

# BIG SPRING HERALD

"Reflecting a proud community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

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MONDAY



TONIGHT 32°-36° TUESDAY 63°-67°

## HELPING OTHERS...

Each day through the holiday season, the Herald will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate, including Salvation Army kettles.



### 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 or \$2 will be added to your grocery total.
- TCA Cable of Big Spring will waive the cost installation for new customers who donate 10 cans of food to its food drive.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1009 Hearn, is collecting coats for state hospital patients for Christmas. 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. Aylesford.
- 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 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.

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Happiness is a closet full of Christmas cards.



11 shopping days 'til Christmas  
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Vol. 96, No. 46

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.

## Festival of Lights to feature holiday music nightly all week long

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

Holiday music will be added nightly to the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park this week when local musicians and vocalists perform Christmas carols.

"We decided to do this to help get people into the Christmas spirit as they are walking and looking at the lights," said Irene Bustamante, vice president of the Festival of Lights committee.

Beginning tonight about 6:30,

music to view lights by will begin for the enjoyment of those visiting the spring area, Bustamante said.

The Big Spring High School band will perform two nights this week, she said.

The Big Spring Rhapsody Singers will also perform one night.

Also, Mount Bethel Baptist Church choir will sing one night, and St. Thomas Catholic Church choir will also perform.

On Thursday, Claudette Forward will offer a solo performance of treasured Christmas

music, Pat Simmons, chairperson of the committee, said.

"We need people to park in the vacant lot near Dora Roberts Community Center, and walk through the archway to the spring," Simmons said.

Hot chocolate will be available for those who enjoy that seasonal treat, Bustamante said.

"Hot chocolate is especially great on these cold winter days," she said.

This year the Festival of Lights features holiday sparkle made with more than 150,000 lights.

New creations of lighted sculptures mark the path that extends around the spring and into the nature trails of the area.

Greeting volunteers will continue to welcome visitors who pause to enjoy the decorations. Donations are accepted at the conclusion of the trails.

Each car will be asked how many are attending the festival, to provide a count of visitors for the Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

More than 3,000 persons had

## TO PERFORM

Big Spring High School Band  
Big Spring Rhapsody Singers  
Mount Bethel Baptist Church Choir  
St. Thomas Catholic Church Choir  
Claudette Forward

attended the festival and enjoyed the lights last week. Volunteers will continue greeting visitors this week.

The Festival of Lights will continue through Dec. 31.

## Expansion nears completion

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

Construction on a \$3.5 million renovation to the Veterans Administration Medical Center nears completion, and new surgical and outpatient clinics should open early next year.

"This will vastly improve our patient flow and efficiency and will enable us to have state of the art care," said Cary Brown, director of the hospital.

What began in May 1997 as a \$2.5 million renovation of the first floor outpatient and specialty clinics grew to become a second floor remodel for the surgical unit.

"The same time the hospital opened in 1950 the surgical operations were located on the fifth floor. There have been no renovations since 1950 and we had less than desired functionality and space," Brown said.

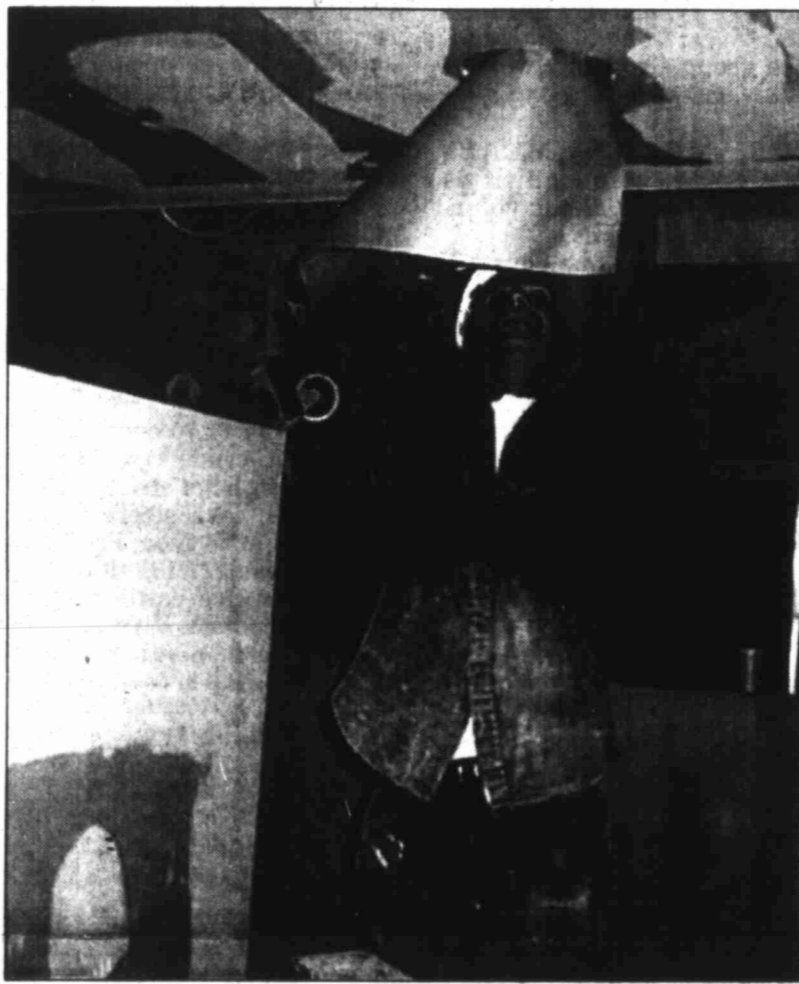
Funds were appropriated to renovate the fifth floor surgery, and it was determined that the best use of space was to include the second floor library and move surgery, he said.

"We had submitted a separate construction request for the surgical unit. The contractor was able to submit a lower bid because they had existing crews on locations. That cut the cost, gave us a good price and we were able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars," Brown said.

A six-month extension was given to Rayco Construction Co. from Irving to complete the additional work.

The first floor remodeling will increase the floor space to about 12,000 gross square feet. New outpatient and specialty clinics will be located in the remodeled area, as well as primary care, said Jeff Birdsong, chief of engineering.

The second floor renovation creates about 7,000 gross square feet. Here five operating



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Tony Flores prepares the ceiling of the new first floor outpatient clinic at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. The \$3.5 million remodeling is expected to be concluded in February or March 1999.

rooms have been created. These are ophthalmology, orthopedics, endoscopy, gastroenterology and minor procedures, Birdsong said.

"There is also a recovery and holding area for patients following surgery," Birdsong said.

The orthopedic operating room, the largest of the five, has pull-down columns that suspend from the ceiling of the rooms. These columns will hold medical gases such as oxygen, and vacuum hoses.

"These columns are retractable, and store in the ceiling" Birdsong said.

The interior of the walls has been constructed with steel beams, replacing wood 2x4s. Instead of sheet rock, the walls are made of imperial board.

"Steel beams are required now for all commercial work,

because of a fire safety issue. The imperial board is more durable for the walls and easier to keep clean," said Pat Collins, superintendent for Rayco Construction.

Changing areas and showers for doctors will be included in the second floor surgical area, and the recovery room features sliding glass doors to provide nurses with better visibility, Birdsong said.

Brown said this project is not the only renovation at the hospital, but it is the largest.

Recently, fiber optic networks were installed to pave the way for more extensive, sophisticated computer networking.

"The future of medicine is imaging, and to do that we

See RENOVATION, Page 2

## Rates cut

Auto insurance benchmark rate to be lowered by 5.5%, effective in mid-February

By T.E. JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Many Howard County residents will be getting a Valentine gift from their automobile insurance providers, as the Texas Insurance Commission has announced it will be lowering the state's average benchmark rate by a total 5.5 percent, effective Feb. 15 of 1999.

The descent of the state's benchmark rate is the second year that state officials have opted to lower the rate since the flexible rating system was created in 1991.

"Insurance companies claim payouts continue to lag well behind premium collections because of tort reform, safer cars, less drunken driving and other factors that have reduced accident costs," said Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer. "We need to close this gap so that consumers don't pay too much for their car insurance."

"All of the evidence justifies a substantial rate reduction that still should leave the companies a fair profit on their Texas business."

Parks Agency Inc. official Ray Kennedy said he expects the cut in rates to be a "good deal" for Texans.

"If you have two or three kids like I do, your automobile insurance looks something like the national debt," said Kennedy. "I really do think this is a cut that will be passed on to the consumer."

Kennedy said he expects the

majority of the savings to be passed on to liability policy holders, who make up the majority of all insured Texas drivers.

"For a cut like this to work, it has to carry over to the liability insurance customers, and this cut does that," said Kennedy. "The Insurance Commission has been really good about watching the situation and getting the rates where they should be. This really is a benefit for everyone who carries automobile insurance."

Kennedy said he will be interested to see how the various insurance providers deal with the reduction in the benchmark between now and Feb. 15.

"Each company deals with these changes differently," said Kennedy. "It shouldn't change the service they provide at all, but it will be very interesting to see what the different companies do between now and the effective date."

Kennedy said that although the rate change comes as a welcome surprise during the current economic woes of farmers and ranchers in the West Texas area, not everyone will see a drop in their automobile insurance bill.

"There are a lot of things involved in a change like this," said Kennedy.

"Although most people will see a substantial drop in their automobile insurance premiums, each company handles the change differently. There is a certain amount of variation involved."

According to Texas Department of Insurance reports using a "typical driver" profile, Howard County residents who do not use their cars for commercial purposes can expect to pay about 3.4 percent less for their coverage.



KENNEDY

## Martin County Library gets technology boost

By T.E. JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Martin County Library will be getting a technological boost, as the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIFB) announced that the Stanton facility will receive a Noncompetitive Library Internet Connectivity grant in an attempt to make connection to the Internet possible.

"We are very excited about this new grant," said Dianne Hull, librarian. "This is something that we have been needing real bad in the library. There are a lot of people who don't have access to the Internet at home, and we are the only way they can get it."

"I have Internet service at my home, and I must say it is a great reference source. I'm really happy to see it become a part of the public library."

TIFB Executive Director Arnold Viramontes said every

See LIBRARY, Page 2



HERALD photo/Linda Cheate

Brian Chesworth shovels the snow from the drive at his parents' home in Kentwood. According to the USDA, Big Spring received more than eight inches of snow during Friday's storm.

## Friday's snow may have been record-breaker

By BILL McCLELLAN  
News Editor

There's no official word on whether Friday's snow was a record for a 24-hour period here, but it's a good possibility, forecasters said.

"It broke the old record of 6.8 inches here in Midland, so if you had 7 then it would be in the ballpark for about as much as you would expect," said George Mathews, warning coordinator meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Midland.

"Unless you get a Sweetwater, which happens once in a millennium, seven inches is a real good snow," he said, referring to the 18 inches Sweetwater received about three years ago. "For West Texas, especially down the I-20 latitude, that's about as much as you could expect."

Actually, according to officials at the United States

See SNOW, Page 2

OBITUARIES

Rose von Hassell

Rose von Hassell, 66, Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 1998, at the home of her son following a short illness.



VON HASSELL

Service was a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, 1998, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with Rev. James E. Liggett officiating.

Mrs. von Hassell was born Oct. 25, 1932, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She married George William von Hassell on July 6, 1951, in Freeport, N.Y. He preceded her in death on Oct. 23, 1994. Mrs. von Hassell first came to Big Spring in 1951 and later returned in 1973. She was a librarian and employed by Howard County Library from 1973 until November 1998, where she was head of the Literacy Program.

She was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. She is survived by: one daughter, Elizabeth Petty, and her husband, Wendell of Arlington; two sons, George von Hassell, III of Stanton, and Richard von Hassell and his wife, Beverly of Big Spring; four grandchildren, Terrie Petty, Franklin Petty and Gracie Petty, all of Arlington, and Ashlee von Hassell of Stanton.

Pallbearers will be Bill Crooker, Loraine Redman, Carroll Kohl, James Petty and Bob Federman.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Gilberto O. Gonzales

Service for Gilberto O. Gonzales, 63, Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home. He died Sunday, Dec. 13, 1998, at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock following a long illness.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1  
public library recognized by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission with no Internet connectivity has opportunity to become technologically advanced.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Christine Everett Fischer, 75, died Friday. Services will be 4:00 PM, Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.  
Rose von Hassell, 66, died Saturday. Services were 11:00 AM, Monday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.  
Gilberto O. Gonzales, 63, died Sunday. Services are pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory  
906 Gregg St.  
(915) 267-6331  
Roseland Joy Collins Smith, 69, died Thursday. Services were 10:00 AM Monday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will followed at Trinity Memorial Park.

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develop the telecommunications infrastructure that libraries will need to improve public access to vast amounts of valuable information that can be found using the Internet," Viramontes said.

According to Viramontes, Martin County is one of 39 Texas public libraries that received the infrastructure grants, which covers up to \$50,000 of the costs for Internet connection.

"Grants for up to \$50,000 have been awarded for the purchase of workstations, networking hardware, ISP costs, and other related telecommunications costs," TIFB said in a press release. "These grant projects officially begin Jan. 4, 1999."

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund, which was established in 1995 by the Texas Legislature, is expected to receive \$1.5 billion in revenues from telecommunications assessments over a 10-year period.

TIFB is responsible for disbursing approximately \$1.44 billion in grants and loans to assist in developing telecommunications capabilities in public schools, nonprofit healthcare providers, institutions of higher education, and public libraries.

"We expect a really good response from the people in Martin County with the addition of Internet service in the library," said Hull. "A lot of people really need this service. We just can't wait to get started."

SNOW

Continued from Page 1

Department of Agriculture Service Center here, Big Spring received about 8 inches of snow. That amounts to only .43 inches of rain, they added.

Another storm system could reach Howard County by this weekend, Mathews said.

"It looks like there is a slight chance of rain for Friday and we should have some cold air moving in for the weekend. We'll know more about that later in the week," he said.

Meanwhile, Howard County residents can look forward to warmer temperatures with highs in the low- to mid-60s and lows in the 30s.

RENOVATION

Continued from Page 1

need an infrastructure of fiber optics. We're looking to the future," Brown said.

Birdsong became chief of engineering just as the construction process was under way, Brown said.

"But even with changing leaders, we saw zero impact on the progress of construction," Brown said.

Greg Settler, project manager with Rayco and Collins said the work has progressed well, and is right on schedule.

"This has been one of the best government projects I've ever worked on," Settler said. Birdsong said the crew and staff have worked in unison to create the most efficient construction site possible.

"I am really proud to work here and to be a part of the veteran's hospital. This is for the veterans, and I feel truly honored to be a part of this," Birdsong said.

BRIEFS

A FUND HAS BEEN set up to help pay funeral expenses for the family of Kenny Loy Court, who died Dec. 2. Contact First Bank of West Texas to donate to the fund, account number 084-556-6.

DONATIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT for the Nunez family of Big Spring, who recently had a fire at their home. They are in need of clothing, furniture, kitchen items and other necessities. Call them at 267-7529, or contact Big Spring Care Center, for more information.

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF Health will be giving flu shots starting Wednesday, Oct. 14. These will be given 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.

BIRTHRIGHT IS NEEDING DONATIONS of layette items for newborns: sleepers, booties, disposable diapers, baby toiletries, large gift bags, flannel fabric. Items may be delivered to Simpler Pleasures, 1305 Gregg, of Family Life Center (northeast door) of First Baptist Church, 8-12 a.m., 5-8 p.m., Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays.

SUPPORT FOR GULF WAR Veterans is available through Odessa Desert Shield, Desert Storm Association, Inc.

"We will be setting up some meetings, sharing information, things like that," said Rhonda Simon, a Colorado City resident who serves as area representative of the support group. "There have been some new bills past and we want to get veterans educated on those and get them going back to the Veterans Administration."

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the support group can call Simon at 915 728-2746 or email her at ezresort@bitstreet.com or call group president Vic Sylvester at 915 368 4667.

The group also has a website at www.odssa.com

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.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

MONDAY

- Al-A-Teen, 7:30 p.m., 615 Settles.
- TOPS Club (Take off pound sensibly), weigh-in 5 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m., Birdwell Lane Church of Christ
- Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.
- Encouragers Support Group (formerly Widow/Widower support group) first and third Mondays each month. First Monday meetings are at a local restaurant at 6 p.m. Third Monday meetings are at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Seventh and Rannels (enter through north door). We have various activities, such as guest speakers, play games, have covered dish supper, visit or go out to eat. For more information call 398-5522 or 399-4369. The Dec. 7 meeting will be at the Spanish Inn for dinner, and the Dec. 21 meeting will be a Christmas dinner. Bring a covered dish of salad, vegetables, desserts, etc. Also bring a gift not exceeding \$10 for a fun gift exchange.
- Alzheimer's support group, 7 p.m., Canterbury South, 1700 N. Lancaster, first Mondays of each month. Call Galynn Gamble at 263-1271. The topic for Nov. 2 will be on "Validation therapy, connecting with your loved one."
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager no.)
- Alzheimer's support group, 6:30 p.m., Marcy House, 2301 Wasson. Call 268-9041.
- Association of Retarded Citizens of Howard County meet 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at 806 E. Third Street, the HARC bingo building. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 409 Rannels, Clyde Alsop Building. TXAMI meeting to follow. For more information call 263-0027 or 267-7220.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between noon Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

- TIMOTHY ROSE, 31, was arrested for violation of a protective order.
- ANTHONY PACE, 26, was arrested for local warrants.
- JAVIER DEJESUS, 28, was arrested for public intoxication.
- JOSEPH SEELY, 20, was arrested for local warrants.
- CECIL MCAFEE, 18, was arrested for warrants.
- JONATHAN MORTON, 21, was arrested for warrants.
- ENRIQUE CALDERONE, 18, was arrested for minor in possession.
- MARK MONTELONGO, 29, was arrested for public intoxication.
- ELIAS BIHL, 25, was

•Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 409 Rannels, Clyde Alsop Building. TXAMI meeting to follow. For more information call 263-0027 or 267-7220.

•The Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally Ill meets the fourth Monday of each month

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

at 7 p.m. at 409 Rannels (formerly the TU building) For further information call Sondra at 267-7220.

•Greater West Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will meet Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at 1700 Lancaster. The topic will be on "Surviving the Holidays."

•New Voice Club, a support group for laryngectomees and their families, will meet Monday Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at 2410 Wasson Drive, the house behind the 7-11 store but with the driveway on Randolph. For directions, call 267-2800.

•Survivors of Suicide will meet Monday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the pastoral care office of Midland Memorial Hospital. Dr. Alan Williams, chaplain of Memorial Hospital, will be speaking on "Surviving the Holidays when Grieving."

TUESDAY

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

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

•"Most Excellent Way," an addiction support group, 3610 Dixon, call 264-9900.

MARKETS

March cotton 61.70 cents, up 14 points; Jan. crude 11.28, up 49 points; Cash hogs steady at \$1 lower at 14; cash steers steady at \$1 lower at 58 even; Feb. lean hog futures 27.15, down 92 points; Feb. live cattle futures 58.45, up 27 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation.

Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Index 8778.50      |               |
| Volume 212,587,040 |               |
| ATT                | 69% - 3/4     |
| Amoco              | 56% + 1/4     |
| Atlantic Richfield | 64% - 3/4     |
| Atmos Energy       | 28% - 3/4     |
| Calenergy Inc.     | 32% - 3/4     |
| Chevron            | 85% - 1/4     |
| Cifra              | 11% to 12     |
| Coca Cola          | 63% + 1/4     |
| Compaq Computer    | 41% - 3/4     |
| Cornell Correc.    | 18% nc        |
| DuPont             | 53 + 3/4      |
| Exxon              | 74% nc        |
| Halliburton        | 32% + 1/4     |
| IBM                | 165% - 2 3/4  |
| Intel Corp         | 114% - 1 1/4  |
| Mobil              | 89 + 1/8      |
| NUV                | 9% - 1/4      |
| Palex Inc.         | 8% nc         |
| Pepsi Cola         | 37% - 3/4     |
| Petrofina          | 44% - 3/4     |
| Phillips Petroleum | 41% + 1/4     |
| SBC Com.           | 48% - 1       |
| Sears              | 41% - 3/4     |
| Texasco            | 56% - 3/4     |
| Texas Instruments  | 79% - 1       |
| Texas Utils. Co    | 47% nc        |
| Unocal Corp        | 31% + 3/4     |
| Wal-Mart           | 74% - 1 1/4   |
| Prime Rate         | 7.75%         |
| Gold               | 291.60-292.10 |
| Silver             | 4.80-4.82     |

arrested for parole revocation.

•JOE LOPEZ, 62, was arrested for criminal trespass.

•RANDY MIER, 21, was arrested for public intoxication.

•GARY MOSELEY, 46, was arrested for public intoxication.

•CHEYENNE COUFFER, 26, was arrested for assault/family violence.

•THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Gregg, 2300 block of Wasson, 3300 block of FM 700, intersection of 350 and I-20, 300 block of Gregg, 1100 block of North Lamesa, 900 block of Willia, 1800 block of Gregg, 2700 block of Apache, corner of 11th Place and Settles, 200 block of Marcy, 400 block of Johnson, and 2300 block of Wasson.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Benton, 800 block of Lancaster, 2500 block of West Hwy 80 and the 400 block of Trades.

•ASSAULT was reported in the 1000 block of North Rannels, 1700 block of Purdue, 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd., 1200 block of East Third, 2500 block of Ann

•ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1900 block of Alabama.

•SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 400 block of Scurry and 1300 block of Wood.

•BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1500 block of Phillips.

•BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2600 block of Langley.

FIRE/EMS

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

FRIDAY

4:35 a.m. — Scenic Mountain Medical Center, medical call, patient transported to Desert Springs in Midland.

9:40 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

10:23 a.m. — 18 miles S. 87, traffic accident, five transported to SMMC and 1 refused service.

10:23 a.m. — 20 miles S. 87, extrication.

11:30 a.m. — 1000 block Birdwell, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

1:17 p.m. — SMMC, trauma call, 2 patients transported to the VA.

2 p.m. — 19000 block FM 1584, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

2:05 p.m. — 1300 block Birdwell, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

3:36 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to 3200 block Parkway.

4:37 p.m. — SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to the VA.

4:37 p.m. — 300 E. 12th, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

4:39 p.m. — SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to the VA.

4:50 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to 2600 block Control.

5:29 p.m. — SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to the VA.

6:15 p.m. — 1700 block Apron, trauma call, service refused.

6:40 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

6:40 p.m. — 11th and Goliad, transformer fire, out on arrival.

7:01 p.m. — 700 block N.W. Fifth, medical call, service refused.

7:15 p.m. — 1700 block Birdwell, residential fire, smoke scare.

9:04 p.m. — SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to 3200 block Parkway.

10 p.m. — SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to University Medical Center.

10:27 p.m. — 1900 block N. 87, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

SATURDAY  
12:30 a.m. — Mile marker 176, traffic accident, patient transported to SMMC.

10:05 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

10:51 a.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to the VA.

11:06 a.m. — 200 block E. Fourth in Forsan, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

12:30 p.m. — 1600 block Main, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

1:01 p.m. — 1700 block Lancaster, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

2:24 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to the VA.

4:30 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to the Stanton Care Center.

4:32 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to Lubbock Methodist.

5:32 p.m. — 1500 block Nolan, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

9:30 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to Midland Memorial.

9:44 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

10:03 p.m. — 300 block Jones, dumpster fire, extinguished

10:26 p.m. — 1300 block W. Third, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

10:26 p.m. — 1200 block W. Third, structure fire, extinguished.

11:03 p.m. — 2000 block Main, medical call, service refused.

SUNDAY

12:16 a.m. — 2000 block Virginia, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

8:57 a.m. — 2000 block Virginia, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

9:41 a.m. — SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to Lubbock Methodist.

10:07 a.m. — 4100 block Biger, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

3:22 p.m. — 1300 block Lamar, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

4:22 p.m. — 400 block E. Fourth, medical call, patient to SMMC.

5:43 p.m. — SMMC, medical call, patient transported to 3200 block Parkway.

7:53 p.m. — 1200 block Harding, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

11:15 p.m. — 1400 block Princeton, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

RECORDS

Sunday's high 65  
Sunday's low 30  
Average high 55  
Average low 30  
Record high 82 in 1483  
Record low 11 in 1919  
Precip. Sunday 0.10  
Month to date 0.54  
Month's normal 0.32  
Year to date 13.18  
Normal for the year 17.87  
\*\*Statistics not available

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# Both sides dig in as impeachment vote approaches

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the House decides whether to impeach President Clinton, the few undecided lawmakers are getting little help by Clinton's refusal to say he lied and the Republican leadership's rejection of an alternative censure vote.

"We're as conflicted as America is," said Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., one of some two dozen swing votes who will decide late this week if the

House will send articles of impeachment to the Senate for trial.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who will lead the impeachment fight on the floor, suggested one way out — Clinton's resignation. Majority Leader Dick Army and Majority Whip Tom DeLay, both R-Texas, concurred, but the president said he had "no intention" of quitting.

"It rewrites the book on partisanship, the Republican leadership calling for the president to resign when he is doing the nation's business," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said today while traveling with the president in the Middle East.

The House begins debate Thursday on four articles of impeachment approved last week by the House Judiciary Committee. They include two

counts of perjury, one of obstruction of justice and one of abuse of power in the Monica Lewinsky matter.

Clinton hopes to persuade undecided Republicans that his affair with the former White House intern should receive public censure but does not rise to the level of impeachment. But in Jerusalem on Sunday he again insisted that he did not commit perjury in his testimony about the relationship.

And today, while on his peace-keeping mission, Clinton responded to another question about whether he had lied: "I've said what I've said about this. ... I don't believe it's in the interest of the United States and the American people to go through the impeachment process and have a trial in the Senate. That's why I have offered to make every effort to make every compromise with Congress."

His stand on the perjury issue

appeared to anger potential supporters in the House.

"If the president's trying to throw himself on the mercy of the court, you have to admit your guilt," said Rep. Scott Klug, R-Wis., who appeared Sunday with Tauzin on NBC's "Meet the Press." Clinton's refusal to admit he lied "just kind of leaves us in a vacuum again," Rep. Jay Dickey, R-Ark., another undecided, said on ABC's "This Week."

# FBI reports that serious crime drops 5 percent in first half of 1998

WASHINGTON (AP) — Every region of the nation and communities of all sizes have a share of the 5 percent drop in serious crimes reported to police nationwide in the first half of this year, the FBI reports.

Crime has been declining for 6 years since a crack cocaine epidemic pushed it to peak levels in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"This is remarkable progress and it shows that our strategy of more police, tougher gun laws

and better crime prevention is making a difference," President Clinton said in a statement.

Attorney General Janet Reno said, "These continuing declines are more evidence that we have turned an historic corner on crime. Crime is still too high, but rising crime rates are not a fact of life."

Citing preliminary figures from police agencies, the FBI said Sunday that violent crimes were down 7 percent and the far more numerous property crimes were down 5 percent

from the first six months of 1997.

All seven types of major crime declined, led by an 11 percent plunge in robberies and an 8 percent drop in murders. Aggravated assault and rape both fell 5 percent.

In property crime, auto theft dropped 8 percent; larceny-theft declined 5 percent and burglary dipped 3 percent.

Just three weeks ago, the FBI's final figures for 1997 showed the nation's murder rate had reached its lowest

point in 30 years.

The crime decline has been attributed by academic specialists, police executives and elected officials to a variety of causes.

They include the aging of the baby boom generation beyond the crime-prone years; police efforts, especially in big cities, to get guns out of the hands of

teen-agers; increased police-community cooperation; stiffer sentences, particularly for violent criminals; prevention programs for children with little supervision; the improved national economy and a reduction in crack cocaine use and in the warfare between drug gangs.

Each of the seven crimes

declined in each region of the country, except for a 1 percent rise in burglaries in the Midwest. Overall, serious crimes were down 8 percent in the Northeast, 6 percent in the West, 5 percent in the South and 1 percent in the Midwest.

By population, overall crime declined in cities of all sizes, suburbs and rural areas.

# Agent says there is no evidence to support any conspiracy theory in Oklahoma bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The FBI agent who led the investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing says there is no evidence to support any wider conspiracy behind the attack that killed 168 people and injured hundreds more.

"On their face the conspiracy theories, every one of them, are nonsensical," Danny Defenbaugh said in interviews with The Sunday Oklahoman and the Tulsa World. "There is not one investigative lead that we were given or we developed that we did not thoroughly investigate."

Defenbaugh said the \$82.5 million investigation — the most expensive probe in the country's history — showed no foreign links, government conspiracy or participation by anyone

other than Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Conspiracy theories have led to an investigation by an Oklahoma County grand jury, which has searched for a conspiracy link for 17 months and heard from 117 witnesses.

McVeigh was convicted on federal murder, conspiracy and weapons counts for the April 1995 truck bombing. He is appealing his death sentence. Nichols was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He also is appealing.

Michael Fortier pleaded guilty to knowing about the bombing beforehand but telling no one. He testified against McVeigh

and Nichols and is appealing his 12-year sentence.

Defenbaugh said agents checked 43,500 leads, collected 13.2 million hotel records from six different states, reviewed 6.3 million records of truck rentals, and analyzed records of 44,026 phone calls. Agents eliminated 7,156 people as possible accomplices, he said.

Agent Mickey Hawkins, who worked on the investigation, said the FBI was unable to describe the magnitude of the task until now.

"The public had no real grasp of the efforts that were made. And while the public interest was at its peak, we were not in a position to comment. Just now, 3 years later, can we tell the story of what was done," he said.

# 'Bright new star:' International space station orbiting the Earth on its own

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — After being released from the shuttle Endeavour, the international space station was orbiting the Earth on its own today — "a bright new star" not to be visited again until May.

"It's just the beginning," said Frank Culbertson, NASA's deputy program manager for space station operations, who described the seven-story complex as "a bright new star flying overhead."

"Very soon, we'll see it grow brighter and brighter in the sky as we continue to build on it," he said Sunday.

The next crew to head to the station will deliver supplies for use on future construction mis-

sions, including two cranes and a tool bag. The third piece of the outpost — a Russian module that will serve as early living quarters for station crews — is due to arrive late next summer.

The work level should crank up in 2000 and stay at a feverish pace until the last major component is launched to the station in 2004.

"We've got a lot more to come, more challenges," Culbertson said, "but we've set a tremendous standard with this mission."

After successfully joining and outfitting the first two pieces of the space station, Endeavour's astronauts set the complex loose Sunday and flew away.

With the flick of a switch that released the snares holding them together, the shuttle separated from the 77-foot, 70,000-pound station as the spacecraft soared 245 miles above the Earth.

"Wish we could stay longer, but we'll get safely away and leave it for somebody else to come back and add more to it," commander Robert Cabana said.

The outpost glistened in the sunlight as the shuttle circled from a distance of 450 feet for a final photo survey. Once that was done, pilot Rick Sturckow fired Endeavour's thrusters and the shuttle pulled away for good.

# Accused child molester, wife missing

COLMESNEIL, Texas (AP) — Police are hunting for an accused child molester who disappeared seven months ago from his East Texas home with his wife and little else.

Mack "Brady" Meadows and his wife, Karen, were last reported seen on May 3. The couple reportedly packed no clothes and left everything they owned in the small house they were staying in, including their toothbrushes and freshly opened cans of food.

Meadows is a fugitive, wanted by the FBI and the Jefferson County sheriff's department.

His wife's family has reported her as a missing person.

"I just don't understand it," said Steve Hedrick, a Beaumont bondsman who has been tracking the 46-year-old man since his disappearance. "They just literally left with only the clothes on their backs and with no money."

Meadows left two paychecks behind and his wife left another at the local Jiffy Mart, where they both worked as clerks.

He also left friends, family and police piecing together the life of a seemingly harmless man who was once featured in a United Way poster for Boys Haven, his former employer.

Court documents and research done by Hedrick tell another story.

In August 1997, Meadows was arrested on an aggravated sexual assault of a child charge in Jefferson County involving a 9-year-old boy. In March 1998, he was arrested on a similar charge in Angelina County, involving a 13-year-old boy.

The assaults reportedly occurred in 1993 and 1994 while the boys lived at Boys Haven.

Meadows and his wife began working at the home in the early 1990s, and he was forced

to quit after his arrest in 1997.

Mrs. Meadows continued working at the home until January, when the couple moved to Colmesneil.

Officials at Boys Haven said the Meadows were considered role-model house parents at the 53-year-old non-profit home that cares for underprivileged boys, ages 8 to 18.

The same year they were featured in the United Way poster, Meadows was arrested on a Galveston beach on charges of enticing a child, unbeknownst to Boys Haven officials.

## GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1998

| Data Control Codes  | Governmental Fund Types |                               |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | 100-199 General Fund    | 200-499 Special Revenue Funds |
| <b>REVENUES:</b>  |                         |                               |
| 5700 Local and Intermediate Sources   | \$5,043,990             | \$25,181                      |
| 5800 State Program Revenues   | 208,742                 | 12,887                        |
| 5900 Federal Program Revenues   |                         | 162,669                       |
| 5020 Total Revenues   | \$5,252,732             | 200,737                       |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>  |                         |                               |
| Current:  |                         |                               |
| 0010 Instruction & Instructional Related Services   | \$1,811,941             | \$112,283                     |
| 0020 Instructional and School Leadership  | 175,547                 | 1,715                         |
| 0030 Support Services - Student (Pupil)   | 405,040                 | 149,400                       |
| 0040 Administrative Support Services  | 230,396                 | --                            |
| 0050 Support Services - Nonstudent Based  | 432,472                 | --                            |
| 0080 Capital Outlay   | 192,737                 | --                            |
| 0090 Intergovernmental Charges  | 1,284,513               | --                            |
| 6030 Total Expenditures   | \$4,532,646             | \$263,398                     |
| 1100 Excess (Deficiency) Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures                                       | \$ (83,061)             | \$(64,404)                    |
| 7020 Other Resources  | 2,585                   | 64,919                        |
| 8030 Other (Uses)   | (64,919)                | (515)                         |
| 1200 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Resources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses | (\$145,395)             | --                            |
| 0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)   | 2,743,639               | --                            |
| 1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance  |                         |                               |
| 3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)  | \$2,598,244             | --                            |

## GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1998

| Data Control Codes  | Governmental Fund Types |                               |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | 100-199 General Fund    | 200-499 Special Revenue Funds |
| <b>REVENUES:</b>  |                         |                               |
| 5700 Local and Intermediate Sources   | \$ 5,043,990            | \$ 25,181                     |
| 5800 State Program Revenues   | 208,742                 | 12,887                        |
| 5900 Federal Program Revenues   |                         | 162,669                       |
| 5020 Total Revenues   | \$ 5,252,732            | \$ 200,737                    |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>  |                         |                               |
| Current:  |                         |                               |
| 0010 Instruction & Instructional Related Services   | \$ 1,934,133            | \$ 129,280                    |
| 0020 Instructional and School Leadership  | 185,932                 | 1,820                         |
| 0030 Support Services - Student (Pupil)   | 458,824                 | 158,587                       |
| 0040 Administrative Support Services  | 239,005                 | --                            |
| 0050 Support Services - Nonstudent Based  | 481,964                 | --                            |
| 0080 Capital Outlay   | 486,297                 | --                            |
| 0090 Intergovernmental Charges  | 1,736,297               | --                            |
| 6030 Total Expenditures   | \$ 5,522,452            | \$ 289,687                    |
| 1100 Excess (Deficiency) Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures                                       | \$ (269,720)            | \$(88,950)                    |
| 7020 Other Resources  | 11,204                  | 88,950                        |
| 8030 Other (Uses)   | (88,950)                | --                            |
| 1200 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Resources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses | \$ (347,466)            | \$ --                         |
| 0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)   | 2,598,244               | --                            |
| 3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)  | \$ 2,250,778            | \$ --                         |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

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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."

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated. Charles C. Williams, John H. Walker, John A. Moseley, Bill McClellan

OUR VIEWS

Thanks, Buffaloes, Coyotes for another memorable season

While the 1998 football season did not end in the manner most of us had wished, Borden County's Coyotes and Stanton's Buffaloes falling just short in their bids for repeat state championships...

The Coyotes saw their skein of nine straight playoff victories come to an end with a 62-16 loss to Trinidad in the six-man state championship game Saturday afternoon at Glen Rose...

It was fitting the two small West Texas schools' teams finished the season on the same weekend, because they've seemed somehow linked since this time last year when they were West Texas' only survivors in the playoffs...

Both teams entered this year's grid wars ranked as the No. 1 teams in their respective divisions and remained atop those ratings until the same Friday night on the seventh week of the season...

And both rebounded from those setbacks, refusing to lose again until this past weekend.

The Coyotes and Buffs, while not the only West Texas teams playing deep into December this year, were again the focus for many football fans in the Permian Basin...

In the wake of both teams' 13-2 seasons, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Coyotes and Buffs; the coaching staffs headed by Bobby Avery and Mark Cotton...

You have all provided those of us in Crossroads Country with a memorable season — one that will be cherished by many of us for a long time to come.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR: I was pleased to read the news printed in the Big Spring Herald newspaper dated Tuesday, Dec. 1, about the open-captioned movie.

As a new resident of Big Spring, for the last two and one-half years, I believe that providing open-captioned movies is one of the best ways to increase positive deaf awareness in Big Spring.

Even though Big Spring is only a small community of nearly 25,000 residents, there are more than 125 deaf students, professionals and residents studying, working or living in the Permian Basin area and West Texas.

aters in Big Spring, for being receptive to bringing open-captioned movies to Big Spring. I would like to congratulate you and the Highland Council for the Deaf for making an effort to provide this service.

I strongly believe that this step will, certainly and hopefully, increase positive deaf awareness in Big Spring as well as the Permian Basin.

I also believe that open-captioned movies can benefit hearing and deaf people who use English as their second or even third language.

Hence, I would like to encourage readers, residents of West Texas, deaf or hearing movie fans, to show their support by buying tickets these special open-captioned movies every month.

Finally, I would like to thank you for continuing to print news about the deaf community, news about the events occurring at SWCID and in West Texas.

VASANT LIMAYA SWCID

'Heavens to Betsy!' and other such expressions

"Heavens to Betsy!" cried an exasperated friend. "Can't you guys get off impeachment for even 10 minutes?"

A joker at the next table inquired innocently: "Who's Betsy?"

"She's married to Pete," came the rejoinder. "As in, for Pete's sake, can't you guys get off impeachment for even 10 minutes?"

What do Americans say in moments of frustration, disgust, impatience, exasperation or surprise? A covey of reporters fell to musing on the matter. One member of the press corps allowed that he had never heard "heavens to Betsy," but he had an aunt whose favorite exclamation was "heavens to Murgatroyd!"

What else? Nominations rained in: goodness, Jiminy Crickets, mercy me, great jumping Jehoshaphat, gee whilkers, saints alive, ye gods, lawdy me, leaping lizards, tar-nation, and Lord love a duck! There were some four-letter expostulations also, but forget them.

I wrote Joan Houston Hall, co-editor of DARE, the massive Dictionary of American Regional English, and asked for any amplification she might provide. She obligingly ran my inquiry through the computers and came up with a great raft of material.

A GREAT raft? Americans love phrases that begin with "great." Leading a long list of citations is "great Scott" (whoever he was), followed by "great day in the morning!" DARE's lexical detectives found a respectable reliance upon great Caesar's ghost, great balls of fire and great sakes alive!

The raw data supplied by Ms. Hall didn't spell out the specific regions in which the phrases appeared, but I can report that somewhere in this broad land Americans are fond of crying "by the great horn spoon!" I have no idea what a great horn spoon may be, but the phrase nicely fills the mouth.

Citations also appear of: great gods and little fishes, great land o' Goshen, and great heavenly days. One respondent confessed that in moments of extreme emotion he would cry, "Great greasy grimy gopher guts!"

In one of its questionnaires DARE's researchers sought to identify exclamations of mild annoyance or disgust. What would you be likely to say if you had lost your glasses? Lost

them again? Variations on "damn" and "darn" led the list. Heavy support was found for "shucks," followed closely by shoot, pshaw, nuts, fiddlesticks and rats. One respondent said he would be likely to say "devil and Tom Walker!" Another tended to, "Oh, hot spit and monkey vomit, I've lost my dad-gum glasses again!"

In another survey DARE's interviewers asked about expressions of anger: "When he saw them coming he got ..." Many finished the sentence with "all hot under the collar" or "hot and bothered."

Variations on "mad" claimed quite a following — mad as a bull, mad as a hatter, mad as a hornet, mad as a wet hen, and mad as all get out.

Suppose that someone does something unexpectedly bold or forward. You may remark, "Well, Gertie certainly has a lot of ..." What? Nerve, said most respondents, but there was a respectable vote for gall, brass and crust. Gertie has "more crust than a pie factory."

dents inclined toward "biting his fingers to his elbows." My own favorite was to say that "he's got the can't-hardlies."

Suppose a person has really lost control. In that event, the fellow blew his top, blew a fuse, blew a gasket, or alternatively blew his lid, his mind, his shoes, his stack, his whistle and the whole scene. He flipped the lid; he also flipped his cookies, his cork, his top and his wig. He also came unsoldered, came unglued, fell apart at the seams, lost his marbles and went bananas.

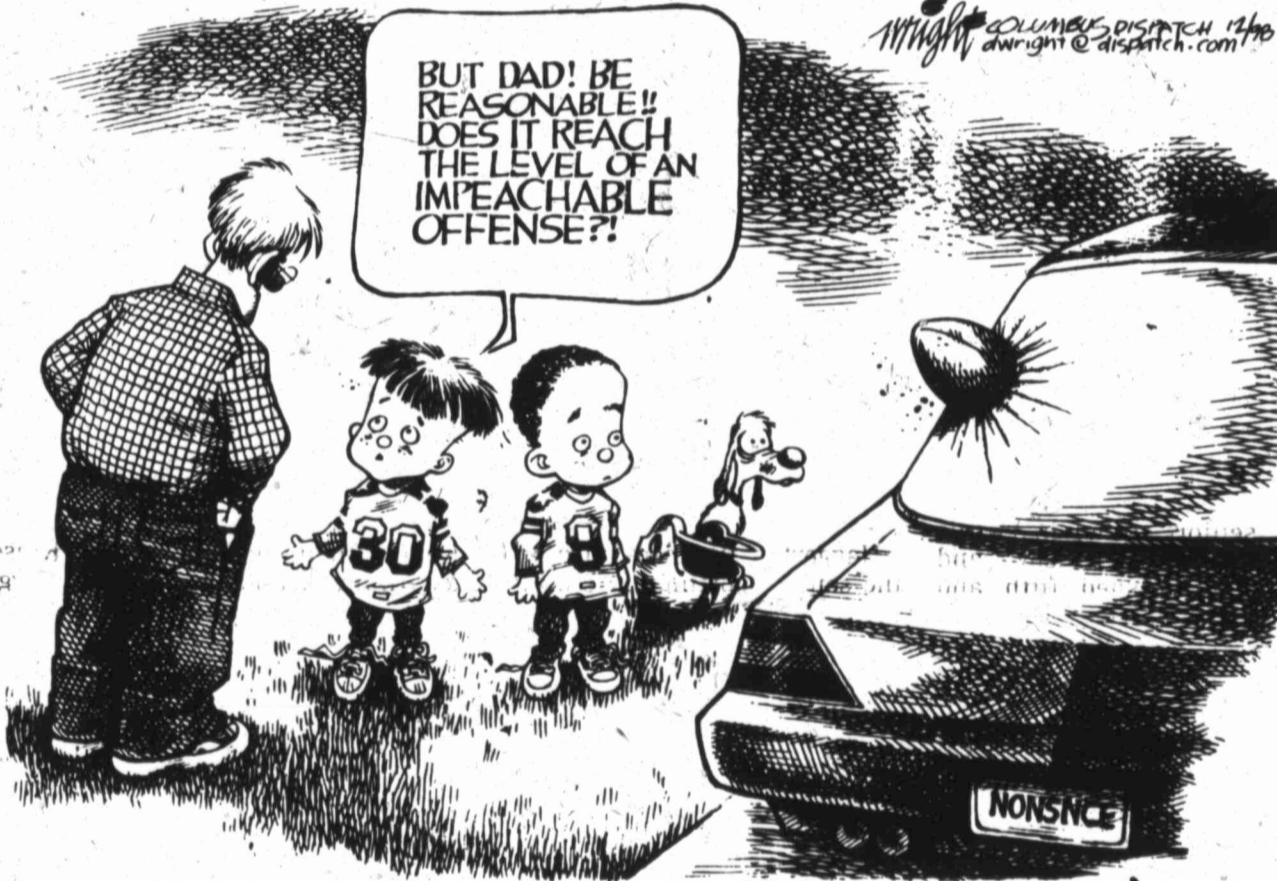
An element of surprise figures in common speech. DARE asked respondents what they might say to unexpected news of a marriage. Among the leading responses was, "Well, bless my soul!" Many Americans would say simply, "I declare!" or "I'll be!" There was much skepticism: "No kidding?" and "Really?" and "You don't say!"

One cynic responded, "Another good man gone wrong."

In moments of stress, surprise or excitement, Americans are irreverently reverent: Golly! Heavens! Gosh Miss Agnes! Holy cow! Holy mackerel! Holy Moses! Holy smoke! What riches of language are here! I've written before about the Dictionary of American Regional English and doubtless will be writing about it again. If Ms. Hall and her colleagues aren't doing a great job, I'll be a suck-egg mule!



JAMES J. KILPATRICK



- ADDRESSES: BILL CLINTON, PHIL GRAMM, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, CHARLES STENHOLM, HON. GEORGE W. BUSH, BOB BULLOCK, JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY

In the South, special treatment is tradition

HENDERSON SWAMP, La. — Johnell Latiolais left on the porch light, and the Green Queen

was the swamp's floating welcome mat. The rental boat's little air conditioner was purring. The boat dock's resident owl fussed with a stray dog, and cheerful accordion music came from somewhere off in the black night.

I sat outside with my feet propped on the railing until the mosquitoes found me. Not much had changed at Basin Landing, where I visit this time every year, hallelujah. I come here for the people and this region's relaxation alchemy.

Southern hospitality is real. If you don't believe it, change planes in Detroit. Even in cities like Atlanta and

Memphis — so big that some residents pretend to forget they are one generation off the farm — Southerners are hospitable.

By hospitable, I mean adept at welcoming. In the South we are taught from birth to give a proper welcome to guests — expected or unexpected, invited or uninvited.

We stop whatever we are doing and MAKE guests feel welcome. The first rule of the Grimsley household was to turn off the TV whenever visitors arrived.

It didn't matter if the Fugitive was about to find the one-armed man, or if Hoss' latest girlfriend was dying on the eve of another "Bonanza" wedding, or even if the relentlessly chipper Mouseketeers had lined up to sing the farewell song. If you didn't jump up and punch the "off" button, somebody might punch you.

"Turn that thing off," Daddy would growl, as if we didn't know the drill. The second rule was sacred as well: Offer all guests food. If there was no food in the house, offer to go get some. But there always was emergency food for

lucky visitors. There were cookies in hidden jars and mystery pies beneath hard-frozen meringue in the packed chest freezer. My mother could whip up a Sun King-sized banquet in 30 minutes, without benefit of microwave or pizza delivery.

Guests got the good towels — the ones without 3 inches of washer-fringe — the pressed sheets, the comfortable chairs, the extra helpings. Children were at the guests' disposal.

All of that special treatment was part of Southern hospitality, as ingrained in our developing psyches as the practice of calling all ladies "ma'am."

I am still nice to visitors, whether I'm glad to see them or not. But nobody has the art of heartfelt hospitality mastered like Louisiana Cajuns. It strikes me each time I visit. Cajuns are nicer to outsiders than most of us are to our own families.

The swamp, after all, was once an isolated place. Johnell, who along with his gracious wife, Jeanette, runs the dock, invited me to Thanksgiving at their house nearby last year. I couldn't go

because our mutual friend Frank Stelly already was deep-fat frying a turkey right outside the Green Queen. I casually mentioned one day that I wanted to try fried turkey, and the next thing I knew there was a big bubbling pot of oil on the dock.

Food is the least of it. A swamp guide named Halfpint once offered to show me alligators, a woman at the Cecilia flea market refused to let me pay for my Coke — "From Atlanta you come, so drink free," — and the clerk at the dollar store carried one of two light sacks all the way to my car. People offer rope, directions, pralines, umbrellas, advice.

This morning I used a pay telephone outside a restaurant, and got no answer. I waited around for a while, then tried again. Three hunters were standing nearby, talking about how the weather must change before the ducks make it to Louisiana.

"Get your party?" one man called out as I walked away. "I'll be hanging here a while and can take a message for you."



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

LETTER POLICIES

- The Big Spring Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please: Limit your letters to no more than 300 words. Sign your letter. Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication. Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes. We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author. We do not acknowledge receipt of letters. Letters from our circulation area receive preference. Send to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.



IN Hawks at Mary Howard came ever 67-game h streak b Maryland but fell ju 84 overtim The Hav season, w off for the before re with a De Nevada t Las Vegas Youth ba beginn The B Basketball rently reg for leagu Spring M The lea and girls sixth grad played C Rannels J Registra be from through P In addit register i Goods du througho A fee of each parti The deadl Friday. For mor Charlie Duane Mu Rick Wath Softball for high Fastpic rently nec games Texas, ac with the P ter of the Umpires A Umpires school s Alpine, Al Brady, C City, Eldo Greenwoo Kermit, Monahans Angelo, S Wall. For mor Mack Gipe UConn r new tea Connect road scar extended i of the AF poll today. The Hus for the tl after beat 59-54 and Pittsburgh ry. Combi Maryland' Connectic place vot over the 't to 66-4 ove Kentuck to third, w fourth and to fifth. There w the botton four tea Wisconsin Iowa — n debut in tl Connect points, 99 Devils (9 Florida a week by' points. K Maryland much-awa To HIGH SCH 6:30 p.n • Coaho Christian (• Forsan (girls and l • Denver (girls) • Grady (and girls) 7:30 p.n • Big Sp (girls) ON TODAY: FOOTBALL 7 p.m. — San Franci Ch. 2 and

### IN BRIEF

#### Hawks suffer defeat at Maryland tourney

Howard College's Hawks came ever so close to halting a 67-game home court winning streak by Allegany College of Maryland on Saturday night, but fell just short with an 89-84 overtime loss. The Hawks, now 9-3 on the season, will take several days off for the Christmas holidays before returning to action with a Dec. 31 through Jan. 1 Nevada trip, playing in the Las Vegas Classic.

#### Youth basketball league beginning registration

The Big Spring Youth Basketball Association is currently registering youngsters for league play at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is open to boys and girls in the first through sixth grades. All games will be played on Saturdays at Rannels Junior High School.

Registration at the mall will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 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. The deadline for registering is Friday.

For more information, call Charlie Hall at 263-0159, Duane Murphree at 394-4557 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.

#### UConn remains No. 1, new teams in Top 25

Connecticut survived two road scares last week and extended its margin at the top of the AP college basketball poll today.

The Huskies (8-0) were No. 1 for the third straight week after beating Massachusetts 59-54 and then escaping from Pittsburgh with a 70-69 victory. Combined with then-No. 2 Maryland's loss at Kentucky, Connecticut's margin in first-place votes went from 53-17 over the Terrapins last week to 66-4 over Duke this week.

Kentucky jumped from fifth to third, while Cincinnati held fourth and Maryland dropped to fifth.

There were big changes at the bottom of the Top 25 with four teams — Auburn, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Iowa — making their season debut in the rankings.

Connecticut had 1,768 points, 99 more than the Blue Devils (9-1), who crushed Florida and Michigan this week by an average of 37 points. Kentucky (9-1) beat Maryland 103-91 in their much-awaited matchup.

### TONIGHT

#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL 6:30 p.m.

- Coahoma at Midland Christian (boys and girls)
- Forsan at Grape Creek (girls and boys)
- Denver City at Stanton (girls)
- Grady at Wellman (boys and girls)

#### 7:30 p.m.

- Big Spring at Monahans (girls)

### ON THE AIR

**TODAY:**  
**FOOTBALL**  
7 p.m. — Detroit Lions at San Francisco 49ers, ABC, Ch. 2 and Ch. 8.

## Cowboys miss another chance at clinching with 20-17 loss

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Troy Aikman made it clear that nobody in the Dallas camp is drawing comparisons between the Cowboys' current struggles and their late-season collapse last year.

"There are those who are going to try to compare what happened last year with this season," Aikman said after Dallas' 20-17 loss to Kansas City on Sunday. "But this is a different attitude with the team, a completely different atmosphere."

The Cowboys missed a chance to clinch the NFC East title, dropping their third straight game to fall to 8-6. Last year, they also were in playoff contention after 11 games, but lost five straight to finish 6-10.

Dallas is just one game ahead of Arizona in the division, although the

Cowboys do hold the tiebreaker over the Cardinals.

"We've got to get ourselves organized and regrouped and whatever other term you want to use and get ready to go win a football game and fight our way into the playoffs," first-year coach Chan Gailey said.

The Chiefs (6-8) were able to deliver coach Marty Schottenheimer's 143rd career victory in their home finale. It was Schottenheimer's 100th win as head coach of the Chiefs.

"To be out of the playoffs and playing a good team that has everything to play for, and beat them, it means a lot," offensive lineman Glenn Parker said. "It tells people we care a lot about how people perceive us. We don't want to be perceived as cry-babies or losers or show-

boats." Kansas City converted two third-quarter turnovers into touchdowns, including a 1-yard run by Bam Morris, who finished with a season-high 137 yards on 25 carries.

"It was up to me to keep the chains moving and keep drives alive," said Morris, whose two first downs on Kansas City's last possession allowed the Chiefs to run out the clock after Emmitt Smith's 8-yard touchdown catch with 2:48 left. "They put the weight on my shoulders, and I couldn't let my teammates down."

Morris' TD run, 12 plays after Greg Manusky recovered Tyrone Hughes' fumbled punt return and returned it to midfield, put the Chiefs up 10-3. One play after that, Jerome Woods intercepted a

pass intended for Jeffers and returned it 28 yards to the Dallas 35.

Six plays later, quarterback Rich Gannon scrambled in from 9 yards out after freezing safety George Teague in the end zone with a pump-fake.

"I got caught in a bad situation," said Teague, making just his second start of the season. "Do I go get him or let him throw to the end zone? Hindsight, of course, I should have went on and made it a little tougher on him. But I felt like I was in a lose-lose situation either way."

The 248-pound Morris didn't have to fool anyone. He ran through and over would-be tacklers on the way to his first 100-yard game since Nov. 2, 1997, when he gained 130 yards for Baltimore against the New York Jets.

## 4-H shooters shine at district, state

HERALD Staff Report

The Howard County 4-H shooting sports program enjoyed perhaps its best season since being formed four years ago, as members of the team dominated both the District VI Skeet, Trap and Sporting Clays Shoot and State 4-H Skeet and Trap Shoot.

At the state meet conducted in San Antonio, Katie Gaskins was named the high overall senior girl in international skeet and trap competition, while teammate Carmen Hipp was the runner-up.

In the boys' division of international skeet, Jim Bob Haggerton finished second and was named the high overall senior competitor and received the Don Snyder Award. Teammate Paul Kinsey finished fifth in international trap, while junior division participants Clint Schuelke and Orin Romine took fifth-place finishes in international trap and international skeet, respectively.

In the American skeet competition, Haggerton was third in the senior division, while juniors Billy Kinsey and Schuelke finished fifth and sixth.

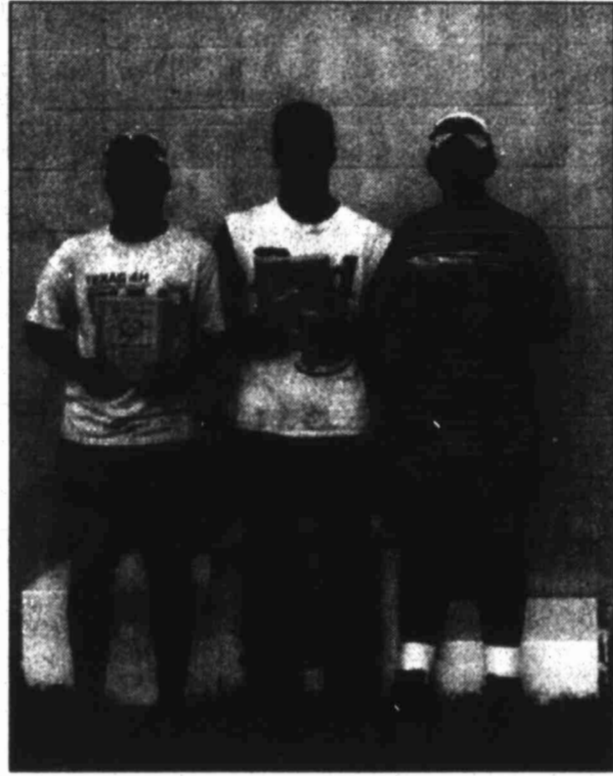
Clay Hart, Paul Kinsey and Haggerton teamed together for first place in the senior three-man team skeet competition, while Gaskins, Carmen Hipp and Lorin Wolf finished second.

The junior two-man skeet team of Romine and Billy Kinsey finished fourth, while Schuelke and Hipp finished fifth.

Hart, Haggerton and Paul Kinsey added a first-place finish in the senior three-man team trap competition. As a result, the threesome was named the high overall average team in senior competition. Gaskins, Carmen Hipp and Wolf finished sixth in the three-man team trap event.

Billy Kinsey and Romine were second in the junior two-man trap division, leaving them second in the juniors' overall team competition.

The top individual finishes by the Howard County team in the state American trap competition were Paul Kinsey and Schuelke. Kinsey was fourth in the senior division, while Schuelke was sixth among the juniors.



Howard County 4-H Shooting Sports Team members Jim Bob Haggerton, Paul Kinsey and Clay Hart display their awards after having been named the high overall three-man seniors shooting team at the State 4-H Skeet and Trap Shoot.



Howard County 4-H Shooting Sports Team members Orin Romine (left) and Billy Kinsey display their awards after having been named the high overall two-man juniors shooting team at the State 4-H Skeet and Trap Shoot.

Haggerton finished third in the senior sporting clays division, while Schuelke was first and Romine fourth in the junior division.

Gaskins was named the high overall senior girl and winner of the ladies' sportsmanship buckle, while Carmen Hipp was third in the overall senior girls' standings, while K.K. Keller was third in the overall sub-junior.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department selected the top five shooters in each age division at the state meet to take part in the 1998 Texas Wildlife Expo Championship in Austin.

The local qualifiers for that special event fared well again, as Orin Romine led the way for the juniors with a 46, while Schuelke had a 45. Hart and Haggerton both posted scores of 47.

At the District VI meet in Midland, Paul Kinsey took the top spot in senior trap shooting with a perfect score of 100, while Haggerton was second. Billy Kinsey made it a family affair with a first-place finish in the junior division, hitting 74 of 75 targets, while Schuelke was second and Romine was fifth. Keller finished sixth in the sub-junior division.

Keller then teamed with Jackson Inman and Chaz Sloan to take first-place in the sub-juniors team trap competition. Billy Kinsey and Schuelke took first place in the junior division's two-man team event, while Travis Hipp and Romine were second. Hart and Haggerton were third in the two-man senior team competition, while Wolf, Paul Kinsey and Carmen Hipp took first place in the three-man team event.

In the skeet competition, the Howard County team was every bit as dominant. Haggerton led the way among the seniors with a perfect 100 score, while Paul Kinsey was second and Hart fifth.

Orin Romine topped the juniors field with a 72, while Schuelke was second, Travis Hipp third and Billy Kinsey fourth. Inman was fifth in the sub-junior skeet competition and then teamed with Keller and Sloan to take first-place in the three-man team competition. Aaron Martin and Ian Broyles were third in the two-man sub-junior team event.

The junior two-man team competition saw Orin Romine and Travis Hipp finish first, while Schuelke and Billy

Kinsey were second. Hart and Haggerton took first place in the seniors two-man event, while Gaskins and Riley Hipp finished third. Lorin Wolf, Paul Kinsey and Carmen Hipp finished first in the three-man team event.

In 5-stand sporting clays competition, Hart won the seniors division, while Haggerton was second. The juniors competition saw Orin Romine finish second, while Schuelke was third and Billy Kinsey sixth. Inman finished fifth in the sub-juniors division.

Schuelke's 141-of-150 shooting earned him the high overall junior honor, while Paul Kinsey was the top overall senior with 199 of 200 targets.

The high all-around junior award went to Orin Romine with 186 of 200 targets hit, while Haggerton was the top senior with 245 of 250 shooting.

The girls' divisions saw Keller take the sub-junior title, while Gaskins topped the senior division.

Other members of the Howard County team that took part in the district and state shoots included Weylin Wolf, Aaron Martin, Ian Boyles and Kyle Kight.

## Unknowns lead Internationals' Presidents Cup win over U.S.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Maruyama, Parry and Nobilo. Hardly golf's big-name attractions.

But that trio — along with a few guys named Norman, Elkington and Price — combined to win the Presidents Cup from an American team that never seemed to be in the picture.

While the Internationals partied hard at a Melbourne casino Sunday night, many of the Americans packed their bags and left early today for the United States.

It was always going to take an extraordinary effort to beat the Americans — guys like Woods, O'Meara, Janzen and Couples — which had the top four players in the world rankings and eight of the top 15.

But the Internationals came up with one, and then some, so much so that a much anticipated match between Tiger Woods against Greg Norman was only for show. Two hours before the final putt was conceded, the champagne already was pouring for the International team.

"They played some of the most unbelievable golf," said U.S. captain Jack Nicklaus. "Wow."

Not even Woods' 1-up victory over Norman could keep the United States from its worst loss in the history of match play — International 201/2, United States 111/2.

"We created them," said Steve Elkington.

"We didn't say that about Freddie Couples when he made it from two counties last time to win it," Elkington said of the birdie putt that beat Vijay Singh two years ago in the deciding match.

"We're down here trying and we made the shots. They didn't."

Craig Parry, who pulled off one of "those shots" on Saturday, steamrolled past Justin Leonard for a 5 and 3 victory on Sunday. Thirty minutes later, Nick Price polished off David Duval 2 and 1, and the celebration was on.

"We had a sour taste in our mouths from last time," Parry said. "We wanted to have champagne in our mouths tonight."

Pour the biggest drink for Shigeki Maruyama.

## Broncos fall to Giants, no longer chasing NFL history

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NFL ROUNDUP

The Denver Broncos no longer are chasing history. Now they're just trying to keep up with the Minnesota Vikings.

The Broncos' bid for a perfect season and an NFL-record winning streak was spoiled Sunday by the New York Giants, who beat Denver 20-16 on a last-minute touchdown pass from Kent Graham to Amani Toomer.

"It's very disappointing any time you get a chance to separate yourself from the league for years and years and years, and you don't achieve that goal," Broncos safety Tyrone Braxton said. "It's disappointing and depressing."

Denver (13-1) was hoping to join the 1972 Miami Dolphins as the only NFL team to win all their games in the regular season and playoffs. The Broncos also were seeking their 19th straight victory over two seasons, something no NFL team had ever done.

But they fell just short of both achievements and ended the day tied with Minnesota for the league's best record.

Gary Anderson set an NFL record for consecutive field goals, Randall Cunningham threw two TD passes and

the Vikings forced six turnovers in a 38-28 win at Baltimore.

"We're playing for pride, we're trying to be the best and we're trying to secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs," said Vikings coach Dennis Green.

Anderson booted six field goals to extend his streak to 34, three more than the previous mark set by Minnesota's Fuad Revez in 1995. Anderson, who is 29-for-29 this year, connected from 43, 31, 45, 24, 48 and 20 yards.

"That's an unbelievable record set by a buddy of mine," Anderson said. "You hate to break a buddy's record, but that was a high standard."

At East Rutherford, N.J., Graham's 37-yard TD pass to Toomer with 48 seconds left stunned the Broncos.

The catch came in the back of the end zone, with Toomer outleaping Tito Paul for the ball. After a brief discussion about whether Toomer's feet were inbound, officials ruled it a touchdown. In other NFL games, it was Arizona 20, Philadelphia 17 in overtime; Atlanta 27,

New Orleans 17; Green Bay 26, Chicago 20; Indianapolis 39, Cincinnati 26; St. Louis 32, New England 18; Buffalo 44, Oakland 21; Tampa Bay 16, Pittsburgh 3; Tennessee 16, Jacksonville 13; Washington 28, Carolina 25; Seattle 38, San Diego 17; Kansas City 20, Dallas 17; Minnesota 38, Baltimore 28; and Jets 21, Miami 16.

#### Cardinals 20, Eagles 17

Chris Jacke, who missed a 34-yard field goal at the end of regulation, kicked a 32-yarder 41/2 minutes into overtime to give Arizona (7-7) the victory.

Rob Moore, whose 9-yard TD catch tied it 17-17, had receptions of 30 and 16 yards from Jake Plummer on the winning drive. Adrian Murrell rushed for 174 yards for the Cardinals, who stayed in the running for the NFC wild card.

#### Packers 26, Bears 20

Dorsey Levens and Antonio Freeman had 100-yard days as the injury-riddled Packers (9-5) beat Chicago (3-11).

Levens, in his third game back from a broken leg that sidelined him for three months, carried 15 times for 105 yards. Freeman caught eight passes for 103 yards and a touchdown.

#### Colts 39, Bengals 26

Peyton Manning passed for 210 yards and three touchdowns as the Colts handed Cincinnati its ninth straight loss.

The victory snapped a three-game slide for Indianapolis (3-11), which blew double-digit leads in its previous two games. Marshall Faulk rushed for 115 yards and two TDs for the Colts.

#### Rams 32, Patriots 18

Rookie Az Hakim and former practice squad player June Henley each scored two touchdowns for the Rams (4-10), who overcame three first-half turnovers.

The Patriots (8-6) wasted a big game from running back Robert Edwards, who gained 196 yards on 24 carries, and hurt their playoff chances by losing for the first time in four games.

#### Falcons 27, Saints 17

Terance Mathis caught TD passes of 63 and 62 yards from Chris Chandler as Atlanta stayed ahead of San Francisco in the NFC West.

Jamal Anderson ran for 148 yards on 27 carries for the Falcons, who can claim the NFL West crown and a first-round bye if the 49ers lose to Detroit tonight. It was Anderson's 10th 100-yard game.

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Residential, Industrial Oil Field Exp. Portable Welding 661-8979 267-4308

### WHEEL ALIGNMENT

Front End Alignments & Complete Front End Work! **PERCO CAR CARE**  
901 E. 3rd. Big Spring

### WRECKER SERVICE

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

# TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Dec. 13, 1998

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**AVON PRODUCTS - START**  
your own business. Work flexible hours. Enjoy unlimited earnings. Call toll free 1-888-942-4053. \$20 start-up.

**LOCAL CANDY ROUTE.**  
30 vending machines. Earn approximately \$800/day. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-998-VEND. Multi-Vend, Inc.

### DRIVERS WANTED

**CONTINENTAL EXPRESS**  
NEEDS OTR & Regional drivers. Voted among the top 10 small carriers. Paid benefits. 90-95% no touch freight. 1-800-727-4374. EOE. 1-800-695-4473.

**DRIVER - C/O/O.** Super Regional! What is it? We've got it! You'll want it! Call for information. Class A CDL required. Arnold Transportation, 1-800-454-2887.

**DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT**  
\*Coast to Coast Runs\* Teams start 35c-37c. \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers and owner operators 1-800-441-4394. Graduate students 1-800-338-6428.

**DRIVER - FLATBED.**  
START up to 34c/mile. Medical, Dental & Life. 401(K). Consistent miles. Midwest or 48 states. 3 years OTR + 1 year flatbed. Combined Transport. 1-800-637-4407.

**DRIVER - SOLOS START**  
up to 36c/mile. Teams up to 38c/mile. \$10,000 longevity bonus. too! Must be 23 with six months OTR experience. Vernon

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee their products or services advertised. We urge our readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact your local Better Business Bureau for information about the company before sending money.

Call this Newspaper to Advertise Statewide or Regionally, or Call 512-477-6755.

Sawyer. 1-888-829-9565.

**DRIVER/OTR A** Great pay plan...up to 36CPM! Great home time. Singles, teams, students & O/O's Cargo Carriers / EOE. 1-888-GO-CARCO.

**DRIVER/OTR - A NEW** approach to OW/OP Program! \$700 sign-on. Paid: tolls, permits, cargo & liab., Worker's Comp., payroll taxes, holidays, vacation! Health insurance available. Sitton Motor Lines. 1-800-533-4765.

**DRIVERS - INEXPERIENCED?** ASK about our company sponsored training. We have raised pay for ALL our drivers, and we offer top conventional equipment. U.S. Xpress, 1-800-879-7743

**FREE TRUCK DRIVER** Training with no contracts or paybacks. Call now 1-800-865-7284.

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**ARE YOU DROWNING** in Debt? Debt relief: free, immediate, confidential. Consolidate payments, lower interest. Call 1-888-BILL-FREE or 1-888-245-5373. American Credit Counselors, Non-profit.

**\*NEW PAY Package\*** Teams earn up to 44c/mile. Solos earn up to 32c/mile. Pay package includes safety & longevity bonuses. 3 months + school minimum experience. 80% Drop & hook, no touch freight. Assigned conventional freightlines. incredible benefits & miles, miles, miles. Celadon Trucking. 1-800-729-9770.

**OWNER OPERATORS - POWERSOURCE** Transportation - is looking for OTR/O/O's. No forced dispatch. 100% drop and hook. 3 years O/O experience. Minimum 26 years old. Top contractors earn up to \$1.05 per mile! Teams needed too! 1-800-368-8789.

**RAPID FREIGHT** of Texas is seeking OTR drivers. Minimum 1 year experience. Class

A CDL with HazMat required. Call recruiting 1-800-299-7274, ext. 21 or ext. 41.

### EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

**COMPANY SPONSORED TRAINING** & First year income \$30K - Stevens transport - OTR truck drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced. 1-800-333-8595. EOE.



MONDAY

DEC. 14

Table with 24 columns (station call letters) and 6 rows (time slots from 6:00 AM to 12:30 AM) listing various news, sports, and entertainment programs.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



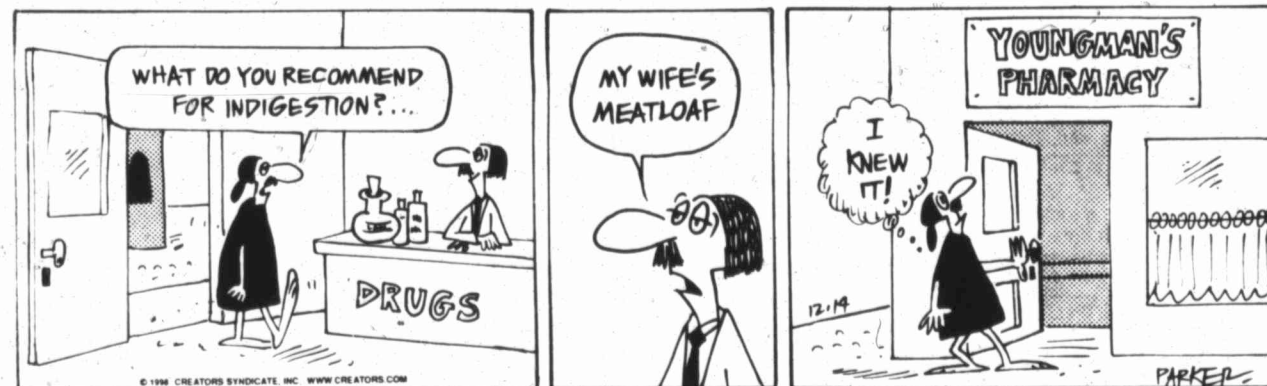
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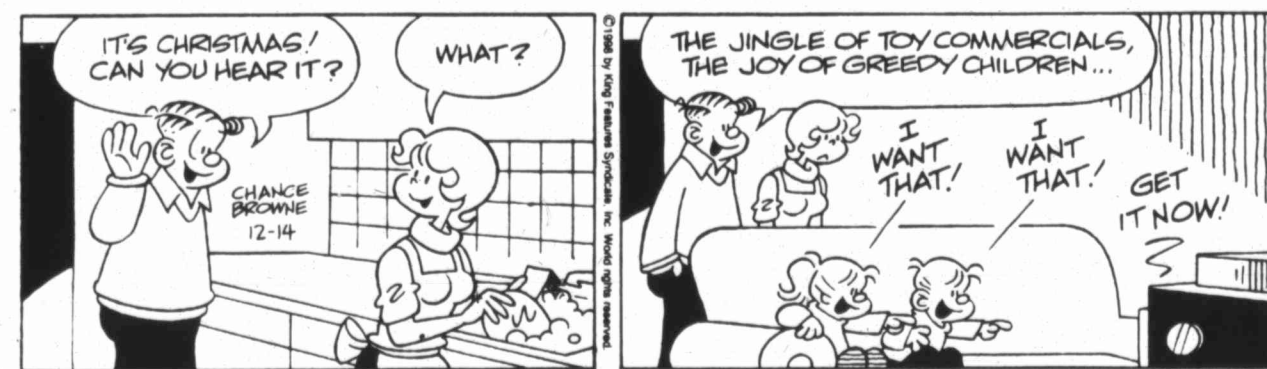
GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



"I don't know what's goin' on around my house. They're SPELLIN' everything!"

"CAN I ASK TO BE FORGIVEN FOR WHAT I'M PLANNING TO DO TOMORROW?"

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 1998. There are 17 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved grid with answers for the crossword puzzle.

Union as the 22nd state. In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died in London.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the South Pole, beating an expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1939, the Soviet Union was dropped from the League of Nations. In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish U.N. headquarters in New York.

In 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner II approached Venus, transmitting information about the planet. In 1980, fans around the world paid tribute to John Lennon, six days after he was shot to death in New York City.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and office hours.