cosby (CC)	World of Discovery (CC)	Suddenly Jenny (CC)	(15) Movie: Diamonds	El Alma No Tiene Color	(CC) Jonny Lang in Concert (CC)	Prime Time Country (CC)	Movie: Men of War (CC)	Movie: Get Shory (CC)	Valley (CC)	Charisma Duplantier	Poirt	Raging Planet	U-Boat Wars: Iron Coffins	WCVN Nitro (CC)	Dallas Stars	Eldridge & Friends	Sundown	Comio/ew
8:30 PM	NFL Football: Denver	Aly McBeal (CC)	Atlanta Symphony Gospel	Diagnosis Murder (CC)	Raymond George & Leo	NFL Football: Denver	Caroline Naked Truth	Are Forever	Alguna Vez	Concert (CC)	Prime Time Country (CC)	Movie: Men of War (CC)	Movie: Get Shory (CC)	Valley (CC)	Charisma Duplantier	Poirt	Raging Planet	U-Boat Wars: Iron Coffins	WCVN Nitro (CC)	Dallas Stars	Eldridge & Friends	Sundown	Comio/ew
9:30 PM	Broncos at San Francisco	Earth: Final Conflict	Christmas Southwest	Hawaii Five-0 (CC)	Brooklyn South (CC)	Broncos at San Francisco	Dating (CC)		Cristina: Edicion Especial	In the Nick of Time (CC)	Marty Christmas Party	(45) Movie: Homeage	(45) Movie: Fied (CC)	Shock Video 5	John Jacobs E.V. Hill	Biography	Wild Discovery	Movie: Iron Heart	FOX Sports News	(CC) NFL's Greatest	Flying Machines	227 (CC)	
10:30 PM	Francisco 49ers (CC)	Home Imp. Mad Abo. You	News-Lehrer	700 Club	News (35) Late	Francisco 49ers (CC)	News Tonight Show	(9:50) Movie: Dr. No	P. Impacto Noticiero Uni.	Walt Disney Presents	Dallas	(25) Movie: (25) Movie: (35) Movie:	John Jacobs E.V. Hill	Biography	Wild Discovery	Movie: Iron Heart	FOX Sports News	(CC) NFL's Greatest	Flying Machines	227 (CC)	Midnight Love		
11:30 PM	News (CC)	Vibe	(10) Nova (CC)	Three Stooges	Show (CC) Married. With	News (CC) Nightline	(CC) Late	Al Ritmo de la Noche	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Dukes of Hazzard	(25) Movie: (25) Movie: (35) Movie:	John Jacobs E.V. Hill	Biography	Wild Discovery	Movie: Iron Heart	FOX Sports News	(CC) NFL's Greatest	Flying Machines	227 (CC)	Midnight Love			
12:30 AM	Nightline (36) Keenen	Martin (CC) In the Heat of	History of Har. ley Davidson	Pad Program	Late Late Show	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc	Night (CC) Gayle King	(12:15) Movie: Gator	Club America	The Three Lives of Tho	Prime Time Country (CC)	The Courtyard	Original Gangstas	Wounded (CC)	Van Impe Update News	Poirt	Raging Planet	H.S. Extra Boxing: Fight	test Moments NFL Great	Movie: Holiday Inn			

HAGAR



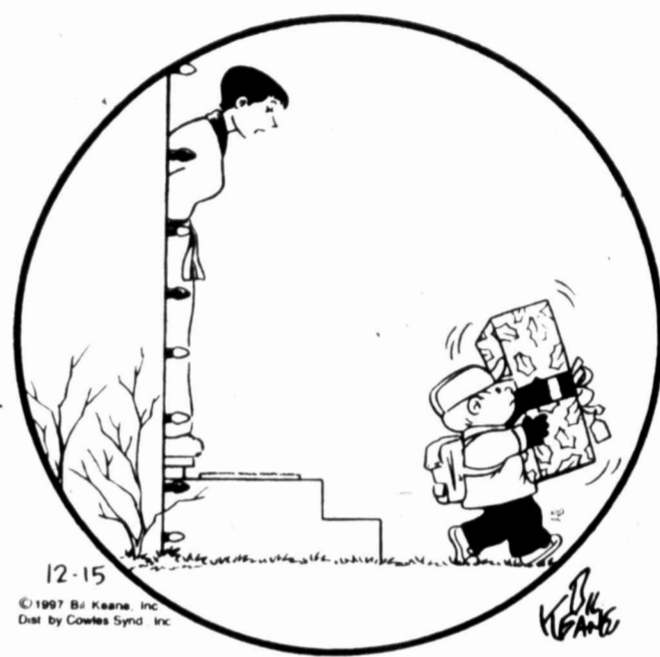
BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



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HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 1997. There are 16 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, took effect following ratification by Virginia. On this date: In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a fracas with Indian police.

In 1916, the French defeated the Germans in the World War I Battle of Verdun. In 1938, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C. In 1939, the motion picture "Gone With the Wind" had its world premiere in Atlanta. In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a U.S. Army major, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
 1 Supporting loop
 6 German sub
 11 Actress Arthur
 14 Pe...
 15 Norway
 16 Powerful sphere
 17 Swimming gold-medalist
 19 Fabray, family
 20 Tim, the actor
 21 "Divine Comedy" writer
 23 Stranded newsworthy
 27 Soldier
 29 Habituated
 30 Form a plan
 31 Suffered soreness
 32 Having delicate health
 33 "If You Drop"
 36 Talon
 37 Night watchman
 38 Pronounce indistinctly
 39 Haw's partner
 40 Animated pig
 41 Candidates
 42 d
 44 Natural talents
 45 Stiff and formal
 47 Slatted windows
 48 Camera maker
 49 1976-80 Wimbledon winner
 50 Stevedores' grp.
 51 Terms gold-medalist
 52 Shute novel, "On the..."
 56 Gibson of "Hamlet"
 59 Med images
 60 Proclamation
 61 Hindu title
 62 Merits
 63 Actress Foker

DOWN
 1 Health resort
 2 Moon vehicle, briefly
 3 rigid
 4 Mil. branch
 5 Cantankerous
 6 (removed ties)
 7 "Sen Hur" costar
 8 Scot. island
 9 Long, long time
 10 Twining growth
 11 Speed-skating gold-medalist
 12 Muse of poetry
 13 Double-day of baseball
 18 Lack
 22 gratia artis
 23 Shute novel, "On the..."
 24 Sam, for one
 25 Boxing gold-medalist
 26 Concoct
 27 Dog tired
 28 Enthusiastic
 30 Chicago hotel
 32 Covered with hair
 34 Highly unconventional
 35 Try hard to persuade
 37 Ancient
 38 Eastern European
 39 Eastern European
 40 Rock-breaking tool
 41 Cleanup hitter
 43 Altar in the sky
 44 Roman squares
 45 Clears the surface
 46 Chari's portrayer
 47 Very fertile loam
 49 Mawr
 50 Gun-owners' lobby
 53 es Salaam
 54 Excitement
 55 "With You Get Eggroll"
 56 Part of B.S.
 57 Native of. suff.

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