

With cotton harvest done, producers begin thinking about next year

By CARLTON JOHNSON

Staff Writer

The 1997 cotton harvest in Howard County is complete, meaning the focus for many producers will now shift to next year. Howard County Extension Agent David Kight and Assistant County Agent Brandon McGinty are encouraging producers to begin thinking about next year by attending the Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference in January.

The conference is scheduled for 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19 in Lamesa and is a direct result of regulation and policies affecting Texas agriculture.

The conference will also focus 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, Borden, Scurry, Martin, Mitchell, Lynn, Garza and Midland, and will feature information on the latest production technology for crop production,

programming and will focus on of cotton, grain sorghum and peanuts, according to Dawson County Extension Agent John 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; cialists and other growers and

producer requested educational insect control, and weed control and Dr. Wayne Keeling with the **Texas Agricultural Experiment** Station.

The conference agenda will include the following topics: cotton cropping systems; cotton insect management and pesticide usage; risk management; cotton production management; present and new weed control; boll weevil management; fertilization and salinity; peanut production systems; and laws and

regulations. Producers will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences with experts, spewill 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 registration fee includes technical sessions, door prize tickets, lunch, educational materials and access to exhibits.

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

Producers seeking additional information about the conference may contact these county extension agents:

 John Farris, Dawson County - (806)872-3444

 David Kight, Howard County (915)264-2236

 Stephen Zoeller, Martin County - (915)756-3316

(915)756-2251

Big Spring gets a White Christmas

Storm system dumps snowy blanket on area By JOHN H. WALKER

Managing Editor

Dreams of a white Christmas came true in West Texas Thursday night as a slow moving upper level storm system dumped up to six inches of snow on portions of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico.

According to a National Weather Service spokesman in Midland, the disturbance developed over the Southwest United States and then moved slowly over West Texas.

"Actually, the system is still in the process of moving through, it's so large," the pokesman said. The show pretty much ended by morning and the skies should begin clearing pretty soon." Snow reports ranged from three inches in Fort Stockton to near six inches in and around Big Spring. Areas of Southeastern New Mexico received up to four inches, although higher elevations received a foot or more of snow. Not much melt-off was expected today, as the high temperature was forecast to only reach 35 degrees "One thing that will help is that we should have pretty good sun and that will melt some of it off," . the NWS spokesman said. "The problem is that we could have some icy conditions tonight and in the morning after we have some melt-off and the temperature starts to drop." Police, sheriff's department and Texas Department of Public Safety radio frequencies were relatively quiet in regards accidents that might have been caused by slick roads.



A winter storm passed through Howard County

Census: Country getting crowded

HERALD staff report

As Americans traditionally wait for the next five days to pass in order to take part in the biggest party of the year, New Year's Day 1998 will also bring something more to light than just a new year - more people.

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According to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau, as people ring in the new year, the projected population in the U.S. is expected to be 268,921,733, which represents an annual population

City and state crews began sanding operations around

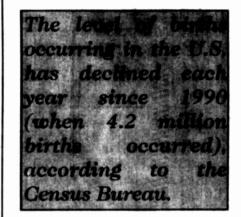
See SNOW, Page 2A



Christmas night, dropping up to six inches of snow on the area. The snow lent a definite Currier & Ives look to Big Spring, including these scenes from Comanche Trail Park. Above, the park as seen from the west side of the historic spring. At left, tree branches were heavy with snow this morning. Below, a bridge by the lake dam becomes part of a wintry landscape.

e of 2.4 million (0.9 cent) The projected New Year's Day

population is based on 3.9 mil-



lion births, 2.3 million deaths. net international migration of 827,000 and a net return of American citizens (including armed forces personnel) of 40,600 during 1997.

The level of births occurring in the U.S. has declined each year since 1990 (when 4.2 million births occurred), according to the Census Bureau. The 40,600 deaths in 1997 is slightly higher than in 1996.

The population in the U.S. is expected to grow by an additional 2.3 million people in 1998 because of natural increase the excess of births compared to the number of deaths.



Charges rise against concealed gun permittees, DPS records show

charges filed against Texans with concealed-handgun licenses rose sharply in 1997, according to statistics compiled by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Felony and misdemeanor cases involving permit holders . Opponents of the "concealed-

DALLAS (AP) - Criminal increase, according to The restrictions on handgun per- the concealed-carry law. Dallas Morning News' Tuesday editions.

by

By comparison, the number of permit holders increased from 114,500 last year to 161,702 through mid-December, a 41.2 percent jump.

rose from 431 in 1996 to 666 thus carry law" say the numbers far in 1997, a 54.5 percent prove the need for increased



Tonight, mostly clear. Patchy fog possible after midnight over the eastern per mian basin. Lows 18-25. Saturday, patchy fog possible eastern Permian Basin, otherwise mostly sunny. Highs 45-54. Saturday night, mostly clear Lows from near 20 to the mid 20s. Extended forecast, Sunday through Tuesday, fair and dry. A gradual warming trend. Lows from the mid 20s to



Vol. 94, No. 57

Abby / 5B Classified / 4-5B Comics / 6B General News / 3A

Life / 5-6A **Obituaries / 2A** Opinion / 4A Sports / 1-3B

mits. Supporters of the 2-yearold law say the figures show that fewer than 0.5 percent of permit holders got in trouble with the law in 1997.

"The preponderance of the evidence suggests that the vast majority act responsibly," said state Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-

Patterson said no Texas permit holder has been convicted in a homicide since the law took effect Jan. 1, 1996.

Four permit holders have been charged with killing people. DPS statistics don't identify the suspects, and they classify the cases as pending. The files Pasadena, the main architect of do not reveal whether firearms were involved in the deaths.

"We haven't had a case yet in which a citizen was proven to use his weapon in an unjustified or illegal manner," Patterson said. "Sooner or later, we will have a handgun licensee do something stupid, but it hasn't happened yet.'

Travis County Constable Bruce Elfant, who favors tighter

restrictions on handguns, said the arrest figures tell him that lawmakers should require psychological screening of permit applicants.

"I am disturbed that several hundred people with these permits have apparently committed crimes," said Elfant, a spokesman for Texans Against Handgun Violence.

Late surge makes for good shopping season

By JOHN H. WALKER

Managing Editor

Wednesday's last-minute shopping frenzy put a cap on what some retailers described as a "good" Christmas season while others called it "strange."

son," explained Big Spring Mall Manager Tammy Watt. "We had a lot of traffic the weekend after Thanksgiving, but then it just kind of tapered off ... then really picked up again towards the end.

Spring's retail outlets were filled with customers. In some instances, it was easier to find a

customer than merchandise. "I waited until the last minute to buy one gift and now I'm hav-

ing trouble finding an extralarge shirt," one man, shopping in the mall, said. "Anthony's didn't have any-

thing and I think I found three in Bealls," he added.

At mid-afternoon Wednesday, Mall traffic was brisk, with approximately 50 customers in Bealls and another 50 or so in

On Wednesday, most of Big Anthony's. The Mall's other major merchants - Blum's Jewelers, On-Cue, Athletic Supply and Merle Norman were also busy with last-minute shoppers.

"I know one retailer who probably made the biggest sale of their holiday season today (Wednesday)," Watt said.

This was Anthony's last Christmas season following the sale of the company to SRI, the parent company of Bealls, Stage Stores and Palais Royale. Most Anthony's in West Texas

have either closed or been con-

verted to Bealls. The Big Spring store is expected to stay open through the end of January, then close for a remodeling period before reopening as a Stage Store.

In addition to the traffic at the Mall, other retailers around town - Wal-Mart, Dunlap's, Family Dollar, Dollar General were bustling as well.

"It was an up-and-down sea son," said one retailer, who asked not to be identified. "It was good and you'd get excited,

See SHOPPING, page 2A

To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

"It was a really strange sea-



BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, December 26, 1997

OBITUARIES

Rev. Sam Partee

Service for Rev. Sam Partee, *73, Big Spring, will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 1997, at the First United Methodist Church

with Dr. Ed Williamson, pastor, offici-

at i n, g Graveside service will be 3 p.m. Saturday, at Bradshaw Cemetery in Bradshaw

Rev. Partee

died Tuesday, PARTEE Dec. 23, in a local hospital.

He was born on May 10, 1924, in Hill County, and married Rose Best on July 3, 1946, in Bradshaw. He grew up and attended school in Colorado City. He was affiliated with the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Churches in the Central Texas area until retiring in 1990. He was a veteran of the United States Navy during World War II.

Survivors include: his wife, Rose Partee, Big Spring; three daughters, Patricia Vanover, Jeanett Ross and Becky Rodriguez, all of Odessa; and three sons, Tommy Partee, Sumpter, Ore., Devin Partee and Richard Partee, both of Abilene

The family suggests memorials to: Permian Basin Rehabilitation Center; 620 N. Alleghaney Ave., Odessa, Texas; 79761

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

Zay Birrell

Service for Mrs. Bill (Zay) Birrell, 79, Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 1997, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch

Rosewood Chapel with Dr Ed Williamson, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating Interment will 4-follow at

Mrs. Birrell died Wednesday, Dec. 24, in a local nursing home

She was born on Dec. 8, 1918, in Hockerville, Okla., and married Bill Birrell on Dec. 24, 1944, in Waco. She attended North Texas Women's College at Denton. She came to Big Spring in 1958 from Lubbock and worked in Civil Service at Webb Air Force Base for 17 years as secretary to the Chief of Supply. Mrs. Birrell was a member of First United Methodist Church. She was a former member of the Secretaries Club, was a member of National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Bridge Club, the Garden Club and was a volunteer at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Survivors include: her husband, Bill Birrell, Big Spring; three sons, Greg H. Birrell, Big Spring, Gordon J. Birrell, Fort Stockton, and Ronald W Birrell, Denver, Colo.; one brother, Dennis W. Harmon, San Diego, Calif.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The family suggests memorials to: First United Methodist Church: 400 Scurry: Big Spring, Texas; 79720; The American Cancer Society; c/o Lucy Bonner; P.O. Box 2121; Big Spring, Texas; 79721-2121; or the donor's favorite charity

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

Wayne Easterling

Service for Wayne Easterling, 53, Big Spring, will be 4 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Pete Gillette, non-denominational minister, officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park

Mr. Easterling died Wednesday, Dec. 24, at his home following a sudden ill ness

He was born on Feb. 29, 1944. in Clanton, Ala. He married Patsy Bledsoe in Houston. He had been a resident of Big Spring since August 1997, moving here from Houston. He had lived most of his life in Alabama, moving to Houston in 1982. He had worked at a truck stop in Houston. Survivors include: his wife. Patsy Easterling, Big Spring; one stepdaughter, Linda Gillette, Sand Springs; one stepson, Jimmy Bledsoe, Cleburne; one sister, Joyce Bates, Clanton, Ala.; two brothers and six step-grandchildren. Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel

Crockett in 1942. She was a long time member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include: one son, Sonny Hollis, Big Spring; one sister, Gwendolyn Williams, Sweetwater; one grandchild: and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Branon Funeral Home, Inc., Lamesa.

Denver Allen Springer I Service for Denver Allen

Springer I, 81, Lenorah and Granbury, will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 1997, in the Lenorah Baptist Church with Glenn L. Ward officiating. Interment will be in Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

died Springer Mr. Wednesday, Dec. 24, in Midland.

He was born on Aug. 10, 1916, in Caddo, Okla., and moved to Martin County in 1929. He attended Texas Tech in Lubbock and returned to teach at Lenorah School for two years. He served in the Army Air Corp during World War II and returned to Lenorah where he was co-owner of Lenorah Grocery for 40 years. He married Ruth Stout on May 6, 1942, in Big Spring. Mr. Springer was a member of the Lenorah Baptist Church where he served as deacon for many years. He was a Scout Master, Pack Master and a member of the American Legion.

Survivors include: his wife, Ruth Springer, Granbury; two sons, Allen Springer, Midwest City, Okla., and Preston Springer, Granbury; two daughters, Carolyn Ward, Granbury. and Virginia Mireles, Granbury; two sisters, Edna Coker, Dove Creek, Colo., and Charlcie Perkins, Lubbock; two brothers, Grover Springer, Lenorah, and Hoyt Springer, White Settlement; and eight grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home, Stanton.

SHOPPING

A ROUND THE TOWN

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For more information, call 267-8234.

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LOCAL

THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE is looking for volunteers to assist taxpayers with preparation of their 1997 Income Tax Returns. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) training for volunteers will be Monday-Friday, Jan. 12-16 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the First Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Runnels. For more information call Dorothy Kennemur at 398-5522.

BAPTIST MIDWAY **CHURCH WILL** celebrate New Year's Eve with a special candlelight service at 11:30 p.m.

Wednesday. The public is invited to attend the service, 6200 South Service Road E. I-20.

Santa and his burro entertain border kids

MCALLEN(AP) - For theseventh year in a row, Winter Texans have thrown a Christmas party for Mexican children living along the Rio Grande.

Carlos Estanislado, 7, heard his friends yelling "Santa is here" on Thursday, just before they started to dash into the main street of Nuevo Progreso, a town of 10,000 people on the Mexican side of the border.

It was all part of the annual 'Amigos de los Ninos de Mexico" Christmas party.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus smiled and threw candies at the excited children as a burro, instead of the traditional reindeer, pulled their carriage.

As many as 2,000 children rushed into the streets to see Santa at the Christmas bash.

SPRINGBOARD

TACT GINA GARZA, 263-7331 ext. 238, BETWEEN 8:30 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

•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 •Candlelight NA meeting, 10 to 11:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. •Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open meetings at noon, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

 Open birthday night, covered dish, 8 p.m. and 7 p.m. birthday meeting, 615 Settles. This is to celebrate AA sobriety yearly birthdays.

SUNDAY •Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services at 2 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 Al Valdes, 263-6810.

•Project Freedom, Christian De Beers support group, 7 p.m. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241.

Main. For more information call 267-1314. THURSDAY •Good Shepherd Fellowship

Church, 610 Abrams, has services 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mountain Home Health, 600

 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.

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

•NA meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

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

•Masonic Lodge No. 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster. Call Ron Long, 267-8715.

MARKETS

March cotton not available; Feb. crude 18.22, down 12 points; Cash hogs steady at 50 cents lower at 37.50; cash steers steady at \$1 higher at 66; Feb. lean hog futures 59.22, up 25 points; Feb. live cattle futures 66.52, up 20 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co

Index 7685.54 Volume 67,314,860 625 + 3 × ATT 84% +% Amoco Atlantic Richfield 77 - 7 **Atmos Energy** 28% -% 28% -% Calenergy Inc. 75% -% Chevron unavailable Cifra Cornell Correc. 19% nc 20¼ -‰ **Diagnostic Health** 10% -% DuPont 58% +% Excel Comm 14hs -% Exxon 60% +% Fina 64% nc Halliburton 46 hs - hs IBM **99%** +% Intel Corp 70 % + % Laser Indus LTD 25¼ -¾ Medical Alliance 4% -% Mobil 69"hs - hs Norwest 35% +% NUV 9% nc **Phillips Petroleum** 47 hs - 1/1 Palex Inc. 12 nc Pepsi Cola 34 % + % Parallell Petroleum 6% nc **Rural/Metro** 31% +% Sears 41 he - he Southwestern Bell 72% - 1% 41% -% Sun 53 **%** nc Texaco **Texas Instruments** 44 % +% Texas Utils. Co 40% -% Unocal Corp 37 hs + hs Wal-Mart 37% +% Amcap 15.05-15.97 Euro Pacific 25.39-26.94 I.C.A. 27.39-29.06 New Economy 19.30-20.48 New Perspective 18.83-19.98 Prime Rate 8.50%

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IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRING-BOARD ITEM OR FOR **MORE INFORMATION, CON-**

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Texas Lottery CASH 5:13,19,28,31,34

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rinitv BIRRELL Memorial Park

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH **Funeral Home** Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Mrs. G.W. (Zav) Birrell, 79. of Big Spring died on Wednesday, Services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Nalley Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with interment at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rev. Sam Partee, 73, of Big Spring died on Tuesday Service will be at 10:00 AM Saturday at First United Methodist Church with graveside services at 3:00 PM Saturday at Bradshaw Cemetery, Bradshaw, Texas.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Rodney Cline, 55, died Tuesday. Services were 11:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Wayne Easterling, died Wednesday. Services will be 4:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rev. Paul Czerkus, 94, died Monday. Services are 11 AM Saturday at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Sandy Hill. Texas, with burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery Artie W. Baily, 90, died

Thursday. Services are pending.

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POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: Big Spring Heraid, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Rodney Cline

Service for Rodney D. Cline, 55. Big Spring, was 11 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. Rick Foster, Chaplain at Big Spring State Hospital Burial was in Trinity Memorial Park

Mr. Cline gird Tuesday, Dec 23 in Midland Memorial Hospital following a sudden ill-TRAS

He was him in Feb 26, 1942. in Plainview. As a small child s family moved from Plains ew to Erstt and later to Vealmoon He attended school Tealmonand Bla Spring. At the me is a sear Mr Cline was at employee at the Big Spring State Hispital were he El d'Wirked for 26 years

SUPPLYONS INCLUDE ONE SON. Paul Clube Bug Spring, two stepcalgoters Joyce Brant. Dallas and Nanc. Bohannon, Ocessa iche granddaughter. Brittsey Clube Big Spring, and Several COLLETE

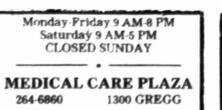
Arrangements under the cirection of Molers & Smith Puneral Home & Chare

Lucille Herndon

Service for Mrs. Lucille Herndon, 88 Lamesa, will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 1997, at Lamesa Church of Christ with Sonny Hollis officiating and assisted by Calvin Smith and Will Mayhew Burial will be in Lamesa Memorial Park.

Mrs. Herndon died Tuesday, Dec 23, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Big Spring She was born on Aug. 10, 1909, in Mexia. She married Buster Herndon on Oct. 12, 1946, in Lamesa. He preceded

her in death on Oct. 18, 1996. She owned a id operated L'Ann Ladies Store for many years. She moved to Lamesa from



Continued from page 1A then it would die and you would worry. About that time, it would get good again.

Shops along Gregg Street and in downtown Big Spring were also busy Tuesday and Wednesday as shoppers were looking for last-minute gifts.

But with the sales come the returns, and businesses were busy today accepting merchandise for exchange

"It goes with the territory, one retailer said. "You always have returns, but because of the volume of gifts that are exchanged at Christmas, the number of returns sometimes seems overwhelming.

SNOW

Continued from page 1A midnight in an effort to reduce traffic hazards on bridges, overpasses and inclines

The forecast for Big Spring and Howard County calls for a warming trend after temperatures drop to around 20 degrees tonight. On Saturday, temperatures are expected to warm to between 45 and 50 degrees.

By Sunday and into the first of the week, the forecast is for fair and dry conditions with temperatures ranging from the high 50s to mid-60s.

BRIEFS

THE HISTORIC SPRING IN Comanche Trail park will be decorated with a lighted display of thousands of lights nightly beginning at 6:30 p.m. through Jan. 1.

For more information, call Pat Simmons, 263-4607.

BIG SPRING FAMILY YMCA is continuing a holiday camp for children in the community whose parents must work during the school break.

Trained staff will provide educational, fun activities in a safe environment. Dates next week are Monday, Tuesday, and Jan. 2. Hours are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

ALLAN'S FURNITURE **Best** Prices In West Texas 202 Scurry PH. 267-6278 **Big Spring**, Texas

Children ran toward Santa's cart trying to catch candies being tossed into the air, but Carlos was left behind.

"I want some candies too." he said, trying to catch up to the cart and his friends. "Wait." The lad followed Santa's car-

riage to Nuevo Progreso's Ford 45 Elementary School, where hot dogs, candies, pinatas and plenty of Christmas fun awaited him and thousands of oth-

"There are so many needy children on this side of the border," Wilma Beaty, chairwoman of this year's event, told The (McAllen) Monitor.

"On the American side, many children wake up and open their presents, but for many of these children (on the Mexican side of the border), this is all they are going to get," she said. The organization, which has

more than 100 members, raised about \$5,000 from volunteers around the Rio Grande Valley. They borrowed the school building for one day and invited Mexican city officials to the celebration. Anacaren Sanchez, 6, peeled

an orange with her teeth as she talked about her eye-opening visit with Santa and his burro.

"Santa is over there. The burro is very funny," she said. Behind her, hundreds of chil-

dren batted brightly colored balloons back and forth. Others stood in line waiting for their opportunity to break the pinata and grab more candies.

"I like everything, the oranges, the candies, everything," Carlos Estanislado said, his hair disheveled and shirt coming undone from chasing wildly about the school and the

streets of Nuevo Progreso. "I thank all the gringos for bringing all this food for us. They made me very happy," he said.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF <u>READ</u> **PURINA NOW OPEN** 20% Range Cubes **MEL'S BAR** •Mixed Drinks •Beverages **HOWARD COUNTY** Complete Bar Available 267-6266 504 Gregg Street

•TOPS Clubs (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:15 p.m. weigh in and 6:15 p.m. meeting, Best Home Health Care, 1710 E. Marcy Dr.

•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

•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. •Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 to 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

•Beginning line dance class will be taught at 9 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628 for more information. All ages welcome.

 Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 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 •Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Archie Kountz, 267-3821.

•Line dance classes, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, following lunch. For more information call 398-5522 or 267-1628. All ages welcome.

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

•"Healthy Horizons," an educational seminar provided by Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 4 p.m., Scenic

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Keith D. Walvoord, MD

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915-267-6361

Dr. Walvoord, & F.y will be in Mondays. Dr. Anderson will be in on Wednesdays

> Staff Available Monday-Friday



BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, December 26, 1997

GENERAL

Husband chronicles wife's recovery on Internet site

HOUSTON (AP) - Laurie Sepulvado's life has become a real Web page-turner. The 35-year-old mother of two,

a lifelong dancer who has spent the last decade in a successful country and western dance partnership with her husband, is recovering from an accident that left her brain-injured.

Her husband, Sepulvado, 49, has turned her daily recovery into an online journal, accessed every day, he says, by about 400 to 600 people. The "Laurie" Web site offers Mrs. Sepulvado's current medical status, details on the accident, a list of her injuries, dates

for fund-raisers and even a set

of "frequently asked questions."

Bliss, a 29-year-old field tech-

nician, stepped from a char-

tered Lear jet Thursday after-

noon and entered a swarm of

about 20 friends and family

members who flew in from

around the country to greet

Then his father, Robert, made

it through the crowd to deliver

a long-promised hug. Asked

how that felt, the teary-eyed

elder Bliss replied: "Better than

it just as a journal that the kids can read 10 or 15 years from now or she might get in a place where she could actually read it," Sepulvado said. Larry

Larry and Laurie Sepulvado met in the 1980s, during what Sepulvado describes as the "urban cowboy" period. They married 12 years ago and then started their competitive career. "When I first met her she was

Sepulvado said he started the

site to keep track of his wife's

recovery and was surprised by

the number of people who were

"For me, right now, I think of

following it like a soap opera.

like tops in her field," Sepulvado said. "It took a few years before I got good enough."

own dance studio in Houston, named Step'n Style, devised a line of instructional videos and hosted a number of dance events on the United Country & Western Dance Council circuit, most recently the Eighth Annual Texas Classic Dance Event in May.

In January, the Sepulvados earned the 1997 UCWDC World Champion title in the Champions division.

On Aug. 21, Mrs. Sepulvado was driving in the family van behind a 12-wheel trailer-truck carrying bricks. Her 18-monthold daughter, Tyler, was strapped into her car seat in the back seat. The truck stopped to

The Sepulvados opened their make a U-turn and Mrs. Sepulvado slammed into the rear of the trailer at about 60 mph.

> Tyler survived with just a few scratches, but the impact caused Mrs. Sepulvado's brain to shake violently. Both her legs were fractured and she sustained a serious injury to her left arm as well as a collapsed lung. Doctors also had to remove part of her skull and brain tissue from her right lower temporal lobe because of severe brain swelling.

> The ultimate effect of Mrs. Sepulvado's injuries has not been determined, but she is working on her walking and motor skills in therapy.

Dr. Cindy Ivanhoe, director of the brain injury program at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, or TIRR, where Mrs. Sepulvado is recovering, said Mrs. Sepulvado's ability to speak and communicate has been improving.

In four months, she's come a long way from lying in a hospital bed, in an induced coma, and later able only to open her right eye in a blinking stare.

"I'm sure she's already gone a lot further than most people expected and she's still going to do a lot better than she is now," Dr. Ivanhoe said.

Sepulvado attributes the improvement partly to his wife's competitive nature.

"Laurie is just a real rocksolid person, very calm and she's competitive," Sepulvado said. "She has a real healthy attitude about competing. It's always been about how good you can be.

The accident has taken a financial toll on the Sepulvado family, which also includes 11year-old Austin. Thanks to fund-raisers organized by members of the dance community, Sepulvado said, he's been able to cover his house and car payments, but he's had to close the dance studio after a decade.

Sepulvado, who spends about six hours a day at TIRR, said he just doesn't have time to slow down.

Man accused of espionage comes home for the holidays

n Medical of spying in Russia, Richard Bliss walked into a applauding 1340, 7:30 crowd and open arms back Call Ron home, the joyous bear hug he gave his dad tempered by uncertainty over how long he'll



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able; Feb.

Richard Bliss' long journey delayed 18 hours by weather and hectic holiday travel schedules — took him from southern Russia to Moscow, Paris, Los Angeles and, finally, home on

I ever thought it would."

be able to stay.

him.

Christmas Day. "After a couple days of resting and spending a few days with my family, I'm very much looking forward to getting back to my job," Bliss said. Amid the relief was a huge

SAN DIEGO (AP) – Accused Richard to return," said Irwin Alexander Zdanovich. Jacobs, chairman of Qualcomm Inc., Bliss' San Diego-based employer.

Bliss was arrested on espionage charges in late November, two days before Thanksgiving. He was installing a cellular phone system in the city of Rostov-on-Don, about 600 miles south of Moscow.

Pressure from Vice President Al Gore and others persuaded the Russians to let Bliss come home for two weeks under an agreement between Qualcomm and Russia's Federal Security Service — or FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB.

Bliss said the support from San Diego, the nation and his fellow Qualcomm employees helped him through what he called a "very trying experience.

It appeared Russian officials might be softening their stance on a demand that Bliss return

Jan. 10 to face spying charges. The Interfax news agency reported Thursday that the term of Bliss' stay in the United States had not been defined and Qualcomm officials confirmed

Bliss said that he was not mistreated during the ordeal, in which he was arrested and jailed for 12 days for using Global Positioning System equipment to survey sensitive areas.

Under Russian law, survey measurements accurate to within 30 yards are considered a state secret, say security officials.

The system works by communicating with an umbrella of satellites orbiting the Earth.

The receiver unit picks a satellite signal, and when three satellites link up with GPS, the user can record precise latitude and longitude.

Bliss was using GPS equipment to make land surveys, according to his company.

It was part of an effort to locate receiving and transmitting stations for installation of a Russian cellular system.

Systems similar to the one Bliss was using can be found in U.S. stores such as The Sharper Image or Radio Shack.

The FSB said the equipment was brought into the country illegally, but Qualcomm maintains Bliss declared the equi ment on his customs form. Bliss has acknowledged mak-

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HOICE

CHAISE

United passengers stranded in Milwaukee

five hours stuck in a motionless airplane that lacked drinking water and working toilets, Joseph Vranich probably kicked himself for not taking the train.

Vranich, a former spokesman for Amtrak, was stranded for hours aboard United Airlines Flight 1536, one of seven diverted to Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport on Christmas Eve because of heavy snow in Chicago.

More than 800 United passengers were sent to Milwaukee -

MILWAUKEE (AP) — After including 150 aboard Flight 952 from Los Angeles. They had to wait more than five hours to get off their plane.

"It was just like Laurel and Hardy was running the airport," said passenger Croft Long, 38, of Costa Mesa, Calif. "It's a Christmas to remember."

Vranich's flight was en route from Orange County, Calif., to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Instead, he was trapped with some 200 other passengers as Flight 1536 sat on the tarmac. Eventually the drinking water ran out and the toilets stopped working; he said one passenger was taken away by medical personnel.

With plenty of time on his hands, Vranich kept notes. At 5:30 p.m., with the plane going nowhere, passengers can see empty airport gates; at 9:53, the ailing passenger is taken off the plane; at 10:20, the pilot tells passengers they will be able to get off via a ladder, but 41 minutes later says no one is around to operate the necessary equipment.



unknown: will Russian officials will order Bliss back to Russia? "They would have given us an even better present if they'd decided there was no need for

that. But Bliss could be summoned back to Russia at any moment, the news agency reported, cit- ing land surveys, but said he is ing FSB spokesman Mai. Gen. innocent of espionage.

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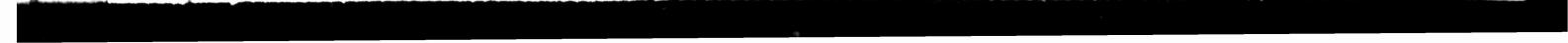
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IN THE BIG SPRING MALL 264-0766

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OPINION

BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, December 26, 1997

DITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Charles C.	Williams
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Copy/Layout Editor

Managing Editor **Debble Jensen Features Editor**

John H. Walker

OUR VIEWS

Ne salute:

Each Friday, the *Herald* salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

* STANTON'S BUFFALOES, on winning the UIL Class 2A state football championship, 33-7 over Rogers at Texas Stadium. The Buffs became the first area school to win an 11-man football title.

• UNITED WAY OF BIG SPRING and HOWARD COUNTY, on breaking its campaign goal for the second consecutive year. This year's campaign raised \$215,952 against a goal of \$212,500.

• Six local and are schools that received cash awards from the Texas Successful Schools Awards Program. Schools recognized with \$500 awards were MOSS and KENTWOOD elementary schools and ELBOW ELEMENTARY AND FORSAN HIGH SCHOOL. Schools recognized with \$1,000 awards were COAHOMA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL Schools recognized with \$1,000 awards were **COAHOMA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COAHOMA HIGH** SCHOOL

• Organizers and supporters of the annual DORA ROBERTS COMMUNITY CENTER fund-raiser, held last Friday.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

Enjoy the season; remember the reason

t wasn't that long ago that I would wake up at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. on Christmas morning and ask my parents if Santa Claus had come yet. Somehow, the idea of Santa

Claus has lost_some of what I think it intended for in the first place - a harmless, inno-

Carlton cent child-Johnson hood fanta Staff Writer

Instead of being a part of Christmas, Santa Claus — no doubt because of the insane way the holiday has been commercialized, has become Christmas. Have we all become so consumed with what's under the Christmas tree, that we've forgotten what was in the manger in Bethlehem almost 2,000 years ago?

It seems that anything related to Jesus Christ has been omitted from any type of observation we have of Christmas, especially in our public schools.

Schools are the one place other than home, or so it is supposed to be, where a child's mind is at its most vulnerable state - vulnerable, that is, to learning.

Big Spring is not as big as other communities, but I really enjoy Christmas in a town such as Big Spring because of the Living Christmas Tree at **First United Methodist Church** and the Drive-Through Nativity at First Church of the Nazarene.

.I often sit down during the holiday season, which traditionally begins at Thanksgiving and runs

through New Year's Day and think, "I miss Christmas." Each family member brings

something special to Christmas, which makes it that much more special.

This Christmas will be the second Christmas I've spent without my paternal grandmother.

She was some kind of woman. I often make references to the things she taught me in the almost 32 years I got to spend with her.

Grandma (as she was know to everyone in the family) didn't do anything spectacular at

Christmas time, but she had a presence about her that made it clear that you didn't let Christmas pass without stopping at Grandma's house.

She died in the spring follow ing her 85th Christmas, the last of 13 brothers and sisters despite being the third from the youngest child.

It was Grandma who made me realize that it is God's presence at Christmas time and not his presents, that is important. Whom else could we serve by

serving others and be guaranteed a reward for it?

How did something as precious as the three wise men bearing gifts for the new born king 2,000 years ago become so commercialized that it's now a multi-billion dollar a year industry?

Why do children today know more about Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer than they do about the greatest story ever told?

Why is it that more people can name more of Santa Claus' eight reindeer than they can the Ten Commandments or Jesus' 12 disciples?

At one time in my life, Thanksgiving became my favorite holiday because it seemed to be the only holiday that maintained its fundamental meaning. And because I was actually able to sit down and give thanks for my health and the things that had been bestowed upon me.-

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I have to say I still enjoy Thanksgiving, but Christmas has gained a whole new meaning in my life because of the * people I've lost in the last two years.

For as much as I've lost, I have gained twice as much. Despite what society has

done to trivialize Christmas, we must always remember Jesus truly is the reason for the season.

As we give presents, as we receive presents and as we fellowship with our families, let us remember those who have not, those who will be alone or homeless, those who are too far away from their loved ones and those who think all hope is lost.

Let us also remember those organizations like the Salvation Army that try to make the holiday season a special ocassion for everyone.

What we take for granted, for some, would be a dream come true.

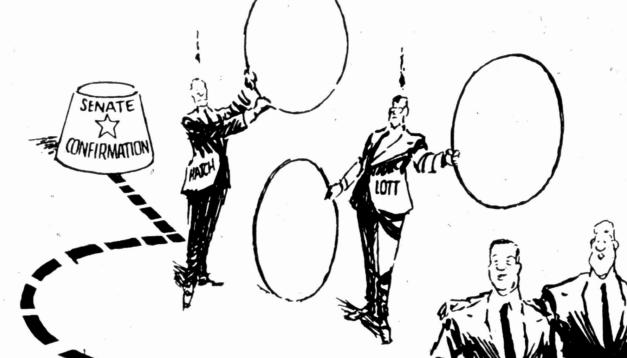
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OTHER VIEWS

the United States is tough enough without a new hurdle erected by some state and federal officials to hinder the passage: squeezing newcomers to repay health and welfare benefits that they were legally eligible to receive.

Consider Martha Torres, a legal immigrant from Mexico, who upon her return from a visit to her native country was informed by California authorities that she must cancel her Medi-Cal coverage and make arrangements to reimburse the state for past benefits or risk losing her legal status. Multiply Torres' story by thousands and you'll have the full scope of a dirty drama taking place along the nation's borders and in some U.S. consulates abroad.

Both the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department say they have advised immigration officers here and abroad that they have no legal authority to demand reimbursements in the vast majority of these cases. ... But the message has not trickled down

California officials vehemently deny wrongdoing, insisting they are simply encouraging "voluntary" repayments by immigrants who they say might have received benefits fraudulently, which in fact has been the case with a small number of short-term visitors. But legal immigrants and their children born in the United States are fully eligible for state and federal health programs. to deny them, beyond being illegal and inhumane, runs the risk of health problems in the wider community if infectious diseases break out among immigrants.

Los Angeles Times

A federal judge has dismissed three serious charges against former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, saying that federal laws governing meat inspectors don't apply to a Cabinet officer. Shouldn't the nation expect an even higher standard for a member of the Cabinet?

District Judge Ricardo Urbina's ruling is particularly significant in that it eliminates

Being a legal immigrant to those charges against Espy that carry mandatory prison sentences under a law that prohibits Agriculture Department inspectors from accepting gratuities from companies they regulate.

Cabinet officers should set the standard for the agencies they govern, and should be held accountable to the same laws that govern their employees.

The Post and Courier, Charleston, S.C.

It's good that Ohioans concerned about the continuing loss of farmland to urban sprawl are not waiting until the crisis that some people anticipate actually comes about.

The governor's Ohio Farmland Preservation Task Force brought together diverse interests to study the situation and make recommendations.

They wisely chose to emphasize local planning and voluntary steps that may be taken not to halt development, but to channel it in economically sound ways, via the prudent application of incentives.

(A proposed) bill would create voluntary, countywide land-use plans; reduce urban sprawl by providing tax incentives for redevelopment of run-down areas of Ohio cities; and create Agricultural Security Areas for designated farmland.

The Columbus Dispatch

When most people think of young children toiling away in sweatshops or fields, they think of Third World nations. But an Associated Press investigation found illegal child labor common in America from New Mexico to New York

Like something out of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," AP reporters found children as young as 4 years old working in fields in the Southwest.

In a Texas sweatshop, a 9year-old girl put in 12-hour days, along with six other children under 14.

According to a study by Rutgers University labor economist Douglas Kruse, nearly 300,000 children are unlawfully employed each year.

Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette

REX BADIN TIMES LINION

Associated Press

Confirmation process a minefield

By WALTER R. MEARS

WASHINGTON After President Clinton lamented a Senate confirmation system he said was souring talented prospects for top government jobs, it got worse

What was an obstacle course is becoming a minefield, a reform advocate said, describing 1997 as the worst year ever for the presidential appointment process.

That was the year-later followup to the Twentieth Century Fund appraisal Clinton wanted Congress to look at closely. Instead, the nomination feuds that have marked his presidency continued – two high profile appointees withdrew and two more are in Senate limbo because of political and philosophical disputes with the Republicans.

Clinton got one into his appointed job anyhow, naming Bill Lann Lee acting assistant attorney general for civil rights, to the wrath of Republicans who don't agree with his views on affirmative action. The president does.

Dr. David Satcher is on hold as surgeon general because he agrees with Clinton that there should be medical exceptions to a federal ban on late-term abortions

ation, C. Calvin Mackenzie, executive director of the Twentieth Century Fund task force on confirmations, said the notion that presidents are entitled to Senate deference in choosing their subordinates has been dying away in political disputes.

He called it institutional combat in which the confirmation process is being used for Senate leverage

A 17-member task force including veterans of senior federal positions and of the Senate, from both political parties, produced the confirmation study a year ago, saying the process has become intrusive, often abusive and repellent to government recruits for top jobs.

"The confirmation process is undermining the very trust in government it is supposed to foster," the panel reported.

It recommended cutting the number of posts that require confirmation, prohibiting filibusters against nominees, streamlining disclosure, clearance and hearing procedures, and preventing individual senators from blocking nominees

with what are called holds. Clinton said at the time that the confirmation "climate has changed to the point where a lot of people don't want to fool with

In his second look at the situ- it any more." He said the reform proposals merited a close look in Congress.

> It would require the Senate to, with some discipline, moderate its own procedures and change it," the president said

And that was before the struggles over such nominees as Anthony Lake to be CIA director, and William Weld for ambassador to Mexico. "The whole confirmation process has become more and more outrageous," Lake said when he withdrew on March 17, amid a long, partisan dispute over his appointment. "It is nasty and brutish without being short."

There's a continuing dispute over Clinton's choices and Senate confirmation of federal judges. There are 80 vacancies. Republicans insist they are not creating a confirmation bottleneck, but they also insist that activist nominees who would seek to make laws instead of interpreting them aren't fit for the bench.

The Senate confirmed 36 federal judges in 1997, a pace GOP leaders said was in keeping with prior averages.

"Judicial nominations are not one of the principal ideological battlegrounds of American politics," Mackenzie, a professor of gove nment at Colby College, said.

 ROBERT DUNCAN Senator Texas 28th District P.O. Box 12068, Austin, 78711-2068. Phone: (800) 322-9538, (512) 463-0128, fax (512) 463-2424. DAVID COUNTS Representative

Texas 70th District P.O., Box 338 Knox City, 79529 Phone: 940-658-5012. DAN MORALES

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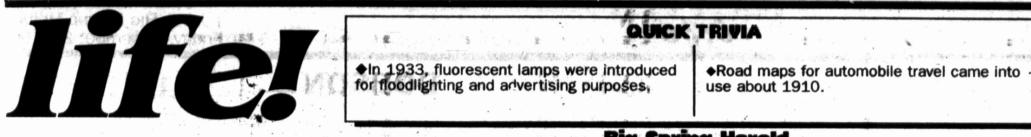
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Do you have a good story idea for the life! section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 236.



Big Spring Herald

Reach out to someone else who needs joy

ful, and the joy of the peak of the season has come upon us. I was blessed to be a part of a good family when I was growing up, and so Christmas Mexico, always means joy to me.

On Christmas Eve I remember other Christmas Eves, long ago.

Snowy Christmas Eves on West Virginia nights, with my face pressed against the frosty windowpane, looking into the night sky for reindeer, and listening for the sound of a sleigh. Windy Christmas Eves in

rises up West Texas, where they make Christmas trees out of tumbleweeds. And again, cold, snowy and joyous time for me, this

0

way

mountains Northern N e · w where the luminaries

light the for the Christ child and the sweet Ed scent of Williamson pinion Guest columnist smoke

from the old adobe fireplace. It has always been a happy

Christmas is always wonder- Christmas Eves, high in the peak of the Christmas season.

I wish it would be that way for every boy and girl, every man and woman, on the face of the earth.

I know it's that burning question, "Why am I left out of the joy? Why can't I share in it?"I really believe that Jesus wants there to be Joy To The World.

But sometimes that Holy Joy can only come if you reach out your hand and your voice and give it. And sometimes it can only come, too, if you reach out your hand and take it from someone trying to give it to

Today might be just the day for this. Is there anyone you know who might have missed the joy of Christmas? Take time today to reach out to them with love.

This year, be one of the blessed ones. Yes, reach out to someone lonely, and invite them into the warmth of Christian Joy. And if you need the joy, don't be too afraid to

There is room at the birthday party of Jesus for everyone, if we will just do our part.

Hope you will be in a church this Sunday as we again worship the Holy One.

Ed Williamson is pastor of First United Methodist Church.

CLUB

NEWS

The Elbow Family and

Community Education Club

met on Thursday; Dec. 18, in

the home of Erma Steward. The

meeting was called to order by

leader Sybil Duffer. Roll call

was answered by eight mem-

bers as they told about "A spe-

cial Christmas gift" they had

A new member, Mildred

Carlson, was welcomed to the

club. The thought for the day

was "A Christmas Gift I Have

The group then held their

The public is invited to attend Elbow Family and com-

munity Education Club meetings on the first and third

Thursdays of each month. For

more information, please call

The Rosebud Garden Club

met Tuesday, Dec._16, at the

Rosebud Garden Club

drawing for gifts donated by

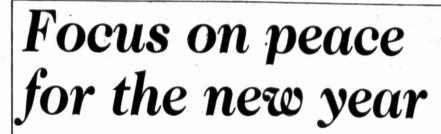
received in the past.

Made.'

Erma Steward.

263-6819 or 263-2233.

Elbow FCE Club



By NANCY PATRICK

Guest Columnist

"Walking by faith and not by sight," people around the world focus hearts and minds on the Peace of God at noon Greenwich time on Dec. 31.

This faith endeavor has brought together people who envision the possibility of peace and harmony throughout the world. Laying aside barriers to greater global understanding, participants transcend doubt and fear to

lay hold of faith and love. By devoting one hour for opening oneself up to God's will for Planet Earth and uniting with others of like purpose, people become co-workers with God and with each other. As reports come in from countries where citizens have joined in, it is shown that this concert of prayer is drawing people into more peaceful ways of thinking and behaving.

Some have expressed a desire for a Planetary Pentecost when the Holy spirit is so well received that the world will be turned "upside down."It is hoped that this concentration of love and concern for all people everywhere will help individuals to receive

themselves as true sons and daughters of the Creator.

Thursday, December 26, 1997

Jesus Christ said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." Humanity, as a whole, has not even begun to grasp the meaning of this peace. Those who have opened their hearts and minds to it desire that all may come to know such peace.

Praver efforts which unite peaceful, loving energies of people committed to the welfare of humankind bless Planet Earth. This particular gathering of people in cooperation with each other in envisioning a world where the Kingdom of God prevails. requires only a willingness to be involved. Individually and in small and large groups, participants commit one hour to focus on what peace really means.

People in the Central Standard Time Zone join in from 6-7 am on the last day of the year. "Walking by faith and not by sight," participants believe they can make a difference in a world so in need of true peace.

Nancy Patrick is with Friends of Unity.

Alcoholişm is treatable if drinker wants to change

QUESTION: You listed alco- whether alcoholism can be holism as a marriage-killer. My treated successfully today. Is it husband has that problem. It a hopeless condition, or is has created a great deal of pain there a way out for the victim in our home, and I am con- and his family? This was his cerned about the emotional reply: welfare of my children. Can it

"I specialized in the field of



MEDIEVAL TIMES

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Runnels Junior High SIGNAL students had a medieval feast last week, complete with costumes and the performance of scenes from classic plays. Shown are, above. **Chelsea Helsey, April Ward** and Brian Wingert in costume; and at right, student Nathan Smith with teacher Lois Cunningham.

HERALD photos/Jonathan Garrett

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CHURCH **NEWS**

First United Methodist Church

"To Join The Eagles" (Acts 9:36-43) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry. The message is about taking the faith of Christmas into the New Year ahead. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Our home page is http://www.xroadstx.com/users/

fumc/index.htm. The First United Methodist

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Sunday, will be Chris Ragle, Church has several Sunday School classes for adults, youth minister of the Moultrie, Ga., and children. There is a Church of Christ.

> Formerly of Big Spring and a 1993 graduate of Lubbock Christian University, Ragle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Verne Ragle and brother of Scott RAgle, all of Big Spring. He will speak at both Sand Springs services at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Chris Ragle has been a youth minister at churches in Snyder and Coahoma. He served as a minister in Milam, Mich., before moving to Georgia.

Chris Ragle's wife is the for mer Shana Greenlee of Wolfforth, also a former stu-

Please see CHURCH, page 6A.

home of Charlcie Morehead for Christmas luncheon. **Coho**stesses for the luncheon were Kathryn Perry and Steve Marie Haynes. Guests were given crochet Christmas wreaths by Mamie Lee Dodd, 'also candy canes and reindeer pins.

Club members were served buffet style and were seated at tables on the open patio. Announcements were made by Kathryn Perry, president. The members will bring cookies for the Big Spring State Hospital in April. Thelma Carlile reported a visit with Dot Blackwell, a former Rosebud Garden Club member now living in California. The club will meet on Jan. 27 at the home of Doris Hicks.

Youth Horseman's Club

Winners of the saddle and belt buckle series for 1997 are:

First Belt Buckle Series Samantha Balthrop, Chance Pool, Brittany Hill, Ky Hofacket, Ashley Hill, Justin Taylor, Heather Harris, Ty Savell, Arcie Calvert and J.P. Sherman; second belt buckle series: Kendall Balthrop, Garrett Pool, Shiloh Pool, Josh Bales, Kristy Kinard, Justin Denton, Madera Gray, Cody Kinard and Walt Bordelon; third belt buckle series: Kayley Hill, Keaton Merket, Meagan Smith, Casey Bedingfield, Amanda Gray, Bradley Tatum. Haley Fernau, Tony Wyrick and Brandon Ramey; saddle winners: Samantha Balthrop. Brittany Hill, Ashley Hill, Madera Gray and J.P. Sherman.

Please see CLUB, page 6A.

be treated, and is there hope for families like mine? DR. DOBSON: Alcoholism is depressing work. I could help

a devastating disease, not only for the

person who has it, but for his or her entire familv Research Dr. James

shows that 40 percent of people living in Western Dobson nations Columnist a close fami-

ly member who is an alcoholic. That incidence is even higher in Russia and other countries of Eastern Europe.

have

There is no way to calculate the impact of this problem on children, on spouses, and on the culture itself. Fortunately, it can be treated successfully for those who are willing to seek that help.

I discussed the issue of alcoholism with a panel of knowledgeable people on the Focus on the Family radio broadcast, including Dr. Keith Simpson, a physician who has treated this problem for 20 years.

I did not ask the panel members for a detailed analysis of alcoholism; our listeners already knew how serious it is. Rather, I wanted the panel to provide us with practical suggestions as to how family members can recognize the disease and then be of help to those they love. The answers they gave were most encouraging and enlightening.

Dr. Simpson was asked

internal medicine for many years, but found it to be my patients with chronic lung disease and severe diabetes and heart disease, but in reality, my efforts were just a delaying action. Over time, conditions worsened and the diseases progressed. I made my rounds in intensive care each day and watched people losing their battle for life, whereas my alcoholic patients were getting

well. "That's why I deal almost exclusively with alcoholics now, and I find it to be extremely rewarding work. I see people who come in with more horrible problems than you can imagine, but they get into a recovery program, and in a few months the difference is like going from night to day. So, yes, not only is alcoholism treatable, but the medical community does better with this disorder than any other chronic disease. Alcoholics emerge from treatment programs more functionally integrated, more capable and more effective than before they 'caught' the dis ease.

That was the theme of the entire discussion: There is hope for the alcoholic! But before recovery can begin, the problem has to be acknowledged and treatment sought. That applies to your own family situation, I'm sure. Your husband can be helped if he has "the want to." ...

QUESTION: I've been aware of my husband's unfaithfulness for some time now. I've taken him to task for it, which has

Please see DOBSON, page 6A.

Club supports state hospital patient parties

The local chapter of American Business Women's Association recently donated fruit to the Big Spring State Hospital for patient Christmas parties. The club raises its funds through arts and craft sales, and an annual auction. Another project ABWA supports is scholarships. Shown are, clockwise from top right, Norma Morrow, Billie Russworm of BSSH, Betty Kelley, Danelle Castillo and Amber Rich.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wednesday noon Bible study

class and meal each week in

Garrett Hall and everyone is

The Senior Adult Ministry

will have their second annual

New Year's Day Brunch at 9:45

a.m. in Garrett Hall. There will

be a full breakfast complete

with black-eyed peas. Make

reservations by calling the

church office, 267-6394. Happy

Guest speaker at Sand

Springs Church of Christ

invited to attend.

blessed New Year!

Sand Springs

Church of Christ



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Holiday camp continues

Big Spring Family YMCA continues its holiday camp for children in the community whose parents must work during the school break.

The camp continues Monday, Tuesday, and Friday of next week. Hours are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call 267-8234.

IRS volunteer training

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for volunteers to assist taxpayers with preparation of their 1997 Income Tax Returns. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) training for volunteers will be Monday-Friday, Jan. 12-16 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the First Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Runnels.

For more information call Dorothy Kennemur at 398-5522.

THE LAST WORD Be yourself is the worst

advice you can give to some people.

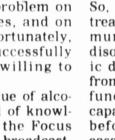
Tom Masson

Before I judge my neighbor, let me walk a mile in his moccasins

Sioux Proverb

Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainv Sunday afternoon.

Susan Ertz





Spirit-filled worship

Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship's style invigorates churches

By JIM JONES

6A

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The Rev. Tyrone Lister swayed behind the pulpit as an organist played a rhythmic gospel song. Then he began to clap his hands with the beat and dance, urging others to join in.

"I could have danced, danced, danced all night," the blacksuited minister from Lewisville chanted as congregation members jumped to their feet, clapping and moving to the music.

That spirited style of worship is the trademark of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, which has burst onto the American religious scene in the past three years and already has ties with about 3,000 congregations.

Lister was master of ceremonies recently when the Rev. James Brown of Fort Worth was installed as new district overseer of the fellowship. There were formal moments during the installation, but people also shouted and prayed, and one young man began vigorously jerking and jumping as he danced between pews.

Fellowship members pray, shout, jump, dance and run in the church as the spirit moves them.

"It has brought excitement to our churches," said Brown, pastor of the New Hope Christian Center in the Woodhaven section of Fort

Worth, who was a traditional Baptist until he received what many refer to as the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The fellowship blends traditional Baptist beliefs such as 'once saved, always saved" and a strict reliance on the Bible with more Pentecostal teachings such as speaking in tongues, prophesying in the spirit and laying on of hands to cure illness, Brown said. There are no figures for

nationwide membership in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, but 50,000 people attended its national convention last year in New Orleans, said Bishop Milton M. White of Freeport, the bishop over Texas:

The growing denomination has churches in Fort Worth, Corinth Bedford, and Lewisville.

Some, such as Morning Star New Testament Church on Edderville Road, draw members from other municipalities. Morning Star is pastored by Ernest Sargent, an Arlington police officer and resident.

Although most fellowship churches are small, there are a few mega-churches. The 20,000member Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church in New Orleans, led by fellowship founder Bishop Paul Morton, is one of the nation's largest African-American congregations, said Bishop Andy Lewter of Columbus, Ohio, publisher of the fellowship's national newspaper. Other large fellowship congregations are in Atlanta. Miami and Los Angeles.

"Bishop Morton's church was already both Baptist and Pentecostal, and he realized there existed a multitude of churches that shared his thinking and worship style that stood on the periphery of the traditional Baptist family," Lewter said. Morton could not be reached to comment.

Lewter added: "I think we have blossomed because the fellowship accommodates many elements of the black religious experience, from a freer style of worship to high church practices that include bishops." Baptists normally do not have bishops.

The fellowship is winning over many African-American Baptists and members of other denominations. Whole Baptist congregations have moved into the fellowship. One example is the church of Bishop L.D. Leonard of Houston. It formerly had ties to the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., but now is independent. Other fellowship churches retain their ties to Baptist congregations.

Officials emphasize that the fellowship is not a new denomination. Nevertheless, it looks like one. It has 21 bishops, 40 state overseers, 156 district overseers, a men's fellowship, a women's fellowship, a social action organization and ties to

churches in the Caribbean, Africa and Europe.

life

Another distinction is that women are encouraged to become fellowship pastors, a practice many traditional Baptists do not follow.

"We believe Baptists can experience some of the things Pentecostals do, and yet maintain our basic Baptist beliefs," said Leonard, who is bishop over a region encompassing Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Montana.

Many traditional Baptists, however, including most Southern Baptists, discourage charismatic practices such as glossolalia, or speaking in tongues. Some quote New **Testament writings indicating** that such worship practices are divisive.

White said he was ostracized by many traditional Baptists after he began accepting charismatic practices.

But some Baptists are more accepting.

Many fellowship churches are dually aligned with other Baptist denominations, said White, a fellowship founder who oversees more than 60 Texas fellowship congregations, including those in Tarrant County.

Fellowship members argue that their intense mystical encounters with the Holy Spirit solve problems ranging from depression to drug and alcohol abuse.

thought was dead was safe,

breathing and back with the

other pups.

DOBSON

Continued from page 5A.

resulted in some incredible. horrible battles. I have even made demands that he stop his infidelity, yet no changes in his attitude and behavior have happened. What am I doing wrong?

DR. DOBSON: I'm afraid you've made the common mistake of misunderstanding the difference between expressions of anger and loving toughness. Simply becoming angry and throwing temper tantrums is no more effective with a spouse than it is with a rebellious teen-ager. Screaming, accusing and berating are rarely successful in changing the behavior of human beings of any age. What is required is a course of action -- an ultimatum that demands a specific response and results in a consequence. Then you must have the courage to deliver on the promise.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" appears each Thursday as a cooperative effort of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Herald. Letters to Dr. Dobson may be sent to P.O. Box 444; Colorado Springs, Colo.; 80903.

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CLUB

The Howard County Youth Horseman's Club and all of its members and families wish to thank you for your financial support. Without your generous held and the help of all the area donors, our playday season and awards banquet would not have been the success that it was.

BIG SPRING HERALD

CHURCH

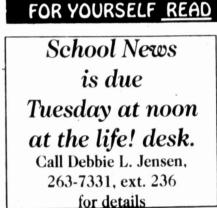
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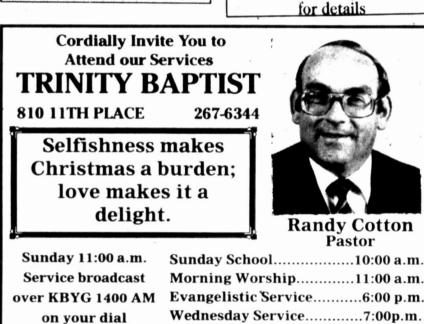
dent at LCU. She will accompany him on his visit to Big Spring.

St. Mary's **Episcopal Church**

Paul Nabors, a longtime member of St. Mary's who is an accomplished performance musician, will supply for services on Sunday and Jan. 4. The church is very grateful for his help.

TAKE TIME OUT





Persistent puppy survives washing-machine cycle

GLADEWATER (AP) - A washing machine, not knowing got the pup out. tenacious puppy that survived a washing machine cycle was Bible character who rose from the dead.

Elaine Crawford of Gladewater thought she killed one of eight puppies born this week to Ashley, a Husky-Shepherd mix.

Ms. Crawford on Tuesday put the puppies' blanket in the

one was still wrapped inside. When she took the blanket later named Lazarus for the out, she discovered a stiff

puppy that wasn't breathing. 'I got sick. I thought, 'oh no, I killed this little puppy' and it was cold and wet and I knew it was gone," Ms. Crawford said. She wrapped the animal in a plastic bag, knotted it and put it into a box for burial later. But Ashley found the box and

A few hours later, Ms. Crawford discovered the empty box. The animal that she

Coming in Sunday life!

- A look inside the Dora Roberts Community Center.
- Local weddings, anniversaries.
- Military news about local people.

Big Spring Humane Society has a pet for you.

Friday, December 26, 1997

Continued from page 5A.

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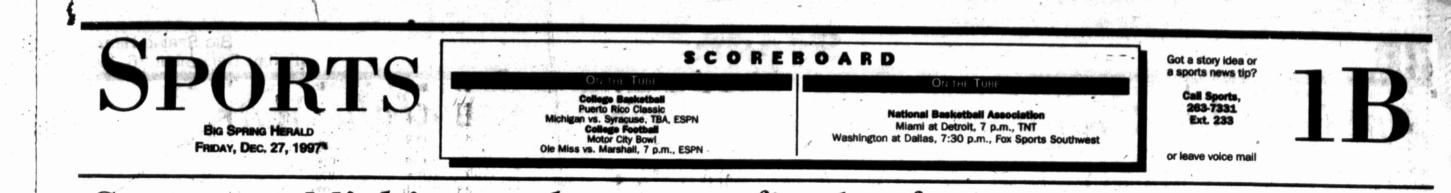
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Syracuse, Michigan advance to finals of Puerto Rico tournament

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) Syracuse and Michigan took different routes to the championship game of the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

No. 19 Syracuse had a tough test in the semifinals, edging No. 25 Texas Christian 82-78 behind Todd Burgan's 23 points.

Burgan scored 17 points in the final 13 minutes, including two free throws that gave Syracuse its first lead of the game at 69-67. Burgan also finished with nine rebounds, four steals and four assists.

'Todd picked it up when we were looking for a prayer," Orangemen coach Jim Boeheim said. "He broke down their defense and took it on like

Huskies rip Spartans in Aloha, 51-23

HONOLULU (AP) - No. 25 Michigan State got the message in a big way at the Aloha Bowl. Washington Huskies The deserve a much better ranking than 21st.

With the Huskies at their healthiest since the start of fall practice, they easily dismantled the Spartans 51-23 on Christmas Day.

Rashaan Shehee, who missed the last three regular-season games with a sprained knee, rushed 29 times for a bowlrecord 193 yards, and the defense returned a pair of interceptions for touchdowns. What was expected to be a close contest — Washington was favored by five points — became a rout.

Tony Parrish picked off Todd Schultz's pass and returned it 56 yards for a TD, and Lester Towns grabbed another errant pass by Schultz and went 66 vards for another score.

Brock Huard, bothered by injuries during the season, also sparkled, completing 18 of 30 asses for 179 yards and two **T**Ds by Fred Coleman.

3B — How top 25 fared

a senior should." Michigan coasted to a 93-49 victory

over American University of Puerto Rico, which upset No. 12 Arkansas the previous day.

The Wolverines (9-3) will meet Syracuse (12-0) for the tournament title tonight. TCU (10-2) meets American-Puerto Rico (6-7) in the third-place game. "I watched Michigan in their first

two games here and I don't even want to go near them," Boeheim said. "They're looking like the team that beat No. 1 Duke, not like the team that lost to those other guys.'

No. 19 Syracuse 82 No. 25 TCU 78

Syracuse trailed by nine points early in the second half before Burgan rallied the Orangemen.

Marius Janulis scored 18 points for Syracuse, while Ryan Blackwell had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Lee Nailon led TCU with 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Malcolm Johnson scored 22 points for the Horned Frogs.

Michigan 93

American-Puerto Rico 49 Maceo Baston, Jerod Ward and Louis Michigan routed American-Puerto Razorbacks (8-2). Mayes made 13 of 18 Rico.

The Wolverines jumped to a 14-2 lead and were ahead 27-4 with 9:44 left in the first half.

American was coming off the huge upset over Arkansas, but the Pirates were defenseless against Michigan's inside power game. Orlando Santiago led American with 16 points.

Murray St. 94

No. 12 Arkansas 83

One day after its stunning loss to Division II American-Puerto Rico,

Arkansas was beaten again. De'Teri Mayes scored 42 points to Bullock scored 16 points apiece as lead the Racers (10-1) over the

shots, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range. He also sank 11 of 13 free throws and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Nick Davis led Arkansas with 28 points and 15 rebounds.

lowa St. 62 Saint Louis 57

Marcus Fizer scored 11 of his 17 points in the second half as Iowa State won the consolation bracket game.

Paul Shirley's three-point play with 39 seconds left clinched it for the Cyclones (6-5), who bounced back from a 39-point loss to TCU on Wednesday. Saint Louis (8-3) lost its third straight.

the focus on his teammates. "This offensive line has so much character. They wanted

this so bad," he said of joining Dickerson and O.J. Simpson as 2,000-yard runners. "You could see it not only on the field, but also in the preparation every week. We started out a little slow. We stuck with it and stayed after it.

"Everyone is so unselfish that they give it up for the team, and that is why I am here. Everyone had a hand in this.'

Certainly, Sanders benefits from having such quality receivers as Herman Moore and Johnnie Morton on hand. But his offensive line has no stars - only center Kevin Glover made the Pro Bowl --and every defense concentrates on stopping Sanders first.

In 1997, once he got going,

Barry Sanders named NFL's NFL playoffs Broncos get second chance at Mile High vs. Jaguars

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a 6-0 start that made them appear the class of the NFL, the Denver Broncos never expected to be playing a wildcard game.

But at least they won't take Jacksonville for granted when the Jaguars come to Mile High Stadium on Saturday for the game the Broncos didn't expect to play — not after the Jags shocked them 30-27 last season a round later.

That game is certainly motivation for Terrell Davis, who sat out the final regular-season game with a separated shoulder, but expects to play on Sunday.

"I haven't watched tape of that game since then, but it remains vivid in my memory,' says Davis, who led the AFC in rushing with 1,750 yards. "I was like in a coma for a week after the game. I didn't want to

sneak into the playoffs despite a five-game losing streak that ended last week when they beat Indianapolis 39-28 at home. That put them into the postseason for the fifth time in Dennis Green's six years as head coach, but they've yet to win a game. One of their losses was a 17-10 defeat by the Giants in 1994.

"That's ancient history," says Green, whose quarterback is now Randall Cunningham, no stranger to the Meadowlands. "We're not worried about winning one game. We want to win four. That's what you play for in this league.'

The Giants might be the NFL's biggest surprise this season. After a 6-10 season, they went unbeaten in the NFC East under new coach Jim Fassel. who was voted coach of the vear

But they're no fluke. They lead the league in turnover dif-

tics. We all pull for each other and that shows every Sunday."

today. Sanders rushed for 2,053 yards, second only to Eric Dickerson's 2,105 in 1984, and

am the one carrying the ball," said Sanders, who also won the award in 1994, when he ran for 1,883 yards, his previous career high. "I also am so fortunate to stay healthy and do the things that I do. Timing, preparation and talent all has to come together to make this

running backs in NFL history earned Barry Sanders The Associated Press Offensive Player of the Year award

11 touchdowns. He added 33 receptions for 305 yards and three scores as he led the Detroit Lions to an NFC wild-card playoff berth. "I am just really lucky that I

happen. "But this was a team effort.

offensive player of the year NEW YORK (AP) - The best That is reflected in the statisseason for one of the greatest

Sanders romped in balloting by a nationwide panel of 48 sports writers and broadcast-ers, getting 37) votes. Terrell Davis of Denver, who led the AFC in rushing with 1,750 yards and scored 15 TDs, was

second with 7) and Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre, with three, came in third. Davis was the 1996 winner

and Favre won the year before. After getting off to a miser-able start, gaining just 53 yards in the first two weeks, Sanders took off. He gained at least 100 yards in every game after that, an NFL record. In the finale, which Detroit needed to win to make the playoffs, Sanders rushed for 184 yards and the winning touchdown against the Jets.

As always, Sanders placed nobody could hold him down.

oon esk. sen, 36

HERALD

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it was.

And for good measure, the Huskies turned to trickery for their seventh touchdown. From a punt formation on fourth-and-11, upback Mike Reed took the snap and raced 64 yards into the end zone.

Michigan State coach Nick Saban was the first to admit Washington's dominance.

"We play against some great backs in the Big Ten, but not with quite the athletic ability and speed of Shehee," Saban said.

Shehee scored two touchdowns, including a 33-vard run on his second carry of the game. His 193 yards broke the Aloha Bowl record of 179 by Michigan State's Blake Ezor in 1989.

But Shehee preferred to pass around the kudos.

"The offensive line takes care of me," one of the game's MVPs. "We were playing hard. We were having fun. That's how you win games.'

"We knew coming in, playing a Big Ten team, the emphasis would be up front," Huard said. "We came out and established right away that the offensive and defensive lines would be ours.

Michigan State got its points on TD passes of 12 and 28 yards from Schultz to Gari Scott, a 43yard field goal by Paul Edinger and a 21-yard hookup between Bill Burke and Lavelle Richardson with two seconds left in the game.

"We didn't play our best foot ball," Saban said. "We made too many mistakes. I don't really understand why. When you have those kinds of turnovers and make those kinds of mistakes, you don't give yourself a chance."

Dana Stubblefield earns

NFL's top defensive award

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) pass-rush specialist Kevin - Dana Stubblefield's season Greene prior to this season, went from a humble start to a special finish.

The San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle stormed back to become a dynamic force on the league's top-ranked defense. His rugged play in the middle marked him as a staunch run defender, a top pass rusher and earned him The Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year award, which was released Thursday.

"It's a tremendous honor," said Stubblefield, a unanimous choice for the AP All-Pro team, announced earlier this week. "Everybody was pulling for me, my defensive teammates and even some of the offensive players.

"I think it's a reward for all the hard work that I've put in. This is just something telling me that for you to spend the offseason putting in the effort to have a season like you did this year, this is what it's going to take. You've set the standard for what you have to

After managing just one sack and 39 tackles in 1996, Stubblefield was unstoppable this season. He had 15 sacks second in the NFL to John Randle of Minnesota - and he anchored a defensive line that was among the league's toughest to run against.

The turnaround was so dra matic it even took the 49ers by surprise. After the team signed

the 49ers planned to take Stubblefield out on passing downs and replace him with Greene. But an injury to rom an early-season demotion Greene in the season-opener and later to Bryant Young and Roy Barker, along with Stubblefield's exceptional play, quashed the plan before it really got started.

"I think it was kind of a slap in the face, saying, 'You're out of there. We're not going to chance it with you," Stubblefield said. "They tried it a little bit in the Tampa Bay game, but then Greene broke his toe and they had to keep me in there.

"I said, "This is my opportunity.' The door has reopened a crack and I had to go in and bust it down. That's what I did. They gave me a little bit of a chance and I just took advantage of it. After that, they couldn't take me out and I don't think they wanted to."

Stubblefield, who will become a free agent after the season, received 28 of the 48 votes cast by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters, easily beating last year's winner, Buffalo end Bruce Smith, who had six. Linebackers Jessie Armstead

of the New York Giants and Levon Kirkland of Pittsburgh each got five votes, and Steelers safety-cornerback Carnell Lake received four.

San Francisco coach Steve Mariucci said the award to well-Stubblefield was

deserved "He put a lot of hard work into his offseason and you know, that's kind of how it goes," Mariucci said. "Those who put in that kind of time and effort have the best chance to perform. He was in such good shape and so determined. He earned that good year."

Stubblefield did some of his best work in the middle of the season when his partner at tackle, Young, was injured. In a Monday night showcase at Philadelphia, he had four sacks and constantly was in the Eagles' backfield disrupting plays.

"I think that game, whatever they did or wherever I lined up, there was no way they were going to stop me,' Stubblefield said. "I don't know if it was the preparation I put in or the person I was playing against or the type of offense I was playing against, whatever it was, every time the ball came to my side, I was either deflecting it, sacking it or tackling it in the backfield. That was a dream game."

1993 Stubblefield, the Defensive Rookie of the Year, is the second 49ers player in the last four years to win the award. Cornerback Deion Sanders got it in 1994, the last time the team won the Super Bowl. No other San Francisco player has won the honor. The last tackle to win

Defensive Player of the Year was Seattle's Cortez Kennedy in 1992.

answer my phone, didn't want to do anything.'

between the Broncos (12-4) and Jaguars (11-5) is closer than last season's game.

ond-year team that finished 9-7 and made it into the playoffs only because Atlanta's Morten Andersen, one of the most accurate kickers in NFL history, missed a 30-yard field goal at the end of the final regular-season game. Now they're considered one of the more talented young teams in the NFL.

ly on defense.

ers to the team trainers thought we could beat them." know we can."

The Jaguars-Broncos game is the second of four games in the wild-card round this weekend.

In the first game on Saturday, Minnesota is at the New York Giants. On Sunday, it's Miami at New England and Detroit at Tampa Bay.

The top seeds, San Francisco and Green Bay in the NFC, Kansas City and Pittsburgh in the NFC, await the winners.

Minnesota (9-7) at

New York Glants (10-5-1) The Vikings managed to

ferential at plus-24 and they have three impact players on defense: end Michael Strahan, linebacker Jessie Armstead and cornerback Jason Sehorn. Sehorn has interceptions in each of his last three games, in which he's shut down Irving Fryar, Michael Westbrook and Michael Irvin.

Detroit (9-7) at Tampa Bay (10-6)

The Bucs, who started 5-0, are the league's other surprise team.

They split with the Lions winning 20-10 the second week of the season in Pontiac, then losing 27-9 at home. Two telling stats: Barry Sanders had just 20 yards in the first game, his last under 100 this season, but got" 215 with 80- and 82-yard TD runs in the second.

This will be the first playoff. game for Tampa Bay since 1982 and its first at home since 1979. But the Bucs are treating this as just another new challenge in a season full of them.

"We've played in some pretty big games this year. Every week within our division is a big game," says linebacker Hardy Nickerson.

"We've played the 49ers. We've played the New England Patriots. We've played the New York Giants. We've played some pretty big games. We've just got to draw from that experience." There will be emotion for

Detroit, too.

The Lions will wear a small "59" for linebacker Reggie Brown, whose career is probably over because of a serious neck injury sustained in last Sunday's game.

See NFL, Page 2B

Texans lead charge as Grays ease past Blues, 31-24 in Montgomery

linemen, all-star games are more about technique, assignments and effort than game-breaking plays.

But Texas Christian defensive end Chance McCarty got noticed for the big things at the Blue-Gray Classic. He had two sacks and a safety and constantly put pressure on the quarterback in the Gray's 31-24 victory Thursday.

"This pretty much tops everything I've ever accomplished," McCarty said. "When you're from a small school that went 1-10, people don't

you. I think I played pretty good. This is something I'll remember the rest of my life.

He's hoping NFL scouts will feel the same. About 50 of them were present for the Christmas Day all-star game.

Alabama players took a major role in the Gray's win. Running backs Dennis Riddle, Ed Scissum and Curtis Alexander all scored touchdowns to put a bittersweet end to a 4-7 season.

"This was our main goal all week," Riddle said. "It gave us a chance to show there was some talent on our

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - For expect to see that much talent from team. And I personally wanted to show that the Dennis Riddle everyone knew is still there.'

> Riddle led the Gray in rushing with 66 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown late in the third quarter. Alexander had 11 yards rushing and a 46-yard touchdown catch, and Scissum ran for 18 yards and a 5-yard score.

"At this point, it's more of a pride thing," Scissum said. "Of course you'd rather go to a bowl game. But everyone has a down year. This was our reward for sticking with it."

Other top performances came from

Stephen F. Austin receiver Mikhael Ricks, the Gray's most valuable player, and Texas quarterback James Brown

Ricks finished with six receptions for 106 yards, including a diving 43yard touchdown reception on Brown's desperation pass at the end of the first half.

It seemed a fitting highlight coming from a Division I-AA All-America who set the I-AA record with a 28.9-yard average per catch this season.

"When you come from I-AA, a lot of people don't think you can compete at this level," Ricks said. "But this was a big deal for me. It was an opportunity I wanted to take advantage of."

Brown completed eight of 13 passes for 150 yards and the two long touchdowns. It offered a nice close to a sea son in which Texas, like Alabama, wound up as one of the biggest disappointments in college football.

"I was just happy to get another chance," Brown said. "When you're playing in an all-star game, all it means is your team didn't make a bowl. It doesn't make you any better or worse than anybody else.

On paper, this matchup

Then, the Jaguars were a sec-

The Broncos went into that game after a 13-3 season and had home field in the AFC.

But they had not played a meaningful game for a month and after jumping to a 12-0 lead, seemed to fall apart, particular-

"Last year, nobody on that Broncos team - from the ownsays Jacksonville guard Ben Coleman. "Now, it's totally different. We didn't know if we could win in Denver, but we thought we could. This year, we



SPORTS

BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, December 26, 199

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Friday, I Motor C At Ponti Marsh

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Sunday, Indepen At Shrey

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Outback

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Gator Bo

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Jim Fassel of Giants is Associated Press Coach of the Year

(AP) — When Jim Fassel talks about coaching philosophy, he doesn't start discussing offense or defense or how to deal with players.

2B

He talks about team. Without that concept, a coach can't do anything.

That's the approach he used in turning the last-place New York Giants into the NFC East champions. And that's the reason the 48-year-old rookie coach was selected NFL Coach of the Year by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

In a season in which a halfdozen coaches did masterful jobs, Fassel collected 20 votes from a nationwide panel of 48 sports writers and broadcasters. He doubled the total of runner-

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. up Marty Schottenheimer of Kansas City.

> Tampa Bay's Tony Dungy was next with eight, followed by Bill Parcells of the New York Jets, Bill Cowher of Pittsburgh and Steve Mariucci of San Francisco, each with three, and Jimmy Johnson of Miami with one

Giants offensive tackle Scott Gragg said Fassel has been outstanding in putting players in position to make things happen. He doesn't ask the players to do things they can't or call plays with little chance of success.

"He is not big into 'This is my offense, my team and we're going to do it my way," Gragg said. "He's not like that. We're going to do whatever is best for the team.'

Team is really at the heart of Fassel's approach to football. He learned his Xs and Os as

an assistant at Stanford. His insight into the human side of football was instilled by his father and later, coaches at high school and junior college.

"I think the whole process that I learned growing up is that it's team first," Fassel said. "It's team concept. A collection of all-stars that doesn't have a common goal is not going any where.'

Fassel replaced Dan Reeves. who feuded with the Giants' front office tandem of George Young and Tom Boisture over personnel decisions. Fassel had no qualms about the team's management structure. He stuck to coaching

After spending 1991 and '92 as an offensive assistant with the Giants. Fassel was the offensive coordinator for two seasons at Denver. John Elway credits Fassel with improving his techniques and Elway had two strong years working with Fassel.

He next spent a year as quarterbacks coach with the Raiders and then was the offensive coordinator in Arizona last season. Fassel is smart enough to credit everyone involved in his award.

"I'm not self-centered enough to think that this is about Jim Fassel," he said. "It's a recognition of an organization that has done a great job.' Schottenheimer rebuilt much

of his team, allowing former

starters such as Neil Smith and in modern NFL history after Steve Bono to leave as free agents, adding quarterback Elvis Grbac and going with many youngsters on defense. Those moves paid off in a 13-3 record, best in the league along with San Francisco and Green Bay.

Dungy's second season at Tampa Bay was a huge success. He led the Bucs to their best record since 1979 and their first winning season in 15 years. The Bucs made the playoffs as a wild card.

Parcells took the worst team in the league the last two seasons and lifted it to 9-7. The Jets were in contention for a playoff berth until the final seconds of the 16th game, and they matched the biggest turnaround

going 1-15 in 1996.

Cowher did a job similar to Mariucci after the Pittsburgh defense was hit hard by free agency. The Steelers won the AFC Central at 11-5 and have a first-round bye.

Mariucci took over the most successful franchise of the last two decades and kept it humming despite losing Jerry Rice in the first game and getting him back only for a few plays in the 15th week. The 49ers were 13-3, won the NFC West and secured home-field advantage for the playoffs.

Last year's winner was Dom Capers of Carolina, whose team upended the defedning Super **Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys** en route to the Super Bowl.

Notre Dame misses Christmas at home with family, faces LSU Sunday night

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) -Notre Dame linebacker Kory Minor missed his mother. Defensive end Melvin Dansby felt a little weird spending Christmas with his teammates instead of his family.

And Rick Kaczenski? No offense to the rest of the Kaczenski family, but the senior center was actually happy to spend Christmas in Shreveport, La., instead of at home in Erie, Pa.

"I'd much rather be on a plane flying to a bowl game than staying at home by the television watching the other teams play," he said. "We're excited, espe-

cially after staying home last vear. OK, so the Irish (7-5) think getting ready for Sunday's

rematch with No. 15 LSU (8-3) in the Independence Bowl is better than sitting at home waiting for spring practice like they did last Christmas.

But this is Notre Dame. Isn't there something a bit strange about the Irish spending a major religious holiday away from home?

"It's tough," admitted Minor, who hails from LaVerne, Calif. "A lot of the guys aren't used to being away from home. I know I'm not.''

Actually, spending Christmas away from home is nothing new for Notre Dame. Before it built its indoor practice facility in 1988, road trips to warmer climates were a holiday tradition for the Irish.

Besides, it's not like Notre Dame skipped the holiday altogether. In fact, the team built up to it all week.

The players pretty much had Notre Dame's campus to themselves earlier this week, with the rest of the students clearing out as soon as exams were finished. So, after practicing all

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day, coach Bob Davie made sure there was something to amuse his team at night. Some nights the players gathered at a coach's house. Other nights there was planned entertainment like the talent shows that were such a hit during winter conditioning.

"We're going to do a lot of things as a team," Davie said before the Irish left South Bend. As for Christmas itself, Davie

was no Scrooge, After arriving in Shreveport on Wednesday, the Irish had plenty of Christmas activities before

heading to the practice field.

The Rev. Edward Malloy, university president, and the Rev. William Beauchamp, executive vice president, were along for the ride, so that took care of Christmas Mass. Then there was a special holiday breakfast. Afterward, the team opened gifts. The players traded with each other, and the coaching staff exchanged with university administrators.

It may not have been the ideal holiday, but there were no complaints, even about the stature of the bowl.

"In years past, we've been a little spoiled going to major bowl games," Dansby said. "All in all, we're really happy we're able to go to a bowl game. In any situation you have pros and cons. We're looking at it as, 'Well, we've got a long break afterward that we can spend with our families." Besides, there will be other

holidays. In fact, Dansby's already looking forward to the next one.

"I'm going to have a really good New Year's Eve," he said, laughing.

NFL

Continued from 1B

Miami (9-7) at New England (10-6)

Here we go again. The second meeting in six days after the Patriots won the right to play this at home with their 14-12 win in Miami last Monday night. The Pats also won 27-24 at Foxboro on Nov. 23.

There are two good omens for the Dolphins. One is that linebacker Zach Thomas. Jimmy Johnson is 7-1 in the "Hopefully, we can use this playoffs, albeit with a more tal- anger. We're angry that we let ented Dallas team. The second

is that nine times teams have met back-to-back in season finales and then playoff games and six times the loser of the first has won the second.

On the other hand, the Patriots are expected to have Curtis Martin back to provide the running game they've lacked the last three games. And they also get the home weather advantage.

"It's going to be harder, it's going to be colder, but we're not going to lay down," says Miami



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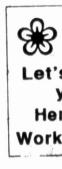
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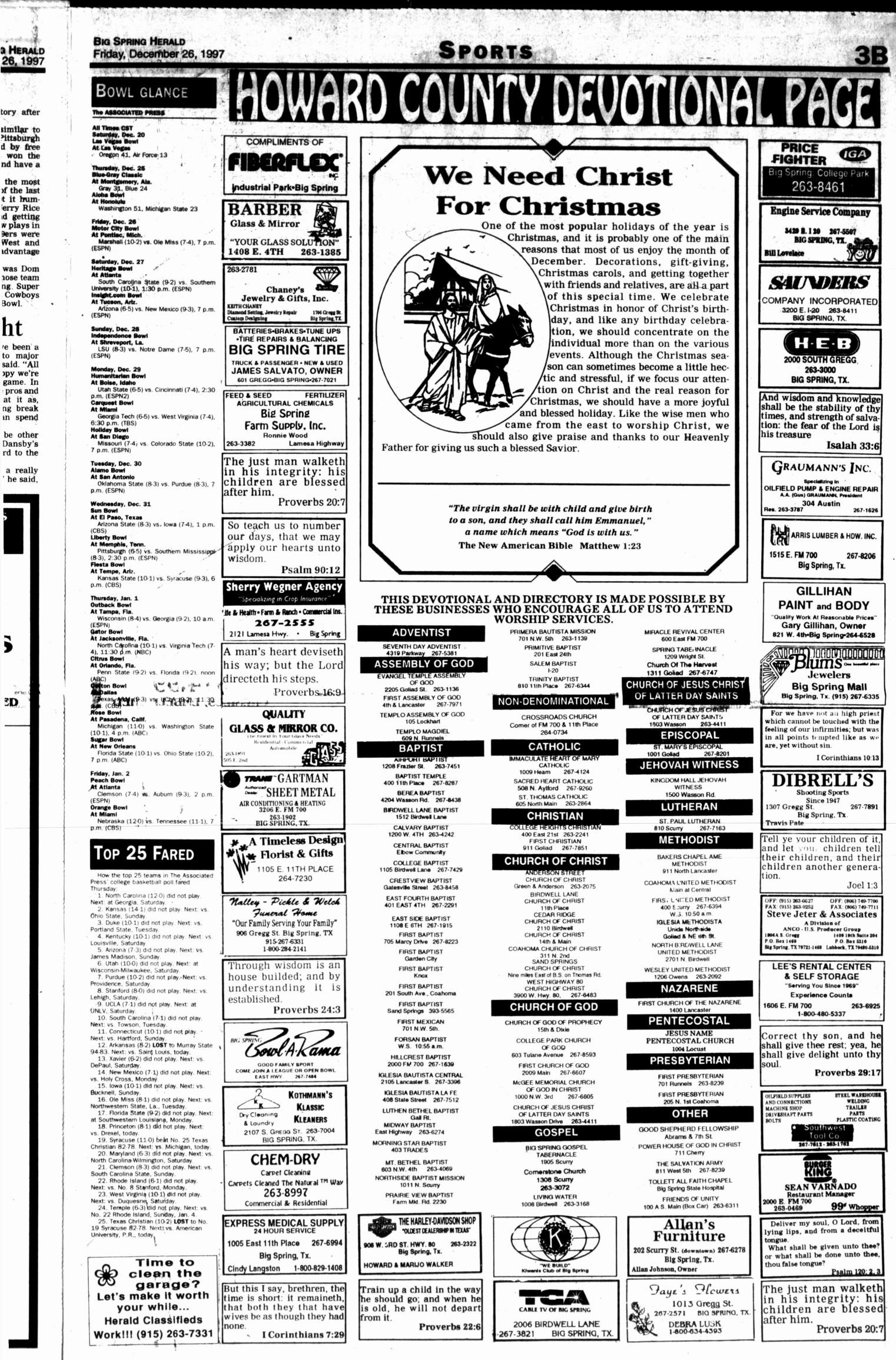
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law to wish him happiness and good luck on his wedding day Oh, how it hurts! We love him,

loved him, since he came into our family almost 30 years ago. Our daughter has never wanted us Columnist

Abigail Van Buren

to hate him. She doesn't. They had a friendly divorce (sometimes the hardest kind to understand), so we were not betraying her by calling him.

Abby, I just wanted to write to you to put in a good word for loving in-laws. I know that children are the victims of divorce, and that they must learn to accept the decisions of their parents. But on the other hand, we, as parents, must accept the decisions of our children, and silently mourn the loss of someone we love and years of family memories. We, too, are victims. Thank you for listening. -HEALING TOO SLOWLY IN ILLINOIS

SATURDAY, DEC. 27: 1 Your verbal skills are strengthened this year, partialness.***** ly because you think more about what you say. Words seem to flow. You have great clarity about what you are feeling and, therefore, are more precise in communications.

You feel more upbeat than you have in years. Be careful with finances; there is some wildness loose. If you are single, you meet people easily and draw others to you. You'll enjoy the dating process as well. If attached, you feel more connected than you have been in years because of your ability

DEAR HEALING: You appear to be a caring and sensitive woman. Perhaps it will speed your healing to keep uppermost in mind that neither your daughter nor your former sonin-law seems to regret the decision to go their separate ways.

I am reminded of the famous line from Reinhold Niebuhr's "The Serenity Prayer": "God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.'

DEAR ABBY: I give private music lessons in my home. Most of my students are children who come with their parents and other siblings. Increasingly, I am finding these people's manners to be appalling. The children are allowed to explore every part of my home while their parents sit and do nothing. I end up having to interrupt the lessons. while I find "Junior," usually ip some private part of my home. I've even had parents disappear into my kitchen, and I can hear them in my cupboards and refrigerator!

Even though I don't have the most expensive furniture, I do not want shoes on my couch or open drinks on my table. Not

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR reveal much more than you ever thought was possible. Keep talks going. Tonight: Communicating breeds close-

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You have felt askew lately, but now your ruler, Mercury, goes direct. You might feel like you have taken a breath of fresh air. Others seek you out. Have a talk with a prized friend about what you want and how you are going to get there. They have a lot of ideas as well! Tonight: Good times.****

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Get into a project later in the day. Try to avoid any shopping gift-returning.

even my yard, flowers, wind chimes or birdbath is safe from these invaders. Having a private lesson - music, art or whatever - should be considered a privilege and an honor. It is certainly preferable to a noisy music store or art studio. Maybe if a few people read this, they will wake up and realize that their actions do matter. -MUSIC TEACHER, WASHING-TON STATE

DEAR MUSIC TEACHER: When you are conducting lessons, your home is your office. It is up to you to set boundaries. The parts of your home you wish to keep private should be closed off. Post signs reminding visitors to refrain from touching, not entering, etc. Provide a comfortable seating area with reading material and/or toys for the siblings and stick to your guns.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and father divorced about 10 years ago, after almost 30 years of marriage. The divorce was nasty and painful for everyone involved. There are still unresolved issues and bad feelings.

My mother and my father's mother were very close until the divorce. After that, my mother no longer felt she belonged in the family. They have sent each other occasional birthday cards and have seen

each other about three times over the last 10 years.

My paternal grandmother is now in her late 80s, and although she is still in fairly good health, one never knows when her time will come. My question: Should my mother attend the funeral even though my father will be there with his girlfriend? - STUCK IN THE MIDDLE IN NORTH CAR-OLINA

DEAR STUCK: Bearing in mind that your grandmother may have many good years ahead of her, the decision is entirely your mother's. If she feels like attending the funeral and paying her respects (when the time comes), there's no reason why she shouldn't.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY **READERS:** Have a joyous Kwanzaa.

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haven't had time to take care of you. A partner appreciates the fact that you are slowing down some. A quiet discussion adds to the power of this holiday. Tonight: Put your feet up.***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might feel lighter and clearer than you have for a while. Eye the big picture when discussing recent changes. If single, there might be a lot of interest in a new person you have just met. Proceed with care; think before leaping, and know what you want in a relationship. Tonight: Hang out.*****

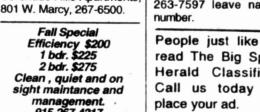
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Now that the romping has slowed down some, you take a

already, and resolutions. As you look to the past year, you can make strong decisions. Take a walk, get some fresh air or curl up by the fireplace. Leisure is the word. Tonight: Promise to relax.****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Getting together with others, celebrating as if there is no tomorrow keeps you very busy. Others ask you for support or to pitch in to an important cause. Take time to listen to an important partner. Your sharing means a lot to them, as does your vulnerability. Tonight: Going hog wild.*****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) There is no avoiding your high visibility. You might need

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to accept more responsibilities than you would like. Others appreciate your efforts. Rewards will be coming in the next few months for your giving ways, though that isn't why you are doing it. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.****

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Merry Christmas, now get to work

ers can't afford to take a break,

said Sanford Jacoby, who teach es industrial relations at the University of California, Los Angeles

'So what do you do? You say to your regular full-time people, 'You have to work the day after Christmas," he said.

For many small businesses, today's just another day at the office. All four employees of the AA Pawn Shop in Atlanta will be on duty for those who want to sell unwanted Christmas gifts, as will Brad Toll, the kind of person you want on duty if you get in a bind.

"We don't expect a lot of people to need us on that day," said Toll, manager of the Bail USA bail bond company in Camden, N.J. "But you never know."

Retailers are hoping for a big weekend. Nordstrom, the Seattle-based clothing store chain, starts a men's clothing sale the day after Christmas. Microsoft booted up today after two days off, but Intel, which makes the chips Microsoft's programs run on, powers down for the long weekend.

Nintendo of America is taking the week off, but was to have 200 people staffing the phones today to help stumped game players.

The Big Three automakers close their plants and offices Christmas Eve and will reopen Jan. 5.



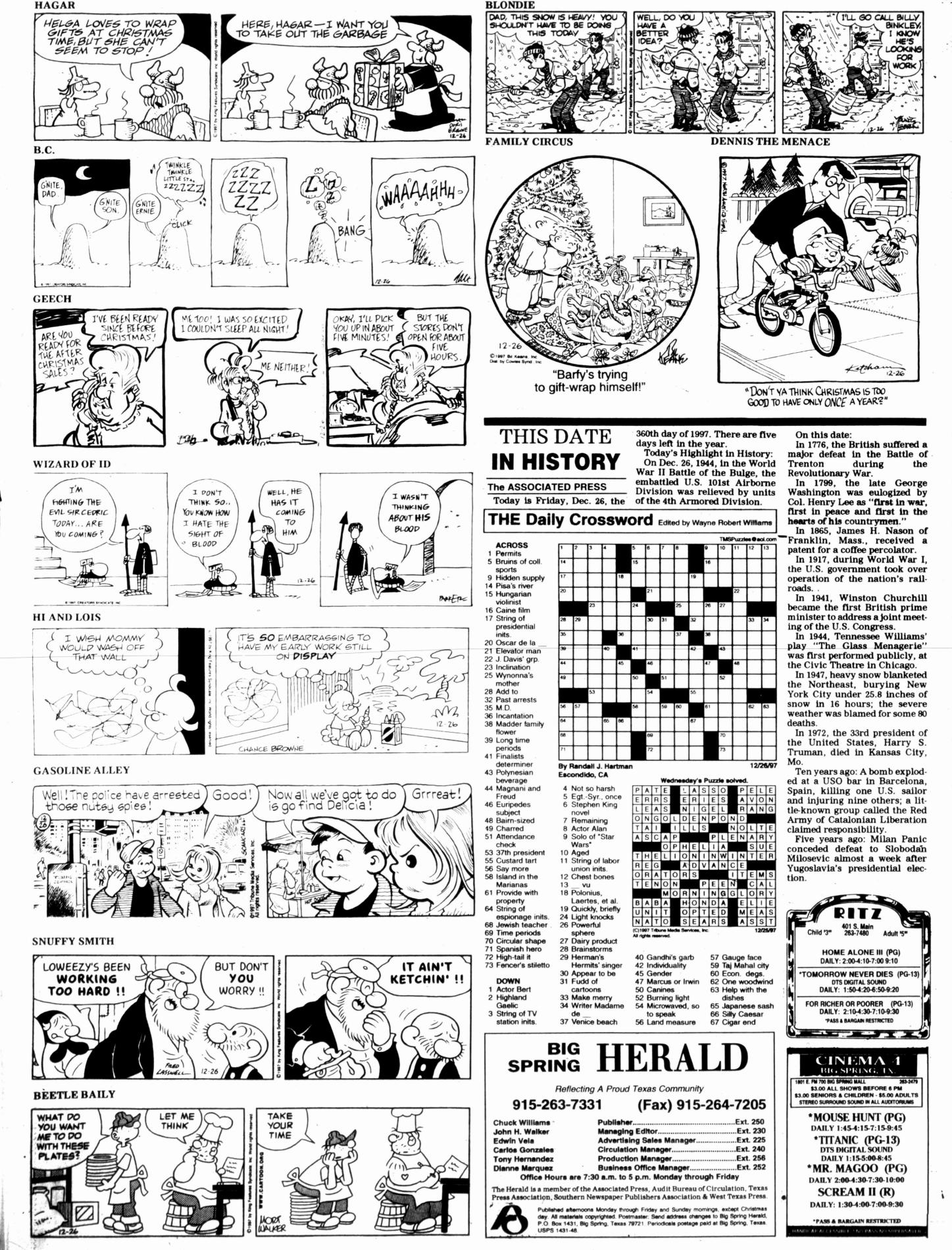
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BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, December 26, 1997

FRIDAY														DEC. 26									
		KMID (2) Midland	KPEJ 3	KERA (5) Dellas	FAM (6)	KOSA (7) Odessa	WFAA (8) Dellas	KWES (9) Midlend	WTBS ①	UNI (13) Spanish	DISN (14) Premium	NASH (15) Nashville	TMC (16) Premium	SHOW (20) Premium	HBO (22) Premium	KMLM24 Odessa	A&E (25) New York	DISC 26 Discovery	TNT 28 Atlanta	FSN 29 Sports	ESPN 30 Sports	AMC 31 Classics	BET 33 Black Ent.
6	:PM :30	News (CC) Fortune	Simpsons Home Imp.	Science Guy Creatures	Waltons		News (CC)	News Seinfeld (CC)	Andy Griffith Andy Griffith	Esmeraida	Movie: Blank Check (CC)	Dukes of Hazzard	(:15) Movie: Moonlight	(CC)	Inside the NFL (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Law & Order (CC)	Gimme Shelter		Showcase Sports News	Kickoff Show	Movie: The	Planet Groove Top Twenty
7	:PM :30	Sabrina-Witch Boy-World	Visitor (CC)	Wash. Week Wall St. Week		Fam. Mat. Gregory Hines	Sabrina-Witch Boy-World		(:05) Movie: Summer	El Alma No Tiene Color	(:35) Movie:	Auto Racing: Highlights III	and Valentino (CC)	Movie: Kingpin (CC)	Movie: Fair Game (CC)	L & E. Tripp	Biography	Wild Discovery		FOX Sports NBA Basket-	College Football:	Deerslayer	
		Sabrina-Witch Boy-World	Millennium (CC)	Steve Allen's 75th Birthday			Sabrina-Witch Boy-World	(CC)	Rental	Alguna Vez	Under Wraps (CC)		Movie: Sunset Park		Movie: Drive	Frederick K. Price (CC)	Smithsonian Expedition	Discovery News	Miami Heat a Detroit	ball: Wash- ington Wi-	Motor City Bowl	Movie: Magnificent	Hit List
9	:PM :30	20/20 (CC)	Soldier of Fortune, Inc.	Celebration Jack Benny	Hawaii Five-0 (CC)	Performing Arts	20/20 (ĊĊ)	Dateline (CC)	Movie: The Money Pit	Con Teresa Rodriguez	Jonny Lang in Concert		(CC) (:40) Movie:	Stargate SG-1 (CC)	(CC)	Praise the Lord (CC)	Grand Tour	Fangs!	Pistons (CC) Insde-NBA	zards at Dal- las Mavericks		Obsession	Comicview
10	:PM :30	News (CC) Cheers	Home Imp. Mad Abo. You	News-Lehrer	700 Club	News (:35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News Tonight Show			Walt Disney Presents	Dallas	Lord of Illusions (CC)	Hunger (CC) Movie: The	Spawn (CC)		Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files	Babylon 5 Movie: The	FOX Sports News	(CC) Sportscenter	The Beast From 20,000	Rap City Top
11	:PM :30	Final Score Nightline	Vibe	Red Green Red Green	Three Stooges	Show (CC) Married With	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	(CC) (:32) Late	(:15) Movie: Green Card	Al Ritmo de la Noche	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Auto Racing: Highlights III	(:45) Movie:	Usual Suspects	Spawn (CC) Spawn (CC)	Bob Larson Carman (CC)		Wild Discovery	Heroic Trio	FOX Sports News	(CC) NFL Match-Up	Fathoms Movie: The	227 (CC) Midnight Love
12	:AM :30	Kéenen Ivory Wayans		Murder-Horrid Murder-Horrid		Late Late Show	News Ent. Tonight	Night (CC) Walker, Texas			Movie: Gus (CC)		Barb Wire (CC)	(CC) Movie: Heavy	Movie: 2	Dream Center Update News	Smithsonian Expedition	Discovery News	(:35) Movie:	College Basketball:	NFL Great Holiday Magic	Deerslayer	



	Child '3" 401 S. Main 263-7480 Adult '5"
	HOME ALONE III (PG) DAILY: 2:00-4:10-7:00 9:10 *TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG-13) DTS DIGITAL SOUND DAILY: 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20
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AUTOS FOR SALE	er 24, 1997 Autos For Sale	AUTOS FOR SALE	AUTOS FOR SALE	Autos For Sale	Ριςκυρς	HELP WANTED	Help Wanted	HELP
95 Ford Taurus GL. Loaded. 49,000 actual miles. \$7,250.	Please Help!! Must sell quick '96 GMC Jimmy 4dr. Loaded.; Bernina machine	For Sale: 1985 Lincoln Continental. 4 dr., white &	1986 DODGE COLT AC, 4-spd stereo, good tires.	93' ford Probe GT Red, New 16" tires. Automatic, Black & Gray int. Call 263-4909	1980 Chevy P/UP 350 engine, new transmission. First \$1200.; 1982 Chevy	Methodist Malone & Hogan Clinic has an immediate opening for a Float Account	Part-time Secretary Receptionist. Must have	/ Need Drillers
	and cabinet; Glastron	condition. \$1900.00 267-6173.	1980 Z28 Camero dependable transportation, new tires tag & sticker,	1995 Chevrolet Pickup for sale. Will finance w/	PU 305 rebuilt engine. First	Manager. Duties will include registering patients, updating patient information in computer, file insurance, collect payments at time of	computer & corporate bookkeeping. Apply a Morris Robertson Body Shop, 207 Gollad.	t 915-270-8214
264-0623.	Big Spring Herald Classified Dept.	works. Call us at 263-7331.	looks good. \$1700 Call	finance charge. 263-3442 or 267-6060.	FOR SALE. 1995 Chevrolet Extended cab. All power and air, lots of chrome. 39,000 miles. \$15,000. Call	service, and prepare a daily deposit. Minimum requirements include typing, 10 key, and one year	PRODUCTION FOREMAN: 15 yea minimum experience Extensive knowledge with	24 HR. JO 1-800-583
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r 1°0	iessi	onal	Serv	nce	leather. Fully loaded. \$37,000. 264-6870 or 267-3649.	experience and a full benefit package is available. Only qualified applicants need to apply to the	Springs area. Salary depends on experience Health benefits and 401k plant. Annual performance	Welder. Gene Apply in pers
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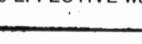
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