

BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

Reflecting A Proud Community

December 30, 1997

50 cents

Stamford's Kent Sharp, 29, hired to head Moore Development

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Kent Sharp, 29, director of economic development in Stamford since 1993, has been named to succeed Darlette Toone as executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc.

A native of Perryton, Sharp is a graduate of Texas Christian University and began his career with 4(a) sales tax corporations in 1991 in Shamrock.

Sharp was one of 16 applicants for the \$47,000 a year position and is expected to report to

work on Jan. 19.

"Talking with some of my colleagues around West Texas, the thought is that Big Spring is a sleeping giant," Sharp said in a Monday afternoon telephone interview. "The community has really come a long way and the people who have been at Moore have really set the foundation for growth."

Sharp said he hoped to bring an aggressive approach to Moore Development's efforts.

"I hope to bring to the table an aggressive approach and expand on what's been done in the past and maybe introduce some new ideas as well."



KENT SHARP

"Talking with some of my colleagues around West Texas, the thought is that Big Spring is a sleeping giant."

Terry Wegman who, along with Phil Carruthers, co-chaired Moore's selection committee, said the hiring process was made difficult because of the overall quality of the applicants.

"Both the selection committee

and the board feel Mr. Sharp will be a great asset to the city of Big Spring," Wegman said.

Sharp said he has been involved in virtually every facet of economic development, from government projects to private industry, manufacturing and

retail.

"Basically, I've been involved in every aspect of the incentive game," he said.

In addition, Sharp has been involved in the development of an enterprise zone. In 1996, Stamford finished second statewide in the Texas Economic Development Council's competition for communities of less than 15,000 population.

Sharp and his wife, Kendra, have one son, 4-year-old Austin Travis and a six-month old daughter, Bailey Elizabeth. Both he and his wife are active in the church as well as in

Rotary and Exchange clubs.

He joins Moore Development as the corporation closes its most successful year ever, attracting Signal Homes as well as submitting a successful proposal to build one of the first four veterans homes in the state in Big Spring.

Signal and the veterans home alone could mean upwards of 300 jobs with an annual combined payroll of nearly \$6 million.

Sharp will become the fourth executive director in Moore Development's history, following Ted St. Clair, Carole Taylor and Toone.

Murder charges dropped against man

DA says evidence clear that Rojas was defending himself when Ramirez killed

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Area law enforcement officials have dropped murder charges against a Big Spring man.

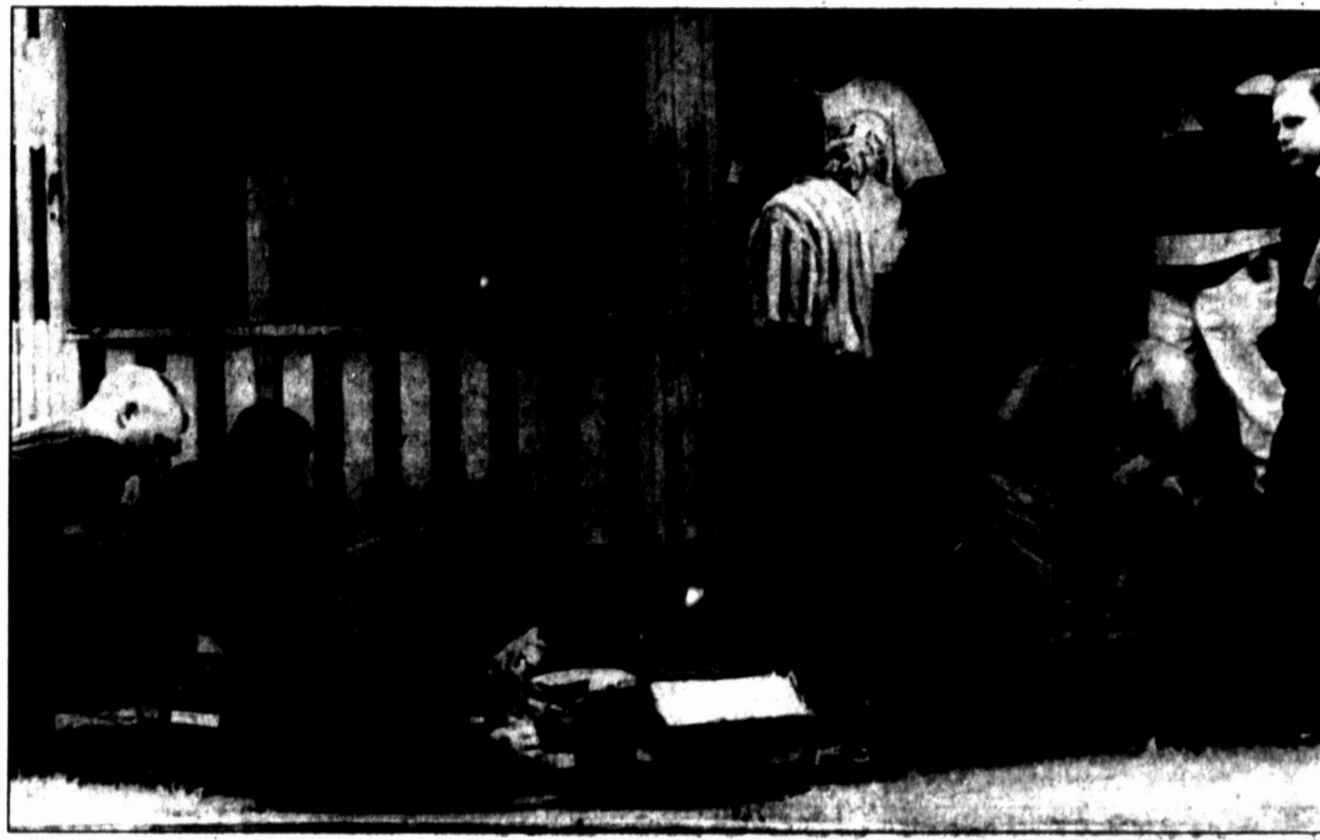
Charges were dropped against Ruben Rojas Sr., who had been indicted in connection with the August 1996 shooting death of Ramiro Ramirez Sr.

Although it was clear Rojas Sr. shot Ramirez Sr. to death, it was equally clear that the act was in self-defense, District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said.

"A review of the evidence as we began to prepare for trial revealed, in very compelling evidence, that this was a case of an aggressive home invasion," Wilkerson said, "and a case of self-defense from that attack. There just appeared to be no way around that."

Evidence from the incident shows that four persons, including Ramirez Sr., burst into Rojas' home on State Street and started attacking him during the afternoon of Aug. 17, 1996.

Rojas' wife, Pam Moore, then took a gun and fired four shots



Ruben Rojas Sr. (without shirt) sits covered with blood on the front porch of his house as paramedics attempt to save the life of Ramiro Ramirez Sr. Ramirez died of gunshot wounds and prosecutors have dropped murder charges against Rojas, saying it was clear he acted in self-defense after being attacked.

into the ceiling in an attempt to scare the attackers away.

Two of the group, however, continued beating on Rojas while two others commenced an attack on Ruben Rojas Jr.

During the attack, Moore managed to give her gun to her husband, who fired the two final rounds into Ramirez.

After that, Ramirez's son took the pistol away from Rojas and

began beating him with it, evidence showed.

Even after that, however, the attackers were not dissuaded. Evidence shows they continued their attack on Rojas and his son until shortly before police arrived on the scene.

"Interviews showed that (Ramirez's group) was not forthcoming with the truth, and that caused me some concern

as well," Wilkerson said.

Further evidence showed that Ramirez Sr. was legally drunk at the time of the incident, Wilkerson said.

Finally, Wilkerson decided to drop charges against Rojas.

Wilkerson said he is looking into possible charges against one or more of the people who participated in the attack on Rojas.

State begins runaway awareness program

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

A statewide campaign began Monday to promote awareness of runaway and homeless youth. Locally, a Big Spring Police detective said runaways are treated as priority cases.

The Texas Runaway Hotline (1-888-580-HELP) reports increased calls at this time of year, perhaps because the holidays can be a lonely time away from home. Cold, harsh weather also forces runaway youth to seek shelter — another reason they may call the hotline.

Locally, 13 runaways were reported to BSPD in November. For all of 1996, the Runaway Hotline statistics show 98 runaways reported for Howard County.

"There are a lot of misconceptions," explained BSPD Det. Jim Rider, who handles many of the local runaway cases. He said parents may think they have to wait a certain amount of time before reporting a runaway, for example.

"The minute the child leaves home without the parent's consent," he said, "notify us."

Youth who are at risk of running away from home, or their family members, can also call the police, or the hotline, for help.

"We're trying to reach out to them," explained Jay Smith, director of the hotline. "We try to evaluate the crisis, look for



Big Spring Police Department Cpl. Charlie Calvert utilizes a computer for training. Computers are also used to help track and provide information regarding runaways.

options and come up with a sensible plan."

Often, a prevention plan includes finding someone the young person can trust with whom to discuss the problem, Smith said.

Rider said he often gives similar advice to potential runaways.

"I tell them if something's going on, we need to know about it," Rider said. The department, like the hotline, has referrals for local help agencies that can assist teens or whole families.

The hotline can also arrange conference calls between youth and their families, and offers a message service to promote communication between runaways and their parents.

Locally, there are usually between eight and 15 runaways each month, Rider said. Some of those are young people who run away several times in one month.

"I know there are situations where runaways don't get reported," he said. Smith agreed that statewide and nationally, runaway cases are underreported by about 50 percent.

Statewide, more than 120,000 children run away every year, according to hotline information.

If a child 18 or younger leaves home and the police are notified, Rider said, an officer will first get information, such as what the child was wearing when last seen. Details are entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer.

Patrol officers will follow up on anything they can locally, such as talking to the child's friends.

"Because of the possibility of foul play," Rider explained, "these cases are treated as priority."

He said young people who run away from home often end up hitchhiking on the interstate, where they could be abducted, assaulted or even murdered.

"Runaway children are not running to something," Smith said. "More often than not, they are running away from difficult family situations."

Ag studies

Martin Co. field test one of 18 statewide ag research projects to assist producers

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

A Martin County field test to evaluate Scoutmaster will be one of 18 research projects which will focus on the use of Integrated Pest Management techniques and funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Scoutmaster is a computer software program developed for Windows and developed to manage and summarize large amounts of crop data information, particularly relating to cotton pests, beneficial arthropods and crop data information.

The Martin County field test will be funded with a grant of \$11,549, which is nearly \$2,000 more than the average of the 18 grants that total \$170,000.

"Many grants awarded this year represent a wide range of important crops that are grown in Texas, including cotton, rice, peanuts, potatoes and corn," said Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry. "Other grants focus on educating farmers about the latest IPM techniques available."

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a farming system that curbs pest populations by using a variety of practices including biological pest controls, pest resistant crop plants, crop rotations, planting date adjustments and crop residue destruction.

Under IPM, pesticides are used only when IPM methods fail to control problems that threaten to cause significant crop damage.

Nine of the 18 research projects will be based in West Texas, including:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of IPM statewide (\$7,900) — Based in San Angelo, this program will focus on a statewide education program incorporating displays at conferences, field days, seminars and other events.

- Video on natural enemies of cotton insect pests (\$14,000)

- This second San Angelo-based project will develop a video to assist farmers, consultants, field scouts and IPM specialists in using proper crop monitoring techniques and in identifying the natural enemies of cot-

ton insect pests.

- Using precision agricultural techniques to control spider mites in cotton (\$11,384) —

- Based in Lubbock County, this project will work toward helping farmers reduce their pesticide costs by using precision agricultural techniques. Aerial infrared color photography will be used to help pinpoint infestations of spider mites in cotton fields for spot treatments rather than more expensive broadcast treatments for entire fields.

- Managing Southern Corn Rootworm in peanuts (\$7,000) — This Gaines County project has increased interest in the local area because of increased production in Dawson County and the possibility of peanuts being raised in the local area.

- Evaluating boll weevil survival in burned and unburned CRP grasses (\$9,868) — This Terry and Yoakum County-based project will determine whether boll weevils overwintering in CRP grasses can survive controlled burned grass fires.

- Effects of early season aphids on cotton (\$7,520) — This Dawson County project will be used to study the effect of early season aphids on cotton. It will be used to help farmers, consultants and others implement a better season-long aphid management program and possibly reduce cotton yield reductions.

- Developing scouting techniques for cotton weed pests (\$6,700) — This Hockley and Cochran County-based project will implement and demonstrate current techniques to control cotton weed pests. Scouting for cotton weed pests is not a common practice in cotton production, but is becoming more important as part of effective weed management.

- Determining the effect of nematicides and other controls in cotton (\$10,352) — This Lubbock County-based project will determine whether variable applications of components such as nematicides, herbicides, fertilizer and insecticides can increase yields, lower chemical inputs and reduce plant stress when compared to conventional production practices in cotton.

Commissioners buy dump truck to be delivered next September

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

There was a certain good news, bad news aspect to Monday's special meeting of the Howard County Commissioners Court.

The good news is that commissioners saved taxpayers about \$700 by awarding a dump truck bid to Pollard Chevrolet.

The bad news, however, is that it will be almost 1999 before they see the truck.

Commissioners approved a \$55,716 bid from Pollard for delivery of a 1999 dump truck. That compares to bids of \$56,438 from International Harvester and \$63,956 from Permian Mack Trucks of Odessa.

The IH bid was for a 1998 truck, while the Permian Mack bid was for a 1999 model.

County employees won't be seeing the truck anytime soon, however. Delivery of the Pollard truck won't be until September 1998. In comparison, International Harvester's bid included a delivery date of March 1998. The Mack bid did not specify a delivery date.

The commissioners' vote, which was unanimous in favor of Pollard, went on the basis of the low bid, County Judge Ben

Lockhart said.

"International Harvester could have gotten it here sooner, but they weren't the low bidder," Lockhart said. "I can't imagine a company taking nine months to deliver a truck."

In other business, commissioners set the terms for the court in 1998.

Howard County Clerk

See COUNTY, Page 2

WEATHER

Tonight:



Clear

Wed:



Partly Cloudy

New Year's:



Partly Cloudy

Fri:



Partly Cloudy

Tonight, fair. Lows around 30. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs 60-65. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows 35-40. Extended forecast, Thursday through Saturday, Partly cloudy. Lows 35-45. Highs 60-65.

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To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

DECEMBER 30 1997

OBITUARIES

Mabel Sullivan Morrison

Graveside service for Mabel Sullivan Morrison, Malakoff, formerly of Big Spring, were noon today at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring, with Rev. Rocky Weatherford, First Baptist Church of Tool, officiating.

Mrs. Morrison died Saturday, Dec. 27, 1997, following a lengthy illness.

She was a longtime resident of Monroe, Miss. She moved to Big Spring 1968 and had lived in Malakoff for the eight years. Mrs. Morrison was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Big Spring, and a lifetime member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Survivors include: her daughter, Martha Brady Guy, Trinidad; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Tom Linson Funeral Home, Seven Points.

Twins reunited after 40 years apart

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (AP) — Daniel Neill speaks with a Southern drawl, and Bertram Hassett sounds every bit his native New York City.

But the twins knew they had more in common than looks when they met for the first time Monday after being separated when they were 8 months old. They celebrate their 40th birthday today.

"It's weird," Neill said. "Already, it's like when I'm talking to him I'm talking to myself. ... There was an immediate connection."

Neill, of Fort Collins, Colo., and Hassett, of Schenectady, were aware of each other's existence but their searches came up empty until a California agency linked the pair for a \$175 fee paid by Neill.

"I feel more complete — like the last piece of the puzzle is together," Hassett said.

The twins' parents, Bertram and Patricia Hassett, were carnival workers who provided few clues into why Neill was put up for adoption in the summer of 1958. They and Neill's adoptive parents have since died.

"The reasons are buried with them I guess," said Neill, raised in Walker, La.

Hassett was initially told his twin had died. The twins' reunion efforts had been so fruitless over the years that his wife, Margaret, thought Neill's call earlier this month was a prank.

"I was a little sarcastic. I thought it was someone fooling around," she said.

Since then, the two talked often while planning Monday's meeting surrounded by family and friends.

"Bert's invited half the city," Mrs. Hassett said. "He's thrilled to death."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-4288
Evelyn Vigar, 76, died Monday. Services are 11:00 AM, Friday, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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DPS reports fewer than expected highway deaths

AUSTIN (AP) — Highway crashes killed 37 people during the state's Christmas holiday death count, fewer than the Texas Department of Public Safety had projected for the 102-hour period.

Authorities estimated 42 people would die on Texas roads between 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and midnight Sunday.

Thirteen of those who died were not wearing seat belts when they crashed, while another 13 were strapped in. Seven of the fatalities were pedestrians. In four of the fatal crashes, it was unknown whether victims were wearing seat belts.

Alcohol or unsafe driving were believed to have been factors in six accidents.

Last year, 18 people died during the 30-hour Christmas holiday.

The DPS projects 46 people could die in wrecks during the 102-hour New Year's holiday count, which runs from 6 p.m. New Year's Eve to midnight Jan. 4. Twenty people died during the last new year holiday period.

DWI standards may get tougher

By JIM O'CONNELL
Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — Congress wants states to toughen drunk driving standards, and federal lawmakers will soon decide whether to impose million-dollar penalties on states that refuse to comply.

The Clinton administration has endorsed legislation that would withdraw millions of dollars in federal highway funding from states that fail to set their drunk driving standard at a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent.

Thirty-three states now consider a driver with a blood alcohol content of 0.10 percent legally drunk. The rest have legal levels of 0.08.

But the Republican-controlled House Transportation Committee has shied away from the sanctions supported by the administration, favoring instead to distribute \$45 million in grants to states that lower their blood alcohol standard.

The standards will be part of a massive multi-billion-dollar highway funding bill set for debate early next year.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is pushing hard for the new standards. But industry groups and some states rights advocates argue that sanctions are not the proper method of persuasion.

The new standard would put a 170-pound man over the legal blood alcohol limit after four drinks on an empty stomach in one hour instead of five drinks. A 137-pound woman would reach the 0.08 percent after three drinks in an hour.

"Legislators react a whole lot better to threats than they do to incentives," said Bill Lewis, with the Texas office of MADD. "I understand the reluctance of inviting the federal government in to tell us how to run our business, but in this case we ought not be too proud to take the guidance."

More than 3,700 people were killed last year in alcohol-related traffic accidents in which the driver had a blood alcohol level of less than 0.10, supporters of the tougher standards said.

About 600 of those fatalities occurred in accidents in which the driver's blood alcohol limit was between 0.08 and 0.10. Those lives could have been saved if police had the authority to take those drivers off the road, said Tom Howarth, a Washington-based lobbyist for MADD.

The current \$45 million incentive program would be

Monday-Friday 9 AM-8 PM
Saturday 9 AM-5 PM
CLOSED SUNDAY

MEDICAL CARE PLAZA
264-6880 1300 GREGG

continued under the legislation proposed by the House Transportation Committee.

But that program is far too cheap to persuade states to change their drunk driving standards, Howarth said. And the grant criteria are so soft that states can collect grants for minimal efforts to reduce drunk driving even without toughening their blood alcohol standard, he said.

Restaurant industry officials and some state safety groups oppose the proposed penalties, but for different reasons.

Rick Berman of the American Beverage Institute said most drunk driving fatalities involve drivers with blood alcohol levels far above the current limits, so enforcement, not lower standards is the best policy. In addition, tougher standards would subject responsible drinkers to arrest, fines and jail, even though most drivers with a 0.08 blood alcohol do not exhibit impaired driving abilities, Berman said.

"I think it's wrong to arrest people for driving at 0.08," Berman said. "We don't want to see people who are considered responsible consumers today to be arrested tomorrow."

Others contend that state legislatures react badly to federal force. "We strongly support the change. We encourage states to pass it and think it will reduce drunk driving," said Barbara Harsha executive director of the National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives. "But we think penalties and sanctions are very divisive and not a very good way to get states to act."

Under the threat of sanctions, states tend to pass laws to meet the bare minimum requirement and then don't enforce them," she said.

The proposal for tougher blood alcohol standards has momentum in the Senate but faces an uphill fight in the House, Howarth said.

"It's a very uncomfortable vote, Howarth said. "Members do not want to vote on it because restaurants in their districts have made it a cause celebre. But so have we."

BRIEFS

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 Rannels.

For more information call Dorothy Kennemur at 398-5522.

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

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

MIDWAY BAPTIST 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. 1-20.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH will offer flu shots to those 18 and over every Wednesday of the winter months (October through February). The injections are available from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane.

For those on Medicare, there is no co-payment, but the card must be presented at the time of the injection. For others, the fee is \$5.

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BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

SPRINGBOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRINGBOARD ITEM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT 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
•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 Mountain Home Health, 600 Main. For more information call 267-1314.

•Candlelight service, 11:30 p.m., Midway Baptist Church, 6200 South Service Road, East I-20. Everyone welcome.

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

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

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

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

•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m. Bible study.
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. Big Book Study.

SATURDAY
•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.

SUNDAY

Texas Lottery PICK 3: 6, 1, 9 CASH 5: 4, 12, 24, 26, 37

•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 support group, 7 p.m. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241.

•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.

COUNTY

Margaret Ray said the Texas Constitution mandates that county courts set their terms in advance each year.

The commissioners court will have four three-month terms in 1998.

The January term begins Jan. 5, 1998 and runs through April 5. The April term then runs from April 6 to July 5, followed by the July term from July 6 to Oct. 4. The final term of the year begins Oct. 5 and runs through Jan. 3, 1999.

MARKETS

March cotton 67 cents, down 2 points; Feb. crude 17.64, up 2 points; Cash hogs steady at \$1.50 lower at 36; cash steers steady at 64; Feb. lean hog futures 57.90, down 35 points; Feb. live cattle futures 66.77, up 22 points.

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

Index 7855.44
Volume 152,880,950
ATT 63% +
Amoco 85% +
Atlantic Richfield 78% +
Atmos Energy 30 +
Calenergy Inc. 28% +
Chevron 76% +
Cifra 2.30-2.34
Cornell Correc. 20% +
De Beers 20% +
Diagnostic Health 10% +
DuPont 59% +
Excel Comm. 15% +
Exxon 61% +
Fina 65% +
Halliburton 48% +
IBM 104% + 2%
Intel Corp 71% +
Laser Indus LTD 26% +
Medical Alliance 3% nc
Mobil 72% nc
Norwest 37% +
NUV 9% nc
Phillips Petroleum 47% +
Palex Inc. 12 +
Pepsi Cola 35% +
Paralell Petroleum 6% +
Rural/Metro 32% +
Sears 44% +
Southwestern Bell 74% +
Sun 41% +
Texaco 54% +
Texas Instruments 44% +
Texas Utils. Co 41 +
Unocal Corp 38% +
Wal-Mart 39 + 1
Amcap 15.37-16.31
Euro Pacific 25.84-27.42
I.C.A. 27.87-29.57
New Economy 19.67-20.87

New Perspective 19.14-20.31
Prime Rate 8.50%
Gold unavailable
Silver unavailable

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:
Monday
11:13 p.m. — 2500 block Albrook, medical call, patient transferred to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
10:09 a.m. — 1900 block Gregg Street, public service.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

•BURGLARY OF A BUILDING on the 1900 block of Gregg, the 400 block of Young and the 800 block of Aylsford.

•THEFT on the 800 block of Creighton, the 200 block of W. Marcy and the 900 block of Willia.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF on the 1500 block of Sycamore.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION on the 1500 block of Bluebird and the 1100 block of E. Fifth.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

•CHRISTOPHER PUGA, 24, 1608 Tucson, arrested on two counts of forgery and a parole violation warrant.

•RANDY ALAN MOORE, no age or address given, sentenced to seven years in state prison after being found guilty in 118th District Court to felony DWI.

•RICHARD/KNEE, 28, Hitchcock, arrested on charges of failure to appear, bondsman off bond, no driver's license and no MVI.

•JESSIE MIER, 21, HC 63, Box 109A, arrested on a revocation of probation warrant.

•AMBER JANNA BAILEY, 23, 1904 E. 25th No. 210, arrested on charge of issuance of a bad check.

•CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING in Forsan.

CORRECTION

A photo in Sunday's Business section incorrectly identified the clinic where OB-GYN Rory Minck practices. It is called Scenic Mountain Medical Clinic, and is located at 1603 W. 11th Place.

RECORDS

Monday's high 59
Monday's low 24
Average high 56
Average low 29
Record high 79 in 1951
Record low 6 in 1983
Precip. Monday 0.00
Month to date 1.65
Month's normal 0.66
Year to date 19.86
Normal for the year 19.31
**Statistics not available

Peace To All!
The following Financial Institutions will observe the following Holiday Hours...

Big Spring Education Credit Union Closed Dec. 31 thru Jan. 4	Big Spring State Hospital Federal Credit Union Closed New Year's Day	Norwest Closed New Year's Day
Big Spring Government Employees Credit Union Open Til 2 pm Dec. 31 Closed New Year's Day	State National Bank Closed New Year's Day	First Big Spring Banking Center Closed New Year's Day
First Bank of West Texas Closed New Year's Day	Big Spring District T&P Federal Credit Union Closed 1 pm Dec. 31 Closed New Year's Day	Cosden Employees Federal Credit Union Closed New Year's Day
Security State Bank Closed New Year's Day	Citizen's Federal Credit Union Closed New Year's Day	Electric Utilities Credit Union Closed New Year's Day

Have A Safe And Happy 1998

Ted

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors have charged a former Unabomber, Kaczynski, with the murder of a woman in a case said Missouri prosecutors. Kaczynski's extensive pro Justice Department penalty review Washington tence of life the possibility pleaded guilty deeply bombi 1978.

Long solor

WASHINGTON — Longtime ser pays nicely at some lawmak with annual p ly \$100,000 — the national a So Taxpayers Ur tive group th government sp "This is th pension plan Keating, vice taxpayers' grol ated the cong estimates at th Associated Pr a pension lik vate sector."

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Rep. Henry Texas, will be least \$96,462 i planned before term, for insta Sen. John Gle exceed \$90,000

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AUSTIN (AP) — man who dan from the back o a joke has fi against a gun officer who pu cuffs, believin real.

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Ted Kaczynski offered to plead guilty to avoid death penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors turned down a recent offer from Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski to plead guilty if he is spared the death penalty, individuals familiar with the case said Monday.

Kaczynski's lawyers made an extensive presentation to the Justice Department's death penalty review committee in Washington to lobby for a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole if he pleaded guilty to a string of deadly bombings that began in 1978.

But the offer was rejected by prosecutors overseeing Kaczynski's trial, the individuals said.

Kaczynski's brother, who assisted prosecutors in apprehending the defendant but has pleaded to spare his life, is "profoundly disappointed" and "extremely depressed" about prosecutors' decision, his lawyer said.

"It had been our hope and belief that such a resolution would be in the best interests of all concerned," said Attorney Anthony Bisceglie, who represents Kaczynski's younger

brother, David, and mother, Wanda.

"It would have assured the government a conviction finally. ... It would have spared David and his mother the necessity to continue to fight to save Ted's life. And it would eliminate the possibility that David would have to live out the rest of his life knowing his effort to save the lives of potential future victims could actually result in his own brother's execution," Bisceglie said today in an interview.

Theodore Kaczynski, a former math professor turned hermit,

is accused of a two-decade string of bombings that killed three people and injured 28.

Opening statements and testimony begin next week in Sacramento, Calif., in Kaczynski's trial on charges of building bombs to kill two people and maim two others whose bombs were mailed from Sacramento. He has pleaded innocent and faces the death penalty if convicted. A jury has already been selected.

Justice Department spokeswoman Leesa Brown declined today to confirm or deny the plea bargain offer.

The plea bargain offer was first reported last month in The Sacramento Bee. The New York Times, which first reported prosecutors' rejection in today's editions, said the offer would have kept him from hearing himself described as a delusional paranoid-schizophrenic.

The issue of his mental health apparently has been at the heart of a dispute with his lawyers that was partially revealed in court documents released Friday.

The exact nature of the dispute was not detailed, but the issue was discussed during private talks between U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell Jr. and federal defenders Quin Denvir and Judy Clarke. Burrell indicated that Kaczynski had submitted letters — which remain under seal — expressing concerns about his defense.

Partial transcripts of the discussions were released at

Burrell's order, although the bulk of the material remained sealed.

Denvir told Burrell that the problem "had a long history," and he described Kaczynski's position as "pretty firm."

"This is obviously a major problem. We are all very unhappy and sad to be in this position, but we are in the position. We have to do, I guess, what we can," Denvir said, according to one transcript.

Kaczynski, 55, has refused to submit to a psychiatric examination by the government's doctors. That could bar his attorneys from introducing mental defect evidence on his behalf.

Denvir declined to comment on the plea offer outlined by the newspaper, but he said problems between Kaczynski and his attorneys had been resolved.

"He's cooperating with us and we're getting ready for trial," Denvir said.

Longevity in Congress pays: Some retiring solons eligible for nearly \$100,000 in pensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Longtime service in Congress pays nicely at retirement, with some lawmakers going home with annual pensions of roughly \$100,000 — about five times the national average.

So says the National Taxpayers Union, a conservative group that advocates less government spending.

"This is the Rolls-Royce of pension plans," said David Keating, vice president for the taxpayers' group, which calculated the congressional pension estimates at the request of The Associated Press. "You can't get a pension like this in the private sector."

Reps. Joseph McDade, R-Pa., Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., and Sidney Yates, D-Ill., will be eligible for \$98,694 each, about three-fourths of their \$133,600 salary, when they leave office in 1999 after a combined 104 years.

Other members' pensions which are taxable, could approach \$100,000 as well.

According to a 1994 Labor Department study, the latest available, a private sector employee earning \$50,000 or more was eligible for pension benefits averaging \$17,062.

Why are lawmakers' retirement benefits so lucrative? A principal reason is that congressional pensions are adjusted each year for inflation, something that sets them apart from most other retirement plans.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, will be eligible for at least \$96,462 if he resigns as planned before the end of his term, for instance. Benefits for Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, will exceed \$90,000 after factoring in

CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

Retiring lawmakers who stand to earn at least \$50,000 in pension benefits and year in which benefits start:

- Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., \$82,060, 1999.
- Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., \$71,518, 1999.
- Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., \$79,031, 1999.
- Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, \$72,972, 1999, plus Marine Corps pension, which in 1996 paid \$18,829.
- Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., leaving mid-term, \$87,745, 1998.
- Rep. Vic Fazio, D-Calif., \$59,037, 1999.
- Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, leaving mid-term, \$96,462, 1998.
- Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., \$98,694, 1999.
- Rep. Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., \$51,767, 1999.
- Rep. Joseph McDade, R-Pa., \$98,694, 1999.
- Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., \$54,797, 2010 (at age 60).
- Rep. Sidney Yates, D-Ill., \$98,694, 1999.

Source: National Taxpayers Union.

Notes: Schumer's figure assumes he loses bid for Senate. Otherwise, he will continue earning additional benefits as a senator. Actual benefits may depart from the estimates depending on factors such as whether participant opts for survivors' benefits or requests that military credits be transferred to the congressional plan.

a separate Marine Corps pension for his past duties as a combat pilot and astronaut.

Members of Congress defended the retirement system.

"Almost all my adult life has been spent in public service in the Marine Corps and the Senate," Glenn said. "I have made the required contributions to the system and will retire from the Senate at the end of next year with a pension based on those years of service."

Aides for Yates and Gonzalez said the lawmakers deserved healthy pensions after more than three decades of public ser-

vice. Yates spokeswoman Mary Bain added that the 88-year-old lawmaker could have opted to collect benefits over a longer period by retiring at 65.

Hamilton's office declined to comment, while McDade's did not return telephone calls.

McDade, in his 18th two-year term, is the most senior House Republican. Hamilton and Yates have served 17 terms each. Gonzalez is in his 19th term, while Glenn is retiring after four six-year terms.

Lawmakers elected since January 1984 fall under a less generous pension system, but members who joined before

then have continued earning pension credits using the old formulas.

In 1995, Congress approved language that would have brought future earnings more in line with those given to other federal workers, but it was part of a broader budget bill vetoed by President Clinton for other reasons. Congress has not passed similar legislation in the current session.

Pension figures aren't readily available on Capitol Hill, but the National Taxpayers Union has devised a computer program to provide its own estimates based on a survey it took of members of Congress. Members who did not respond were assumed to be in the main civil service pension program.

Members planning to leave Congress after 1998 stand to receive at least \$42,000 each if they were elected before 1984, while those under the newer pension system will be eligible for between \$12,000 to \$29,000 when they hit retirement age.

However, a stock investment plan for the newer members can boost retirement savings by hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to the group.

Rep. Paul McHale, D-Pa., who joined Congress in 1993 and decided against seeking re-election in 1998, said the days of exorbitant pension benefits are largely over. McHale, 47, will get about \$13,000 when he turns 62.

"Pension benefits to newly elected members of Congress are really quite modest, and the vast majority of members (still serving) will fall under the new system," McHale said.

Fake foot fracas has Austin couple up in arms

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin man who dangles a fake foot from the back door of his van as a joke has filed a complaint against a gun-wielding police officer who put him in handcuffs, believing the foot was real.

Austin construction engineer Jim Rankin, 44, filed the complaint against University of Texas police Sgt. Chris Myers. UT police declined comment.

"An internal investigation will be conducted regarding your contact with Sgt. Myers on Dec. 16, 1997, and the allega-

tions described in your letter to (UT Police) Chief (Donald) Cannon," UT Police Lt. Robert L. Ewan said in a letter.

Rankin was sitting in rush-hour traffic early in the morning of Dec. 16 on Interstate 35 in a red '97 Dodge Caravan when he said a man carrying a UT police badge approached him with his gun drawn and told him to get out of the vehicle.

"He jumped out of a ... completely unmarked car," Rankin said. "Then suddenly there's a guy with a pistol right at my face yelling, 'Get out! Get out!'"

Rankin said the man told him to get up against his van, then put handcuffs on him. Rankin said it then dawned on him that the plastic foot might be the problem.

"I said, 'That foot's fake. It's plastic,' and he said, 'We don't know that yet,'" Rankin said.

After that, the officer touched the gag foot, Rankin said.

"He says, 'That's a sick, sick joke. That's disgusting,'" Rankin said.

Rankin said he then was led, still handcuffed, across a parking lot into a nearby deli-

catessen.

"All the officer said to us was, 'Would you dial 911?'" said Ran Shabat, the deli's manager. "We did that. Then he proceeded to lead the gentleman back outside. It was morning rush hour. He had him stand by his car in handcuffs. It was very embarrassing. Cars were driving by."

In defending his actions, Myers said, "I'm very cautious about that because it's not unusual to find body parts in a vehicle. He (Rankin) said it was a Halloween prank. He must love Halloween."

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New Year Holiday
Office Hours and Advertising Deadlines
for the
Big Spring Herald
The Big Spring Herald offices will close for New Years Day, January 1, and will reopen for business at 7:30 a.m. Friday, January 2.

Advertising Deadlines
Wednesday, December 31.....Monday, 3 p.m.
Thursday, January 1.....Tuesday, 12 NOON
Friday, January 2.....Wednesday, 12 NOON
Sunday, January 4.....Wednesday, 3 p.m.

Classified Deadlines
Wednesday, December 31.....Tuesday, 12 NOON
Thursday, January 1.....Wednesday 3 p.m.
Friday, January 2.....Wednesday, 5 p.m.

Circulation Phones
The January 1 paper will be delivered as a afternoon product. Phone hours will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

We at the Herald wish you a Happy Holiday!

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WEEK NUMBER 17
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'96 Pontiac Grand Prix Power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, am/fm cassette. \$1,298 \$287 Per mo. (E) SIK#U-153	'97 Olds Cutlass Supreme Power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, am/fm cassette. \$1,398 \$299 Per mo. (E) SIK#P-133	'96 Dodge Neon Auto, am/fm cassette. \$898 SIK#U-167B
'94 GMC Safari SLE XT, all wheel drive, full power with rear a/c. \$998 SIK#U-179A	'95 Honda Civic Power windows & locks, tilt, cruise. \$10,988 SIK#T-310C	'94 Ford Thunderbird V8, full power. \$10,988 SIK#T-300A
'95 Honda Civic EX Sunroof, 5 speed, a/c, tilt, cruise, am/fm cassette. \$10,988 SIK#F-311A	'93 Jeep Wrangler 6 cyl., a/c, both tops. \$11,988 SIK#T-318A	'96 Ford Taurus Power windows & locks, tilt, cruise. \$11,988 SIK#T-310B
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'91 Mitsubishi 3000 GT VR4, 43,000 miles, Black beauty with tan leather! \$14,988 SIK#F-315A	'96 Dodge Grand Caravan SE, rear a/c, full power. \$17,988 SIK#T-291A	'97 Dodge Ram 1500 Regular cab, auto, S/T. \$17,988 horse from 2
'96 Chrysler Sebring Convertible Full power, CD player. \$17,988 SIK#T-290B	'97 Dodge Caravans Full power, 4 doors. \$18,988 Choose from 2	'96 Ford Bronco XL 4x4, LD, V8, cruise like new! \$18,988 SIK#T-266B
'95 Chevy Blazer 4x4, leather, full power. \$18,988 SIK#T-326A	'96 Dodge D1500 SLE P/W, P/L, T/C, running boards, bedliner, one owner, 30,000 miles. \$21,988 SIK#P-126A	'95 Chevy Suburban LT Power windows, locks, tilt, cruise, rear air. \$22,988 SIK#U-170

(A) 54 mos @ 13.5% - (B) 48 mos @ 13.5% - (C) 42 mos @ 14.9% - (D) 36 mos @ 14.9% - (E) 60 mos @ 11.9% - (F) 66 mos @ 12.9%
*Disclosure: \$88 down with approved credit. All vehicles subject to prior sale plus TT&L.

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DECEMBER 30 1997

EDITORIAL

"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

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

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John H. Walker
Managing Editor
Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Any way you cut the numbers on the future of the current Social Security system, they add up to a crisis that Congress would be wise to confront sooner than later.

Although the mythical Social Security "trust fund" will continue to run a surplus for what Americans like to refer to as the long term, that surplus will begin to diminish rapidly in 2019 as the fund begins to redeem bonds for cash. The system will no longer be able to pay benefits after 2029 if Congress fails to make necessary changes. Waiting until 2019 will be too late.

The public appears to have an intuitive sense that all is not well with the system. A poll by the American Association of Retired Persons indicated that only 35 percent of Americans — 46 percent of retirees, 27 percent of non-retirees — have confidence in its future.

Actually, Social Security does not function as a classical trust fund, but pays benefits in direct transfers from current taxpayers to retirees. That approach worked tolerably well so long as the ratio between younger workers and beneficiaries was broad enough. In 1960, five workers supported each beneficiary, but that number has declined today to slightly more than three. By 2030, the number drops to two.

With the worker-beneficiary ratio quickly diminishing, the system will require new means of "growing" the resources to sustain future retirees. Simply raising taxes or slashing benefits would rain a political firestorm on elected officials, so the proposal to allow some variant of investing in the stock market for more dynamic economic growth has gained wide appeal.

A 13-member federal advisory council, which issued its divided report in January on alternative means of financing Social Security, demonstrated the complexity and controversy over any shift to stock market investing. All members favored some form of investment, but seven preferred a bold departure to create some type of personally directed accounts.

Because the program is basically universal and a bulwark of U.S. social policy, any shift in policy toward investment in the private market should be under federal management.

Yet such a shift should recognize certain risks. Yes, stock market returns historically exceed those of government bonds by about 3:1, but stocks can also experience drastic downturns, which could leave many retirees vulnerable. Also, directing funds into the stock market would be inherently inflationary, causing the federal government to borrow at higher rates than otherwise available from the trust fund.

Some analysts also raise the specter of federally dictated industrial policy, or investment decisions that could affect other government policies such as the environment or foreign affairs.

Social Security faces long-term risks anyway, especially if the United States fritters away valuable time in addressing fundamental changes. The most recent warning of the need to begin now to redress the fundamental flaws in Social Security came on Nov. 20 from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, whose voice should be heeded.

As Greenspan said, "We owe it to those who will retire after the turn of the century to be given sufficient advance notice to make what alterations in retirement planning may be required. If we procrastinate too long, the adjustments could be truly wrenching."

-FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Let's send Bill Clinton to Bosnia and bring the troops back home to United States

Bill Clinton hasn't kept a promise since he took his wedding vows, which he also broke. It's no surprise that the American troops will stay in Bosnia indefinitely. The 18-month deadline is not to be met any more than the previous 12-month deadline was met.



Charley Reese
Syndicated Columnist

So if you believe the Clintonistas now when they say they have an exit strategy, I'm afraid you are hopelessly gullible.

Unfortunately, Republicans, as an opposition party, are a bunch of toothless wimps. They should inform the president that funding for the Bosnian operation ends in June 1998. But they don't have the guts. And the Republican leadership is as internationalist as Clinton. All of the above can be said for the Establishment press, too.

Here are some points to keep in mind: Bosnia is a blood-red example of the folly of believing that multiculturalism and diversity are good things. They are the cause of the conflict. The United States has no national security interest in the Balkans. No U.S. forces should be anywhere near there. If the people in the Balkans wish to have a civil war for ethnic and religious reasons, that's their business. It should not concern us, for their fighting does not threaten in any way whatsoever one single legitimate American interest. The Clinton propaganda line is that stability in central Europe is essential to American security. Well, in the first place, instability in central Europe is not a threat to our national security. In the second place, Bosnia isn't in central Europe; it's in south-eastern Europe. The Dayton Peace Accords are an attempt to force an international solution on a three-faction country. They will not work. All they have done is cost American taxpayers \$7 billion and kept 8,500 American troops from doing what they ought to be doing.

As soon as the troops leave, the fighting will resume. That is true whether the "deadline" for removing the troops is 12 months, 18 months or 20 years. And when it does resume, it will be worse because the United States has foolishly armed two of the three factions (the Croats and the Muslims). Presumably some American idiot thinks this will intimidate the Serbs into accepting domination by the Croatian-Muslim factions. It won't. No one who knows the Serbs thinks it will. They weren't intimidated by the Austro-Hungarian Empire or by the Third Reich. Why should they be intimidated by a shaky and nervous NATO?

Another point to remember is that the United States has backed the wrong factions. The Serbs allied themselves with the United States in both World War I and World War II. The Croats allied themselves with our enemies. Why the United States took the position that everybody in the Balkans but the Serbs are entitled to self-determination and independence is one of the more disgusting mysteries of U.S. foreign policy.

The only road to peace in Bosnia is separatism, but the United States and its NATO allies are committed to forced integration. It is a dumb, useless and wasteful policy.

Finally, this is yet another example of how the American people are simply shut out of foreign policy decisions by their own government. This is not self-government.

Paying taxes and once every two years voting for tweedledum or tweedledum while being told we have no choice but to accept whatever blunder the president decides to commit are not my idea of self-government.

Nor is it compatible with self-government to have a few corporations control the public airwaves so real debate is impossible.

The American people deserve better than this. We have better uses for \$7 billion than parking American troops between three armed factions so the factions can take a breather. We should send Clinton to Bosnia and bring the troops back home.

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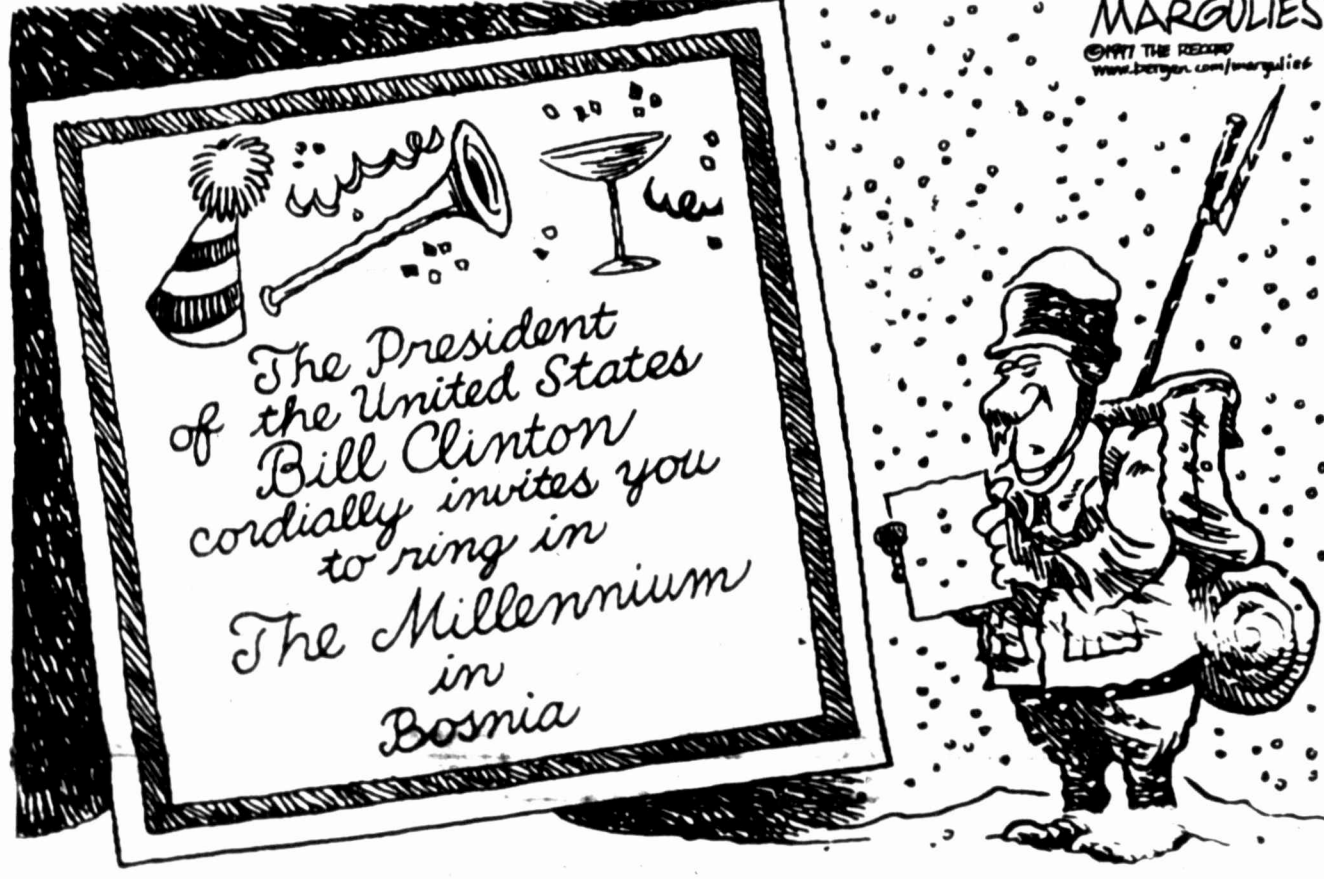
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Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREESE@aol.com



It was a bittersweet year for Bill Clinton, from tearing tendon to needing hearing aid

By ANN McFEATHERS
Scripps Howard News Service

It was not a great year for the president of the United States.

He tore the tendon in his knee and spent two months in a wheelchair. To add to his indignity, he was lifted off Air Force One on a visit to meet with Boris Yeltsin in Helsinki in a wheelchair and helped into a catering truck.

He was told at year's end that as one of those baby boomers who listened to too much loud music he at age 47 now needs a hearing aid. His only daughter, Chelsea, left home for college at Stanford — as far away as she could get and physically still be in the lower 48.

The Supreme Court ruled that Clinton must stand trial while in office on charges of sexual harassment brought by Paula Jones, who claims he committed mischief while he was governor of Arkansas.

Europeans generally decided he is a lightweight in devising innovative foreign policy initiatives that will last into the millennium. Over and over they ask, "What is Clinton's chief mission other than expanding

U.S. trade abroad?"

Clinton did not get fast track authority he sought from Congress and the developing nations did not go along with his idea that they should join in the sacrifice to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and curtail global warming.

Senate Republicans thumbed their noses at his nominations, from his designated CIA director to his ambassador to Mexico to his civil rights director.

One of those ten million fund-raising photos taken of Clinton with a contributor to the Democrats ended up being used in a scam that allegedly defrauded 15,000 people of \$38 million.

One national columnist wrote that Clinton's presidency now seems "so becalmed, so shrunken, so defeated, so aimless, so anemic, so technical that George Bush now looms as a giant who bestrode the earth."

But to every life some sunshine comes as well and thus it did for Clinton.

He was inaugurated president for the second time and became only the 14th president to give a second inaugural address.

He lost weight despite his injury and ended the year much fitter, more disciplin

and feeling good.

He got a dog — and a boost in his public relations as photographers went wild clicking at the new chocolate lab named Buddy.

His golf game improved dramatically, with the help of tips from big-name golfers (such as Greg Norman, at whose house he got his knee injury).

He found out that it was not true that his protege Al Gore was the prototype for the Ryan O'Neal character in the movie "Love Story" based on Erich Segal's novel.

He can claim credit for pushing a Chemical Weapons Treaty through Congress and getting a balanced budget agreement with Congress and the first big tax cut for many Americans in 16 years. And he'll be out of office when the serious budget cutting comes to pass, if it does.

Clinton started a major campaign to stop teen smoking, and he didn't even have to promise to give up his occasional cigars.

In a year when Dolly, the cloned sheep, was the biggest science story, Clinton himself was cloned in London when sax playing liberal Tony Blair took office as prime minister. Clinton took an unprece-

LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Please:
 - Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.
 - Letters may also be submitted in person at 710 Scurry, by fax to 264-7205 or by e-mail to either jwalker@xroads.tx or bsherald@xroads.tx

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Alamo Bowl
Oklahoma State vs. Purdue, 7 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30
College Basketball
Illinois at UCLA, 10 p.m., FXS, Ch. 29

NBA Basketball
New York Knicks at Orlando Magic, 7 p.m., TNT, Ch. 28
Hockey
Long Beach Ice Dogs at Houston Aeros, 7 p.m., FXS, Ch. 29

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Purdue coach concerned facing Oklahoma State in Alamo Bowl

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Though his team possesses the Big 10's best passing offense, Purdue coach Joe Tiller certainly wasn't exuding overconfidence on the eve of the Alamo Bowl.

"Our practices have been not quite what we had hoped," Tiller said Monday as his No. 17 Boilermakers prepared to take on No. 24 Oklahoma State.

"I'm a little concerned," he said. Tiller, worried that time off in the post-season may affect the precision of

Purdue's passing game, noted the Boilermakers' practices have improved as the Alamo Bowl was approached.

"It has picked up," Tiller added. "That's a good sign."

The same cannot be said for Oklahoma State.

The Cowboys will try to stop a Purdue team that, armed with quarterback Billy Dicken and wide receiver Brian Alford, led the Big 10 in passing with an average of 281.5 yards and total offense with an average of 459.6 yards.

"Purdue can put a lot of points on

the board," said Oklahoma State coach Bob Simmons. "It's going to be a challenge for us to really try to slow them down."

The two teams, both 8-3, meet for the first time at 7 tonight in the Alamodome.

Both squads surpassed expectations this year.

Under first-year coach Tiller, Purdue finished the regular season in a three-way tie for second in the Big 10, achieving its first winning record and bowl appearance since 1984.

Simmons, in his third year with the Cowboys, led Oklahoma State to a sec-

ond-place tie in the South Division of the Big 12 and to its first bowl game since 1988.

Dicken, a senior, said he's always had confidence in the Boilermakers, but said under the new coach Purdue has made big strides. He expects a positive attitude to help again Tuesday night.

"I'm probably going to get knocked down a lot," Dicken said. "Hopefully, Brian (Alford) and the rest of the gang will get open for me."

Jamaal Fobbs and Nathan Simmons pose a rushing threat for Oklahoma State, having run for 864 and 711 yards

respectively this season. Freshman quarterback Tony Lindsay rushed for 564 yards, the most by an Oklahoma State quarterback in 24 years.

"Lindsay is a huge concern," Tiller said. "I think he's an extremely talented guy who can do a lot of things with the ball."

Lindsay said he doesn't believe the time off since the Cowboys' last game, a 24-14 victory over Baylor Nov. 22, will hurt the team.

"We formed a bond through the team that gives us a lot of confidence and intensity," Lindsay said. "That's going to take us a long way."

Stanton, Sands open tourney with victories

HERALD Staff Report

A number of area teams played Thursday with Stanton's Buffaloes, Garden City's Lady Bearkats and both Sands' Mustangs and Lady Mustangs taking wins.

Stanton, getting a late start on its basketball season as a result of all but one of its players being members of the Buffs' state championship football team, took a 60-57 win over Midland Greenwood in the first round of the 67th annual Mary Tatum Tournament hosted by Reagan County's Owls.

Chad Smith paced the Buffs with 20 points in the win, but Greenwood's Larry Johansen swiped game-high honors with 21.

The Buffs were scheduled to face Ozona, a 59-42 winner over Monahans, in today's championship semifinals.

Sterling City Tournament Girls' Division

Sands Lady Mustangs romped to a 76-37 win over Forsan's Lady Buffaloes in the first round of the round robin tournament. Hollie Zant and Katie Gaskins paced Sands with 13 points each, while the best Forsan could muster was Tonya Tabor's eight markers.

Garden City's Lady Bearkats knocked off Water Valley, 59-40, behind Tiffany Maxie's 24 game-high points. The Lady Wildcats got 11 points from Shannon Counts.

Today's action called for the Lady Buffs to play games against both Water Valley and Miles. Sands will play Sterling City.

Boys' Division

Sands' Mustangs also had two players share in the scoring lead with Anthony Cantu and Josh Long each scoring 16 points in pacing a 73-70 win over Forsan's Buffaloes.

Game-high honors, however, belonged to Forsan's Josh Gaston, who finished the day with 17 points.

The Mustangs were slated to face Borden County in championship semifinal action while Forsan will take on Water Valley in a consolation semifinal.

In the other consolation bracket game today, Garden City, which dropped a 58-56 loss to Brownfield's junior varsity, will play Miles.

Bruins' RB casts vote for playoff

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Skip Hicks loves playing in a bowl game in his native Texas, but he wishes he was with his No. 5-ranked UCLA team in a playoff for the national championship.

"I feel we are the best team in the nation," Hicks said Monday as the Bruins prepared to meet No. 20-ranked Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day.

"We got a raw deal not being in an alliance bowl." UCLA, after narrow opening losses to Washington State and Tennessee, has streaked to nine consecutive victories behind a high-powered offense featuring Hicks and quarterback Cade McNown.

"We couldn't get an alliance bowl bid because we couldn't sell a lot of tickets," Hicks said. "Teams like us need a shot at the national title at the end of the year. The championship needs to be decided by the players. Every sport does except football. I just know on any given Saturday we could be anybody."

All UCLA has to play for against A&M (9-3) is a 10th consecutive win which hasn't happened since 1946 and a buildup for the program for the 1998 season.

"It's disappointing not to be in the Rose Bowl or an alliance bowl but when I was a kid I always wanted to play in the Cotton Bowl," said Hicks, who is from Burkburnett, Texas. "It's a chance for people in Texas to see me play."

Hicks scored three touchdowns earlier in the year in a 66-3 defeat of the Texas Longhorns in Austin, when the "Horn defenders got to see too much of him."

"That game was the turning point in our season," Hicks said. "We were 0-2 and we just had to win. We've been on a roll ever since."

Hicks has a school-record 54 career touchdowns and has scored 25 times this season.

The senior said he left Texas for UCLA because the old



File photo
Texas A&M linebacker Dat Nguyen will lead the Aggies against UCLA in Thursday's Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl game in Dallas.

I saw the Southwest Conference was breaking up and I decided not to take any chances and go elsewhere
Skip Hicks, UCLA running back

Southwest Conference was breaking up. He got heavy pressure from such Texas schools as A&M and the Longhorns, but decided to head west.

"I saw the Southwest Conference was breaking up and I decided not to take any chances and go elsewhere," Hicks said.

Hicks said it came down to UCLA or cross-town rival Southern California.

"I went to UCLA because they only had one tailback coming in and USC had seven," Hicks said.

Hicks certainly has the attention of the Aggie defense which had trouble against the run this season.

Linebacker Dat Nguyen, a two-time all Big 12 performer, said the 230-pound Hicks is a load.

"He's a combination of Ahman Green (Nebraska) and Ricky Williams (Texas)," Nguyen said. "He's big and fast, but he waits for his blocks before he uses his speed. He's a smart, tough runner."

Hicks said the Aggie defense is underrated.

"They have a lot of team speed," Hicks said. "They fly to the ball well."

Hicks' biggest problem this week may not be the Aggie defense.

He has friends and relatives hounding him for tickets.

"I don't know how many tickets I'm going to have to get," he said. "But there are a lot of people coming."

Martina Hingis named Female Athlete of Year

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — That Martina Hingis won The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year award shouldn't come as a surprise. After all, she captured just about everything else in 1997.

"1997 was a dream come true for me," the 17-year-old Hingis said from her home in Switzerland. "I still sometimes can't even believe it."

She won the Australian Open in January, then followed up with victories at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, three of the four tournaments that make up the Grand Slam. In the fourth one, the French Open in June, she suffered her first loss of the year when she was upset in the final by Iva Majoli of Croatia.

The Paris defeat came after she underwent knee surgery after she fell from a horse for the second time in the year. An earlier fall in Australia didn't hamper her march to the year's first Grand Slam tournament crown.

On Monday, Hingis was voted Female Athlete of the Year with 92 first-place votes and a total of 363 points.

"It is especially nice for me to receive this award from American writers because it is always important to be recognized as the best outside of your own country," Hingis said.

Golfer Annika Sorenstam finished second with 20 first-place votes and 178 points. Soccer player Mia Hamm was third with nine first-place votes and 95 points, and basketball star Chamique Holdsclaw received 8 first-place votes and 69 points. Basketball player Cynthia Cooper was fifth with 67 points.

Rounding out the top 10 were figure skater Tara Lipinski (66 points), track and field star Marion Jones (35), boxer Christy Martin (34), tennis player Venus Williams (25) and figure skater Michelle Kwan (22).

Athletes received five points for each first-place vote, three points for each second-place vote and one point for each third-place vote.

Trained to be a champion from birth, Hingis was named after tennis star Martina Navratilova. And in 1997, Hingis had the kind of year Navratilova had in 1983, when she went 86-1 while winning the Australian, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, stumbling only

in the fourth round at the French Open. Hingis finished this year with a 75-5 record, won 12 titles and earned \$3.4 million — not to mention the millions she made from endorsements.

Vivacious and nearly always smiling, on and off court, Hingis showed both a free spirit and a tenacious will to win. When she wasn't riding horses, she was rollerblading through a park alongside her mother and coach, Melanie Molitor, both of them unconcerned about potential injury. When Hingis hurt her knee before the French Open, she proudly spoke of going through surgery, saying that now she could really say she's an athlete.

No doubt Hingis benefited from the absence of injured Steffi Graf most of the year, and the inability of former No. 1 Monica Seles to regain her form and confidence after a series of injuries. But whenever that fortuitous absence of top competition was pointed out to her, Hingis confidently responded that she was on the rise and their time was passing anyway.

Indeed, Hingis became the youngest winner of the Australian, the youngest at Wimbledon in 110 years and the second-youngest winner of the U.S. Open after Tracy Austin in 1979.

Hingis, who grew an inch and put on 15 pounds during the year to reach 5-foot-7, 130 pounds, said her two most significant matches came in the French semifinals against Seles and the U.S. Open final against Williams.

In the match against Seles at Roland Garros, Hingis showed her gritty side, outlasting Seles, a three-time French champion, in three tight sets. That was only five weeks after arthroscopic surgery to repair a partially torn posterior cruciate ligament in her left knee following the fall from the horse.

Against Williams at the new Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York, Hingis silenced the crowd and utterly dominated the 17-year-old American by displaying a polished repertoire of strokes and a champion's poise. That two-set encounter, Williams' first appearance in a Grand Slam final, could well have been the first big match in a classic rivalry between players with vastly different styles.

WAC champ Colorado St. takes 35-24 Holiday Bowl win over Missouri

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The hometown guys made sure the Colorado State Rams didn't lose their third Holiday Bowl.

Darran Hall, who went to the same San Diego high school that produced Marcus Allen and Terrell Davis, had two big plays as No. 18 Colorado State beat No. 19 Missouri 35-24 Monday night.

Hall gave the Rams the lead for good when he raced untouched for a touchdown on a Holiday Bowl-record 85-yard punt return in the third quarter, and he scored on a 14-yard reverse on the game's first drive.

Then there was quarterback Moses Moreno, from neighboring Chula Vista and playing his last college game. He threw touchdown passes of 22 yards to Corey McCoy and 47 yards to Dallas Davis.

Colorado State lost the 1994 Holiday Bowl to Michigan, and Moreno had a horrible game in 1995 as the Rams were routed by Kansas State.

Moreno and Hall were selected co-MVPs Monday night.

"This is what it's all about, having two local boys coming out and playing their hearts out," Moreno said.

Anytime we can come back here and just show our abilities in front of the home town, it's great. It gets a lot of kids thinking that it could

be them in a few years. There's no reason why it couldn't be."

In other bowl games Monday night, it was Georgia Tech 35, West Virginia 30 in the Carquest Bowl, and Cincinnati 35, Utah 19 in the Humanitarian Bowl. Oklahoma State plays Purdue tonight in the Alamo Bowl.

Colorado State got fired up after Missouri players made some disparaging remarks about the caliber of the Western Athletic Conference while the teams were touring the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk on Sunday.

"No respect on their part," Moreno said. "They were saying a lot of things that ticked off a few of our players. It was just a great feeling to come out here and outperform them. It was a grudge match all throughout the game."

But it was more than that to Hall.

"We're not a weak team by any means," he said.

There might have been some pushing and shoving, but no punches were thrown. Missouri's Shad Criss said "Just a little testosterone running around."

WAC champion Colorado State (11-2) won its ninth straight game. Missouri (7-5) was in its first postseason game since losing 21-17 to BYU in the 1983 Holiday Bowl when Steve Young caught the winning touchdown pass with 23 seconds to play.

"Bowl games are an extra, kind of like a cher-

ry on top of a sundae," said coach Larry Smith, who led Missouri to its first winning season since 1983. "We've still got the sundae, we just don't have the cherry."

Colorado State backup quarterback Ryan Eslinger provided the wackiest play of the night, scoring from 23 yards on a fake field goal to give the Rams a 35-24 lead with 10:44 left. The snap went straight to Eslinger, the holder, who needed to get to the 13 to get a first down. He got hit at the 20, but bounced off two tacklers and spun free for the TD.

"You never think a fake field goal is going to work that well," he said.

"That broke our backs," Missouri's Ricky Ross said of the fake field goal. "We had him in our grasp and somehow he got out of it."

Missouri quarterback Corby Jones didn't have a good night. He rushed for 132 yards on 20 carries, but couldn't get the passing game going.

Moreno was 18-of-24 for 206 yards. Davis caught six passes for 115 yards, and fullback Kevin McDougal had 110 yards on 18 carries. Missouri's Devin West had 104 yards on 11 carries.

Carquest Bowl

Georgia Tech 35, West Virginia 30
They couldn't count the times they were hurt by Georgia Tech's Joe Hamilton, so all West Virginia's Mountaineers could do was add to

their bowl losing streak.

Hamilton, a shifty sophomore, passed and ran for 356 yards and three touchdowns as the Yellow Jackets handed the Mountaineers their seventh straight postseason loss.

The game between teams that finished 7-5 drew only 28,262 fans — the smallest crowd in the bowl's eight-year history. Officials had hoped for 50,000 in 75,192-seat Pro Player Stadium at Miami.

Hamilton, the game's MVP, completed 19 of 36 passes for 274 yards and added 82 yards rushing in 14 carries.

Humanitarian Bowl Cincinnati 35, Utah St. 19

Chad Plummer was the best three players on the field at the inaugural Humanitarian Bowl at Boise, Idaho.

Plummer had 62 yards passing and 53 yards rushing in Cincinnati's victory over Utah State. He also caught his first four passes of the season for a team-high 64 yards.

It was the first postseason victory for the Bearcats (8-4) since the 1949 Glass Bowl. They hadn't been to a bowl game since 1950 — the longest absence in major college football.

Cincinnati had a 28-0 lead midway through the third quarter before the Aggies (6-6) scored three touchdowns in less than 10 minutes to pull within 16 points early in the fourth.

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Local Unlimited Internet Service No Long Distance No 800 Surcharge No Connecting Fee Free Software All Services On Internet Available Web Pages For Business & Personal Use

CROSSROADS COMMUNICATIONS

268-8800 (fax) 268-8801 WE make it EASY for YOU to get on the INTERNET "BIG SPRING'S PATH TO THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY!!!"
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LAWN CARE

GRASS ROOTS LAWN CARE It's time for fall clean up and tree pruning. Free estimates. Sprinkler System Repairs. 267-2472

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December special, 24x24 with cement slab \$7995 Free Estimates Call Midwest Const. 263-5808 Fax 263-0500

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West Texas Largest Mobile Home Dealer New Used Reposs Homes of America - Odessa (800)725-0881 or 363-0881

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SOUTHWESTERN A-T PEST CONTROL Since 1954, 263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane, Max F. Moore

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RENTALS

VENTURA COMPANY 267-2655 Houses/Apartments, Duplexes, 1,2,3 and 4 bedrooms furnished

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SPRING CITY ROOFING Johnny Flores Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All types of repairs. Work guaranteed!! Free Estimates 267-1110

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SEPTIC REPAIR

B&R SEPTIC Septic Tanks, Grease, Rent-a-Potty. 267-3547 or 393-5439

KINARDS PLUMBING & DRAIN

We pump & install state approved septic systems PUMPING \$70.00 267-7944

AFFORDABLE SEPTICS

State Licensed, Install & Repair Septic Systems. 264-6199

CHARLES RAY DIRT & Septic Tank Service

Hwy 350 & 504 Ray Rd Big Spring, TX 79720-0266 (915) 267-7378 Luthier (915)399-4380 Permit No. TNRC20525. 751144070

TAXI CAB SERVICE

BIG SPRING TAXI 24 HR. SVC BOTH IN AND OUT OF TOWN AIRPORT SVC. 267-4505.

TREE SERVICE

TREE PRUNING & REMOVAL Also, Stump removal. Will haul off!! CALL 263-0260


WRECKER SERVICE

Mitchem & Sons Damage free towing. Honor most motor clubs. 24 hr. svc. local & out-of-town. 267-3747.

VIDEOS

VIDEO TAPING Fun, Sports, Romantic, Business, Public-Private Great gift idea! For Big Spring-Page 1-915-742-0272 leave #.

Shopping Around???



Check our pages for price comparisons, sales, coupons and special offers before you hit the streets.

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FARM LAND
1610 AC±. Approx. 25 miles North of Sterling City, TX on pavement. Good grass, level to rolling country, large deer. 2131 ACS: N of Water Valley, TX. Spring w/lots of pecan trees and wildlife! Plenty of hills & grazing. Barns, pens, highway frontage & minerals. 1600±OR-ACS: scenic ranch, Robert Lee, TX. Oak, cedar, mesquite, flat hills, beautiful creek. Plenty grass & good hunting. Lee, Lee & Puckett Assoc., Inc. 915-655-6989.

GRAIN HAY FEED
Big Round Bales of Hay!! Alfalfa, Rye, Wheat & Red Top Cane. Call 263-8785

FOR SALE: Round bales of red top cane hay. Contact Johnny Middleton 267-7625.

AUCTIONS
SPRING CITY AUCTION wishes you & yours a **Happy New Year.** Next auction will be Jan. 8th 2000 W. 4th • 7:00pm/12/28

DOGS, PETS, ETC
4 AKC Pugs: males, 2 blacks, 2 fawns \$200 each. Call 267-1924

BLACK DASCHUND found on Hillside Drive. 267-7264.

AKC Golden Retrievers. Ready to Go!! \$150. 264-9232.

Shear K-9 We can now take care of all your boarding & grooming needs. 915-756-3850

FREE KENNEL CLUB BREEDER REFERRAL SERVICE Helps you find reputable breeders/quality puppies. Puppies & rescue information. 263-3404 daytime.

FOUND / LOST PETS
SUBSTANTIAL REWARD!! Black & White Pointer w/Electric collar. Answers to "Speck" Call 254-721-2698 or 254-771-1132.

FOUND A MALE English pointer on HWY 87. Near cemetery. Call 267-4626 to claim.

MISCELLANEOUS
Looking for a 75-100 gallon fish aquarium, possibly with a stand. Serious inquiries only. Leave message 267-0016.

CREATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Our 20th Anniversary Discounts. Cakes, Flowers, Arches & Abras 267-8191

Just Arrived!! 30 sets of used full size mattresses, starting at \$29.00 per set. Branham Furniture 2004 W. 4th • 263-3066

FOR SALE: 1/4 Interest in 1978 Bonanza V-35 Airplane fully loaded. \$25,000. Call Eddie Cole 263-5000

WANT TO BUY
WOULD LIKE TO buy a (small or medium) acetylene & oxygen bottles. Call 263-7030.

ACREAGE FOR SALE
Small or large acreage. Some for homes some for Mobile Homes. Will consider terms, or Texas Veterans Financing. Call 263-8785

HOUSES FOR SALE
3 bdr., 1 bath on 1/2 acre. Fenced w/ water well, steel siding, steel roof. Coahoma School Dist. Call 268-9957 after 6:30pm.

3bdr. Fixer upper for sale! Make an offer on this old house that needs a lot of TLC located at 706 Nolan in Big Spring. Call (915) 267-4524 for an appointment to see.

Older/smaller homes w/stove & ref. no down \$200 to \$300 per month for 10-15 years. 264-0510 (rent to own)

3 bdr., 2 bath, 2107 Main St. #1(duplex) 267-6050

4 BDRM, 2 bath, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 3 bdrm, 1 bath. 80 acre farm house barn, corral. Owner finance. 267-3905.

Price reduced: 3 bdr., 1 bath. 1107 E. 15th, & 1017 E. 21st. Owner Finance. 267-6050.

WE LOVE Veterans. \$0 down payment to any qualified veteran on a NEW Key Home. Interest rates are great, call today and let us start your new custom built Key Home. 264-9440.

For Sale: 2 bd. home on .77 acre tract. As is! \$22,000. Call 264-6236 or 263-6275 or 267-4518.

FOR SALE: 1870 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath formal living and dining with den. Completely remodeled, sprinkler system, RO unit, Central H/A, fireplace. 1702 Harvard. 270-2535 or 263-8559.

2701 Central - Kentwood: 3 bdr., 2 bath. Corner lot 1 blk. from school: 52,500.00 Call 263-5802

MOBILE HOMES
1 time only 1998 3 bedroom \$995 down \$247 mth 10 years 9.75% Var./Apr A-1 homes San Angelo 653-1152 or 800-626-9978

Mobile Home Pre Approved Hot Line 653-1152 or 800-626-9978

Must SEE 4-1998 Porch Homes A-1 Homes San Angelo 653-1152 or 800-626-9978

New 1998 doublewide only \$229 mth, 5 year warranty, storm windows. A-1 Homes San Angelo 653-1152 or 800-626-9978 \$1500. down 9% fixed 360 mths.

New, never lived in, 1997 Doublewide... Must see to believe! Must sell \$1,900 Cash. \$249 per month, 9.99% apr. 360 months (915) 653-2332.

MOBILE HOMES
None to rough. We love trades A-1 Homes San Angelo 653-1152 or 800-626-9978

Used homes start \$1,000.00 A-1 Homes 653-1152

5-4-3-2-1 COUNTDOWN to 1998 Every home priced to sell! \$500 to \$3200 off the List Price of every home. USA HOMES, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177.

\$501 to \$1000 Cash!!! Six homes to choose from. Large inventory of preowned homes with prices reduced to sell! USA Homes, 4608 W. Wall, Midland TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177.

\$501 to \$1000 Enefectivo!!! Gran inventario 6 Hogares usadas de escoger precios. Revalados para vender! USA Homes, 4608 W. Wall, Midland TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177.

Must be moved: 1997 three bedroom sixteenwide. Front and rear floorplan, with appliances and furniture. Full factory warranty. Never lived in. Asking \$17,900. Will finance. Call (915) 653-1859.

AS LOW AS \$238/mo!!! Huge 16'x90' Home... Bigger than an 18' wide!! Bigger than a 28'x44' or a 28'x48' doublewide!! Absolutely the most home for your money!! See the 16'x90' home today at USA HOMES, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. 10% down, 9% var, 360 mos.

NO PAYMENT TIL MARCH 1998!! USA HOMES, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177 with approved credit.

Shop 'Til You Drop or come to USA Homes countdown to 1998 sale. We will not be undersold. DOUBLEWIDE Homes as low as \$29,999 USA HOMES, USA Homes 4608 W. Wall, Midland TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177

*Esta Navidad Haga su sueño realidad casa mobil doble 4 recamaras 2 banos \$1913 de enganche y \$330 por mes. Interes fijo 300 meses. Homes of America Odessa, Tx. 1-915-363-0881

*Huge selection of used homes starting at \$1499 Homes of America Odessa, Tx. 1-915-363-0881

1 time only 1998 3 bedroom \$995 down \$247 mth 10 years 9.75% Var./Apr A-1 homes San Angelo 653-1152 or 800-626-9978

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New, never lived in, 1997 Doublewide... Must see to believe! Must sell \$1,900 Cash. \$249 per month, 9.99% apr. 360 months (915) 653-2332.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31:
You will be more concerned with earning, building security and increasing your assets than you have been in prior years. Financial gain comes through artistic endeavors and talents. But don't take any unusual risks; they could backfire on you. Many changes are going on within. Allow transformation to occur naturally. If you are single, you might be more focused on yourself and personal gains than on relating to others. If attached, you build a deeper bond. Share more of the available opulence with each other. AQUARIUS helps you make money.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You are full of good cheer as you roll into the new year. There are changes afoot; greet them with an optimistic spirit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Count on being in the limelight. You enjoy bringing others together. You have some last-minute details to tend to. Others look to you for ideas, and to trigger the celebrations. Make sure you take good care of bosses and parents. Tonight: Be the leader of the gang.***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Opt for escape this New Year's. Whether you take off, or do something ultimately exotic, do not forget to put in your calls early. Examine long-term desires, and outline realistic plans for the future. Treat dreams as if they are realities. Tonight: Go along with a wild idea.***

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Make a point of being with a favorite person. Add a little

romance to your life, and infuse your relationship with magic. Discussions about the future are important; celebrate what could be. Don't worry right now about money. Tonight: Go for togetherness.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You are always the center of the party; this New Year's is no exception. You are happiest being among your friends. Celebrations start early. A fun encounter with a loved one leads to unexpected twists; luckily, you have already learned to work with this person. Tonight: The party goes on and on.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might want to spend time relaxing, rather than stirring up major uproar. Caring is intense, and a close friend wants to share a low-key day or two. The unexpected occurs with your plans, no matter what you think is going to happen. Tonight: Give someone a backrub.***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You are energetic. Listen to what another shares; he cares about you. Touch base with friends and co-workers. Your words mean a lot to others. Express the child in you. Another piques your interest with his unpredictability. Tonight: It's a sizzling start to the year.***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Spend an easy day and evening at home with family. This year has brought a lot of startling changes. Excitement vibrates through the air. Heed instincts with an unpredictable family member. Chill that bottle of champagne. Tonight: Laughter rings at home.***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Reach out for others. Wish holiday cheer and the best for

the next year. Wherever you are, your smile lights up another's day. Your enthusiasm is contagious; it prompts celebration. Hang out with friends, and enjoy yourself. Maximize the gaiety. Tonight: Enjoy the fun.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You are in the mood for major indulgence and partying. Handle finances, and make sure your budget is balanced before you let go and toss caution to the wind. Be careful just how far out you get; you will pay the piper at a later date. Tonight: Have a good time.***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You are full of fun and charisma. Dynamic energy marks celebrations and decisions. You flip in another direction, out of the blue. Affection breeds in this atmosphere. You are the dynamite keg that triggers the partying. Tonight: Your wild side greets the new year.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You have an odd, sometimes uncomfortable feeling about the new year and want time to reflect. Don't worry about your choices; rather, flow with the moment and your feelings. A talk with a trusted friend makes all the difference. Tonight: Be mysterious.***

BORN TODAY
Actor Val Kilmer (1959), actress Bebe Neuwirth (1958), singer Donna Summer (1948)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa. ©1997 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

HOROSCOPE

MOBILE HOMES
*Save big \$ on this 1997 doublewide, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 5 yr. warranty, garden tub. 5% down, \$296.00 month, 240 months, 10.75% apr. Homes of America Odessa, Tx. 1-915-363-0881 1-800-725-0881

TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK... Beat the clock on USA HOMES COUNTDOWN to 1998!! Spectacular Holiday Shopping Spree with every home purchase 'til 1998. USA HOMES, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177

*1998 3 bedroom Fleetwood America's largest homebuilder! Exclusively at Homes of America Odessa, Tx. \$803.00 down, 1183 month, 180 months, 12% apr. 1-915-363-0881 1-800-705-0881 Se habla español

Efficiency apt. \$225/mo. utilities pd. also 1 bdr. furnished \$160/mo. Call Evenings 267-5857 Day 263-0680

5 Roomed! Carpeted! Fenced! Storage! Guest House! Bills Paid! Linens! Dishes! 5 bedroom house for sale! 267-8745

Furnished efficiency apartment 408 W. 5th \$250./mo. \$100./dep. Pets paid. Sorry, no bills!! 263-4922

ALL BILLS PAID Section 8 Available RENT BASED ON INCOME 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments 1002 N. Main 267-5191 Close To Bauer School NORTHCREST VILLAGE RHO

Do you have a house for sale? A car? Let the Herald Classified section help you. Call us Today! 263-7331

Apartment, houses, mobile home. References required. 263-6944, 263-2341

HOMES & APPLIANCES 4 bdr. 2 b. \$300/mo. 3 bdr. 2 b. \$240/mo. 2 bdr., 1 b. \$220 & 1 br. \$200 - all with stove & fridge - no down payment 264-0510 or 1811 Scurry st.

Downtown Spacious 1 bedroom apartment. \$225/mo. Appliances, washer/dryer connections. Non-smokers without pets please! Credit verification. McDonald Realty 263-7616

AVAILABLE AT LAST...largest, nicest THREE BEDROOM apartment in town, two baths, gas heat and water included in rent, two car attached carport, washer-dryer connections, private patio, beautiful courtyard with pool and party room, furnished or unfurnished and REMEMBER... YOU DESERVE THE BEST! Coronado Hills Apartments, 801 W. Marcy, 267-6500.

Fall Special Efficiency \$200 1 bdr. \$225 2 bdr. \$275 Clean, quiet and on sight maintenance and management. 915-267-4217

REWARD LOST Solid black cat wearing white flea collar. Last seen on Edwards Blvd. Call 267-1011 or 267-6707.

Carpetaker needed for Big Spring Humane Society. Should be animal lover, with own transportation and telephone. Work is about 25 hours per week. Call Margaret 267-5646 for more info.

COMMISSARY ACCOUNTS CLERK Cornell Corrections in Big Spring, Texas. Commissary Accounts Clerk - \$6.39 HR. Contact Personnel Dept at 915-264-9511, 610 Main St., Suite B, Big Spring, Texas. EOE, M/F/V/D.

REWARD!! Black & White Pointer w/Electric collar. Answers to "Speck" Call 254-721-2698 or 254-771-1132.

1 & 2 BDR adult comm unfur. apts. Completely remodeled, new carpet & paint, carport, all utilities paid, no pets please. GOOD LOCATION. Call 267-3940 for more information.

1975 Ford Mustang Ghia. auto transmission rebuilt. 302 with 6,000 miles. New tires, paint \$1,000 o/b/o 267-6122

1988 Ford Econoline Van extended top. T. V. 351 with auto transmissin, power locks, windows, cruise. \$3,000 o/b/o 267-6122

14 OPENINGS for barber or beautician for combination shop in Big Spring to open in March. Hourly salary plus commission. No rent or lease. Send short resume to 3436 N. 1st. Abilene, Tx. 79603

'95 Ford Taurus GL. Loaded. 49,000 actual miles. \$7,250. 264-0623.

'96 Corsica. Loaded, 25,000 miles. \$7,250. Factory warranty left on. Must Sell!! 264-0623.

'93 Ford Mustang. One owner. 44,000 miles. Loaded. \$5850. 264-0623.

Volunteers who would like Camera exposure in local video. Write to P. O. Box 1743, Big Spring, Tx. 79720.

REWARD Missing 12-26-97 from 1813 Benton. 4 yr. old Male Retriever. Black collar & choke chain. Reward will be given. No questions asked. Please call 263-3489.

Bad manners meet worse at dinner party gone awry

DEAR ABBY: I am a Chinese-American from Taiwan. I have a college education and have lived in San Francisco for 10 years.

My friends "Arthur" and "Larry" are a Japanese-American couple who have lived in a deluxe mansion for 22 years. One day, they invited "Ron" and me for a homemade dinner. At the last minute I brought along "Richard" without calling them for permission. Arthur was angry when he saw that I brought an extra guest and said to me in the kitchen, "It is very rude to bring a guest with no advance notice. Didn't your mother teach you any manners?"

All I could say was, "Sorry, sorry!" He refused to cook the meal and left the house in a huff. Larry entertained us and said to me, "I don't mind the extra guest."

In my family, my mother always welcomed extra guests by saying, "Don't worry -- all we need is to provide one more pair of chopsticks for the guest."

The next day, Larry informed me that Arthur had decided to punish me by not talking to me for three months. He bought me a book on etiquette by Emily and Elizabeth L. Post.

Abby, was my innocent mistake really that terrible, or did Arthur overreact? What should I do after the three-month punishment? Beg him for forgiveness, or end the friendship? -- WONDERING IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR WONDERING: Although it's considered bad manners to bring an uninvited guest to a dinner party without first asking permission from the host, it is far worse manners for a host to refuse to cook the dinner and walk out!

Yes, indeed, Arthur overreacted. He owes all of you an apology. However, what you do following the three-month silence depends entirely upon how much you value the relationship with this couple.

DEAR ABBY: I have never written to you before, but I felt compelled to do so after reading the letter from "Not Guilty by

Association," the daughter of the racist father.

I want to applaud this young lady for her courage and strength in refusing to allow her father's misguided beliefs to infect her life. She is probably not aware of the fact that she has broken a link in the chain of racist hate. Racism is taught, not inherited. The only way we will ever eliminate this deadly infection, which is a crime against all mankind, is through teaching our children that it is wrong to hate anyone based on skin color, race or religious beliefs.

I want this young lady to know that she, herself, is a victory in the battle against this infection. Because she chose not to follow her father and become a link in the racist chain, her children will be raised to see individuals for who they are, and not for any external reasons.

Although you face a very difficult situation, "Not Guilty," please know that many people stand behind you and wish you God's blessing. Your personal fight against racism is a fight for all who want to rid the world of this deadly infection. -- MICKEY CASE, FALLBROOK, CALIF.

DEAR MICKEY: I'm pleased to pass along your message of support. Ultimately, we must all be judged by what we stand for, and not the thoughts and deeds of our parents.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Volunteers who would like Camera exposure in local video. Write to P. O. Box 1743, Big Spring, Tx. 79720.

NO MONEY DOWN!!!
ALL VEHICLES IN INVENTORY ARE ZERO DOWN! *

REBATES UP TO \$2,000 (on select models)	88 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN stk.#48040 \$19,997	88 DODGE DAKOTA stk.#48083 \$12,997	88 DODGE STRATUS stk.#38007 \$15,997
	88 DODGE RAM 1500 SHORTBED stk.#48018 \$14,997	88 DODGE AVENGER stk.#38018 \$14,997	88 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB'S ARE NOW AT VILLAGE!!!

IF YOU DON'T CHECK WITH VILLAGE BEFORE YOU BUY, YOU ARE PAYING TOO MUCH!!

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TUESDAY

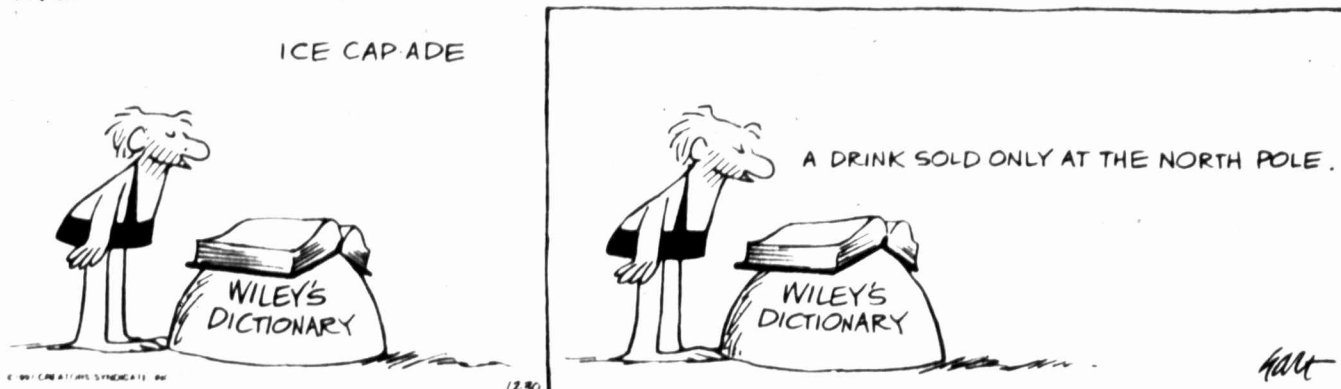
DEC. 30

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

HAGAR



B.C.



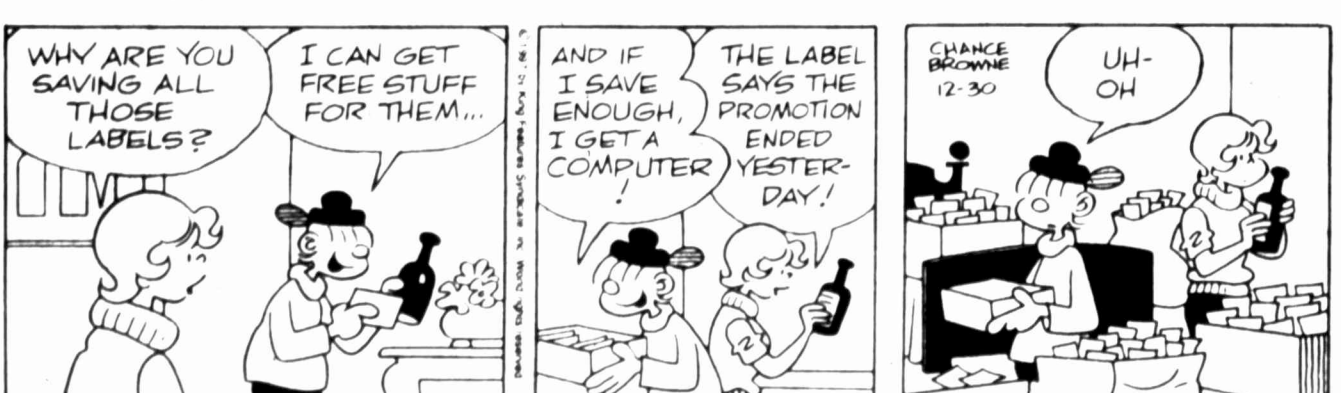
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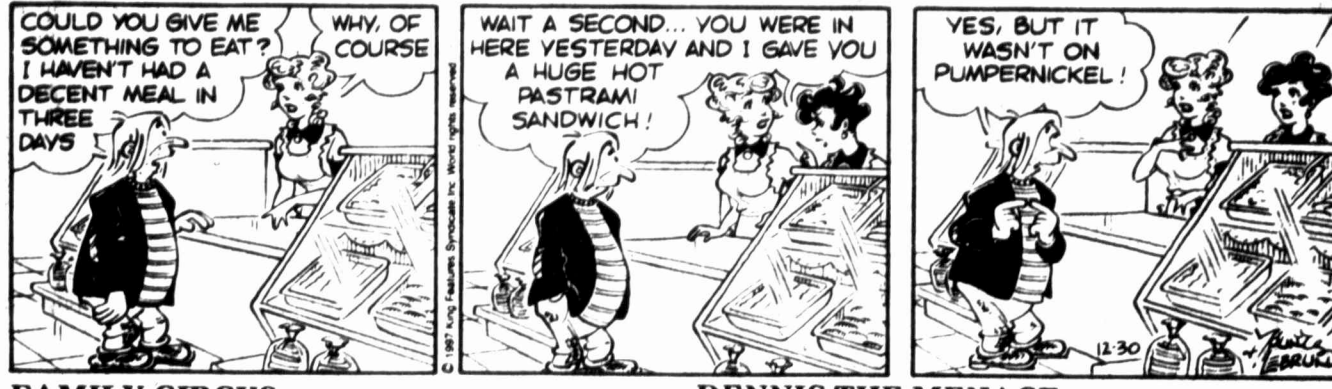
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BEETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'm makin' it for Barbie."



"NOW I KNOW WHY THEY SAY 'KIDS SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!'"

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, Dec. 30, the

364th day of 1997. There is one day left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 30, 1853, the United States bought some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

On this date: In 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

In 1911, Sun Yat-sen was elected the first president of the Republic of China.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first sit-down strike, at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Mich.

In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.

In 1944, King George II of Greece proclaimed a regency to rule his country, virtually renouncing the throne.

In 1947, King Michael of Romania agreed to abdicate, but charged he was being forced off the throne by Communists.

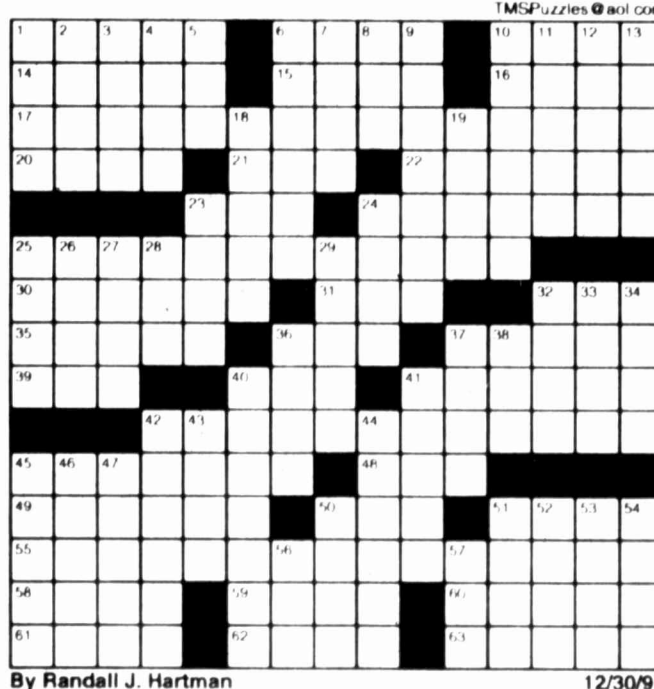
In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1993, Israel and the Vatican agreed to recognize one another.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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By Randall J. Hartman Escondido, CA

Monday's Puzzle solved



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