

Cosden Credit Union

· Mel's Fried Fish Scenic Mountain Medical

Center

es of Angel Tree gifts.

of relatives in the area," said Long following her examina-

tion. "It's always so tragic when something like this happens to someone so young, especially during the holiday season. My sympathies go out the the family of the young man."

According to unconfirmed

north on Highway 87.

"According to the evidence at the scene and eyewitness reports, the young man had stopped at the intersection's stop sign for a car prior to the accident," said Hester. "He failed to yield the right of way as he attempted to cross the intersection, and was struck in the driver's side of the pick-up he was driving." Hester said the collision that took Andrews' life was extreme. "When the pick-up traveling on 87 struck the boy, they collided pretty hard," said Hester as he pointed out the positions of both vehicles. "He was in pretty bad shape when they got him out of the truck."

include \$1 per pallet; \$5 per cubic yard for fresh wood; \$24 for a quarter-cord, \$50 for a halfcord and \$75 for a full cord of firewood; \$20 per cubic yard for compost; \$25 per cubic yard for vermine compost; \$10 per cubic yard for used fencing; and \$1 for small tree stumps or \$2 for medium stumps and \$3 for large stumps Council members will consider awarding various bids, including the purchase of lap top computers and digital imag-

tions for various programs are on the agenda. These programs include the tenant-based rental assistance program, the homebuyer assistance program and the owner-occupied housing assistance program.

Final reading will also be considered to authorize the city manager to enter into an agreement with TU Electric for installation of parking lights on City Hall grounds.

. In addition, Bealls Department Store will give a 10 percent discount to all purchas-

Salvation Army Kettles:

- Big Spring Post Office
- Wal-Mart
- Big Spring Mall

Other efforts:

• H-E-B Food Stores Ring In A Miracle to benefit the Salvation Army. Tell your cashier what you want to give and either \$1 and \$2 added to your grocery total.

 Canned food drives at all Howard County schools through Dec. 11.

• TCA Cable of Big Spring will waive the cost installation for new customers who donate 10 cans of food for its food drive. 30.

 Immaculate Heart of Marv Catholic Church, 1009 Hearn, is collecting coats for state hospital patients for Christmas.

See HELPING, Page 2

INSIDE TODAY...

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17 shopping days 'til Christmas red by BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 96, No. 41

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

County resident Adam Andrews, as well as sendanother ing

A traffic accident at the inter-

section of South Highway 87

the

and Bryan Rd.

early Tuesday

morning

life of 17 year-

old Howard

claimed

resident her grandchild

Justice of the Peace China Long pronounced the young man dead at 8:36 a.m. at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room. Andrews was a junior at Forsan High School, and had been part of both the school's

to Scenic Mountain Medical Center for treatment.

and ANDREWS

reports, the driver of the second vehicle involved in the accident, Judy Williams, was in serious condition when she arrived at SMMC, but SMMC officials declined to comment on the woman's condition at the time of press.

Williams' grandchild, who was secured in a car-seat at the time of the accident, reportedly suffered only minor injuries in the crash.

According to Department of Public Safety Trooper Jason Hester, the accident occurred

Information on funeral services for Andrews was not available at press time.

Deputies diffuse volatile situation

By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

Deputies from the Howard County Sheriff's Office were able to talk a distraught woman into. giving up a loaded handgun Monday, diffusing a situation that could have led to tragic circumstances.

"It's been a long day," said Deputy Lonnie Kincanon, who headed up the investigation at a residence in the Sand Springs area.

It was around 9:30 a.m. when deputies got the word that a woman with a gun was threatening suicide. Deputies investigated and entered the residence,

"She was just very distraught, intoxicated. She was having some family problems."

-Deputy Lonnie Kincanon

but could not locate the woman. Minutes after they left, they received a second call and discovered that the woman had been hiding in the rafters of an abandoned barn.

"We were able to talk her into throwing the gun out," said Kincanon, who identified the weapon as a .357 revolver. The gun was cocked and loaded, he said

The woman, described as being in her late 30s, would not leave the building immediately. however. Family members were able to talk her into coming out.

"She never resisted," said the deputy. "She was just very distraught, intoxicated. She was having some family problems." No charges were filed. The

woman was turned over to rep-Mental

Deputy Kincanon said when family members reported the problem they indicated they had heard a gunshot but couldn't tell whether it came from inside or outside of the resi-

See VOLATILE, Page 2

Replats of various city lots

See COUNCIL, Page 2

Fire strikes at residence of young Big Spring family

By MARSHA STURDIVANT Staff Writer

A house fire about 8 p.m. Saturday caused an estimated \$5-8,000 worth of damage in the home of a young family.

"One wall will have to be replaced and the rest of the house was sooted," said Burr Lee Settles, fire marshal.

According to the fire chief's report, the Big Spring Fire Department received the call at 8:05 and arrived at the scene, 1200 E. 16th, by 8:08 p.m.

Three fire engines and an ambulance responded, and more than 1,000 gallons of water was used to extinguish the blaze.

"When we arrived we found a large amount of smoke coming from the roof, where the air conditioner is, and the eaves of the house," Settles said.

The cause of the fire was determined to be an overloaded extension cord, Settles said. "When an appliance is plugged in, it is energized, whether the appliance is turned on or not. Most tv's have an instant-on feature, so there is electricity going up into the tv. Maybe the tv malfunctioned, or the extension cord malfunctioned." Settles said.

"The main thing we have to determine is, was it accidental or intentional. In this case, it was accidental," Settles said.

Sitting on a night stand was a television and VCR, as well as a clock. These were plugged into an extension cord, which caught fire and perhaps burned some clothes in the area, he said.

"The house is still structurally sound, although they will have to replace one wall. The rest of the house was sooted, and can be washed or cleaned,' Settles said.

See FIRE, Page 2

lighted park trails and decora-

In spite of vandals destroying parts of the lighted display, the festival opened on time and complete. However, the first three days have brought one problem for its organizers.

"Someone is taking out the light bulbs along the trail. And when they take out one light bulb, one bulb shoots down a whole string," Simmons said.

Volunteers have replaced about 50 lights so far because of theft, she said.

"We're sick and tired of this vandalism, and we are going to catch whoever's doing this," she saide smith and the owner

Patrons who have visited the festival hail from many areas in the southwestern United States,

Simmons said. Greeters meet visitors at the Hwy 87 entrance east, and ask

car, and from where. Wisconsin, New and Fort Stockton, Simmons

p.m. through Dec. 31. Greeters will remain at the spring until Dec. 19, to help conduct traffic and to record census information for funding purposes.

visitors we have, to present to

See LIGHTS, Page 2

HERALD photo/Linda Choste

Jerry Worthy, left, Jane Jones, Ed Williamson and Pat Simmons make the presentation at the dedication of lights ceremony for the late Dora Roberts last Friday night. A crowd gathered at dusk to light angels in homage to Roberts' love for her hometown.

Thousands visit Festival of Lights

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Staff Writer

Christmas lights shine brightly at Comanche Trail Park as the Festival of Lights recorded more than 3,000 people in its first three days of display.

"We are really pleased and attendance is going great. People say you can see the lights from Highway 87 really well," said Pat Simmons, coordi-

nator of the Festival of Lights. On opening night Friday which featured a dedication to Dorothy Garrett, a total of 1,056 people arrived to view the dis-

play. On Saturday, 1,307 persons attended, and on Sunday another 825 people came to see the

tions, she said.

how many visitors are in the So far, the volunteers have recorded home towns in

Mexico, Oklahoma, Phoenix, Ariz., as well Texas cities of Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, Kerrville

said. The festival will continue 6-10

"We need to know how many

resentatives from Health Mental Retardation.

OBITUARIES

Sue Orson

Funeral service for Sue Orson, 52, Midland, will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998, at Calvary Baptist Church in Andrews with the Rev. Mike Henson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Andrews, officiating.

Burial will be in the Andrews West Cemetery under the direction of McNett Funeral Home of Andrews.

She died Sunday, Dec. 6, 1998 at her residence in Midland. She was born May 1, 1946, in Waco, and moved to Midland from Andrews in 1988. She was: a homemaker and volunteer for the Commission of the Blind in Midland.

Survivors include: two sons, Keith Orson of Andrews, Scooter Orson of Andrews; one daughter, Kim Orson of Andrews; one sister, Sharon Graves of Midland; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of McNett Funeral Home, Andrews.

Coy Schofield

Coy Schofield, 71, of Big Spring, died on Monday, Dec. 7. 1998, at his

residence. Service will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998, Nalleyat Pickle Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Jack

Abendschan, SCHOFIELD

retired Methodist minister, and Paula Brooks officiating.

Graveside services will be at Rosedale Cemetery in Sour Lake.

He was born Oct. 25, 1927, in Hamilton, and married Myrtle Guedry on April 19, 1952, in Sour Lake. He had lived in Big Spring since 1975 and had worked for Halliburton for 40 years, retiring in 1986.

Mr. Schofield was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church. He served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and was a member and Past President of the Big Spring Optimist Club.

Survivors include: his wife, Myrtle Schofield of Big Spring;

Oct. 9, 1992. The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring; or Family Hospice, 3210 E. 11th Place, Big

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

Paid obituary

J.R. "Shorty" Herd, Jr.

Graveside funeral service for J.R. "Shorty" Herd, Jr., 73, former resident of Big Spring, will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998, at Stacy Cemetery in McCulloch County. Burial will be under the direction of Heart of Texas Funeral Home, Brady. Mr. Herd died Dec. 6, 1998. He was born Feb. 16, 1925, in Doole and worked in the oil field as a self-employed contractor. He had lived in Big Spring for 35 years, and served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Survivors include: his former wife, Joanna Herd, Burnet; two sons, Danny L. Herd, Bend, and Darrell G. Herd, Bend; two sisters, Rita Bailer, Coahoma, and Frances Elliott of Bakersfield, Calif.; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

H. Hayes Alexander

Funeral service for H. Hayes Alexander, Montrose, Colo., will be Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998, at United Methodist Church of Montrose, Colo. Burial will follow in Grand View Cemetery, under the direction of Crippin Funeral Home Chapel.

Mr. Alexander died Dec. 5, 1998, at St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction, Colo., following a sudden illness.

He entered the United States Army Air Corps in 1942, later serving as an instructor bombardier. He married the former Dorothy Mae Miller of Big Spring.

He is survived by two sisters, Ruth Durrer, of Joliet, Ill, and Margaret Eaton of Harboro, Penn.; two sons, Robert W. Alexander of Springfield, Va. and Ben L. Alexander of Montrose, Colo.; a daughter, Sara L. Alexander Martin of Colorado Springs; four grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and nephews. Memorial contributions in memory of Mr. Alexander may be made to: Montrose County Home Health Services, 300 N. Cascade, Suite 2, Montrose, Colo. 81401.

Earthenware Specialities" and painted exclusively for "Casey Pottery." She became wellknown for her artistic talents in various mediums. Her designs and painted stoneware and marketed internationally. The most popular design being her "Red Apples."

In addition to her artistic accomplishments, she was inducted into Sterling Who's Who and was included in the 1995 Edition for her outstanding achievements. She was also a gourmet cook and a good "mom."

Laverne retired in '97 and was married to Kenneth Archer of Odessa in January of 1998. She resided in Odessa until her death.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth R. Archer of Odessa; her parents, Mattie and J.H. Fuller of Big Spring; her mother-in-law, Roby Lee Archer of Odessa; a daughter and son-in -law, Karon and Ret. Lt. Col. Ray Magee of Colorado Springs, Colo.; a stepson, Allen Archer and his wife, Theresa of Odessa; a sister and spouse, Joann and Richard Scott of Odessa and a sister and spouse, Sherry and Bob Wegner of Big Spring; a brother and spouse, Don and Dottie Fuller of Garland; nine grandchildren, Laurie Nuta of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Susan Lazor of Calhan, Colo., Michael Magee of Bellevue, Wash., Jonathan Magee of Greeley, Colo., Kristin Magee of Silverthorne, Colo., Billy Casey, Lisa Casey, **Charlie Casey and James Casey** all of Marshall; eight greatgrandchildren, Jessica, Jennifer, Justin, Kerri, Jason, Kyle, Ryan and Miranda; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to M.D. Anderson Medical Center, Hospice or a favorite charity. Visitation will be from 6-9 p.m. **Tuesday and Wednesday prior** to services from 7:30 a.m.-noon at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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



Wilson, 84, Big Spring are pending with Nalley-Pickle &

BIG SPRING ROUND THE TOWN

hazards.

OCAL

She is hoping to have bright flood lights in the vacant lot near Dora Roberts Community Center, so visitors may park there and walk through the trails, she said.

"We've got traffic going just one way, so cars exit through the park instead of going back the way they came," Simmons said. The Festival of Lights is free

and open to the public. A donation can is available at the end of the scenic drive, she said.

Continued from Page 1

Jesse Nunoz, 22, works at Big Spring Care Center. Veronica, 19, is a homemaker. They have two small children, Jesse Ray, 3, and 16-month-old Julie Renee. Veronica is expecting the couple's third child in March. Veronica said the wall and a

section of the floor were damaged in the fire. No one was home at the time

of the fire, Veronica said. Her mother, Ester Calderone, had taken the children to spend the night at her house. Veronica and Jesse were shopping at Wal-Mart.

Calderone said her daughter was paged at the local department store by the fire department, who feared someone might have been inside the house

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

will be considered as well.

Following regular business, the board will adjourn to executive session to begin evaluation of the city attorney and municipal court judge.



THE CITY OF STANTON and Martin County will gather

PICK 3: 8,6,7 Fexas Lottery

are welcome.

For more information call Janis Dean at 267-3068.

SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.



TUESDAY

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

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles. •Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

 Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December in the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 West Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.

 Cancer support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7-8 p.m., VA Medical Center room 213. Call Beverly Rice, 268-5077. •"Most Excellent Way," an

addiction support group, 3610 Dixon, call 264-9900. Alcoholics Anonymous, 615

Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.

•Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at 319 **Runnels.** For more information call Shannon Nabors at 263-0027.

•The Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally Ill meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 409 Runnels (for-merly the TU building) For further information call Sondra at 267-7220

Counseling Samaritan **Center of West Texas will have** Dr. Ronald Meyer, D.Min., LCDC, LMFT, specializing in individual and marriage counseling, Attention Deficit Disorder and chemical dependency, available for clients in Midland. Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

of the month, Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway, 7 p.m. Call Viola Barraza at 267-9459.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

•Narcotic Anonymous, 8 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 268-4189 (pager no.) •Al-Anon support group, 8 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria. FRIDAY

•Turning Point A.A., 8-9:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

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

IF YOU HAVE A SUPPORT GROUP LISTING, PLEASE SUBMIT IT IN WRITING.

RECORDS

Monday's high 57 Monday's low 26 Average high 58 Average low 32 Record high 80 in 1966 Record low 09 in 1917 Precip. Monday 0.00 Month to date 0.03 Month's normal 0.18 Year to date 12.68 Normal for the year 17.72 *Statistics not available

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday: · JEFFERY COX, 17, was

arrested on local warrants. EDWARD MARTINEZ, 40, was arrested for assault/family violence.

 JENNIFER CISNEROS, 24, was arrested on local warrants.

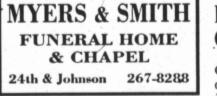
 BARBARA HUMPHRIES, 29, was arrested on local warrants. LESLIE HATFIELD, 59,

was arrested for public intoxication. · JEREMY MINTER, 19, was

FIRE

one daughter, Linda Diane Watson of Grand Island, Neb.; three sons, Coy Mack Schofield, Jr. and Plano. Michael Lee Schofield of Hot Springs, Ark., and David Wayne Schofield of Big Spring; two brothers, LeRoy Schofield of Azle, and Ronald Wayne Schofield of Hurst; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Gary Don Schofield, on



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

Laverne Casey Archer died Monday. Services will be 2:00 PM Wednesday at 14th & Main Church of Christ. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Coy M. Schofield, 71, died Monday. Services will be 10:00 AM Wednesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood **Chapel.** Graveside services will be at Rosedale Cemetery in Sour Lake, Texas

Lorene Wilson, 84, died **Tuesday. Services are pending** with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for

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

Arrangements under the direction of Crippin Funeral Home, Montrose, Colo.

Laverne **Casev** Archer

Laverne Casey Archer of Odessa, formerly of Big Spring, died on Monday, Dec. 7, 1998, in



ARCHER Perry Cotham, Church of

Christ minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Laverne was preceded in death by her husband, Billy E. Casey of Big Spring, and her son, Billy Robert Casey of Marshall.

She grew up in Howard County and was a 1946 graduate of Big Spring High School. During the early sixties, Laverne was co-owner of the "Little Miss Muffett" dress shop for little girls in Big Spring.

She and her partner designed and made all the clothing.

After Billy's death, she worked as an X-ray technician in Marshall.

She later became a professional artist and was owner of 'Ye Old Tole Shoppe" during which time she achieved the level and honor of "Master Tole Painter." After closing her business, she opened and operated



weich Funeral Home. She died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1998, at a local hospital.

HELPING OTHERS

Continued from Page 1

Also, a food drive is under way. Call 267-4124 to donate.

· Sacred Heart Catholic Church collects baby gifts to be given to Birthright. Bring your new or hand made gift to the church, 508 N. Avlesford.

 Norwest Bank has a Christmas tree decorated with ornaments that represent 26 Howard County children who are currently clients of the Children's Protective Services. Visit the bank to adopt one of these children.

 St. Vincent de Paul Society is collecting donated cans of food to be distributed to the area needy. Bring two or more cans to the Ritz, the Star or Cinema Four movie theaters and you will receive a free tub of popcorn. Donating the cans also qualifies you for a chance to win a prize.

VOLATILE

Continued from Page 1

dence. After recovering the weapon, the deputy was able to confirm it had been discharged, but apparently not at anyone. He said the woman never threatened to harm anyone except herself.

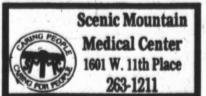
"It was in a secluded location, which made it a better situation for everyone," said Kincanon.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

the Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce," Simmons said. This year there is no parking

in the spring area, except for handicapped parking, Simmons said. This is to eliminate traffic



this evening in honor of County Judge Bob Deavenport, who will be stepping down following an 18-year tenure.

Friends and acquaintances of Deavenport are encouraged to come out to the Stanton **Community Center to show** their support, with the reception beginning at 5:30 p.m., and the formal program at 7 p.m. There is no charge for admis-

A FUND HAS BEEN set up to help pay funeral expenses for the family of Kenny Loy Court, who died Dec. 2.

sion.

Contact First Bank of West Texas to donate to the fund, account number 084-556-6.

THE CHOIR OF BSHS will present its holiday concert today at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium. The public is invited.

THE TEXAS DEPART-MENT OF Health will be giving flu shots every Wednesday throughout the winter (October-February) to those 18 years or older. The cost is \$5 for those not on Medicaid. The hours will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Call 263-9775 for more information.

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.

BIG SPRING THE **EVENING** Lions Club has free eyeglasses for all adults the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Evening Lions Club bingo building, 1607 East Third.

All adults needing eyeglasses who don't have the income to purchase the exam or glasses



 Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 268-4189 (pager no.)

WEDNESDAY

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

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

•Narcotic Anonymous, 8 p.m. Episcopal Mary's Church.Call 268-4189 (pager no.) Step study.

THURSDAY

·Alcoholics Anonymous, 615

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

•Alzheimer's support group, noon, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, third Thursday of the month. Call Janice Wagner at 263-1211.

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

•Alzheimer's Association Support Group, last Thursday

arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

 ALYCE MINTER, 17, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

 PAULA BAKER, 39, was arrested for public intoxication.

 THEFT in the 1700 block of E. Marcy, the 2300 block of Wasson, the 2500 block of Ann. the 3300 block of Drexel, the 400 block of E. 4th, the 1400 block of Tucson, the 600 block of Bethell, and the 1600 block of Scurry

 BURGLARY OF A VEHI-CLE in the 1000 block of Stadium.

 ASSAULT/FAMILY VIO-LENCE in the 1800 block of Laurie, and the 700 block of E. 11th

· RUNAWAY in the 800 block of W. 6th.

of E. 4th.

the 500 block of N. Birdwell.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Spring Big Fire **Department/EMS reports:** MONDAY

11:32 a.m. - 900 block Goliad, medical call, patient transported to VA Medical Center.

12:40 p.m. - 3200 block Drexel, automobile fire, extinguished by responding units.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ



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• FORGERY in the 400 block

· CRIMINAL MISCHIEF in

BIG SPRING HERALD Tuesday, December 8, 1998

GENERAL NEWS

XAS BRIEFS

torities investigate double murder ER (AP) - A man and woman last seen Frida were found ad Monday in a home they shared, police said.

Sue Porter, 48, and her companion, Harvey Edwin Matthews, 40, were found inside a modest home on Texas 31 owned by Ms. Porter, The home doubled as Ms. Porter's office- and storagerental business.

Investigators declined to give details of the scene or describe how the two were killed.

"It's a real intense crime scene with a lot of evidence to process," police spokeswoman Lt. Diannia Jackson told the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

A caretaker checking on the rental business Monday morning found Matthews' body in the kitchen and called police. Officers found Ms. Porter's body in the living room.

Several small dogs belonging to Ms. Porter were found unharmed in the house and taken to an animal-control facility.

Rangers investigate missing student funds

SAN AUGUSTINE (AP) - The Texas Rangers are investigating the disappearance of an estimated \$45,000 raised by students and turned over to the school district's administration office.

Investigators believe someone has been skimming cash from the San Augustine Independent School District's student clubs, possibly from as far back as 1993.

"This is somebody who has access to this money who just randomly took some over the years," Ranger Don Morris said.

The thefts occurred in the time between when the money was given to the school and when it was deposited in the bank, and was likely taken by an administration employee, Morris said. The victims in this case are the students who belong to the school district's 40 organizations, such as the cheerleaders, the pep sound and student council members. The money they earn comes from fund-raisers and concession sales at games and is used for student activities and trips.

Man gets 45 years-plus for fondling girls

ARLINGTON (AP) - A registered sex offender convicted of fondling young girls in the aisles of department stores has received two concurrent 45-year prison sentences.

John Thomas Mealing, 28, of Grand Prairie, also was sentenced to a 20-year prison term for attempting to fondle another girl. The third sentence also runs concurrently.

Mealing must serve 22 years before he will be eligible for parole, the Arlington Morning News reported. A prosecutor said Mealing surprisingly pleaded guilty on Friday, averting a trial that was to start Monday.

The newspaper said Mealing told investigators that he molested three girls - ages 6, 9, and 10 - within two weeks at two malls and a discount department store.

He was arrested after a surveillance camera videotape was broadcast on local television stations. The tape showed a man leaving the store as a girl runs to her parents:

Officer admits stealing from drug dealers

DALLAS (AP) - A police officer accused of stealing from drug dealers has turned himself in because he feared the dealers would kill his girlfriend, according to a published report.

Officer Daniel E. Maples Jr., 26, was placed on paid administrative leave after turning himself in Sunday night, The Dallas

Morning News reported on Tuesday, citing a police source. ^W Ponce Officials' declined to disquest the case, by Dewspaper said, adding that two office officers are being investigated and 15 officers, might be witnesses.

The newspaper said drug dealers complained that Maples was arresting them, confiscating their money and keeping it. The paper said the officer is suspected of taking \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Clinton begins impeachment defense WASHINGTON (AP) whose affair with the president Starr gave Congress, but advis

Facing Republican House Judiciary Committee members who won't change their minds,-President Clinton's legal team is mounting a vigorous impeachment defense aimed at undecided GOP lawmakers who will decide Clinton's fate in the full House.

With the possibility of a cliffhanger on the House floor next week, White House advisers can only hope that undecided GOP lawmakers are paying attention to administration witnesses and lawyers in committee hearings today and

The 21 Republicans on the 37member committee have made clear that, barring any new evidence favorable to Clinton, they would vote for at least one article of impeachment this week. **Committee Chairman Henry**

Hyde, R-III., picked up that theme Monday, telling reporters there was a "compelling case" for the committee's first presidential impeachment recommendations since Watergate a quarter-century ago.

"I haven't heard anybody say Monica Lewinsky is a liar," Hyde said of the former intern is the focus of the case.

The expert White House witnesses will argue that Clinton did not commit impeachable conduct by trying to hide a sexual affair; that impeachment for such concealment would set a dangerous precedent for attacking future presidents, and that the Lewinsky matter is far less grave than President Nixon's official abuse of power in Watergate.

Some witnesses and White House lawyers will analyze and evidence challenge the **Independent** Counsel Kenneth

ers said they want to be careful not to alienate swing lawmakers with hairsplitting and legalisms.

The lawyers are expected to cite favorable testimony overlooked in Starr's report such as Ms. Lewinsky's assertion she was never asked to lie and presidential secretary Betty Currie's contention the president never asked her to retrieve presidential gifts from the former intern.

Besides undecided lawmakers, the wider audience is the public.

Social Security talks under way by lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP) - After a year of promises during congressional debates, at town-hall meetings and on the campaign trial, President Clinton and lawmakers are finally getting together to talk about how to gird Social Security for the retirement of the nation's huge baby boom generation.

Both Democrats and **Republicans have pledged to try** to find common ground for action in 1999.

But Clinton was not expected to reveal where he stands on specific ideas for change at a White House conference starting today.

And with Republican leaders

saying they won't move forward until he does, no decisions about the retirement program's future were likely to come out of the two days of talks.

where the question is how do we proceed with a bipartisan process and that's a very big question," said White House

Clinton was to open the Social Security conference at a downtown Washington hotel this morning with a speech to an audience of about 250 people invited by the administration from a broad array of groups representing different views on Social Security.

Vice President Al Gore also had been scheduled to speak, but is instead with family in Nashville, Tenn., following the weekend death of his father, former Sen. Albert Gore Sr. Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were expected to join the Gores for a memorial service later today. Congressional leaders also

were invited to give opening statements at the Social Security event.

House Speaker-to-be Bob Livingston, R-La., and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., did not plan to attend personally, but each sent a delegation of Republican lawmak-

ers. Democratic leaders, Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri were expected to come along with other Democrats.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, planned to make the GOP's pitch for a solution to Social Security's problems without tax increases and for Clinton to take the first step

"You need to submit to Congress a specific plan to save Social Security soon or the job may not get done," said Archer in prepared remarks aimed at the president.

Report: Texas tobacco lawyers seek up to \$25 billion

DALLAS (AP) - Private Florida and Mississippi. lawyers who represented Texas in its tobacco settlement made the case to arbitrators that they deserve more than double possibly 10 times - the \$2.6 billion in fees they previously sought, The Dallas Morning News reported today.

Other national tobacco lawyers attending last weekend's meeting were shocked when the Texas attorneys told arbitrators they deserve between \$6 billion and \$25 billion in fees, people who attended the meeting told the newspaper. The News did not identify

S 043148 and could announce as early as Thursday how much the Texas lawyers will receive. The panel will also decide lawyers for attorneys repres

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, who attended the meeting, did not return phone calls. A spokesman for cigarette makers declined comment.

There's no assurance that the Texas team will be awarded anything like \$6 billion or \$25 billion - or even the \$2.6 billion it recently demanded.

The panel can award any. from a \$500 million annual pool amount it deems appropriate, but the lawyers are free to seek more from the state if they get less than \$2.3 billion. Governor recently reached a \$206 billion George W. Bush has promised to fight any attempt to seek

money from the state. Under the settlement's terms, the lawyer's payments would come not from the states but arbitration panel.

set up by cigarette makers. That fund would also eventually pay fees in 46 other states that settlement. The Texas lawyers' demand over the weekend for sharply increased fees stunned and angered colleagues and others attending sessions of the



budget chief Jack Lew.

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Suit challenges use of fake applicants

CHICAGO (AP) -Lolita Pierce and Eve Loftman applied for the same receptionist job at a Chicago business in 1995, they offered similar credentials but got very different responses

Pierce, who is black, was told selected applicants would be called later for second interviews, A few hours later, Loftman, who is white, was interviewed, tested and offered the job.

But the women weren't really looking for work. were employment They testers, hired by the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, a not-for-profit agency,

to find out whether businesses discriminate. Now the tactic is being tested

When in court cases that ask whether it's legal to misrepresent yourself to an employer in an effort to document discrimination.

Business advocates say no. Guardian Security Services Inc., the target of the 1995 racebias sting, is suing two black testers, Pierce and Kyra Kyles, and the Legal Assistance Foundation, claiming that presenting fake qualifications and feigning interest , in a job amount to fraud. Guardian is seeking unspecified damages. Guardian attorney Douglas

Darch denies the company treated the black applicants unfairly.

The company won a victory in September when a federal judge threw out a discrimination lawsuit filed by the black testers.

U.S. District Judge Suzanne B. Conlon said the testers can't sue because they didn't really want the job and suffered no harm. The agency is appealing the ruling.

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission this year dropped plans to file its own lawsuit in a similar Chicago employment-bias case after then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich criticized the use of testers. Gingrich promised to support a budget increase for the agency if it promised to focus on a backlog of cases instead of spending money on testing programs.

"Why go out seeking discrimination haphazardly when it can be said that it is sitting on your doorstep?" Gingrich said.

*Christmas Open House *

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Icon: It's kind of like, well, distracting

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DITORIAL

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

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Sports Editor

John H. Walker Managing Editor **Bill McClellan**

News Editor

OUR VIEWS Take some time to experience the holiday lights

e're constantly amazed at how Big Spring "lights up" for the holidays. Tonight, the lights will likely shine a little brighter and more often. It's the annual judging of the Christmas Lighting Contest and chamber officials report that they have received more than 30 entries. In the next few days, the chamber will put out a list of locations which can be visited by folks wanting to view Christmas lights - a holiday tradition for many. Add that to the ongoing Trail of Lights and Comanche Trail Park and last Saturday's Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade, and it's obvious the city really does "shine" this time of year.

Tonight's contest is divided into commercial and residentical anterestingly, only certificates are winners; there are no prizes. That the time to set up displays are

so rit of the season and to share that pin with a size of ound them.

The displays at some of businesses and residences represent something for all of us. Some are religious, in keeping with Christ's birth. Others feature other symbols of this time of year - reindeer, snowmen, carolers. Still others are almost whimsical, intended to evoke laughter. Driving around to see the lights is something the entire family can enjoy together. It is a fun experience that delights everyone except the grinch. And we're are B Spring has none of those.

carefully when you're out there, but take time

n a crowded field of trendy words, it looks as if "icon" is fading steadily. The ubiquitous "well" is forging ahead and "daunting" is com-

ing on. A year or so ago, you could count icons by the dozens. Everything was an icon movie stars, athletes, authors, even

AMES an occasional politician. KILPATRICK The New **York Times**

awarded icon status to Marilyn Monroe. Che **Guevara and Jon-Benet Ramsey. The Associated Press** nominated Tiger Woods, John Glenn and the Barbie doll. Newsweek reported that Jell-O is an icon of American cooking. The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle saw an icon in the Empire State Building. The Wall Street Journal gave iconic ranking to Rep. Charlie Rangel. These days the icon business. is slow. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, the home-run sluggers, are newly anointed icons. So, too, is the Orioles' Cal Ripken, but that's about the size of the fall crop. Icon thus has joined frisson, faux, resonate, world-class, dysfunctional and angst in the attic of words out of fashion.

OPINION

Nothing much has been seen of "proactive" since 1991, when it led the dishonors list of generally useless words compiled annually by Lake Superior State University. Of "insightful" and "meaningful," the less said, the better.

Nature abhors a vacuum. Into the hole left by the departing icon we now discern the friendly "well." This is not the introductory well, as in, "Well, we'll see about that." This is the written equivalent of the speaker's ah, er and um. Examples:

-- From The Washington Post: "Over the 35 years they have worked together, Christo and his lesser-known partner and wife, Jeanne-Claude, have felt, well, misunderstood.

-- From the Chicago Tribune: "The idea that prosecutors and the court reporter averted their. ears while a witness luridly shot the breeze with jurors about the most high-profile murder in the history of the county is, well, difficult to believe. -- From The New Republic, in

an editorial about abandoning the tenure system for the principals of schools in New York

The insouciant "well" may play a useful role. It probably helped a sentence in U.S. News & World Report in February. (The sentence needed all the help it could get.) A professor of psychiatry was pondering why President Clinton behaved so recklessly with Monica Lewinsky. The professor remarked that "Freud had a good deal to say about why for men love and lust are so hard to unite and why compulsions are so, well, compelling."

The Wall Street Journal made effective use of a "well" in June: "One of last year's big litmus-test votes was Houston's initiative that had to do with. well, it's a little hard to say just what it was about." Good point. The wording of the initiative was a model of ambigui-

But consider the wandering "well" in a story from The Associated Press. The piece had to do with teaching table manners to masters of business administration. "Good manners can help make a favorable impression and avoid, well, disgusting a prospective employer." That distracting "well" was, well, distracting. The sentence was better off without it.

Eric Lacitis, a staff columnist for The Seattle Times, recently reported a phenomenon that has been developing over the past five years. A plague of "daunting" and "undaunted" is

upon us. Etymologists track both the verb and the adjective from the early 1300s. At one time to daunt was to card For the past couple of hundred years it has meant to intimidate or to dispirit. Lacitis learned of the epidem-

Big Spring Herald Tuesday, December 8, 1998

ic from a correspondent, Hank Adams of Olympia, who has compiled whole volumes of citations. By way of example:

Senators face a daunting task in budget decisions. A horse race is daunting, a soccer game is daunting, a rugby game is daunting, and the defense of the West Virginia University football team is daunting. Rock bands are undaunted, gymnasts are undaunted, and a litigant who just lost his case before the Supreme Court is undaunted.

To these citations I can add a few of my own. It is a daunting task, reported The Washington Post, to uproot drinking traditions at the University of Virginia. It is a daunting task, said The New York Times, to reattach a severed hand. When Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr sent 17 boxes of material to the House, the Times noted that one member reacted "with a smile of doubt at the daunting task" that lies ahead.

Keeping up with fad words is a task to daunt even the most industrious scribe, but as they say, well, somebody has to do it.

Addresses

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BILL CLINTON

The White House

President





see the lights all over Big Spring this hol-It can be an "enlightening" experience.

OTHER VIEWS

is time of year, the ss benefit from a pubpouring of charity. But Dec. 26, Americans will irn to business as usual, inning the masses of helps street people.

With every year that passes, there are fewer apologies for the phenomenon of "seasonal charity." Even worse, more communities pass laws every year that essentially make it illegal to be homeless

Advocates for the homeless call the pattern "compassion fatigue." Dig a little deeper, and you'll find that in many places it boils down to something less romantic: a lack of political will to find solutions.

USA Today recently portrayed the disturbing routine:

New York City clamped down on "quality of life" crimes, citing even the squeegee men who wipe windshields for spare change.

Tucson created zones downtown from which people who violate the city's anti-loitering laws can be prohibited.

Even liberal Berkeley has started sweeping the homeless from storefronts on Telegraph Avenue, long a hangout for street people.

Texas cities, too, are part of the crackdown. Witness the tough ordinance enacted by the Austin City Council in 1996 prohibiting people from camping, cooking or sleeping in public areas such as parks, sidewalks and alleys.

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that on any given night, 760,000 people need shelter. That's 50 percent more homeless than in 1988, and that's despite the booming national economy.

How can this be? Observers point to an important factor. While many among the homeless are families with children, many more are addicts, mentally ill or both. Yet, waiting lists to get into treatment programs outpace waiting lists for housing. Maria Foscarinis, head of

the Washington, D.C.-based National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, says, for some communities, "it's easier to move people out of public sight.' Of course, this doesn't solve the problem.

"(All) it does is move people around," Foscarinis told USA Today. "It makes it less likely to help. Arrest records don't help people looking for work.' SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

The looming crisis in the state's Teacher Retirement System health-care plan, which faces insolvency in less than two years, should prompt the 1999 Legislature to examine health-care coverage for all school employees in Texas.

Improving their health-care benefits could solve two problems at once. It would rescue retired employees from a failing plan, and it would be an additional benefit to attract and retain teachers. ..

It would be foolish for the Legislature to simply plug the deficit gap in TRS-Care for another year rather than create a long-term solution.

Restructuring health-care coverage for all school employees could be as important as that teacher pay raise all the politicians promised on the stump this year. AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

My mother whipped up Christmas

REAUX BRIDGE, La. --Thanksgiving leftovers are gone, and **Christmas decorations**

are up in this most colorful of united states. There is

wobbling

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PRILICIPAL

plenty of time to study the effect: during this season all South Louisiana two-lanes are subject to come to a

RHETA crawl behind GRIMSLEY JOHNSON cane on their way to the

sugar mills. I don't mind the delays. The roadside sights are a visual gumbo: a sleigh pulled by alligators, Santa Claus sweating in a crawfish pot. Lights strung from pillar to post, over trailer and tractor, across barnyards and banks. Excesses aren't always wretched; some can be

divine. On the streets of downtown Breaux Bridge, perpendicular to the aptly named Bayou Teche, a vendor hawks little Papa Noels made from cypress stumps. The wave of the wood makes an excellent beard. It wouldn't be a bad way to make a living, either, cruising the swamp, seeking Santa in a stump.

I am uncharacteristically excited about Christmas this year. Maybe the mood will die when I return to Earth from

this faraway galaxy of Louisiana, but I hope not. My mother used to get excited this way. She would start early in the fall, making candles, pouring hot paraffin into Foremost Milk cartons like a

mad scientist on the cusp of a cure. The wax would harden, then she'd pull away the cardboard like a child greedily opening a gift. That's when the fun part began

She whipped paraffin to look like snow, then iced the red or green candles. She used glitter and ribbon and all manner of makeshift decoration. The two candles that turned out the very best went on the top of the piano, a place of honor. carefully situated in a cloud of that itchy white angel hair

stuff. Mother put away her normal bric-a-brac at Christmastime. She stored the ceramic ashtray shaped like a magnolia leaf, the TV lamp with reclining Chinese children, the round and pink corduroy sofa pillow.

She boxed it up and shoved it under beds, or high up in closets.

In their place she deposited Christmas, treasures from the attic that we saw only once a year. Her favorite piece was a miniature, lighted church that played "Silent Night" when you turned its key. She repeatedly stopped our sticky fingers from punching out the tiny. stained-glass windows, and she

alone was authorized to start up the music. Mother carried us with her on the long journey to the Best Day of the Year. Her excitement was contagious, and in time, we adopted holiday projects of our own.

One year I determined to sell Christmas cards, sent away for the goods and waited impatiently to board the Good Ship Free Enterprise. A huge, official-looking portfolio-style book finally arrived with samples of the cards I could offer to all my eager, paying customers.

But I was a shy child, and, besides that, Mother said my wares were far too expensive for normal people. I never knocked on a single door. She helped me wrap up the book and mail it whence it came.

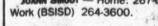
More successful were the Christmas piano duets my sister and I learned. One year we got sheet music for "The Happy Wanderer," a piece that forced our hands into impossible, contortionist positions. Again and again we played that rather irritating song.

"I am a Happy Wanderer, when Christmas comes around. And with my sack, upon my back, I cover lots of ground. La-dee-dee. La-dee-dah. When Christmas comes around . . "

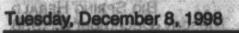
We took long rides to see relatively few lights. (Not everyone decorated so extravagantly back then.) We hung our Christmas cards and marked the calendar with red Rudolph noses

And I swear, I can't see a cypress Santa or an alligatordrawn sleigh without thinking of how my Montgomery, Ala., mother whipped up a Christmas.

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NATION

Big Spring Herald Tuesday, December 8, 1998

Rehnquist rejects call for dialogue on minority hiring

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court's nine members, defending themselves against critics who say they don't hire enough minorities and women as law clerks. have rejected calls for a "dialogue" with minority bar groups.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist told three black members of Congress in a recent letter it would be "inappropriate for any justice ... to seek guidance from special constituencies."

Rehnquist attached a copy of his letter to the three congressmen in responding to NAACP President Kweisi Mfume's request for a meeting to discuss the hiring issue. The Associated Press obtained copies of each letter. the highest court's first public utterances on the subject.

USA Today reported earlier this year that blacks comprise less than 2 percent of the 428 law clerks hired by the court's current nine justices during their tenures, and that less than 25 percent of the clerks have been women.

There are no statistics on how many minority or female applicants have been turned down.

Each justice hires three or four recent law school graduates each year to help with screening new cases and researching and drafting opinions. The one-year jobs are prizes for young lawyers, most often leading to highpaying posts in law firms or law schools.

Mfume has been the most vocal critic of the court's hiring. He was among 18 people arrested in October for carrying a protest demonstration onto court property.

In a statement Monday, he said the justices have "institutionalized" a selection process for law clerks "that" renders diversity virtually impossible."

"We will keep the heat on the justices until women, ethnic and racial minorities hold

'Date which will live in infamy' remembered 57 years later

Hawaii (AP) - Navy sea-Ansil "Sandy" Saunders was scrubbing his whites 57 years ago when he saw the planes over Pearl Harbor. In an instant, the USS Arizona exploded and the USS Utah rolled over. The USS Raleigh crew-

man hopped in a boat with four other sailors to help the wounded. They used a cutting torch to free a worker trapped in

PEARL

man

HARBOR, the hull of the Utah. "There was oil all over the water," the 80-year-old civilians killed on a date Saunders recalled at ceremonies remembering the Japanese attack that dragged the United States into World War II. "It was burning and there were people in it." All went silent at 7:55

a.m. Monday, the moment Japanese bombs rained on the Pacific fleet on Dec. 7, 1941.

the USS Russell honored the 2,388 soldiers and which President Franklin D. Roosevelt said will "live in infamy."

Through the mist, Air National Guard F-15s roared over the harbor in the "missing man" formation. Near the water, they were matched by five birds skimming the surface.

Survivors, relatives, state and military officials gathered at the USS Arizona Memorial, directly over the wreckage, to pay somber tribute.

"This is something I feel I owe to the people that are out there," Saunders said.

"I saw the ship go down-It's a thing of respect and duty I feel I should perform.'

Petals plucked from nearly four dozen wreaths were dropped through a well at the memorial and

floated away in water slicked by oil that continues to leak from the ship, on which 1,177 crew members were killed.

"Even 57 years later, we remember the heroism, the valor, the sacrifice and are thankful for the legacy they left for us - a legacy which continues to thrive in today's Navy," said Rear Adm. William

Sutton, commander of the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. For the first time, a special ceremony was held honoring the 63 minority soldiers - black, Filipino, Guamanian - killed during the three-hour bombardment.

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"War is a great equaliz-er," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, who was wounded in World War II.

"The blood that gushes from all is equally red. There is no black blood, white blood, brown blood or yellow blood."



more of the most prestigious law clerkships in the nation,' said Mfume. Rehnquist wrote to Mfume on Nov. 27.

Rehnquist said he was writing for himself and his eight court colleagues in his Nov. 17 letter to Democratic Reps. Danny Davis of Illinois, Cummings Elijah of Maryland and Gregory Meeks of New York.

The three had written to each court member to urge "a dialogue with minority bar associations regarding the hiring process for judicial clerks and the development of effective outreach programs." Rehnquist responded, "Each of us is satisfied that no person is excluied from consideration for a clerkship because of race, religion, gender, nationality or for any other impermissible reason."

"We agree that the statistics set forth in your letter identify concerns which all of us share," he wrote, "but you must realize that many factors entirely unrelated to the hiring of law clerks are responsible for this situation.

"We select as clerks those who have very strong academic backgrounds and have had previously successful law clerk experience, most often in the federal courts," Rehnquist wrote. "As the demographic makeup of this pool changes, it seems entirely likely that the underrepresentation of minorities to which you refer in your letter will also change."

Rehnquist cited judicial independence in stating that any dialogue with minority bar or civil rights groups would be inappropriate, but said "all of the justices are pleased to consider recommendations and comments from all segments of the bar with respect to the qualifications and credentials of an applicant."

The predominantly black National Bar Association and the National Organization for Women have also criticized the court.



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additional 20% off

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save 40% blouses for her when you take an additional 20% off

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Big Spring Herald Tuesday, December 8, 1998

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U.S. infant deaths are decreasing, life expectancy

NATION

WASHINGTON (AP) - More in history. American babies are surviving, even after difficult births, and they probably will live longer, with Americans' average life expectancy now standing at an started six years ago. all-time high of 76 years, according to new government statistics.

In a study published today in the journal Pediatrics, statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Dramantian about Reiderni ista th:

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In addition, teen pregnancies, as measured by the number of live births, fell 3 percent, con-tinuing a downward trend that

33.50

"All of the trends are positive," said Dr. Bernard Guyer of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, who analyzed the government data for Pediatrics. "They are all going in the right direction "

deaths between birth and the age of 1, was 7.1 per 1,000 births. That was about 3 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 7.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The drop in infant deaths came despite a 7.5 percent increase in the number of low birthweight babies and an increase of about 2 percent in the number of births by women late in their childbearing years. Promancy and birth complica-

multiple births, \another medical complication that affects infant mortality. Guyer said the number of twins rose by 5 percent, while the number of "higher order multiple births" triplets or more - increased by 20 percent.

That increase has come about because more women are using fertility drugs.

Medical science is combating

There also was a sharp rise in treat and care for underweight and premature babies, Guyer said.

"We have become very good at treating them regardless of their birthweight," he said.

Yet despite the improvement in infant death rates, "we still rank pretty poorly" compared to other industrial countries, said Guyer.

Singapore, for instance, had an infant mortality rate of 3.8

rate in the United States.

The number of years a person born in the United States can expect to live increased, in part because of falling death rates from major diseases and from accidents, homicides and suicides. Deaths from HIV, or AIDS, for instance, dropped by 47 percent in 1997.

A longer life expectancy, said Guyer, "reflects improvement at both ends of the life spectrum. The fact that infant mortality is down means that babies born this year are going to have a longer life expectancy. At the other end, we are able to prolong life longer and the aged are healthier.'

The most dramatic improvement was among black males, whose life expectancy increased by 1.2 years to 67.3 years. For black females, it improved to 74.7 years, an increase of half a year.

For white females, life expectancy rose to 79.3 years, up one-tenth of a year. And for white males, it is now 74.3, an improvement of four-tenths of a vear.

Among other findings:

-Births to teen-age mothers fell in 1997 for the sixth consecutive year to 52.9 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. That is 3 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 54.4 and 15 percent lower than the 1991 rate of 62.1. "All of the stuff from the last decade safer sex, more access to contraception — appears to have had an effect," said Guyer.

-Based on 1996 statistics, the latest available, Maine had the lowest infant mortality rate at 4.4 per 1,000 live births. The highest rate was in the District of Columbia, with 14.9 infant. deaths per 1,000 live births.

-The number of very low birthweight babies, those born at less than 3.3 pounds, increased slightly, to 1.41 percent of all live births in 1997, from 1.37 percent in 1996.

-Low birthweight babies, those weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth, increased to 7.5 percent in 1997 from 7.4 percent in 1996, continuing a steady increase. The rate in 1984 was 6.7 percent of all live births.

Two jets nearly hit off Long Island

BOSTON (AP) - Two passenger jets heading to Europe nearcollided off Long Island,

N.Y., and federal investigators are trying to determine if a computer malfunction at an air

traffic control center was to

The planes, traveling at more than 500 mph, came within 1.07 miles of each other Sunday night, the Federal Aviation

Administration said. The pilots took evasive action after being alerted by onboard collision

The planes were a British Caledonian L-1011 carrying 271

people from Montego Bay.

Jamaica, to Manchester. England, and a Delta Airlines

Boeing 767 carrying 101 passen-

They were both flying at

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SPRING HERALD

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1998

Longhorns' Williams named AP's Player of the IN BRIEF

Lady Steers freshmen post win over Snyder

Big Spring's Lady Steers freshmen took a 36-20 win over Snyder's young Lady Tigers, getting their lead from reserve point guard Ashley Larson.

Larson came off the bench to pace the Lady Steers with 10 points, while Paige King and Tejal Patel each scored eight points. King also had six steals on the night.

The Big Spring freshmen also got four points and seven rebounds from Taylor Kennedy.

The Lady Steers will play host to Colorado City's freshmen at 10 a.m. Saturday in Steer Gym.

Steer Baseball Boosters first meeting is tonight

The 1999 Big Spring Baseball Boosters Club will hold an organizational meeting at 7 tonight in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Complex.

Anyone interested in supporting Big Spring High School baseball teams is encouraged to attend.

Lady Yearlings suffer two losses to Snyder

Runnels Junior High School's Lady Yearlings were forced to absorb a couple of losses on the road Monday night in Snyder.

The Lady Yearlings "A' team suffered a 48-25 defeat, while the "B" team dropped a close 35-32 contest.

In the "A" game, Big spring was paced by the six points each scored by Esha Ward and Amanda Lasater. Ashley Smith added five more and Ashley Tuttle scored four.

The "B" team lost despite a 14-point effort by Stacey Vaughn, while Rachelle Guinn scores seven and Rachel Wester chipped in three more.

Youth basketball league beginning registration

Ricky Williams isn't "Little Earl" anymore.

After smashing the major college career - rushing record and Earl Campbell's school record in the process, Williams is his own man now.

dreadlocked soft-spoken, The Californian's staggering rushing totals sent him well beyond Campbell in the NCAA record book, and on Monday earned him The Associated Press College Player of the Year Award.

It is the first year of the award voted on by AP member newspapers, TV and radio stations. Williams rushed for 2,124 yards and scored 28 touchdowns this season and set the Division I career rushing mark in the process.

Williams received 76 of the 143 votes in the AP award balloting, well ahead of Kansas State's Michael Bishop, who had

AUSTIN (AP) - Texas running back 17 votes, and Kentucky's Tim Couch, who had 15.

"Any time you are considered the best, it's flattering," Williams said, "and to be picked the top player in college football by the reporters who watch the games so closely is truly an honor."

And by the end of the week, Williams has an excellent chance of joining Campbell as the Longhorns' only Heisman Trophy winners.

Williams owns 16 NCAA records, including most career touchdowns (75), points (452) and all-purpose yards (7,206). He also averaged a record 6.22 yards per carry

Couch, who owns his share of passing records, said Williams was the best player in the country.

"As many times as he carries the ball, he's just as strong in the fourth quarter as he is in the first quarter," Couch said.

"He's an amazing player."

The early comparisons to Campbell were easy. The 6-foot, 225-pound Williams is a bruising runner who picked up a ton of yardage after initial contact. Williams won the Doak Walker Award last year as the nation's best running back.

But Williams has proved he's much more than a great tailback.

After early trepidation over his dreadlocked haircut, tongue and nose piercings and tattoos (Campbell once encouraged Williams to cut his hair), the elementary education major showed a softer side with his visits to schools and his casual and friendly style with reporters.

Using money from the minor-league baseball contract he signed coming out of high school, Williams has paid for his mother and sisters to move from San Diego to Austin and for his sisters'

tuition at Texas. He's also set up a trust fund for his father's four children from a second marriage.

And when given the chance, Williams turned down the NFL and a big contract to try to turn around Texas' 4-7 showing in 1997. Texas finished 8-3 this year and earned a spot in the Cotton Bowl against Mississippi State on Jan. 1..

"That's what has always been the most important thing to me, helping the team win games," Williams said.

"He wanted the college experience his senior year, and I'm sure he knew what it meant to his school and his class,' NFL Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett said.

'He felt obligated to come back. You see so many guys jumping for the money, and it's a tough call. But you can't say anything wrong about his decision," Dorsett said.



HERALD photo/John A. Mosele

Jerry Larned of Midland, a member of the Texas High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Honor, delivers the keynote address during Monday night's Big Spring Quarterback Club Football Banquet.

Quarterback Club honors 1998 Steers during banquet

Bucs stay alive in playoff chase beating Packers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - Warren back Dorsey Levens said. Sapp sat at his locker, spitting tobacco juice onto a towel at his feet and savoring the taste of a victory over the Green Bay Packers.

Sapp and his Tampa Bay teammates sacked Brett Favre eight times and bagged a 24-22 victory, their first over NFC Central rival Green Bay since 1995. The win bolstered the Buccaneers' wild-card playoff chances and thrilled a sellout crowd attending the first Monday night game at Tampa in 15 years.

'This town has waited a long time for us to take Green Bay down," Sapp said. "It's even more special that the whole country got to watch it."

The Packers had won six straight in the Battle of the Bays, usually because Favre outplayed Trent Dilfer. But this time Dilfer threw for two touchdowns and ran for another while Favre was harried into six fumbles. Although the Packers recovered five of the loose balls, the scrambles typified their performance. Injury-riddled Green Bay fell behind 14-3 early and spent the rest of the night trying to catch up. 'After playing these guys six times, we were beginning to think we were never going to win," Bucs coach Tony Dungy said. "The difference was that we got ahead. In the past they got ahead early and controlled the game.' With three games left, Tampa Bay (6-7) climbed into a threeway tie with Arizona and New Orleans in the race for the final NFC wild-card spot. The Cardinals and Saints hold the tiebreaker edge over the Bucs, who play Pittsburgh on Sunday. "Our backs were against the wall," Dungy said. "They're still against the wall." The game was less critical to the two-time defending NFC champion Packers (8-5), although they missed a chance to clinch a wild-card berth.

"We're going to win the next three games.

They'll have to do it shorthanded. Plagued by injuries all year, the Packers lost center Frank Winters to a broken leg, and receiver Robert Brooks reinjured his hamstring.

able," Favre said. "We're losing guys right and left. We did a great job with who we had."

Green Bay outgained the Bucs rushing and passing, but spent too much time going backward. Although Favre went 29-for-41 for 228 yards, he often fumbled before he could throw.

"It got kind of crowded in there with arms swinging and swiping at the football," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said. evloseth a handh playoff Brad Culpepper and Regan Upshaw had two sacks apiece. Jeff Gooch and Ronde Barber each forced two fumbles.

"We had to mount a pass

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The Big Spring Youth Basketball Association has scheduled registration beginning Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration at the mall will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition, youngsters can register at Neal's Sporting Goods during business hours throughout the week.

A fee of \$20 is required for each participant in the league. For more information, call Charlie Hall at 263-0159 or Rick Watkins at 267-2358.

Softball umpires needed for high school schedule

Fastpitch umpires are currently needed to work softball games throughout West Texas, according to officials with the Permian Basin chapter of the Southwest Softball **Umpires Association**.

Umpires will be calling high school softball games in Alpine, Andrews, Big Spring, Brady, Coahoma, Colorado City, Eldorado, Fort Stockton, Greenwood, Hermleigh, Kermit, Lamesa, Midland, Monahans, Odessa, Pecos, San Angelo, Snyder, Sonora and Wall

For more information, call Mack Gipson at 520-5961

PLAYOFFS

FRIDAY:

7:30 p.m. Stanton (13-1) vs. Celina (14-0), in Stephenville.

SATURDAY

3 p.m. · Borden County (13-1) vs. Trinidad (14-0), in Brownwood.

ON THE AIR

TODAY:

COLLEGE BASKETBALL 6:30 p.m. - Indiana at Kentucky, ESPN, Ch. 30. 7 p.m. - Texas Tech at Texas Christian, FXS, Ch. 29. 8:30 p.m. - Iowa at Kansas, ESPN, Ch. 30.

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Sports Editor

Big Spring High School's 1998 Steers football team, which turned around a 1-4 record midway through the season and earn a berth in the Class 4A. Division I playoffs, was honored Monday night during the Big Spring Quarterback Club's annual football banquet.

The keynote speaker for the event was former Monahans football coach Jerry Larned, a member of the Texas High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Honor whose career saw him coach in almost every schoolboy classification in Texas, as well as at the junior college and NCAA Division I levels.

Larned directed his comments to the student athletes, stressing "five ingredients for success." First and foremost of those ingredients, he

said, is spiritual soundness. "You need to pray every day," he explained. "If you don't you won't be a winner in life or on the football field."

Second on the veteran coach's list was the need to set goals. And those goals, he said, should have no boundaries.

"There simply are no unreasonable goals," Larned explained, noting that the other ingredients of success, if adhered to, make virtually any goal attainable.

Larned also stressed the athletes need to have tremendous courage, have a burning desire to excel and be respectful.

"Courage isn't what you see in the movies and on television," he explained. "Courage is what it takes to live up to your convictions ... to not be distracted from what you believe is right and wrong, as well as what you believe you can do."

Having respect, not only for parents, one's school and one's nation, Larned added, also means having respect for one's body.

You have to have respect for your bodies," he stressed. "Don't ever put anything in it that will hurt it."

After members of the coaching staff had introduced each of the varsity players, Head Coach Dwight Butler took a few minutes to praise his team.

"This is a special group of young men," Butler told the audience, adding that he's convinced they'll all find success in the future. "They went through tremendously tough times ... had plenty of opportunities to quit, but they never did. What these kids did was never give up on one another ... they kept believing in themselves and one another and had success nobody else believed was possible."

The only award presented during the evening was the program's academic award which went to senior Thomas Garza.

Butler noted the coaching staff does not present individual awards, other than that for academic achievement, because they insist on stressing football's nature as a team sport.

"Oh, we're definitely going to make the playoffs," running

that was unbelievable," Sapp said. "We got to Favre early and he was uneasy in the pocket."

Favre's record against the Bucs fell to 13-2. Dilfer, meanwhile, beat the Packers for just the second time in nine starts. He had plenty of help. Jacquez Green and Bert Emanuel turned short passes into long touchdowns for an early lead.

The patterns were similar: quick slants on third-and-short with the receiver breaking into the clear. Green's score covered 64 yards, Emanuel's 62 yards.

"They get 14 points on two big plays," Holmgren said. "That's the way we've beaten them before.'

The Packers closed within two points with 2:20 left, but Sapp and Culpepper sacked Favre at the Green Bay 38 on the final play, and the frenzied crowd gave one last cheer.

"There was a lot of excitement in the city all week, and our guys sensed that," Dungy said. "We needed it to prove we could play with playoff teams and show what we can do when we're hitting on all cylinders."

NFL considering instant replay for this year's playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) - Three botched calls by officials has done what six years of NFL politics couldn't do - bring back instant replay.

While nothing's official yet, it looks like some sort of replay system could be in place as early as this season's playoffs

That came as Seattle coach Dennis Erickson was contacted by Jerry Seeman, the NFL's supervisor of officials, about the touchdown by the New York Jets that beat the Seahawks 32-31 Sunday. Replays showed a 5-yard run by Jets QB Vinny Testaverde went only 4.9 yards and ended up short of the goal line.

As expected, Seeman said the call was wrong, but the loss stands.

He said, 'The guy who called it saw the helmet go across the line and thought it was the ball," Erickson said incredulously.

That play may have been the last straw. League officials say they might have the 24 votes of 31 teams, including Cleveland, needed to implement instant replay for the playoffs. Last March, it fell two votes short, getting 21 of 30.

Was it a gift for Testaverde and Jets? HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) - The pre- Touchdown. The refs are out there makvailing opinion among New York Jets players seems to be that instant replay is a good idea. They wouldn't have felt that way if replay was in use Sunday.

Many of the Jets understood how fortunate they were that the head linesman gave Vinny Testaverde a touchdown on his 5-yard quarterback sneak in the dying seconds of the game with Seattle. Although replays indicated Testaverde was down before reaching the goal line, Earnie Frantz quickly signaled touchdown, giving New York a vital 32-31 victory.

Otis Smith said with a laugh on Monday. "That's the way it was called.

The new system would take the form used in preseason experiments - with coaches given two challenges per game and referees making the final decision from monitors on the sideline.

But it also would allow a coach who is out of challenges in the final two min-

ing judgment calls, and they called it a touchdown.

"So, to me, it was a touchdown. You can call it what you want."

Testaverde himself was willing to admit the controversy swirling around the play - and so many other officiating calls this season - was understand able

"I thought about it on the way home," Testaverde said. "So when I saw it, I tried to evaluate it fairly.

"I know the angle of the replay is tough to see and most people are going to say it was not a touchdown. But there

See JETS, page 9

utes to make one with the referee's consent. That would apply to plays like the one by Testaverde.

Sunday's call, plus a questionable call that allowed New England to beat Buffalo a week ago and the botched coin flip in the Pittsburgh-Detroit game on

Thanksgiving Day, have had a ripple effect around the league.

"The fans can see it at home. There's no reason we shouldn't implement that in our game, and hopefully it will change the outcome of a number of games," Denver coach Mike Shanahan said Monday.

changed, but people are getting to see it very quickly first-hand, the mistakes

seven teams that have voted regularly against replay - the New York Giants, Arizona, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Chicago and Tampa Bay. They were joined by San Diego and Oakland.

manager, indicated Monday that the Bucs could change their vote to "yes."

plained about the officiating in Buffalo's last-minute loss to New England and was warned he could be fined \$50,000 for his remarks. He shot back at commissioner Paul Tagliabue, saying he didn't need

See REPLAY, page 9

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"I don't think the officiating has really

being made.' The "no" votes last March came from

Rich McKay, Tampa Bay's general

And so will Buffalo's Wilson, who com-

"It was a touchdown," cornerback

BIG SPRING HERALDIC Tuesday, December 8, 1998

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SPORTS

NBA players set exhibition for Dec. 19 in Atlantic City WASHINGTON (AP) - Maryland talked about avoiding a letdown, yet came out flat

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NEW YORK (AP) - Michael four Dream teams - the 1992 and 1996 Olympic teams and

\$1.000. A long-rumored exhibition

in financial need.

NBA players was finally announced Monday by agents David Falk and Arn Tellem. "The Game on Showtime" is set for Dec. 19 in Atlantic City, N.J., with the proceeds going

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won't even be playing, and courtside tickets will still cost

to charity and to NBA players

"If you look at people who

play professional sports, not a

lot of them are financially

secure," union president

Patrick Ewing said. "They

make a lot of money, and they

"Me, I'm financially secure,

but there a lot of others who

aren't. Our objective is to help

these people. No matter how

much money they've made

throughout their careers. if

they're in need now then it's

Thirteen players are commit-

ted to play, and organizers

hope to have a total of 16 play-ers who were members of the

up to us to try and help them,'

also spend a lot of money.

the 1994 and 1998 World Championship teams. Ewing, Karl Malone, Penny game featuring locked-out

Hardaway, Tim Hardaway, Allan Houston, Reggie Miller, Alonzo Mourning, Tom Payton, Gugliotta, Gary Dominique Wilkins, Vin Baker, Glen Rice and Mitch Richmond have committed.

Among those who have not are Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Charles Barkley, Scottle Pippen, Islah Thomas, Shaquille O'Neal, Hakeem Olajuwon, Grant Hill and John Stockton.

Derrick Coleman and Larry Johnson, members of the 1994 World Championship team, were not invited.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported the NBA will cancel it's All-Star Game, now scheduled for Feb. 14 at the First Union Center in the city. The league is negotiating with the city, through the mayor's office, to find ways of softening the impact on hotels which had blocked off rooms

for the weekend.

about avoiding a letdown, yet came out flat anyway. So did Stanford.

Both nationally ranked teams had little energy left Monday night, just over 24 hours after their emotional confrontation in the opening round of the BB&T Classic. a tense 62-60 Maryland victory.

Luckily, the No. 2 Terrapins and sixthranked Stanford had enough talent to record virtually identical victories over lesser foes.

Maryland won the championship, 92-75 over DePaul, after Stanford pulled away in the second half to beat George Washington 70-56 in the consolation game.

The Terrapins (10-0) led by only four points with 14:20 left before finally disposing of a young DePaul team that starts three freshmen.

"We came out today a little flat. They took advantage of it," said Maryland forward Terence Morris, who made 10 of 11 shots from the field and matched his career high with 22 points.

"I thought we were tired coming in,' Maryland coach Gary Williams conceded. "Of course, that's not something you can even talk about or worry about. You just have to be ready to play.

The letdown was inevitable, given the emotion spent the day before. DePaul (5-2) came in with a five-game winning streak, but the Terrapins probably figured this game was going to be a comparative breeze compared to the tournament opener.

It wasn't. "That score is not indicative of how close the game was," Williams said.

The same can be said for the Stanford-George Washington game. Although the Cardinal (5-2) led the entire second half, the margin was only five points with 9:25 left.

That's when Mark Madsen took over, scoring six straight points - two free throws, a layup and a dunk off an alley-oop pass - to make it 61-50. Minutes later, Madsen made a foul shot and Kris Weems followed with a 3-pointer for a 67-54 lead with 4:33 left.

Clearly, Stanford wasn't in the proper frame of mind to play the feisty, physical Colonials.

"Whether we want to admit it or not, there was a letdown," Madsen said. "It's easier to get up for No. 2 Maryland; conversely, George Washington can always get up to play Stanford.'

In the only other Top 25 game, No. 23 Arkansas routed Western Carolina 90-54. The two-day BB&T Classic was valuable for all four teams, each of which learned something that can be applied later in the season.

"This shows our players we can do some things better, and that's good," Williams said. "Our rebounding is not where it should be. We were outrebounded both added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Stanford, meanwhile, got a lesson in playing the physical brand of basketball often associated with teams from the East.

'It was a gritty, tough win for us, just like they're all going to be," coach Mike Montgomery said. "It was a pretty good bounce-back for us, considering how emotional and physical the game was yesterday.'

DePaul coach Pat Kennedy talked about the benefit of playing one of the best teams in the nation virtually dead-even for 26 minutes. After going head-to-head against Maryland, they'll certainly be prepared for the competition in Conference USA.

'(Maryland) is a team that can win the national championship. We learned a lot," Kennedy said. "This is what it's about, growing as a young team. This game will be incredibly beneficial to us down the stretch."

And even George Washington (3-3) expected to profit, despite losing twice.

Arkansas 90. W. Carolina 54

Pat Bradley scored 32 points, including 8of-12 from 3-point range, as Arkansas defeated Western Carolina.

Arkansas (6-2) shot 59 percent from the field, including 67 percent on 3-pointers.

Kareem Reid, making his first start since a loss to Villanova on Nov. 22, scored 17 points for the Razorbacks. Derek Hood



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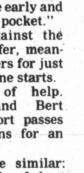
"From the slow motion, you'd think I was down and the angle of the replays shows I was short of the goal line. But if the camera had been on the goal line looking across from one flag to the other - and I'm taking the word of some of my teammates

view of the ball." What unbiased viewers saw

I think you'd see a different

was Testaverde's knee hitting the turf with the ball still short of the goal line. What everyone saw, though, was Frantz's arms in the air. After a short discussion, Frantz's call was upheld - to vehement protests from the Seahawks, who saw their playoff chances dissolve with Brad Culpepper andeebleant What coach Bill Parcelisiaaw

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BIG SPRING HERALD Tuesday, December 8, 1998

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CLASSIFIED



Your way of expressing yourself draws others and allows more friendship into your life. Return calls. Someone pays you a compliment. You love it! A. difficult partner goes with the flow, but don't think it's permanent. Tonight: With friends.*****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Beam in what you want. Though you could be overly sensitive, you can still read a loved one cold. Follow through on a hunch with a boss. **Discuss a difficult work-related** situation; the time is right, especially if it involves money. **Tonight: Burn the midnight** oil.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec

Distant elements draw your attention. You might have a hard time staying in the here and now. Make calls and contact people whom you are thinking about. Don't hold back on your feelings because of what you perceive someone's reaction to be. Tonight: Find the music.*****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

One-to-one relating opens doors. Think more about a domestic issue. Discussions with a roommate or partner prove enlightening. Know that answers exist, but you need to reveal your true feelings. Someone is there for you. Don't worry as much. Tonight: Dinner for two.*****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Allow others to see what you really are about. You can help a friend ease past a problem. One talk could be stilted and uncomfortable. Be sensitive to someone's offer. Others prove helpful and are willing to pitch in. Projects are easily completed. Tonight: The party happens.*****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

A compliment is important because of its source. Accept an offer that advances your career or improves your image. Others are responsive to your overtures. Do not overspend, even if it feels like a good idea. Count change. A mistake is likely. Tonight: Off for a workout. ***

BORN TODAY

Actress Kim Basinger (1953), actress Teri Hatcher (1964),

singer Sinead O'Connor (1966)

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.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.coolpage.com/bigar.

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Diaries give extraordinary voice to ordinary events

archivist at Newcomb, if you do not want to give up the papers themselves, they can be copied onto acid-free paper and the papers preserved for historians. The archivist will also tell you how to maintain any privacy you feel is needed. (I am currently doing this with a collection of letters my uncle wrote during World War II.)

Please don't destroy records of lives -- let them become part of our history. -- SUE ROW-LAND, SLIDELL, LA.

DEAR SUE: Thank you for pointing this out. "Tempted in Tennessee" did not include her name and address with her letter, so I'm printing yours in the hope that she (and others who keep diaries and journals) will see it. I was unaware that research libraries might find them valuable.

Since that letter appeared, I have been inundated with letters telling me that such memorabilia could also be of interest to libraries and historical societies. If the contents are very personal, they can be donated under the condition that the contents not be revealed before a specific period of time has elapsed -- say, 25 to 50 years.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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