

SUNDAY
December 20, 1998

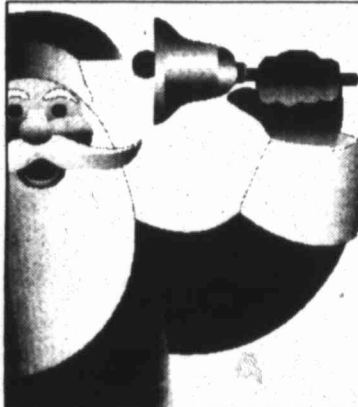
Today:



TODAY 50°-55°
TONIGHT 35°-45°

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 for 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.
- 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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UGH! I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ASK SANTA FOR A NEW BASKETBALL!



5 shopping days 'til Christmas
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Vol. 96, No. 51

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Clinton impeached

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a day of history and upheaval, President William Jefferson Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House on Saturday for perjury and obstruction of justice. The 42nd chief executive thus became only the second since the nation's founding to be ordered to stand trial in the Senate.



CLINTON

A defiant Clinton rejected calls for resignation and vowed to remain in office "until the last hour of the last day of my term." He called for a "reasonable, bipartisan and proportionate" conclusion in the Senate to end the ordeal. The drama of impeachment — written into the Constitution more than two centuries ago but scarcely seen since — played out on a day made even more tumultuous by a stunning announcement that incoming House Speaker Bob Livingston would resign over his own marital infidelities. Republicans quickly coalesced around

Illinois Rep. Dennis Hastert to replace him. "We have fulfilled our duty to our magnificent Constitution," Livingston, R-La., said shortly before the roll was called in the House on presidential articles of impeachment for the first time in 130 years. "We are not ruled by kings or emperors, and there is no divine right of presidents." Democrats, buoyed by a last-minute meeting with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, marched out of the House chamber briefly to protest the

Big Spring residents split on reaction to House vote

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Like their counterparts across the country, Big Spring residents were split in their opinions about the impeachment of the president. "I don't think they ought to, but it's a bad situation either way," said Kent McMillan. "This is a family issue (for the Clintons). He's got a job to do, and needs to be doing that." But Lois Wright said removal of Bill Clinton from office was the only punishment that would send the right message. "If we let him get by with this, we tell our children that it's okay to lie," she said. "There will be repercussions (if Clinton is not removed from office). He

did wrong, and what we have to think about is what this will say to our children." Walter Scott said he doubted Clinton had done "any more than any other political figure." "I don't like the example he's setting for our younger generation, so in a way I agree (with impeachment)," Scott said, "but I think he's done the same as so many of them, and he just got caught." Jonathan Morales said another punishment would be a better option. "I don't want him to be removed from office," Morales said. "I like Bill Clinton. He shouldn't have done what he did, I agree. It's bad, but not bad enough for impeachment and removal from office." Wesley Beauchamp said whatever the outcome, this moment is a point in history he will never forget.



MCMILLAN



MORALES



SCOTT

See CLINTON, Page 2A

Stenholm breaks line, votes to impeach

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

After studying the testimony, consulting with others and praying for guidance, U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm broke party ranks Saturday and voted the only way he could, he said.



STENHOLM

"If I do not vote to impeach the president for his actions dishonoring his office, I not only fail to carry out my constitutional duty but I also diminish the office of all elected officials, including my own," said the Democrat from Stamford. "For these reasons, I will vote for articles of impeachment." Stenholm voted for three of the four articles. On Article IV, which charged that Clinton "engaged in conduct that resulted in the misuse and abuse of his high office" when he "willfully made perjurious, false and misleading sworn statements" in written responses to questions submitted by the House Judiciary Committee, Stenholm voted "no."

"In considering the impeachment question, I have studied, listened and prayed for guidance," he said. "I understand that my vote today will be unpopular with many of my colleagues, my president and many of my friends and constituents. I also realize that by voting with the majority, this is an issue some will use for their own political purposes. My vote today in no way condones the behavior of those supporting impeachment whose actions are motivated more by political

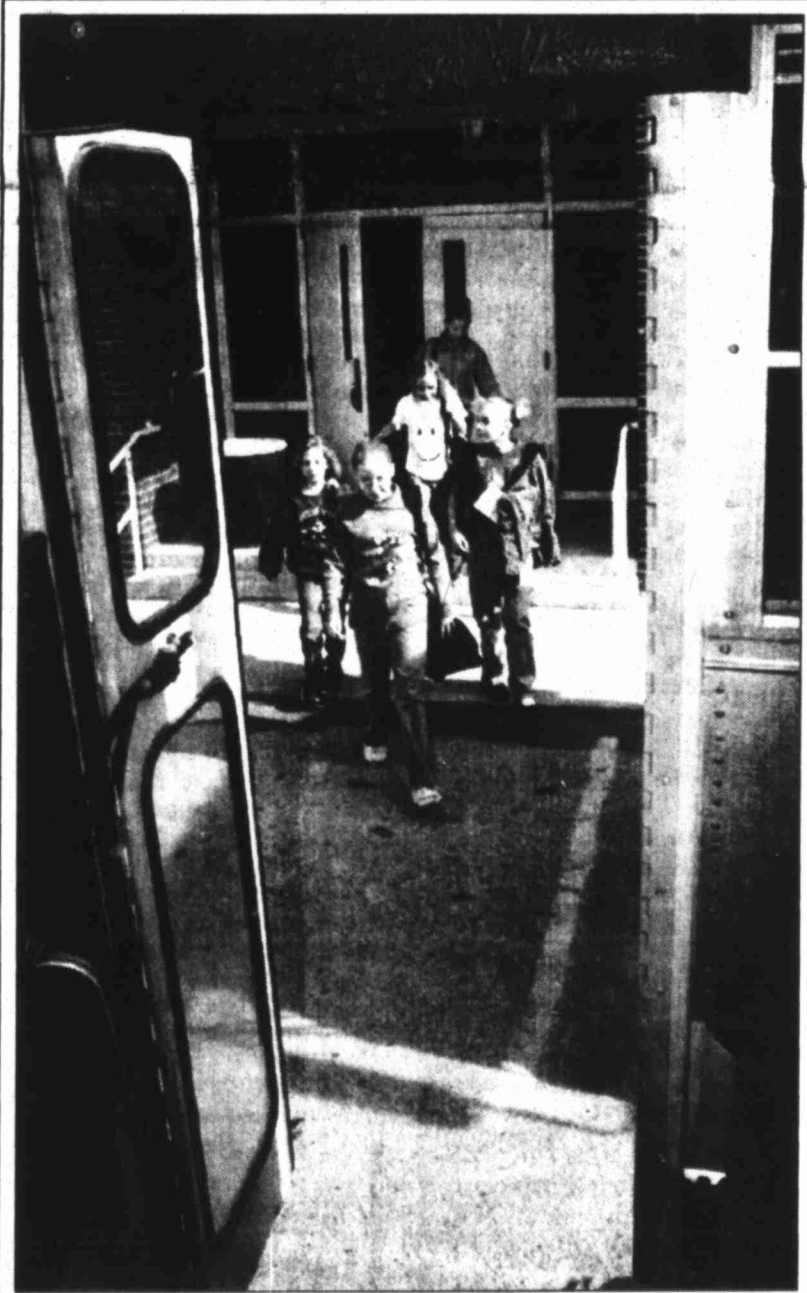
See STENHOLM, Page 2A

Help available for producers hit by long drought

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

Help is available to Howard County livestock producers who suffered a loss due to the drought this year. The Livestock Assistance Program has been made available locally, said Farm Service Agency County Executive Director Rick Liles. "The foundation of it is based on the drought. Specifically, it provides assistance to guys who sustained losses due to the drought," said Liles. He anticipates there will be about 100 applicants in Howard County. "The program is based on number of producer-owned animal units from April 15 until Dec. 15," he said. Deadline to make application is Feb. 5, 1999. "Anyone who thinks they may be eligible should contact our office as soon as possible and we will assist them," said Liles. Some \$200 million has been appropriated nationwide for the Livestock Assistance Program. There's no way of knowing how that might impact Howard County right now, Liles said. "On February 5, we will transmit the requests to a central location. They will total those requests and go from there," Liles said. "No one can predict what the amounts will be."

See AID, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Linda Choate

Elbow fifth graders make quick time leaving school on Friday for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Pictured from front to back are Shiloh Sanders, Caylie Dunnam, Leslie Carter, Kimberly Berry and Claire Choate.

School policy

Student to undergo medical tests during holidays, then committee will reconvene

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Parents of a Coahoma High School who brought a gun on campus have won the right to try once more to remove their daughter from the alternative education program they say is making her physically ill. Sid and Iva Joe Hanslik, whose daughter Mandy was sentenced to 20 days in the AEP after a Nov. 19 incident, met with school officials and attorneys for an hour and a half Friday. After the meeting, Superintendent Michael Hartman said the student will undergo medical tests during the Christmas holidays. Then in early January, a committee will be reconvened to consider her status. Last week the committee rejected the family's claim that Hanslik qualified for special consideration under section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Act guarantees certain rights and conditions for people with disabilities in many areas, including public schools. Hanslik, 16, reported to school officials there was a gun in her mother's car Nov. 19, which she

had driven to school that day. Under the federal Gun-Free Zone Act, mandatory punishment for bringing a gun on campus is expulsion for a year. The district superintendent can reduce the so-called "zero tolerance" sentence, as Hartman did in this case. Attorney Max Wright, who represents the Hansliks, said the basis of his argument is that the AEP is making Mandy ill. "The emotional distress of this placement, for whatever reason, is manifesting itself in physical illness," Wright said. School records said Hanslik had attended four days of alternative classes since she began in the program Nov. 23, and was taken out of school on a medical excuse for the remainder of the time. Wright said he was pleased with the district's willingness to allow Mandy's situation to be reconsidered. "I think it's a reasonable approach," he said. "I was appreciative of their willingness ... to protect the child's health." Wright said the Hansliks are not asking for unusual or unreasonable treatment.

See STUDENT, Page 2A

Thanks to many, Christmas is one less worry for struggling mom

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Worry about her family's future, combined with worry about her children's day to day survival has taken its toll on Elda Bernal. Now, Christmas is one less worry, because Max Webb, director of the Northside Community Center, bestowed a Christmas shopping trip on Bernal recently. "The Vietnam Memorial Committee contacted me and I selected Elda as one of the families we can help," Webb said. Life is a series of challenges for Bernal as she raises Derrell, 10, 9-year-old twins Jay and John, Kayla, 8, and Nikki, 2, alone. So Webb and Bernal visited a

local retail store and Bernal purchased clothing and toys for her children. "Nikki really wants some baby roller blades. She wears one skate and tries to skate on that," Bernal said. Also, the 2-year-old has asked for a baby doll for Christmas, Bernal said. "She's a small girl and I'd like to get her something to help her learn. She wants to learn something all the time," she said. Bernal has health problems that have caused her more worry. She recently learned she has a bleeding ulcer, complicated by a stomach infection, she said. "Max asked me what was wrong, he said I seemed a little down. I have been upset because I haven't been able to

buy anything for my children for Christmas. But I also just found out about this, and I have more medical tests to take," she said. Another ray of hope filtered through the gloom when Bernal secured a part-time job at a local fast food restaurant. Bernal said her extended family is helping her with child care. "They're not charging me. I won't make a payday before Christmas, because I started the day after time went in. I'm leaving it in God's hands, and I'm grateful I have a job now," she said. And Webb, through the Northside Community Center, has been making Christmas

See HELPING, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Max Webb, director of Northside Community Center, and Elda Bernal recently visited a local retail store and purchased Christmas items for her children from money donated by the Vietnam Memorial Committee-Vietnam Veterans of America.

DECEMBER 20 1998

OBITUARIES

Mary Allen

Graveside service for Mary Allen, 95, Coahoma, will be Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998, at 3 p.m. at Coahoma Cemetery with Russell Mullins, minister of Coahoma Church of Christ, officiating.



ALLEN

She died Friday, Dec. 18, 1998, at her home following a long illness.

Mrs. Allen was born Sept. 23, 1903, in Taylor County and moved to Howard County two years later. She attended school in Coahoma, was a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ and a homemaker.

She married Andrew Weaver in 1920 and he preceded her in death in 1932. In 1936, she married W. K. Allen and he preceded her in death in 1992.

Survivors include: five sons, Weldon Weaver, Curtis (Pete) Allen, both of Coahoma, Elton Weaver of Big Spring, Eddie R. Allen of Llano and Jerry (Bozy) Allen of Denison; two daughters, Mary Lou Edens of Big Spring and Frances Capps of Coahoma; one sister, Oleta Barber of Santa Maria, Calif.; 29 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.

Kristine Dunham

Services for Kristine Dunham, 49, White Settlement, are pending with Myers and Smith Funeral Home. She died Friday, Dec. 18, 1998.

James B. "Red" Nixon

Funeral services for James B. "Red" Nixon, 68, Big Spring, will be Monday, Dec. 21, 1998, at Myers & Smith Funeral Chapel with Craig Felty, minister of Cornerstone Church, officiating.



NIXON

Interment will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mr. Nixon died at a local hospital Friday, Dec. 18, 1998, after a long illness. He was born Feb. 10, 1930, in Aubrey.

He married Lanora Faye Mobley on Feb. 10, 1954, and she preceded him in death in 1993. He married Margaret Aken Jan. 1, 1998, in Big Spring. He was affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Coahoma.

Mr. Nixon had worked for Cosden and Fina from 1952 to 1987. He was a veteran of the

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Mary Allen 95, died Friday. Graveside services will be 3:00 PM, Monday at Coahoma Cemetery.

Edith H. Henson, 81, died Friday. Services will be 11:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

James B. (Red) Nixon, 68, died Friday. Services will be 3:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Kristine Dunham 49, died Friday. Services are pending.

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Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army.

Survivors include: his wife, Margaret Nixon, Big Spring; one son, Jack Nixon of Big Spring; three step-daughters, Caryann Hartley of Redmond, Ore., Cynthia (Kandi) Clanton of Big Spring; and Jolene (Jo Jo) Weathers of Temple, Ga.; two sisters, Mary E. Leek of Big Spring and Mamie Alene Porter of Fort Smith, Ark.; five grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Family will gather at Myers & Smith from 5-7 p.m. today for visitation. Family will be at 4216 Parkway.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.

Edith H. Henson

Funeral Services for Edith H. Henson, 81, Big Spring, will be 11 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Greg Taylor, pastor of Miracle Revival Center, officiating.



HENSON

Interment will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Mrs. Henson died Friday, Dec. 18, 1998, at her home after a long illness. She was born March 11, 1917 in Rochester.

She married Elmer J. Henson Nov. 16, 1935, in Estanchia, N.M. and lived all her adult life there, moving to Big Spring in 1994. She was a homemaker and member of the Methodist Church.

Survivors include: her husband, Elmer J. Henson, Big Spring; a daughter, Joyce Strand, Rockport; a son, Leon Henson, Big Spring, eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1A

Republicans' refusal to allow a vote on the lesser punishment of censure.

"We walked out to demonstrate our deep displeasure with the action of the majority party in clearly disregarding the wishes of the majority of the American people," said Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt on the steps outside the Capitol.

With that, Gephardt led Democrats back inside, where majority Republicans waited unflinchingly with the votes to approve the first article of impeachment. It alleged that Clinton committed perjury before Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's grand jury in August when asked about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

"Article one is approved," intoned Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill., who presided over the tumultuous, two-day debate. The clock read 1:25 p.m.

The vote was 228-206 in favor of impeachment. In rapid-fire order, the other three articles were voted on, all of them stemming from Starr's eight-month investigation and the politically drenched House impeachment inquiry that followed this fall.

The second article, alleging Clinton lied in a deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, was rejected, 229-205. More than two dozen Republicans joined Democrats in voting it down, and some of them expressed concern about voting to impeach a president for actions in a civil case that has since been dismissed.

The third article, alleging obstruction of justice, cleared narrowly, 221-212, and needed the votes of five Democrats to pass. It cited Clinton for efforts to influence grand jury testimony by Ms. Lewinsky and Betty Currie, his secretary, as well as other actions.

The fourth article fell, 285-148, on a bipartisan rejection. It would have impeached Clinton for abuse of his office in lying to Congress in written responses to 81 questions that the House Judiciary Committee posed to him as part of its impeachment inquiry.

The House floor was crowded as lawmakers cast their historic votes. All but one of the 435 was present. The only exception was Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., who is recovering from hip replacement surgery in California.

On the White House lawn after the vote, dozens of Democratic lawmakers gath-

ered around the president in a show of support. Clinton emerged from the building arm in arm with his wife.

"I have accepted responsibility for what I did wrong in my personal life," he said in his first appearance before the nation as an impeached president. "I have invited members of Congress to find a reasonable, bipartisan and proportionate response."

Moments after the final vote on the floor, Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., led a somber procession across the Capitol Rotunda to the Senate, delivering the impeachment papers to officials there.

STENHOLM

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vendetta than the principles of the Constitution."

Stenholm clearly found the timing of the vote distasteful, saying "We are poised to vote on whether or not to impeach the President of the United States at the same time that uniformed men and women of our armed forces are engaged in conflict in the Middle East. It doesn't get much worse than this."

But it was apparent the 20-year veteran of the House also found Clinton's actions distasteful.

"He has lied to his family, his friends, and the nation. He has protected himself at the expense of those around him. He has shown judgment so suspect that his actions will be called into question. It is clear that the president's deeds and words have placed an indelible mark on the presidency of the United States," Stenholm said.

"The strength of a nation is ultimately dependent upon the strength of its moral character. The consequences of the president's actions go well beyond the details of perjury. They go to the heart of our national character."

LOCAL REACTION

Continued from Page 1A

"It's just a shame that it had to come to this."

But McMillan said Washington politicians are getting what they asked for when they bring personal matters into the political arena. He noted Saturday's announcement that U.S. House of Representatives speaker-elect Bob Livingston would resign that post after acknowledging his own extra-marital affair.

"We all sit here in judgement," McMillan said, "but I say, 'Don't dig too deep. You might not like the skeletons you dig up.'"

STUDENT

Continued from Page 1A

"We've just availed ourselves of the appeal routes that are available," he said.

Hartman said he expects Hanslik to undergo the tests during the holidays, and plans to bring 504 committee members back together as soon as school begins again in January.

If Hanslik's situation is determined to fit within the protections of the Act, "it would be up to the 504 committee to deter-

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

mine what her status would be," Hartman said.

HELPING

Continued from Page 1A

happen for other local families.

The residents of Canterbury North saved their pennies and handed Webb \$150 for a needy family. That family, which has three children, bought mostly clothes, Webb said.

"Those residents saved a penny a day over the past year, and that added up to giving us \$150," Webb said.

And he's not through giving yet. Seven bicycles were given to the Northside Community Center, and Webb is selecting young boys and girls for those, he said.

"The Senior Citizens gave us the bicycles, and I know we can use those bikes," Webb said.

Also, First Presbyterian Church members gathered toys. "These are new toys, about a trunk full, especially for children 4-10 years old," Webb said.

Christmas giving efforts will continue through this week. Call Northside Community Center at 263-2673.

AID

Continued from Page 1A

However, there is a high likelihood that payments will be factored. And to what degree is anyone's guess.

To make application, contact the Farm Service Agency at 1902 North U.S. Highway 87 or call 267-2557.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SUNDAY

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.

•NA 8 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager no.).

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.

•The Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally Ill meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 409 Rannels (formerly the TU building) For further information call Sondra at 267-7220.

•Greater West Texas Chapter •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."

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

POLICE

Continued from Page 1A

Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between Friday at 8 a.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m.:

•THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Gregg. Seventy-five lottery tickets worth \$5 each were reported stolen.

•ERICK VIASANA, 19, was arrested on local warrants.

•LOUD PARTY/NOISE was reported in the 4200 block Dixon, 2500 block Gunter, 1300 block Mobile.

•DISTURBANCES were reported in the 200 block of Brown, 300 block North Scurry, 600 block North San Antonio, 2700 block Wasson, Eighth and State streets.

•SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 1800 block W. I-20.

TEXAS LOTTERY

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LOTTO: 11,15,17,21,44,46

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Livingston resigns as Speaker-designate

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a shocking announcement two days after his confession of marital infidelity, Rep. Bob Livingston told the House on Saturday he won't serve as its next speaker. Republicans rallied behind Dennis Hastert of Illinois to be their new leader.



LIVINGSTON

Majority Leader Dick Armey, Majority Whip Tom DeLay and outgoing Speaker Newt Gingrich all endorsed Hastert, the soft-spoken chief deputy whip, as Republicans desperately sought to regroup after Livingston's announcement.

The events added yet more turmoil to a day already incredibly high in drama with the House impeachment of President Clinton.

"He will make a great speaker," DeLay said of Hastert after an emergency Republican caucus. Added Armey: "House Republicans, and indeed our entire party, need his steady hand and his strength as we move beyond the emotional tumult and partisanship of this Congress."

No date was set for the party to formally choose Hastert, but leaders said the caucus was likely to meet Jan. 5.

The Republican leaders stressed that it was essential for the party to have a leader in place to work on the agenda for the 106th Congress, which will have only a 12-vote GOP advantage. They said Hastert had the qualities to unify all factions of the party.

Hastert "used to be a wrestling coach," said Rep. James Talent, R-Mo. "I think Denny will coach and manage the team. I think he'll do that extremely effectively."

On the last day of the congressional session, Speaker-designate Livingston stood before the House and called for Clinton to resign.

Then, as Democrats cried out in protest, he said that he, too, would resign rather than take over the speakership in the "current circumstances."

Rep. Christopher Cox of California, chairman of the House Republican policy committee, said he might run for the position. Rep. Steve Largent of Oklahoma was in the race briefly but threw his support to Hastert.

Hastert said in a statement that a "sense of duty now calls me to serve our free nation by seeking a position of great responsibility. ... It is a calling that I have not sought; however, it is a duty that I cannot ignore."

The Republicans had chosen Livingston to replace Gingrich, who announced he would step

aside after the Nov. 3 midterm elections that were viewed as a repudiation of GOP strategy of focusing on the Lewinsky affair.

"The air went out of the chamber," said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., describing the atmosphere as Livingston spoke in the waning hours of a historic debate on impeaching Clinton for covering up his own sexual misconduct.

Livingston told the hushed House that the "current circumstances" — triggered by a story on the Roll Call newspaper Internet site and then his adultery admission — made it impossible to "be the kind of leader that I would like to be."

Republicans began a standing ovation for him and were joined by Democrats who only seconds before had shouted, "No! No! No! You resign" when Livingston said Clinton should go.

"I have hurt you deeply,"

Mrs. Clinton says she loves her husband

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton chose personal words — "I love and care deeply about my husband" — as she worked on Saturday to salvage President Clinton's presidency and the legacy of their shared tenure in the White House.

The first lady made an emotional trip to Capitol Hill in the eerily quiet hour before the House was gavelled to order. She pinned to her shoulder a golden American eagle brooch, symbol of strength and endurance.

Accompanied by White House

chief of staff John Podesta, she held court in a quiet caucus of House Democrats and also gave the friendly assembly a glimpse into her very private marriage.

Mrs. Clinton, who responded in the first days of publicity about the Monica Lewinsky affair last January with bitter charges of a "vast right-wing conspiracy," told the Democrats Saturday that she did not believe her husband had received a fair shake in the GOP-controlled House.

"She talked about the fact that she believed we were all

American citizens and that as citizens we live in a constitutional country and that the process should be done right and that up to now it has not been," Minority Leader Dick Gephardt said afterward.

But lawmakers who crowded the ornate, third-floor caucus room of the Cannon Office Building, described Mrs. Clinton's remarks as mostly reflective and without rancor. The meeting was closed to reporters.

The first lady talked about her "profound love and support" for

Clinton. And, "she talked a bit about why," said Chief Deputy Democratic Whip Chet Edwards.

The Texas congressman quoted Mrs. Clinton as saying, "We have committed our lives to the values of quality of opportunity and a better life for the children of America."

A close associate of Mrs. Clinton, speaking on condition of anonymity, said her emotions have bubbled near the surface in the past two weeks as the ignominy of impeachment grew more certain.

Texans give varying reactions to impeachment

HOUSTON (AP) — As the House of Representatives impeached President Clinton on Saturday, Jim Hodges Jr., J.J. Guajardo and Elias Sanchez-Perez recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The three were among a handful of Vietnam veterans making plans to bring the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall back to Houston next year. The opened their meeting with the Pledge and a prayer.

Meanwhile, in the next room at Velia's Cafe, grainy images of the impeachment vote flashed across the television set over the bar.

"Unfortunately he got weak at the wrong time," Hodges said, referring to Clinton's alleged lies under oath. "He didn't use his brain."

The veterans, meeting at this popular eatery in Houston's predominantly Hispanic Second Ward neighborhood, all dismissed Saturday morning's impeachment vote as little more than a congressional publicity stunt.

That doesn't mean the veterans particularly respect their president, but their longstanding gripes have nothing to do with his alleged sexual exploits or lack of truthfulness.

"It bothers me that for the last six years on Memorial Day, there he is leaving a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, knowing he is a draft dodger," Sanchez-Perez said, speaking of the war in which he fought that Clinton managed to avoid. "He's a damn liar. A damn liar and a draft-dodger."

However, Sanchez-Perez and his mates weren't eager to see Congress remove Clinton, though they admit they can take solace that Vice President Al Gore has some military experience. But none of the three believes the Senate will convict Clinton.

Whatever the Senate ends up doing, other Texans think that the impeachment process might teach Clinton and future presidents a lesson.

"It sends a message to other people that censure just would-

n't accomplish," said Carly Belew, 21, of McKinney as she shopped in Dallas on Saturday with her family.

The Rev. Paul Wheelus, 70, sat on a mall bench eating a chocolate chip cookie as he contemplated the day's events. The Baptist minister from Paris,

Texas, said he was undecided about whether Clinton should leave office.

But he knew one thing about Saturday's impeachment: "I think it's the most inappropriate timing in the world," he said, in light of the continued offensive against Iraq.

Disagreeing with the Houston vets, he said House members should have delayed the vote until after bombing in Iraq had subsided.

Current soldier Chris Pena agreed with the pastor, even though he's not the commander-in-chief's biggest fan.

Paula Jones' former lawyers file for costs

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Paula Jones' original legal team told a federal judge Friday that their former client owes them nearly \$875,000, \$25,000 more than the settlement she is due from President Clinton.

Joseph Cammarata and Gilbert Davis said U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright promised them reasonable attorney's fees "for their zealous and effective representation" in Mrs. Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against the president.

Their bill totals \$874,571.36 and includes time charged for calls to "K. Starr." Cammarata acknowledged this year that he and Davis consulted Kenneth W. Starr about presidential immunity in the months before Starr was named Whitewater special prosecutor. The lawyers also charged for talking with reporters.

Cammarata and Davis took Mrs. Jones' case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in 1997 that Clinton was not immune from civil lawsuits while holding office.

The pair bowed out last summer after Mrs. Jones rejected a settlement that included \$700,000 and a vague apology from the president. Shortly after leaving the case, they filed an \$800,000 lien against her for the work they had done before July 31, 1997.

Last month, Mrs. Jones, with new lawyers, accepted an \$850,000 settlement with no apology and no admission of wrongdoing — though she said that was her major goal when she filed her lawsuit in 1994.

Cammarata and Davis said on Friday that their bill eventually ran to more than the amount of the settlement.

"The amount of the attorney's fee awarded to counsel is not limited to the amount of the compromise or settlement" under Arkansas law, the lawyers said.

Mrs. Jones claimed that Clinton exposed himself to her in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991 when he was Arkansas governor and she was a state employee. Clinton denied the allegation.

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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."

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Charles C. Williams Publisher John A. Moseley Sports Editor

John H. Walker Managing Editor Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

If you haven't caught the spirit, go see the lights

If you haven't quite caught the holiday spirit yet — or maybe you need a break from the hustle and bustle of shopping — we encourage you to take time to look at all of the lights around Big Spring.

Some depict religious beliefs; others are more whimsical. Some are simple; others are elaborate. All of them are beautiful.

Santas and reindeer abound. Even a ride up Gregg Street shows how much the merchants are into the holiday season this year.

Take a drive through the Coronado addition, run out to Highland, Kentwood and others. You'll be impressed.

The word we got Saturday was that more than 8,000 people visited the Festival of Lights over the past couple of weeks, when greeters were still about.

The Festival of Lights is still up, and will be through Dec. 31. It's something you don't want to miss.

This holiday season, put some coffee or hot chocolate in the Thermos, put some holiday music on the radio and take a long drive around town.

We think you'll be fascinated by what you see. And we know it will warm your heart.

OTHER VIEWS

Former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy's acquittal early this month is another step down into the abyss of lawlessness for this country.

The nation seems to be politically spinning out of control. What happened to politicians who cared about their reputations? People who believed the word "ethics" was more than a joke at cocktail parties?

Espy, as agriculture secretary, accepted gifts from businesses such as longtime Bill Clinton supporter Tyson Foods Inc.

Independent Counsel Donald Smaltz spent four years and \$17 million uncovering strong and credible evidence that Espy accepted \$33,000 in sports tickets, travel, meals and trinkets such as a crystal bowl and an oil painting that came from companies regulated by Espy's department.

Federal ethics laws prohibit expensive gifts to public officials and Espy's behavior was a clear violation of the law.

Espy admitted he thought he did something wrong. On NBC's "Today" show, he said: "I've admitted some lapses in judgment. I've admitted some appearance problems. There are a number of things if I could do it all over again that I would do."

Yet, he maintains he committed no crime. Incredulous.

Of course, President Clinton praised Espy for serving his country with distinction.

Another sign of the lack of respect for the rule of law

this administration has shown. PORTALES (N.M.) NEWS-TRIBUNE

American diplomacy is essential to the search for peace between Arab and Israel. However, it is doubtful whether Bill Clinton's level of involvement in that process over the past few months has been wise.

Thus, Mr. Clinton has left the region with the situation as fraught as ever.

It was partly for domestic political considerations that Mr. Clinton, facing Congressional elections under a cloud of impeachment, became so deeply involved in the Wye negotiations.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, LONDON

All I want for Christmas is a perfect tree stand

By MARK LOYD Kerrville Daily Times

Early in a marriage, money factors into just about every issue or decision that arises in the household.

During the holidays it's who to buy for, how much to spend, which charities to support, the meaning behind the season, real or artificial tree. Artificial tree?

The year was 1994, the first Christmas the bride and groom would spend at home. The needs were great lights, decorations, wrapping paper, ribbons, ornaments. The wallet, however, was thin, thin as a credit card.

The young bride wanted an artificial tree, a nice one, one that looked and smelled real. The young groom had the answer — a cut tree purchased close to Christmas when all those deep discounts are offered.

Real trees, while they appear to grow perfectly perpendicular to the planet, all have a unique curvature of the trunk, just enough to make it a challenge

to create the illusion that an evergreen is growing from a red and green metal bowl in the family room.

The tree stand used that first Christmas came equipped with threaded screws intended to gouge the trunk and hold it in place. After several hours of wrestling, which included the insertion of rocks and sticks in the stand and some strategically placed string, the mighty Doug fir was up, lit, decorated and drying out beneath the twinkling lights.

The following year, with a little more money in the household coffers, an artificial tree was purchased. The rationale was simple: cost of use (it would pay for itself in two Christmases) easy cleanup, less of a fire hazard (they now had a little one) and ease of set up.

not a needle lost. The next Christmas the artificial tree, which had since outgrown its box, was pulled from the attic and dusted off.

The stand, which the year prior was easy to use, was close by; however, it was discovered all parts of the stand were not intact.

Without the cap, the trunk skated on the tile floor and the tree would collapse as if its aluminum knees had been whacked with a softball bat.

Hours later and still no tree. The choices were down three 1. Buy a new fake tree with new

stand; 2. buy a real tree and use previously mentioned "real" tree stand, string, rocks and sticks; 3. pray some genius out there manufactures replacement stands for fake trees.

And, get this, the stand came with a universal adapter to fit any size metal trunk and the adapter absolutely will not fall out of the stand.

A miracle in the season of miracles? Perhaps, for a miracle truly is what one considers to be a shining moment in life, no matter how brief, where a light is turned on (or off) and the mind is freed from the shackles of some immovable object, some unforgivable act, some unsolvable puzzle or a plastic and metal tree that doesn't know its place.

Happy holidays and may your learning curve be bright in the new year.



Lessons for a dividing nation

I read about the golfers and thought about the goats. Let me explain.

A golfer shot one of three youths trying to rob a four-some at a DeKalb County golf course last week. The fact that the golfer was packing -- and needed to be -- is just more proof that this country is going Third World faster than you can holler "FORE!"

We have more and more gated communities, and by that I don't mean charming, court-gated swinging off of picket fences like in a Jimmy Stewart movie. I mean guarded gates on high fences, keeping the haves safe and the have-nots out.

We have people driving cars that cost more than houses, and we have the homeless camping out on steam grates and foraging trash bins for food.

We have plastic surgeons with enough clients to populate a pretty city, and sophisticated heart surgeries and organ transplants for those who can afford them; and we have millions with no health insurance.

The middle class is disappearing, and you don't hear much about it.

Politicians are too busy investigating one another's sex lives even to raise the minimum wage. But you can see the result. You see it everywhere.

The United States is not aging and maturing in a civilized way. We have country club golfers and we have those desperate enough to steal. There's not a whole lot in between anymore.

A decade ago I went to see a friend with the U.S. State Department who was assigned to Kingston, Jamaica. Each morning her driver took her to work, then came back to the apartment to ferry me around.

Inside that apartment were "rape gates" on each interior bedroom door, just in case an assailant got past the complex gate with its 24-hour guard, and then past the bars on the front door.

I would tell the driver what places in Kingston I most wanted to see, and sometimes he'd simply answer, "That's not safe." He brooked no argument.

One day my friend suggested the driver take me to the beach for some of the famous fried fish. Cooks wait on shore for the fishermen to return, then cook up the catch right there on the beach beneath makeshift sheds.

It's about as fresh a fish as you can ever hope to eat.

huts with scrap-tin tops where people lived until the next hurricane blew them away -- to the beach.

Once there, the driver paid two boys a pittance to watch the car. They would, he explained to me, keep it safe from both the thieves and the goats.

Sure enough, all around, unattended cars had goats on top of them. The hungry goats were trying to reach the higher leaves on scraggly vegetation. No respecters of automobiles, they sought the highest point to get what they needed to survive.

Jamaica was one of the most beautiful, and depressing, places I've ever visited. Even 10 years ago, it seemed inconceivable to me that our country would ever find itself divided into such extremes of wealth and need.

Now it would seem to be just a matter of time. America quickly should admit it doesn't know everything and look to countries that have figured out how to repair social disparities without retreating behind walls topped with broken glass.

(Countries not scared of a national health insurance plan, for instance.)

How good can The Good Life be when you have to repair to walled/gated/guarded places to practice it?

Fear is constant and pervasive. It is country clubbers' golfers wearing gun holsters at tee time, and goats atop Mercedes, scrambling for a bite.



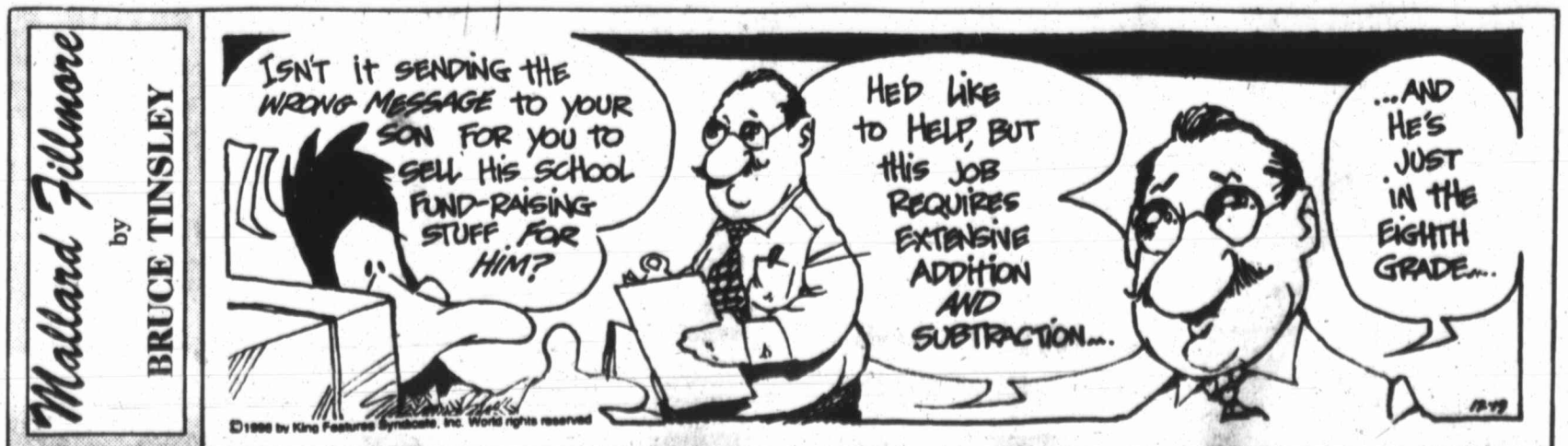
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Washington aflame with scandal and aftershocks

By RON FOURNIER
AP Political Writer

The nation's capital is aflame with scandal and its aftershocks. Clinton, Gingrich, Hyde, now Livingston — the toll seemingly mounts by the day. What one Democrat called "sexual McCarthyism" is bringing official Washington to its knees.

Rep. Bob Livingston shocked the House on Saturday by announcing he would not accept the speakership after admitting two days earlier to extramarital affairs. One confessed sinner to another, he urged Bill Clinton to resign as president.

"I must set the example that I hope President Clinton will follow," he said in a startling aside to a debate that ended with Clinton's impeachment.

Livingston's example is one that few politicians wanted set. "No one standing in this House today can pass a puritanical test of purity that some are demanding that our elected leaders take," House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri said after Livingston's remarks. "If we demand that mere mortals live up to this standard, we will see our seats of government lay empty."

United on this point, the whole House applauded his remarks. Livingston was the latest casualty of a yearlong purge rooted in Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky. The long-running scandal is snuffing out careers and ambitions in head-spinning fashion.

House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde, charged with prosecuting the case against Clinton, was forced in September to admit to an affair dating to the 1960s.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich announced his resignation shortly after the Nov. 3 elections after being blamed for the GOP's poor showing. His decision to make the Lewinsky saga an eleventh-hour campaign issue helped energize Democratic voters in critical House and Senate races.

"It is not an ennobling time," lamented Thomas Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institution. "As someone who's watched national politics for almost 30 years I've never been so ashamed of our national political leaders, and never so saddened by the behavior of the Congress."

One senior White House official gladly left town for the holidays. "I expect to look through my rear view mirror and see black plumes of smoke rising from the ashes," the official said.

Washington powerbrokers have long fed on each others' troubles, if not always in this dramatic fashion.

Bob Packwood resigned from the Senate in 1995 amid allegations that he made unwanted sexual advances to 17 female employees and colleagues.

John Tower's nomination as Defense secretary was jettisoned by the Senate in 1989 amid questions about his fondness for drinking and womanizing.

The Senate narrowly confirmed Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court in 1991, but only after hearings over sexual harassment allegations that he equated to "a high-tech lynching."

Gary Hart dropped out of the 1988 presidential race, refusing to confirm whether he had an affair with Donna Rice. "None of your business," he told reporters.

If only Livingston could say the same thing. One after another, Democrats and Republicans alike urged the Louisiana lawmaker to reconsider his resignation. "It would be a concession to what Gephardt called the politics of slash and burn."

Democrats had extra incentive to protest: They're trying to stifle GOP-led calls for Clinton's resignation.

"It would be wrong (for Livingston) to give in to this insidious politics of person destruction which seems so pervasive in this town now," said Joe Lockhart, speaking for Clinton.

"You should not allow a campaign of cynicism and smear to force you from office and you should not have called on the president to resign," House Democratic Whip David Bonior scolded Livingston in a House speech.

"The example is that principle comes before person, and it is an example that we must all hold to ourselves," said Rep. Dick Army of Texas.

Country responds to impeachment

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Her flight to Florida was boarding Saturday. It wasn't enough to pull passenger Rachel M. Weintraub away from the television at Newark International Airport, where she sat transfixed as President Clinton was impeached.

"This is killing me. I don't want to get on the plane," said Weintraub, 25, of Manhattan. "If this wasn't really happening, you couldn't believe it."

Weintraub, a television producer, was unwavering in her support of the president despite the impeachment vote scrolling across the airport screen.

"He's got to keep fighting," she said before climbing aboard a flight to Sarasota. "Keep fighting until he can't fight any longer."

Nearby, airline employee Samuel Lamptey — watching

"Resign. This vote is not the problem. The problem is that he has lost our respect."

—Airline employee Samuel Lamptey

the proceedings during a break — offered some different advice for the president.

"Resign," said Lamptey. "This vote is not the problem. The problem is that he has lost our respect."

The scene was repeated from coast to coast as Americans watched the momentous proceedings on the tube.

A small group of shoppers gathered by a wall of televisions at the Sears store in Columbia, Mo. Two screens were tuned to the House debate. The other 40 played the Disney movie

"Pocahontas."

"They aren't listening to us," complained Gary Owens, a 54-year-old factory worker who voted twice for Clinton. "Republicans have been out to get Clinton since he was first elected."

As it has throughout this debate, public opinion remained divided.

Glenn Vaagen, a rancher north of Taylor, N.D., heard about the impeachment vote on the television just as he returned from feeding his cows. He offered little sympathy for

Clinton.

"Some way or other, he's gotta pay for his lyin'," Vaagen said. "I don't see if he's the president or a bum. You lie in front of a grand jury, by gee, you've got to pay for it."

As the House voted on the first article of impeachment, Richard Hobbs, a 51-year-old business executive, stopped pedaling his stationary bike at a YMCA in Milwaukee.

"This is the most historic day of my whole life," said Hobbs of nearby Brookfield, Wis.

Wearing a towel around his neck, Hobbs echoed Vaagen.

"I have three children and I tell my children, if you lie, then we don't have a relationship. And it's that simple," Hobbs said. "If someone lies in court for whatever reason they should be subject to the same law as any other person."

Senators face political pressures on impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 100 senators likely to be asked for a verdict on President Clinton will face pressures that jurors in other trials never feel.

One-third of them are up for re-election in two years.

A half-dozen of them might run for president. Senators on both sides will be pressed hard to stand with their parties.

Republicans had a large enough majority to impeach

Clinton in the House no matter how the Democrats cast their votes.

But in the trial, Senate Republicans need Democratic votes to reach the two-thirds necessary for conviction.

If the 55-member GOP majority holds together, 12 members of the opposing party — more than one of every four Democrats — would have to join them.

There are reasons for party

members on both sides to stay put.

For example, one of the Democrats' biggest constituencies, organized labor, opposes impeachment.

"Our members are pretty outraged and believe it's a total partisan attack on the president," AFL-CIO spokeswoman Deborah Dion said.

And Republicans who might be willing to work with

Democrats on an impeachment alternative would do so at the risk of alienating religious conservatives who are pushing for Clinton to be removed from office.

Conservatives are especially important in Republican presidential primaries, and the GOP senators who are eyeing the White House in 2000 presumably would not want to alienate those voters.

Servicemen focus on Iraq

USS ENTERPRISE (AP) — Their president may be under fire at home, but he is receiving no flak from U.S. military personnel in the Gulf.

"President Clinton is commander-in-chief ... and he's the best commander-in-chief there is, until the powers that be decide differently," said Lt. Paul Fermo, a rescue helicopter pilot on the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, the centerpiece of the battle group that has led the air attacks on Iraq.

Aboard the vessel, the impeachment proceedings in Washington were far away — both in geography and mind

set. Airmen and others said Saturday they have no time to worry about politics while they are mounting airstrikes.

And — in public at least — they pledged full support to the chain of command, which ends with Clinton as commander-in-chief of U.S. military forces.

"He is our leader until proven wrong," said rescue helicopter pilot Lt. Greg Lealand of Marlboro, Mass.

"Whatever's going on back in the House, it has no bearing on what we're doing out here," said Cmdr. Will Cooney, an F-14 pilot from Virginia Beach, Va.

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DECEMBER 20 1998

Clinton directs halt to strikes; Iraq not fighting back this time

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq's air force posed no challenge to U.S. and British warplanes, and its air defense units offered only ineffective anti-aircraft fire during the four-day U.S. attack. Taking the latest Western onslaught in the chin may well be their best defense, Pentagon officials and military analysts said.

Other than volleys of orange tracer bullets piercing the skies over Baghdad with anti-aircraft fire, there's been little resistance seen from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's military force.

President Clinton directed a halt to the attacks Saturday, saying U.S. and British forces had inflicted "significant dam-

age" on Iraq's military establishment. The Pentagon said that it had launched more than 415 cruise missiles from ships and B-52 bombers during the 70 hours, striking about 100 targets.

"I think if there is any surprise it's the complete lack of response" on the part of the Iraqis, Pentagon operations chief Vice Adm. Scott Fry told reporters.

"I think they're essentially trying to protect themselves right now, and believe that's a better tactic than trying to go and fight against the attack," added Fry's colleague, Rear Adm. Thomas Wilson, the Joint Staff's director of intelligence.

This contrasts to the Iraqi

approach during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, when Saddam ordered his troops into the "mother of all battles" against the allies. Besides engaging U.S. and allied aircraft in that war, Saddam used his ground forces and fired Scud missiles.

In this latest conflict, Saddam has declared to his forces, "By God's will, you will be victorious," and pledged that he won't "compromise or kneel" in the face of airstrikes.

Saddam announced he was cutting off all dealings with the U.N. Special Commission that is in charge of supervising Iraq's disarmament.

At the Pentagon on Saturday, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen.

Henry Shelton reported allied forces "have encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire."

But it appeared to have been at such a low level it had no effect on the higher-flying allied aircraft. Intelligence director Wilson said he'd had reports some shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles might have been used by the Iraqis, but no planes had encountered any and all aircraft had returned safely to their bases.

Wilson described Saddam Hussein's army as still being "robust," especially the Republican Guards and its armored and mechanized divisions. In all, the Iraqis have about 382,500 active duty men in uniform, according to the

International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Those ground forces have been fairly quiet amid the bombardments, spreading out to avoid being targeted, the Pentagon officials said.

"For the most part they have been dispersed ... a dispersed force in a defensive position during the strikes themselves," Wilson said.

Bernard Trainor, co-author of the book "The General's War" on the Gulf conflict, points out that even though the Iraqis still have 350 planes, they have had very little pilot training and their aircraft are nearly obsolete.

"It would be a death knell to send the planes up," said Trainor, a retired Marine Corps general.

AOL sues entity touting cancer cure in e-mails

NEW YORK (AP) — A group that allegedly hawked apricot seeds as a cancer cure in mass e-mails to America Online members has been sued by the online service.

In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan on Friday, America Online Inc. accused The Christian Brothers and its principal, Jason Vale, of sending millions of e-mail messages to its members.

"Wow, I did not know. That is all news to me," said Vale, who did not want to comment further because he had not seen the lawsuit.

One source involved in the litigation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said lawsuits

were also to be filed in California, Florida and Ohio as part of a fresh assault on those who send unsolicited e-mails. An announcement was expected to be made Monday.

Rich D'Amato, an AOL spokesman, said he could only confirm the filing of the New York lawsuit. But, the Dulles, Va.-based company has consistently used the courts to pursue those who have abused its e-mail system, D'Amato said.

"It is all part of a concerted effort to establish the legal precedent, give AOL some power to deal with spammers and let spammers know this won't be tolerated on AOL," he said.

Unsolicited commercial e-mail, known as spam, has led to discussion among legislators across the country of ways to better control the practice.

In the New York lawsuit, AOL, which has about 14 million subscribers, said the Queens entity put the letters "aol.com" into its messages, infringing on its trademark.

The messages touting a "cancer cure" through the consumption of laetrile or apricot seeds has resulted in thousands of member complaints, led some members to cancel their AOL service and has clogged AOL computer systems, jeopardizing the company's ability to deliver other e-mail, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit sought unspecified compensatory and punitive damages in an amount to deter the defendants from "similar malicious, oppressive and fraudulent conduct in the future."

James Rogers, a spokesman for the American Cancer Society in a four-state region including Washington, said the cancer society was not aware of anything which supports a claim that apricot seeds can cure cancer.

"We encourage people to eat five helpings of fruits and vegetables each day, but there's no proven evidence that apricot seeds help to cure or even to prevent cancer," Rogers said.

Texas atheist posts his reason for the season

WEATHERFORD (AP) — Don't bother wishing Dick Hogan a Merry Christmas. The self-professed atheist says it's a holiday for the greedy.

He's so opposed to it, he's hung a sign reading "Happy Winter Solstice, The REAL reason for the season" near a manger scene outside the Parker County Courthouse.

Hogan, 53, gained a permit for the sign as part of a settlement over a lawsuit he filed against the county challenging display of a Nativity scene on public property.

Hogan of Weatherford is a member and former state director of American Atheists Inc., a group founded by Madalyn Murray O'Hair of Austin.

He said the sign "is a great opportunity to educate those of religious delusion that this time of the season in no way pertains to the birth of a deity and is in fact a pagan ritual taken by

(Christians) under the guise of giving while motivated by greed."

County Judge Ben Long said the sign is sure to anger residents in this town of 18,000.

"It will draw a crowd, some controversy and maybe some confrontation," he said.

"It may be difficult to keep it up."

But few people gathered around the historic courthouse on Saturday afternoon, when Hogan placed the 4-by-8 foot sign featuring a cartoon-like sun character wearing sunglasses.

Hogan shook hands with a man spreading hay around the nearby Nativity scene and explained the sign's message to a passing motorist, who responded with profanity.

"There's more Christians than atheists," she said. "You have to take that (expletive) down."

When Hogan filed his lawsuit two years ago, Nativity scene supporters brought pickets to the courthouse, where they showed their support with signs "Honk If You Love Jesus," prompting deafening blares around the downtown square.

While most residents still don't agree with Hogan's message, no one is likely to cause a disturbance, said Morris White, owner of a nearby appliance store.

"Everybody in America still has a few rights left," he said. "I'm going to be positive about the Nativity scene and say that it is a traditional Christmas that I as a Christian will celebrate."

Hogan said the winter solstice was a pagan holiday celebrated thousands of years before Christianity.

The solstice marks the time of the year when the sun travels in its lowest arc across the horizon

and results in the shortest day of the year, usually Dec. 21 in the Northern Hemisphere.

He hopes his sign also creates awareness of constitutional rights to freedom of expression.

"I did mean to raise some eyebrows," he said. "I'd like to get somebody out of the closet and say 'I don't agree with your belief system but I believe with your politics.'"

Jim Bradford, president of the Young Business Leaders of Parker Co., said he had only a few words for Hogan.

"I will pray for him," Bradford said.

The Nativity scene was a gift from local residents to the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and is maintained and erected by the Young Business Leaders of Parker County.

"It's a positive display and the real reason for the season," Bradford said.

Balloon team sails into Libyan airspace

PARIS (AP) — British tycoon Richard Branson, Chicago millionaire Steve Fossett and teammate Per Lindstrand sailed into Libyan airspace Saturday on day two of their landmark quest to travel around the world in a balloon.

"The flight is going very well, according to Jackie McQuillan, spokeswoman for ICO Global, a mobile telephone company supporting the voyage.

Branson was suffering from a sore throat, but all three adventurers were in good spirits after a breakfast of vitamin-packed food packages similar to those astronauts eat in space, McQuillan said.

The 200-foot-high balloon crossed into Libyan airspace Saturday and by evening was expected to fly over Turkey after passing over the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Cyprus, McQuillan said.

The balloon was cruising at about 28,400 feet on Saturday and traveling about 115 miles per hour, McQuillan said in a telephone interview.

Good weather, a good wind and a cloudless sky augured well for the travelers in their quest to become the first to circle the globe in a balloon.

The balloon took off from a Moroccan air force base outside Marrakech early Friday.

After gliding over the Atlas mountains, the balloon entered Algerian airspace where it con-

tinued overnight before crossing the border with Libya.

"The tricky part is getting through the first 24 hours," Branson said Friday shortly before liftoff. "After that we can start to relax and enjoy the flight."

Branson and his colleagues, all wearing silver jumpsuits, expressed confidence in the trip, estimating it could last from eight days to nearly three weeks.

The U.S. missile strike on Iraq has complicated the task, Branson said.

"This flight around the world would have taken 9 days, but for the Iraqi problem," Branson told reporters.

"Now, we will be happy to complete the voyage in 10-20 days."

The missile strike means the team will have to find the winds to take them north of Iraq through Turkey instead of cutting over Saudi Arabia.

Branson and his crew hope to touch down somewhere in Europe at the end of a 24,000-mile flight, which will take them over Saudi Arabia, India, the South China sea, the Pacific Ocean and the United States.

The team secured permission

from 97 countries for overflights and had only four refusals: Iran, Iraq, Russia and North Korea.

Fossett has made four tries to ring the globe, the last one ending when his Solo Spirit was ripped apart in a violent storm off Australia.

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Ex-NSA pleads

ALEXANDR former Army Security Agen faces up to 30 after pleading top-secret do KGB, includin U.S. nuclear ta

David Sheldo guilty Friday commit espi District Court feit \$52,000, inc ment fund a scanner he us ments.

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\$5.15 billion bailout for tobacco growers mullied

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (AP) — A \$5.15 billion trust fund has been proposed to help farmers hurt by rising prices caused by the multi-state tobacco settlement.

Representatives of nine states and four tobacco companies met here Friday to lay out their positions during a closed, three-hour meeting.

On Nov. 23, tobacco companies agreed to pay 46 states \$206 billion over 25 years for smoking-related health-care costs in exchange for the states dropping their lawsuits against the industry. Now states also want them to pay for the trust fund for the farmers.

The National Tobacco Growers Association had said

growers would need \$12 billion in compensation.

"You can't just pour money at everything," said tobacco industry lawyer Phil Carlton. "Five billion dollars is an awful lot of money. It would allow an orderly transition ... for a 10-year period for farmers essentially to be made whole."

Cigarette-makers earlier this month discussed creating the trust fund for tobacco growers and those who own government licenses to grow tobacco. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. came to the meeting even though earlier this month it said it would not support a trust fund, instead preferring to buy more tobacco.

Details haven't been agreed on, but several officials said the

money could be paid over as many as 10 years to states to help farmers and communities hurt by declining cigarette consumption.

"We have said very clearly that we want to continue to grow tobacco," said North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt. "But we also feel very strongly that our farmers in a sense have borne the brunt of this big settlement, which has resulted in cigarette prices going up so much."

North Carolina Attorney General Mike Easley said farmers who decide to leave the tobacco business might be offered buyouts of their government quota for growing tobacco as part of the deal.

He said the trust fund money would be divided among the states based on their percentage of the crop. North Carolina, for example, has 40 percent of the nation's tobacco allotment.

Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton said the trust fund also should earmark money for community development to replace tobacco revenue expected to ebb with rising cigarette prices and curbs on advertising.

"We recognize with this settlement the production of tobacco is going to be substantially cut back," Patton said.

Represented at the meeting were North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Indiana and Ohio.

91 people held for eight hours after anthrax scare at building

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ninety-one people were held for almost eight hours as a health precaution after an anonymous threat claimed anthrax had been released into the air ducts of a federal building.

The people were given antibiotics and special suits to wear over their clothes before preliminary tests showed none of them had been infected with the potentially deadly bacterium.

Authorities held the people, most of them U.S. Bankruptcy Court staff members, as firefighters and FBI investigators tested the ventilation system for anthrax spores. Those tests also came up empty, said Jonathan Fielding, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Health Department.

The FBI would not release details of how the threat was delivered.

Preliminary symptoms of the infection typically set in within a few hours to exposure. Anthrax spores take three to five days to incubate inside the body and can cause death if untreated.

Letters threatening anthrax releases have been sent around the country in recent months, including threats to abortion clinics in four Midwestern states about two months ago.

Voluntary air time for candidates is encouraged in White House report

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential commission has recommended that broadcasters voluntarily provide some free air time to political candidates despite calls by President Clinton that free time be mandatory.

Specifically, the commission recommended that broadcasters, along with cable networks and satellite companies, provide five minutes of free air time a day in the 30 days leading up to an election.

Stations would choose the candidates, elections — federal, state and local — and the formats. They also would have the option of making the time available in their newscasts.

Those recommendations, in a report sent Friday to the White House, suggest ways broadcasters can pay back the public for getting valuable digital channels from the government for free.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore welcomed the recommendation, even though they both continue to believe that free time should be mandatory, Gore said. He urged broadcasters to follow through on the commission's proposal.

But he added: "If broadcasters choose to reject the call for free time on a voluntary basis, we believe the Federal Communications Commission will have a duty to take appropriate action."

Paul Taylor, executive director of the Alliance for Better Campaigns, a supporter of free time, said, "This is a smart, practical, achievable idea with great potential to improve campaigns."

The 22-member panel also recommended that Congress overhaul campaign finance laws — something it has not been able to do.

Viewers, however, are unlikely

to see changes for a long time — if at all — because most of the suggestions would require action by the FCC or Congress.

FCC Chairman Bill Kennard said he will study the recommendations and work closely with Congress and the industry to come up with "new ideas that serve the public and strengthen broadcasting."

The panel of broadcasters, scholars and advocates for children made the recommendations after a year of work.

Many panel members, in separate statements, said they supported mandatory free air time and a requirement that digital broadcasters air at least three hours of local news a week and three hours of local public affairs and educational programming a week.

But they went with the voluntary recommendation as part of a larger effort to arrive at a consensus on the report.

Ex-NSA intelligence analyst pleads guilty to spying for KGB

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A former Army and National Security Agency code analyst faces up to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty to selling top-secret documents to the KGB, including a description of U.S. nuclear targets in Russia.

David Sheldon Boone pleaded guilty Friday to conspiracy to commit espionage in U.S. District Court. He agreed to forfeit \$52,000, including his retirement fund and a hand-held scanner he used to copy documents.


Boone, 46, was indicted last month on charges he spied for the Soviet's security and espionage agency in the late 1980s. He was arrested in September in a sting operation in which a former FBI agent posing as a member of the Russian spy service asked him to resume spying.

According to a statement of facts filed with his written plea

agreement, Boone admitted to FBI agents who arrested him in October to giving Moscow a 400-page manual listing reconnaissance and intelligence collection systems used by the U.S. military. He also turned over documents on tactical nuclear weapons targeting the Soviet bloc.

He could be sentenced to between 24 and 30 years in prison under federal sentencing guidelines. U.S. District Judge Albert Bryan Jr. set sentencing for Feb. 26.

A native of Flint, Mich., Boone was living in Germany at the time of his arrest. He was trained in cryptanalysis and the Russian language and was assigned to a U.S. Army field station in Augsburg, Germany, for three tours from October 1988 through June 1991, when most of his alleged espionage activity occurred, according to court documents.



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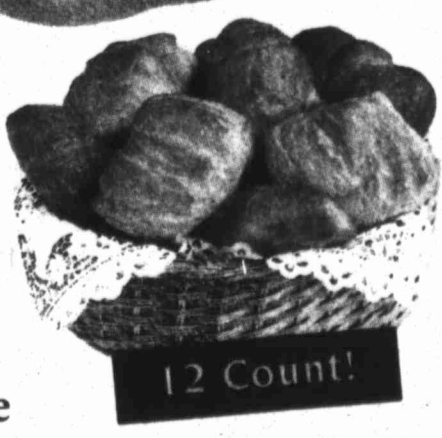
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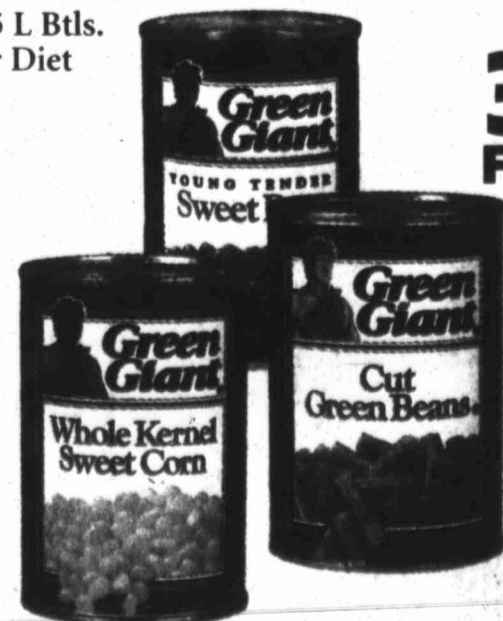


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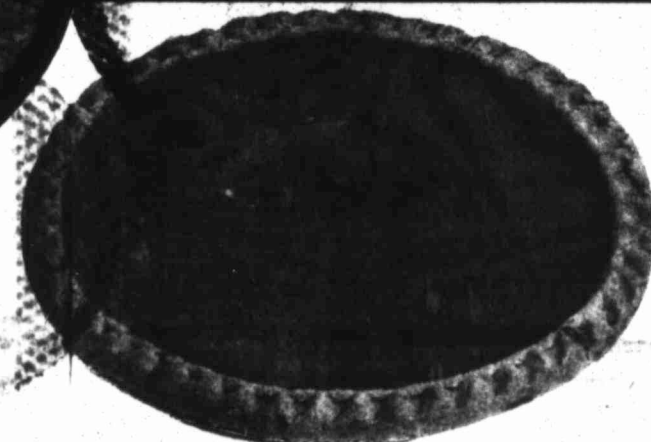
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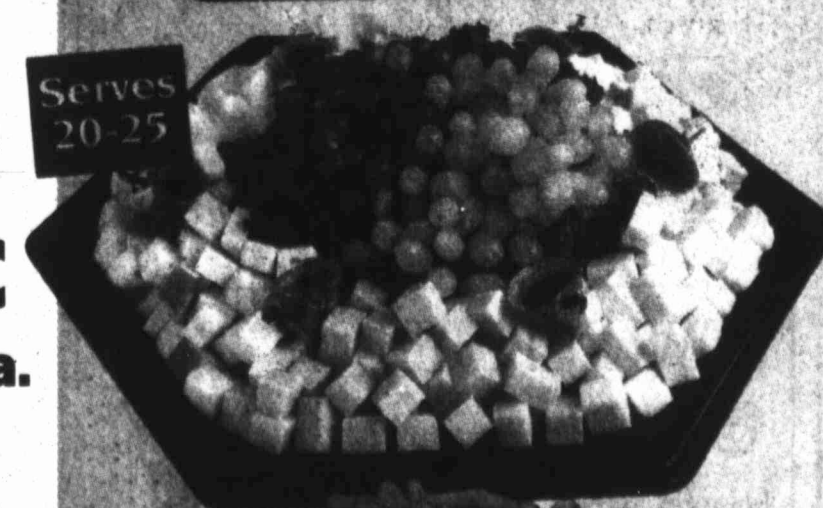
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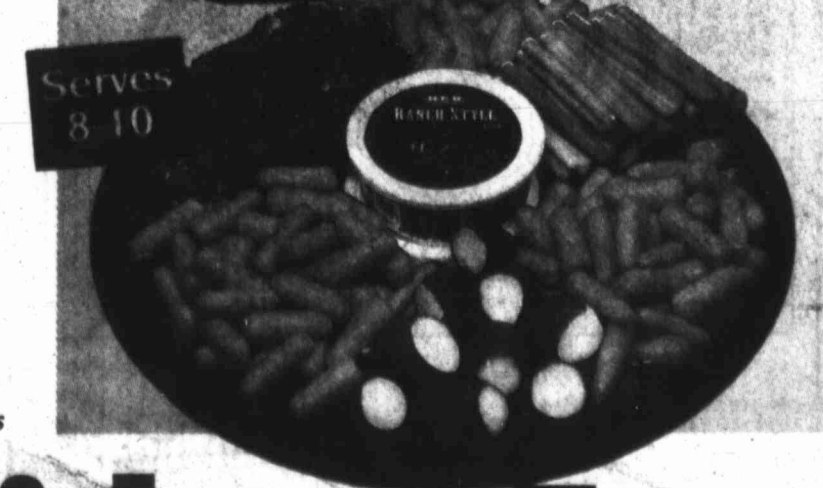
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DECEMBER 1998

Protests and violence in Arab world over attacks on Iraq

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Throwing stones, burning flags and even breaking into a U.S. ambassador's home, protesters throughout the Arab world joined Saturday in a bitter wave of anger over the airstrikes on Iraq.

A common theme of the protests was that all Arabs — not just Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein — are being targeted by the U.S. and British attacks. "The aggression on Iraq is an aggression on the whole Arab nation," said Aziza Fadhel, a university student in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

That was exactly the idea President Clinton was trying to

fight in a message offered for broadcast in Arab countries.

Saddam "threatens Muslims and non-Muslims alike," Clinton said in the videotaped message. "We had to act."

But there was little empathy with that position.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a key Arab ally during the Gulf War, sent a message to Clinton urging him to halt the attacks that began Thursday.

In a rare protest in the Syrian capital, thousands marched through downtown Damascus on Saturday, and about 1,000 people — most of them students — attacked the U.S. Embassy,

its nearby residence and the American Cultural Center.

Rioters also threw stones at the British Embassy in Damascus and broke into the British Council, where they damaged furniture and scattered library books.

At the U.S. residence, more than 100 people climbed over the wall, broke down the front door and stormed inside, destroying everything in their path — furniture, windows, the ambassador's private office.

They knocked books on the floor, and destroyed kitchen cabinets and bookcases.

They also attacked the car of Ambassador Ryan Crocker,

shattering the lights and windows. Crocker's wife, Christine, was in the house at the time but was not hurt.

At the embassy, U.S. Marine guards fired tear gas from the roof to disperse the stone-throwing crowd. Three protesters managed to enter the compound, climb the walls and haul down and burn the American flag.

Syrian forces dispersed the mobs after about six hours.

In Hebron in the West Bank, about 3,000 Palestinians defied a ban from their leadership on pro-Iraq demonstrations, screaming "Death to Israel! Death to America!" Clashes

later with Israeli troops firing rubber bullets left more than 100 Palestinians injured.

The unrest was among the most intense in months in the Palestinian lands.

In another demonstration in Jenin, about 2,500 Palestinians approached the Jewish settlement of Ginat and threw stones at Israeli troops, who responded with rubber bullets and tear gas.

In Egypt, 4,000 students burned U.S. and Israeli flags at Banha University, north of Cairo, as did 200 students at Cairo's Ain Shams University. "Oh Baghdad, Oh Baghdad, my love, strike Tel Aviv," they

shouted at Ain Shams. "Iraq's children have no milk for nursing, so now they're sucking on bullets instead."

Protester Ayman Yassin, 20, called America "the spawn of all evil."

"Because Bill has to play, the Arabs have to pay," Yassin said, referring to the widespread belief among Arabs that Clinton engineered the attack to delay impeachment proceedings.

In the Yemeni capital of Sana'a, more than 15,000 marched, beginning at the university and heading to the embassies of China and Russia in appreciation for their position.

Kosovo rebel group grows, retools, rearms

LAPASTICA, Yugoslavia (AP) — The buzz of rebel military activity across Kosovo during this uneasy Balkan winter is unmistakable. And ominous.

From the frozen farm plains in the north across the forested hills of the war-blackened Drenica region to icy mountain passes along the western border with Albania, the Kosovo Liberation Army is increasingly visible — expanding, reorganizing, rearming.

For the ethnic Albanian fighters, bent on winning the province's independence from Serbia, a resumption of full-scale war is not a question of if but when.

This is a new, improved KLA by all appearances and experts' assessments — stronger and more disciplined than the rag-tag force that was routed over the summer. It is preparing to battle Serbian forces for years if necessary in the predominantly Albanian province.

"We have learned from our mistakes," declares a young rebel commander named Remi, who is based at a heavily guarded compound in Lapastica, a village in northern Kosovo. "We are trying to form a professional army."

A two-way radio on his desk crackles with reports from the field, and a line of young

recruits marches past the window, wearing jeans and camouflage backpacks.

"We know what to do when fighting breaks out again," the 27-year-old commander says. "We are ready to go fight in every part of Kosovo."

New camouflage or all-black uniforms are only a symbol of the changes the KLA has undertaken during the 10 weeks since a U.S.-brokered truce brought a tenuous halt to months of combat.

Using the lull to its advantage, the KLA has reshuffled its ranks to put professionally trained officers in key posts, instituted a draft, acquired

satellite communications and put military police in many villages. In the wake of Serb withdrawals required by the Oct. 12 truce agreement, it has moved boldly back into all the territory it controlled at the high point last July — some 40 percent of Kosovo.

Perhaps most important, foreign analysts and the rebels themselves say they've smuggled in significant amounts of anti-tank rockets, anti-aircraft guns, shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and long-barreled sniper rifles that can pierce armored vehicles or take a man's head off from three-quarters of a mile away.

Ex-military officials pressed on 'dirty war' allegations

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A motorcade rolls past an angry crowd of shouting demonstrators. Officers in riot gear press back the throng as the cars pull up to a federal courthouse.

An aging man is ushered past the horde, who curse the former military officer they consider responsible for thousands of deaths during the 1970s and early 80s.

The heavyset man with slicked-back gray hair is Emilio Massera, a former Argentine admiral who helped lead the 1976-83 dictatorship here. He's again been hauled before a judge to answer charges of

With Spain's effort to extradite Gen. Augusto Pinochet from Britain, the question of how Latin American countries should address misdeeds of the past has been reopened.

Argentina, unlike other South American countries, put its former leaders on trial and sentenced them to life in prison in 1985.

Moving to calm a restless military, President Carlos Menem pardoned the leaders five years later — a move he said was necessary for the sake of "national reconciliation."

Now groups eager to bring the officers to justice are moving again, seeking to exploit a loophole in Menem's amnesty that doesn't cover abuses against minors.

More than 200 "baby disappearances" have been identified by the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, the Argentine group that has worked for decades to locate children of those killed or missing from the "dirty war." Many of the disappeared babies would now be in their early 20s.

"It's incredible what these

grandmothers have been able to accomplish through Argentina's judiciary system, fighting for the children's custody and opening the country's eyes to what went on," said Jose Miguel Vivanco of Human Rights Watch.

Massera, who still defends his actions during the "dirty war" as a legitimate wartime necessity, has declared he's innocent of the new charges. He claims he's already paid for his past crimes.

In rare comments to a local radio station today, Massera said, "When I see Carlotta (the Grandmothers' president) I understand her pain, but I was already jailed. I have passed my time being Argentina's most

despised person."

Many of the junta leaders are also wanted by the same Spanish investigators seeking to extradite Pinochet on charges of murder and torture arising from his Chilean dictatorship.

But Argentina has refused to go along with those efforts. Menem has described the investigation of Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon as "interfering with our people" and encouraging an "unbearable situation."

But rights groups say Garzon's efforts to seek the 83-year-old Pinochet for trial has aided their long struggle. Arrested in London on Oct. 16, Pinochet is battling in British courts to avoid extradition.

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Russian parliament to debate 1999 budget on Christmas Eve

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's parliament will hold an extraordinary meeting on Christmas Eve to begin debate on the country's 1999 budget, the chairman of the State Duma's Budget Committee said Saturday.

Alexander Zhukov said the draft budget plan would be submitted for discussion by the Duma's economic committee Monday, and would be given a first reading in parliament Thursday, the Interfax news agency reported.

Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov's government wants the budget passed before January. The start of debate on the 2,550-page document has been delayed by one day because Primakov will be on a trip to Kazakhstan on Wednesday and Thursday, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Russia's economy suffered a major setback in August after

the government devalued the ruble and froze some debt payments.

Primakov has moved cautiously to develop a plan that would end the crisis and reverse years of economic decline.

The Russian ruble continued its steady slide Friday, trading at 20.75 a dollar compared to 20.7 the previous day. Before the crisis, the ruble was trading at about 6 to the dollar.

The draft budget envisages 30 percent inflation in 1999 and an average ruble rate of 21.5 to the dollar — a target most experts consider unrealistic.

In recent years, the government and parliament have battled for months before passing the annual budget. However, Primakov's team has widespread support in the Communist-dominated Duma, raising hopes that the budget could be approved without lengthy debate.

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Advertising Deadlines
Thursday, December 24.....Tuesday, 12 NOON
Friday, December 25.....NO PAPER
Sunday, December 27.....Wednesday, 12 NOON
Monday, December 28.....Wednesday, 5 p.m.

Classified Deadlines
Thursday, December 24.....Wednesday, 12 NOON
Friday, December 25.....NO PAPER
Sunday, December 27.....Thursday, 10 a.m.

Circulation Phones
The December 24 paper will be delivered as a morning product. Phone hours will be 8 a.m. to 12 NOON.

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Office Hours are 8:00 a.m.-12 Noon
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We at the Herald wish you a Happy Holiday!

Big Spring Sunday
St
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Still more Texas troops are destined for the Middle East

FORT BLISS (AP) — When Private Christopher Ross returned from the Middle East last month, he thanked his lucky stars that he would be able to spend Christmas with his wife and young son.

His hopes dashed by another conflict with Saddam Hussein, Ross gave his son a final kiss and playfully told his wife that next Christmas they'd head to Tahiti.

"There is nothing fun about this," Ross said. "This is about doing our duty — doing what has to be done. Of course I'd like to be with my family ... but this is our job."

That seemed to be the consensus of the 900 Fort Bliss troops headed to the Middle East this weekend.

Families were briefed in the afternoon, then spent the evening bidding farewell to the soldiers of the Scud-busting Patriot missile batteries.

About 500 soldiers, relatives and friends gathered in an auditorium on the Army post Friday evening. The room was noisy, but the mood was solemn and filled with scenes such as identical twin sisters Sonya and Tanya Hardman sharing a tearful embrace. Sonya is a private and Tanya is a receptionist at the base.

"I'm sad because we've been together all of our lives," said Sonya, 24. "I was really looking forward to spending Christmas with my family, especially this girl who looks just like me."

"But when they call, we have

to haul." Soldiers at the Fort Bliss Air Defense Center got word from Washington on Wednesday that they would be among the first U.S. troops sent to the war zone. Soldiers from Texas units in Abilene, San Antonio and Fort Hood also have headed to the Middle East.

"There was no 'Woe is me.' There was no whining. And there was no crying," said Col. Barry Cardwell, the highest-ranking officer of the troops leaving Fort Bliss, just outside El Paso. "There were just professional soldiers. Every soldier here knows what has to be done. We've been through this before, and we're ready to do it."

Many of the troops are experts

in operating Patriot missile stations, which gained fame in the Persian Gulf War for destroying and deflecting many missiles fired by Iraqi forces.

Commanders said Patriot missiles have been improved since the 1991 Gulf War, making the system even more accurate in shooting down enemy weapons.

Officials at the base said more soldiers may soon be headed to the region. "We have four brigades of rapid deployment forces that are ready at a moment's notice, so we're waiting any further instructions," said Jean Offutt, a Fort Bliss spokeswoman.

Other Texas units who have headed to the Middle East: — A third B-1B bomber and crew deployed Friday morning

from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene. Two B-1B bombers and 100 support personnel from the 7th Bomb Wing were sent to southwest Asia in November.

— In San Antonio, two more C-5A Galaxy cargo planes

departed Friday from the 433rd airlift wing at Kelly Air Force Base.

— Fort Hood, near Killeen, announced about 10 soldiers would deploy as early as next week.

Inmate sentenced for plotting murders from prison

HOUSTON (AP) — An inmate serving a 40-year sentence in a murder-for-hire plot has received another 80-year term for trying to arrange three murders from his prison cell.

Don Whatley, 66, was convicted of criminal solicitation to commit capital murder after trying to hire a fellow prisoner to kill his ex-wife, her husband and another man he had tried to hire in the first murder plot. He

was sentenced Friday.

Whatley is an inmate at the Ramsey I Unit in Brazoria County. His ex-wife and new husband are both state corrections officers at the Ellis I prison unit in Huntsville, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Whatley, who owned a window tinting business and gun shop in Huntsville, was sent to prison in 1992 after he was convicted of trying to hire two men

to kill his ex-wife's new husband.

While serving his prison term at the Ramsey I Unit, Whatley was charged in 1995 with the second plot.

According to testimony at his most recent trial, Whatley tried to hire an inmate to kill his ex-wife, her husband and a Conroe man he had tried to hire in his first failed murder plot.

The inmate told authorities

about the plot and agreed to wear a hidden microphone that recorded details of the scheme.

A Brazoria County jury took less than an hour to find Whatley guilty and 30 minutes to assess an 80-year prison term.

Clemency process is questioned by some, but not Governor Bush

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush has indicated he is inclined to oppose an effort to make Texas' clemency system more open to the public.

After a federal judge stopped two executions this month because of the secretive nature of the clemency system, a legislative effort was launched this week to make the process more public. The clemency process offers state officials one last chance to block executions.

But, Bush told the Austin American-Statesman, "It's going to have to take an awfully compelling argument for me to support the change."

"I am convinced that in every death penalty case, I've reviewed the two major questions have been answered satisfactorily by the Pardons and Paroles Board and by me and my legal staff," Bush said.

Bush has said he asks himself two questions before deciding

how to act on requests for a stay from death-row inmates: Are there any doubts about guilt? Did the person have full access to the courts?

Texas governors can only commute death sentences to life terms if the Board of Pardons and Paroles recommends that action.

Without such a recommendation, the governor can provide only a one-time, 30-day reprieve.

Since Bush took office in January 1995, the state has executed 77 people. Bush has spared one, serial killer Henry Lee Lucas.

In commuting the death sentence to life in July, the governor said there was "enough doubt" about Lucas' guilt in the 1979 slaying of an unidentified woman near Georgetown.

In February, pickax killer Karla Faye Tucker, a repentant, born-again Christian, was exe-

cuted after the Board of Pardons and Paroles voted 16-0 to deny her clemency request.

Earlier this month, a federal judge in Austin delayed executions of Danny Lee Barber and Joseph Stanley Faulder on grounds that the clemency process needed to be reviewed. The judge's order was lifted in the case of Faulder, a Canadian, but he was granted another stay by the U.S. Supreme Court to examine claims that his rights were violated under international law.

These cases have focused attention on the clemency process, in which pardons board members don't hold public meetings, but vote by fax or phone and don't explain their votes.

Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, this week filed a bill that would require the board to meet in open session when considering clemency requests.

Thieves steal meat from food pantry

DALLAS (AP) — Needy families hoping to feast on roasts and chicken for Christmas dinner may have to settle for corn dogs.

That's about all that's left at the Baptist Benevolent Ministries food pantry, where a freezer full of meat was stolen. Volunteers there had been gathering enough meat to feed nearly 200 families on Christmas Day. But when they checked their stash earlier this week, it was gone — freezer and all.

Officials at the North Texas Food Bank, where most food pantries get much of their supplies, hope recent donations by grocery stores and the U.S. government surplus will help the ministry replace some of the stolen meat.

"The losers are the people who come to the pantry and

their basket of food will have less in it," Jan Pruitt, executive director of the food bank, told The Dallas Morning News. "It is really the depth of despair to

steal from a food pantry."

Fourteen Baptist churches in the city's Oak Cliff neighborhood sponsor Baptist Benevolent Ministries.

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Being a shopping-mall Santa is not all fun and reindeer games

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Santa Claus is stressed out. All those little monsters tugging on his white beard. All those toddlers screaming as their parents push them toward the big guy.

Ho, ho, ho! At least no one has wet on Santa's red suit so far this holiday season.

"It's a stressful job, but I enjoy it," says Bruce Lowden, sweating in his red suit as children line up at the Maine Mall. "This is my thing in life to do. Everyone has a purpose."

There's more to being a shopping mall Santa than giving a

few hearty "ho-ho-hos" and a smile for the camera before sending the little darling back to Mommy and Daddy. There are the crowds, the pressure, the physical toll. And the kids can be naughty, not nice.

"I've been kicked and bruised by kids who don't want to sit on my knee. I usually try to grab their legs if they're kickers," says Lowden, who guesses 500 to 800 kids sit on his lap each day on weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Kids also tug constantly on his beard, which is real. Once, Lowden says, a child urinated

on him, forcing a quick change of costume. Lowden has six outfits, just in case.

During the holiday season, an average of 11,000 children will visit Santa at each of the 1,800 enclosed malls in the United States, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers in New York. Not everyone can do the job without cracking.

"It's stressful because you have to meet a new family every few minutes, not just a kid, but a whole family, and you have to be enthusiastic and upbeat," says Dr. David Yamins, a psy-

chiatrist at Maimonides Medical Center in New York City. "You have to be 'on' 10 hours straight."

Howard Adelman, a clinical psychologist and family therapist in Cherry Hill, N.J., says: "A lot of these kids are nasty and wild. They're miserable and mean and this guy has to be pleasant."

Bob Sincerbeaux, 68, a former Santa from Ossining, N.Y., has watched Santas walk off the job because they couldn't handle the stress. Sincerbeaux had no problem with the stress but couldn't handle the bugs he

caught from the little buggers who sat on his lap during two years as Santa. He quit after catching bronchitis the first year and coming down with pneumonia the next year.

"You're holding on to these kids, germs blowing all over the place," Sincerbeaux says. Lowden, like most Santas, usually gets a flu shot.

Lowden, 39, is in demand because he is a "natural Santa" with a real white beard and a genuine round belly — no pillows needed. He makes \$1,000 a week working 10-hour shifts seven days straight, and his

employer, Santa Plus, a St. Louis company that supplies Santas to malls in 44 states, puts him up in a hotel.

Lowden, who has played the jolly old man for 22 years, doesn't even mind "pet night." One recent evening, he held a big gray rabbit, sat next to Bam Bam the miniature horse and cuddled dozens of dogs from a German shepherd to a little shih tzu.

Jim Bihm brought his boxer to see Santa. The dog slobbered over St. Nick like a puppy. "Santa did a good job. He was very patient," Bihm observed.

Marine's farewell filled with laughter, love

PERRIS, Calif. (AP) — In a laughter-filled living room, Marine Sgt. Ramzan Monroe rips off wrapping paper to reveal cologne, corduroy pants and a shiny silver-and-gold watch.

It's a whole week before Christmas, but it's Monroe's last chance to open gifts before beginning a 20-hour journey to Kuwait.

The 23-year-old radio operator is among about 1,500 Marines stationed in Southern California who prepared Friday to depart for the Middle East. He was due at Camp Pendleton before dawn, and to leave from Los Angeles Saturday.

Although the start of his trip was just an abbreviated night's sleep away, Monroe, his wife, their 2-year-old daughter and

relatives giggled through the evening, as always.

Only for a few moments was the room quiet — when the big-screen TV aired a report about the impending deployments from Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

But Monroe, who lives off-base in Perris, a town about 80 miles northeast of San Diego, insisted he was ready to go. Even with the holidays approaching.

"You've got a job to do," said Monroe, his 6-foot-4 frame outfitted in green fatigues, his arm around his wife, Eboni. "You've got to stay focused."

Business matters were the pre-departure order for Air Force Capt. Tim Butcher, who was leaving his pregnant wife, Tracy, and their 2-year-old

daughter for the fifth time in 16 months.

"I try to get the house in order, arrange power of attorney and make sure my will is up to date," Butcher said as the 421st Fighter Squadron left Hill Air Force Base north of Salt Lake City. "I want to be over there with a clear conscience in case something happens."

At Fort Bliss, Texas, identical twins Sonya and Tanya Hardman shared a tearful embrace as about 500 soldiers said goodbye to family.

"I'm sad because we've been together all of our lives," said Sonya, 24.

"I was looking forward to Christmas with my family, especially this girl who looks just like me. But when they call, we have to haul."

In Perris, Sgt. Monroe called to Mia, his only child, and asked for a kiss. She promptly gave him a peck on the cheek.

"It's tough," Monroe said. "I want to be there to watch her eyes on Christmas."

Monroe, a Queens, N.Y., native in the Marines for five years, also missed Mia's first Christmas and her first birthday.

This time, he tried to explain what was happening.

"I said Daddy's going bye-bye. She said 'OK, be careful.'"

Monroe rejects the wag-the-dog theory and tries not to think about President Bill Clinton's problems.

"Whatever he did is between him and his family and him and God," he said. "It doesn't really affect me. I've got a job to do."

Washington won't be standing in a boat this time

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP) — Actors recreating George Washington's crossing of the Delaware this Christmas will do what the Continental soldiers surely wished they could have done: walk across a steel bridge.

In 1776, Washington and his men poled through the ice floes in clumsy wooden boats. But this year, the drought-shrunken Delaware River is so low that the costumed actors' 40-foot boats would quickly run aground.

"I'm very disappointed, of course," Ward Vinson, 69, a history professor who will portray the white-wigged general for the first time, said Friday. "I've

been a boat man for 27 years and I get my chance to be George Washington and we can't cross."

Where Washington crossed, 30 miles north of Philadelphia, the drought has exposed gravel, rocks and stumps that haven't been seen in 100 years, said Eric Castle, site administrator at Washington Crossing Historic Park.

This is not the first time the narrow steel bridge had to be used, though it is the first time since the re-enactments began in 1953 that the boats had to be abandoned because of drought, said Bob Gerenser, who portrayed the Father of Our Country last year.

"There have been times when the river was in flood, and times when the river was iced over," he said.

Walking over the bridge instead of bobbing across in boats shouldn't spoil the spirit of the occasion, Vinson and Gerenser said.

"It isn't about me being Washington or Mr. Vinson being Washington," Gerenser said. "What it is about is the 2,800 soldiers who followed Washington."

"Their enlistments were up in a week, yet they honored their commitment."

The crossing of the Delaware came after a series of setbacks for the Continental Army and

proved a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Washington devised the risky plan to cross before the river froze solid and mount a surprise attack on Hessian mercenaries garrisoned at Trenton, N.J.

His troops were read Tom Paine's famous words: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country."

Then, Washington's men, lashed by sleet and snow and jarred by floating ice chunks, made the 200-foot trip across the river over and over again in a ferry operation that lasted from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Sales for icicle lights are really heating up

CLEVELAND (AP) — One of the hottest items this holiday season are icicle lights, the tiny, clear Christmas lights that dangle from roof gutters.

Retailers say the lights are flying off store shelves across the nation, becoming almost as difficult to find as the Furby doll.

"It's like an explosion. Every fourth phone call is about icicle lights," said Betsy Thou, manager of Pat Catan's Craft Center in suburban Strongsville. The store has been sold out of its supply of 4,000 boxes since Thanksgiving weekend.

The miniature lights are so popular in Wisconsin that a utility company says they're pushing electricity use to a record demand this winter.

"Everybody's gotta keep up with the Joneses. Every other house has them now," said Kevin Mahoney, an employee at Litehouse Spas & More, a swimming pool store in North Olmsted that also sells Christmas items.

Gerald Kilpatrick, 38, bought seven boxes this year to decorate his two-story house in Columbia Station. He said the white icicles complement his lighted Nativity scene and the colored lights he drapes on bushes.

"I think they look nice. They're pretty," he said.

The "icicles" are vertical strings of lights hanging from an electrical wire. Most sets have clear bulbs and hold from 100 to 450 lights. They sell for approximately \$7 to \$20.

The demand caught some stores by surprise after more than 1.5 million sets of the dripping lights were recalled last year because they were a shock hazard. The defects have been fixed.

"There was a fear that there might be a glut this year. Nobody anticipated selling out so quickly," said Nori Juba, president of Minami International Corp., one of several companies that makes icicle lights.

His Yonkers, N.Y.-based company is sold out of its 10 million supply of the lights made in China.

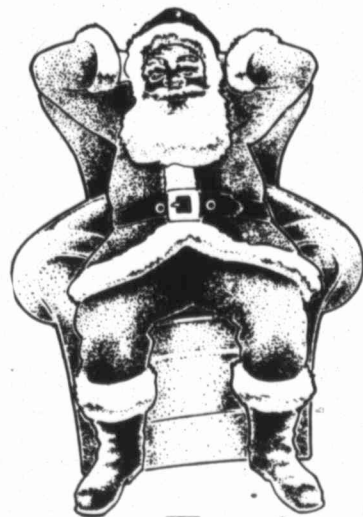
Unseasonably warm weather in many parts of the nation may be helping boost sales, said Laura Mahle, a spokeswoman for Kmart Corp., which is almost sold out of the lights.

People feel more inspired to set up Christmas lights when the weather is warm, she said.

The last time the decorative lighting industry saw a jump in sales was in the 1980s with the introduction of lights that appear to chase each other, Juba said.

Juba doesn't expect icicle light sales to taper off for several years. Of the 67 million U.S. households that put up holiday lights, only about 6 million have the icicle lights, he said.

"People who wouldn't decorate in the past are now buying icicle lights," he said.



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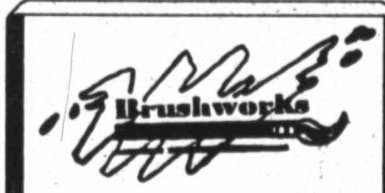
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American offering 1998

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Softball um for high sc

Fastpitch u rently neede games thr Texas, accor with the Per ter of the So

Umpires wi school softi Alpine, Andr Brady, Coah City, Eldora Greenwood, Kermi, Lar Monahans, O Angelo, Snyd Wall.

For more i Mack Gipson

Baylor intro as its new

WACO (AP) worse, this w week in the sp

The week st the Carolina tant coach, w one of his pl much more when he wa coach at Bayl

"It probably tie odd going college, but I' goal of being coach. I miss the 18- to 22- athlete," Steel

A career as never held a h coordinator's Baylor's four last seven ye Dave Roberts after consecut

"I know tough," Steel focus on the r than the NFL year, every pr with has had eess."

Steele spent the Panthers' ers coach.

ON T

TODAY: AUTO RACING

11 p.m. — Craftsman Truck Tough 200, TR

FOOTBALL

Noon — San 49ers at New Patriots, FOX, Noon — AFC age, CBS, Ch. 3 p.m. — P Eagles at Dall FOX, Ch. 3. 7 p.m. — Ja Jaguars at Mi ESPN, Ch. 30

GOLF

Noon — V F Classic, ESPN 12:30 p.m. Challenge, fin 2 and Ch. 8. 3 p.m. — S Challenge, NE

HOCKEY

1 p.m. — D Ottawa Senat

WOMEN'S BA

5 p.m. — A Power at San FXS, Ch. 29.

WOMEN'S SO

3 p.m. — U States, ESPN

IN BRIEF

American Cancer Society offering 1999 golf passes

Officials with the Howard County unit of the American Cancer Society are encouraging local golfers to take advantage of the 1999 Texas Golf Pass.

The ACS' Texas Golf Pass provides golfers with up to 450 rounds of golf at 259 courses throughout the state for a \$35 fee.

Both the Big Spring Country Club and the Comanche Trail Golf Course are participating in the program, as well as 82 others in the Panhandle and West Texas.

Application forms are available at the pro shops at both Big Spring courses, as well as by contacting the American Cancer Society by calling 1-800-ACS-2345.

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.

Baylor introduces Steele as its new football coach

WACO (AP) — For better or worse, this was Kevin Steele's week in the spotlight.

The week started sour when the Carolina Panthers assistant coach, was attacked by one of his players. It ended much more upbeat Friday when he was named head coach at Baylor.

"It probably does look a little odd going from the NFL to college, but I've had a lifetime goal of being a college head coach. I missed dealing with the 18- to 22-year-old student athlete," Steele said.

A career assistant who had never held a head coaching or coordinator's job, Steele, 40, is Baylor's fourth coach in the last seven years. He replaces Dave Roberts who was fired after consecutive 2-9 seasons.

"I know transition is tough," Steele said. "I don't focus on the negatives. Other than the NFL experience this year, every program I've been with has had tremendous success."

Steele spent three seasons as the Panthers' inside linebackers coach.

ON THE AIR

TODAY: AUTO RACING

11 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Ram Tough 200, TNN, Ch. 35.

FOOTBALL

Noon — San Francisco 49ers at New England Patriots, FOX, Ch. 3.

Noon — AFC regional coverage, CBS, Ch. 7.

3 p.m. — Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys, FOX, Ch. 3.

7 p.m. — Jacksonville Jaguars at Minnesota Vikings, ESPN, Ch. 30.

GOLF

Noon — V Foundation Classic, ESPN, Ch. 30.

12:30 p.m. — Three-Tour Challenge, final day, ABC, Ch. 2 and Ch. 8.

3 p.m. — Senior PGA Lexus Challenge, NBC, Ch. 9.

HOCKEY

1 p.m. — Dallas Stars at Ottawa Senators, FXS, Ch. 29.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

5 p.m. — ABL Portland Power at San Jose Lasers, FXS, Ch. 29.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

3 p.m. — Ukraine vs. United States, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Stanton's Herm grabs Class 2A player of year honor

From Staff and Wire Reports

Stanton quarterback Kyle Herm has been named the Class 2A player of the year in balloting involving almost 50 sportswriters.



HERM

Herm, who passed for 1,634 yards and 23 touchdowns while rushing for 640 yards and 12 touchdowns in leading the Buffs to the Class 2A, Division II semifinals, has verbally committed to attend Rice University on a football scholarship next season.

He finished his three-year career as Stanton's starting quarterback with more than 5,000 yards passing and 81 touchdown completions — the most ever by a Class 2A quarterback and third best regardless of classification.

In addition, Herm rushed for more than 2,000 yards and 36 more touchdowns during his career and added nine touchdowns on punt returns.

Following Saturday's announcement, Stanton head coach Mark Cotton said there was no question in his mind that Herm deserved the award.

"I think he not only deserved it for what he accomplished this year, but what he's done during his entire career," Cotton explained. "He's just a tremendous athlete and a tremendous young man."

"I've said all along that I wouldn't trade him for anyone else's quarterback and I still feel that way," Cotton added. "Unfortunately, I'm going to have to get used to having somebody else quarterback us from now on."

In the six-man division, where Borden County quarterback Colt McCook had been a finalist, Trinidad running back Damien Jackson was named player of the year.

Jackson rushed for 3,131 yards and 56 touchdowns in leading the Trojans to the six-man championship with a 62-16 win over McCook and the Coyotes in last weekend's title game.

Herm was not the only West Texas star to earn player of the year honors, however, as Andrews running back Shaud Williams grabbed the Class 4A award

after rushing for 12,396 yards and 32 touchdowns in leading the Mustangs to the District 4-4A championship.

The honors were announced by Fox Sports Southwest between its telecasts of the Class 5A and Class 4A state championship games.

The other honors went to: Class 5A: Shane Hudnall of Tyler Lee, who caught 25 passes for 597 yards and four touchdowns and averaged 44.5 yards on 37 attempts. He will enroll at Texas in January.

Class 3A: Breckenridge quarterback Cliff Watkins, who passed for 1,304 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Class 1A: Tenaha quarterback Chavis McCollister, who passed for 887 yards and 14 touchdowns and ran for 1,149 yards and 24 touchdowns.

Steers fall to Frenship, 72-41

Rebound with 61-56 win over Midland Trinity

By JOHN A. MOSELEY Sports Editor

Big Spring's Steers went Tiger hunting Friday night, but forgot one important item — ammunition.

As a result, Big Spring found itself on the wrong end of a 72-41 final and saw its record drop to 4-9 going into a Saturday date with Midland Trinity.

Saturday proved to be a better day for the Steers, as they took a 61-56 win.

Frenship, a traditional power in its Panhandle district where basketball has seemingly always been king, improved to 12-1 needing little more than the production of star swingman Luke McDonald.

Seemingly a man among boys, McDonald scored 32 points in leading the Tiger onslaught and drawing nothing but praise from Steers coach Jimmy Avery.

"He's a tremendous player ... one of the one or two best we've seen and probably one of the one or two best we'll see all year," Avery said of the Frenship senior.

The Steers seemed to try several methods of trying to keep McDonald in check, none of them meeting much success.

When employing a man-to-man scheme, McDonald found a way to out-quick Big Spring defenders. And when the Steers dropped back into a zone, he simply stepped outside and nailed the 3-point shot.

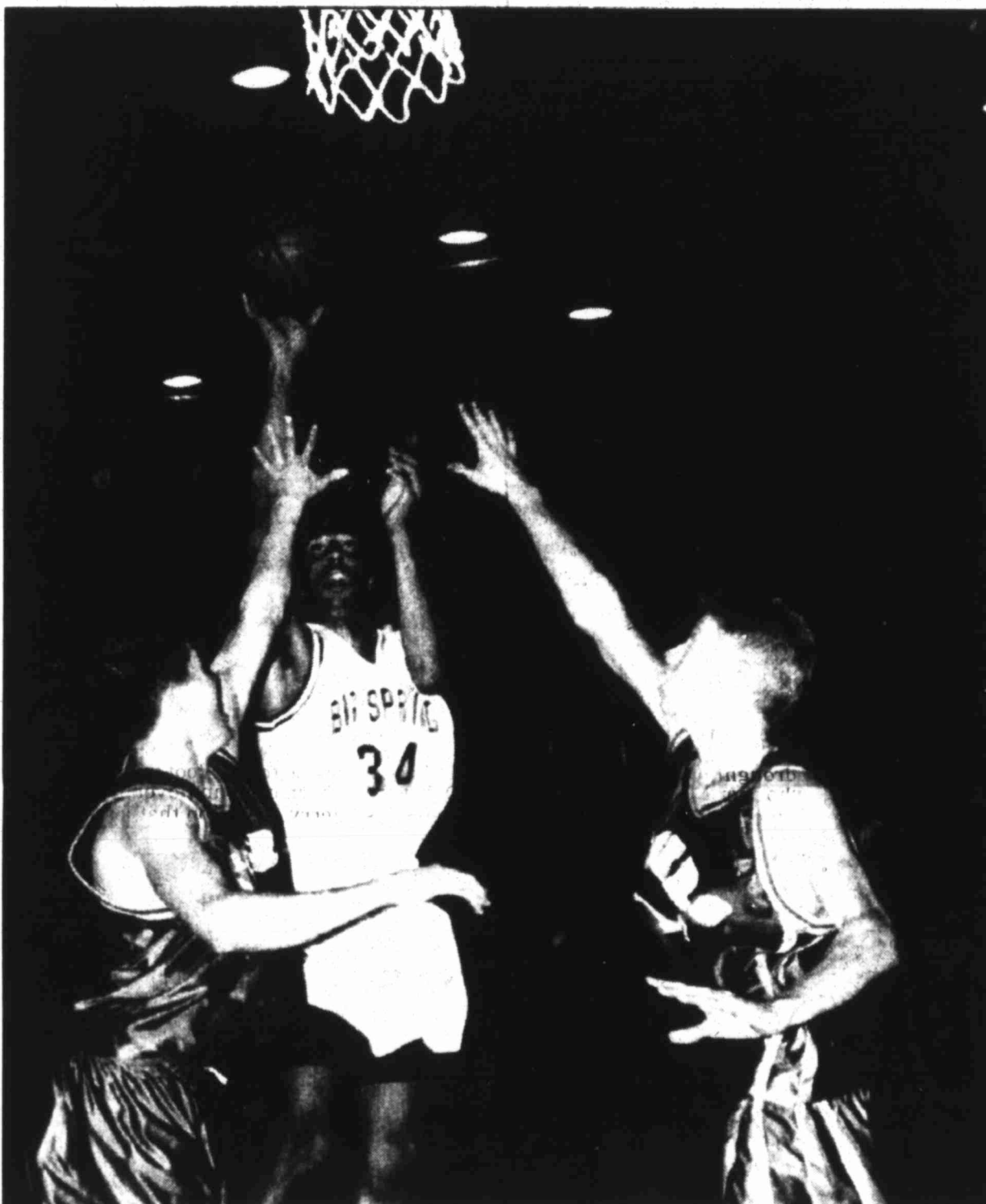
Perhaps more damaging than McDonald's considerable talents, however, was the Steers inability to produce points in the first and fourth quarters.

It was the Steers' lack of offensive skills that Avery pointed to as the determining factor in the loss.

"We just don't handle the ball well enough or shoot the ball well enough," the Steers boss explained. "When you play somebody as good as Frenship is, it really shows your weaknesses and there's not question that our lack of offensive skills hurt us."

At the same time, however, Avery maintained upbeat about the effort his players continue to show.

"We're still getting better and we've got to get to the point where we can have a good offensive showing throughout a game," he added. "I can't fault



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley

Big Spring swingman Andy Hall (34) goes up and scores two of his 12 points over Frenship's Colin Schafer (left) and Brandon Jones during the third quarter of their game Friday night. Frenship took a 72-41 win, improving its record to 12-3 on the year, while the Steers fell to 4-9.

our kids effort ... they're working hard. Somewhere down the line, that hard work's going to pay off for us."

While neither team managed to get off to a spectacularly strong start Friday, Frenship was able to score eight points in the final four minutes of the first quarter to take a 13-6 lead into the second period.

The Steers seemingly overcame their cold start after Frenship's Brandon Jones had opened the quarter with a 3-point jumper, when Big Spring countered with a nine-point string of unanswered points, including 3-point shots by Andy Hall and Chello Williams, as well as a steal and layup by

Colby Ford. Unfortunately, Big Spring would hit just three more field goals in the first half and would have gone the final three minutes without scoring had it not been by a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Williams.

"It's not that we don't have the ability to score," Avery noted following the loss, "it's just that we're not consistent. We score in spurts and then have long lapses when we can't seem to put anything together."

That was the case in the second quarter, as the Steers' early 9-point skinn trimmed Frenship's lead to just one point, 16-15. But McDonald literally put his personal stamp

on the game from that point on, scoring 14 points in the final five minutes, allowing the Tigers to take a 35-23 edge into the intermission.

Big Spring would manage to trim Frenship's lead to 10 at the start of the third quarter, from that point on, the Tigers steadily pulled away.

Owning a 54-35 edge going into the final eight minutes, the Tigers dashed any hope of a Steers comeback as McDonald rattled off three straight jumpers in the first two minutes, while the Steers went scoreless for almost the first four minutes of the quarter.

See STEERS, page 14A

Cowboys still after clincher

IRVING (AP) — Last year the Dallas Cowboys couldn't win a game in December and missed their first playoffs in seven years.

This December the Cowboys still haven't won a game but could clinch the NFC East today in Texas Stadium if they can defeat the lowly Philadelphia Eagles.

Dallas whipped the Eagles 34-0 on Nov. 2, but the way the Cowboys have been playing in their three-game losing streak no victory is automatic even against the most feeble of opponents.

Linebacker Dexter Coakley said coach Chan Gailey summed up the importance of the game to the team earlier in the week.

"He said we can still accomplish all the goals we had when we left training camp," Coakley said. "It's still there for us."

The main goal was to get into the playoffs, Gailey predicted in July Dallas would be in post-season play.

"We're going to be playing in January," was the way Gailey put it.

Dallas stands 8-5, a big turnaround from a 6-10 season which cost Barry Switzer his job.

But in the last six weeks the Cowboys quit improving. Their offense has grown stale, the defense can't stop the run and the special teams have had problems.

"We haven't been consistent the last six weeks," Gailey said. "Execution hasn't been there. We've got to get going in the right direction."

Injuries have hurt the Cowboys playoff drive but there could be some help on the way.

Cornerback Deion Sanders, who has missed all three losses with a toe injury, could be back along with running back Chris Warren, who has been out with a pulled groin.

"I hope I can play," said Sanders, who no longer carries a bandage on his toe.

It will be a game time decision for Gailey whether to risk Sanders in the lineup.

There is one thing the Cowboys have been able to do consistently this season and that's defeat NFC East foes. A win over the Eagles and Washington in two weeks would complete a sweep of the NFC East for the Cowboys.

The Eagles (3-11) would dearly love to deal Dallas some mis-

See COWBOYS, page 14A

Bulldogs, Bulldogettes win; Garden City sweeps two from Forsan

HERALD Staff Reports

AREA ROUNDUP

COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogs and Bulldogettes continued their winning ways Friday with non-district wins over Rotan's Yellowhammers and Lady Yellowhammers.

In the evening's varsity opener, the Bulldogettes improved their record to 9-4 overall with a 65-52 win behind the 21-point scoring lead of senior Cassie Tindol.

The nightcap saw the 'Dogs, now 11-2 on the season, get 23 points from Ryan Peckham and 20 more from Blake Nichols in romping to an 82-54 win over the Yellowhammers.

Although Rotan would mount a furious fourth-quarter comeback bid, the Ladyhammers for all intents and purposes lost any hope of winning when the Bulldogettes jumped out to a 14-3 lead at the end of the first quarter and then

scored 29 points in the second period to take a 43-21 lead at the intermission.

In addition to Tindol's 21 points, the Bulldogettes got 15 points from junior post Suzanna Wood and 12 more from senior post Jayci Roberts.

The same scenario was played out in the boys' game, as the Bulldogs outscored Rotan 19-8 in the first eight minutes and scored 27 more in the second quarter to take a 46-20 halftime edge.

The Yellowhammers would finally find their shooting touch in the third quarter, but it simply wasn't enough to keep the Bulldogs from pulling away in the fourth quarter.

Coahoma also got double-digit scoring from senior forward David White, who scored 10 points.

GIRLS' GAME

COAHOMA 85, Rotan 52

ROTAN — Martin 9, Nowlin 1, Mauro 13, Garza 3, Early 26. Totals 15 21-34 52.

COAHOMA — Atkinson 4, Hart 2, Kemper 4, Tindol 21, K. Buchanan 5, Barr 2, Roberts 12, Wood 15. Totals 25 14-23 65.

Score by Quarters: Rotan 8 12 12 15 52

Coahoma 14 29 14 8 65

Three-point goals: Rotan 1 (Early), Coahoma 1 (Tindol). Records: Coahoma is 9-4, Rotan is 8-3.

BOYS' GAME

COAHOMA 82, Rotan 54

ROTAN — Carreon 12, Kennedy 7, Garza 7, Copeland 2, Posey 8, Huggins 14, Murphree 2, Powell 2. Totals 22 5-8 54.

COAHOMA — Garcia 2, Green 2, Marshall 4, Hardin 2, Nichols 20, Hancock 4, Bennett 6, White 10, Peckham 23, Kinard 7. Totals 37 3-5 82.

Score by Quarters: Rotan 8 12 20 14 54

Coahoma 19 27 15 21 82

Three-point goals: Rotan 5 (Carreon 4, Garza), Coahoma 5 (White 2, Peckham, Nichols, Kinard). Records: Coahoma is 11-2, JV score: Coahoma 51, Rotan 36.

Garden City takes pair for Forsan

GARDEN CITY — Forsan's Buffs and Queens suffered losses to Garden City in

non-district high school basketball play Friday night, as the Bearcats took a 48-42 win in the boys' game and the Lady Bearcats romped to a 50-26 decision.

The Lady Kats got 14 points from 5-foot-10 senior Stormi Chandler and 12 more from M'Lynn Niehuus, as they jumped out to an early 15-6 lead, extended that to a 23-9 margin at halftime and entered the final eight minutes with a 39-13 edge.

The win improved the Garden City girls' record to 9-2 on the year.

In the nightcap, Cory Batla scored 11 points and Jason Fine chipped in 10 more in leading the Bearcats to the win that improved Garden City's record to 8-3 overall.

However, game-high honors in the boys' game went to Forsan's Daniel Whetsel who scored 16 points. In addi-

See ROUNDUP, page 14A

DECEMBER 20 1998

SPORTS EXTRA

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
ANHEIM ANGELS—Traded C Matt...

NFL STANDINGS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE
Buffalo 11 4 0 733 385 256

Psycho Pysters 2-6, A&B Farms 6-2; hi...

Redskins deal Bucs 20-16 setback

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—The Washington Redskins went 76 games under coach...

for the Redskins (6-9), who became only the second team in NFL history to win six in a season after starting 0-7.

fourth quarter, a bad punt by Tommy Barnhardt gave the Redskins the ball at their 42.

One play after the Redskins recovered a fumble on a kickoff, Trent Green bootlegged right and hit rookie tight end...

Tampa Bay appeared to have the game in hand with another solid game by its defense, although its lead was never comfortable because the offense kept converting good field position into field goals instead of touchdowns.

On the ensuing kickoff, Chris Thomas jarred the ball loose from Jacques Green. Mike Sellers recovered, setting up Alexander's winning catch.

COWBOYS

Continued from page 13A
ery after being shutout for the first time in the 78-game series between the two franchises.

played one of their best games of the year. "There's no doubt in my mind we can get back to playing the way we were earlier in the year," Gailey said.

we were making. Having Deion back could really help. He's a competitor and wants to play. He has already told me 'I'll give you what I can give you.'"

ROUNDUP

Continued from page 13A
tion, the Buffs got double-digit scoring from Wes Osburn and Cade Park, Osburn coming up with 11 points, while Park had 10.

Stanton drops season opener against Owls
BIG LAKE — Stanton's Buffaloes, getting a late start on the basketball season following their run to the Class 2A football semifinals, dropped their opener to Reagan County's Owls 59-37 on Friday night.

Senior post Justin Cobb was the only Buffs player to reach double figures, leading Stanton with 10 points, while point guard Kyle Herm added nine and post Chad Smith had eight.

INDIANAPOLIS—Announced QB Jay Rodgers will transfer to an undecided Division IAA college.

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Friday's Games
Buffalo 4, Montreal 2
Ottawa 5, Carolina 1

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STEERS
Continued from page 13A
Chauncey Ford snapped the Steers' fourth-quarter drought with a steal and layup at the 4:24 mark, but Big Spring would not score again until Hall drove the lane and hit a short jumper with 26 seconds left.

Hall and Casey Cowley paced Big Spring effort with 12 points each, while Williams finished the night with eight. That, how-

ever, was only enough to match McDonald's individual output, while the Tigers also got 16 points from Jones and 10 more from Colin Schafer in improving to 12-3 on the season.

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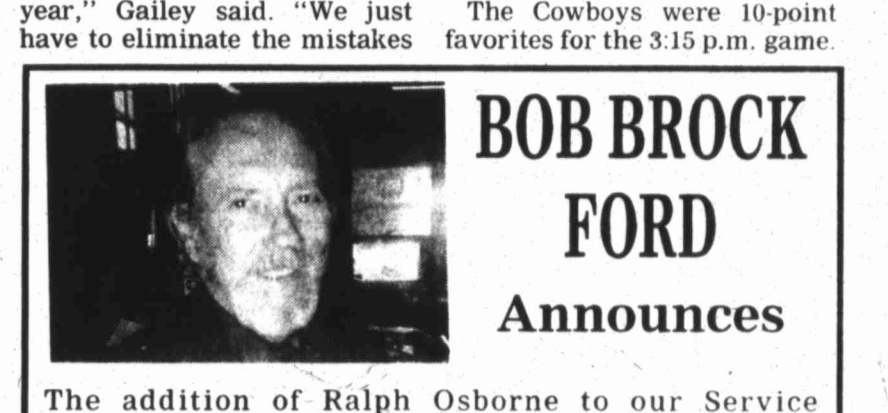
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Reagan County 59, Stanton 37

STANTON — J. Smith 5, Herm 9, Cobb 10, Hull 3, Cook 2, C. Smith 8. Totals 16 5-18 37.

REAGAN COUNTY — Ramirez 7, Bonilla 10, Steniz 2, Campos 14, Kohutke 6, Thompson 11, Wierst 2. Total 73 23 7-15 59.

Three-point goals: Reagan County 6 (Campos 4, Bonilla, Ramirez). Records: Stanton is 0-1, Reagan County is 7-3. JV score: Reagan County 54, Stanton 47. Freshman score: Reagan County 46, Stanton 36.

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Midland Lee pounds MacArthur; Stephenville wins 4A title

IRVING (AP) — Cedric Benson ran for four touchdowns and caught a pass for another as Midland Lee routed San Antonio MacArthur 54-0 Saturday for the Class 5A Division II state championship.

It was the most lopsided victory ever for a Class 5A championship game. The largest previous margin of victory was Converse Judson's 52-0 win over Eules Trinity for the Division I title in 1992.

Midland Lee (15-1) was unhappy about having to play MacArthur (10-6), an 11th-hour substitute for defending state champion Katy, but the Rebels had no need to worry.

Midland Lee needed only 86 seconds to score on Benson's 44-yard pass from quarterback Jonathan Rogers, and things never got better for MacArthur (10-6).

The Brahmas lost in the semifinals to Katy 14-6 and just got its invitation to the title game Friday, after Katy revealed it had an ineligible player.

MacArthur took the opening kickoff, but turned the ball over on the second play of the game. Jonathan Schaper's pass went off the hands of Roydrick Runnels and into the hands of J.R. Norman.

Three plays later, Lee quarterback Jonathan Rogers tossed a screen pass to Benson, who went 44 yards for the touchdown only 89 seconds into the game. Benson broke free from defensive back Brent Temple at the 18.

The Rebels then surprised with an outside kick, which kicker Matt Segulja recovered.

Rogers hit Eric Clodfelter for an apparent 19-yard touchdown, but a penalty wiped it out, and MacArthur took over at its 24 when Benson overthrew Randy Norris in the end zone on a fake field goal.

But eight plays into the Brahmas' possession, Midland Lee defensive back Derrick Walker picked off a pass along the left sidelines and ran it back 52 yards for the touchdown.

Benson ran for touchdowns of 4, 58 and 1 yards in the second quarter as the Rebels opened up a 33-0 lead by halftime.

Allen Griffith added a 28-yard

SATURDAY'S TITLE GAMES

Here is a look at Saturday's high school Division II and Class 1A state championship football games:

CLASS 5A Division II
Midland Lee (15-1) defeated San Antonio MacArthur 54-0.

CLASS 4A Division II
Stephenville (15-1) defeated La Marque 34-7.

CLASS 3A Division II
Newton (14-1) defeated Daingerfield 21-0.

CLASS 2A Division II
Elysian Fields (12-3) vs. Celina (13-2), late Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving.

CLASS A Division II
Wheeler (12-2) vs. Tenaha (15-0), late Saturday, Pennington Field, Bedford.

touchdown run in the third quarter. Then Benson, a speedy sophomore who didn't break into the starting lineup until the fourth game of the season, went 49 yards for another TD in the fourth quarter.

Midland Lee backup quarterback Chris McCullough, who played all but one series of the second half, threw a 64-yard pass to J.J. Jackson for the game's final touchdown with 2:46 to play.

The game, which kicked off shortly after noon, was the first of a championship triple-header at Texas Stadium.

It was followed by a Class 4A game between Stephenville and La Marque and a Class 2A battle between Celina and Elysian Fields.

Stephenville 34, La Marque 7

Stephenville set a national high school record for total yards in a season, but Yellow Jackets coach Art Briles was more interested in other things.

"The only records I'm concerned about are 15-1 this season, 6-0 in the playoffs and three state championships (1993, 1994, 1998)," Briles said.

Stephenville continued its state championship jinx of La Marque, riding the arm of quarterback Kelan Luker to a 34-7 victory Saturday for the Class 4A Division II state championship.

La Marque scored first, but Stephenville (15-1) stiffened its defense after that and left things

in Luker's capable hands.

Luker completed 18 of 29 passes for 291 yards and two touchdowns and was intercepted once. La Marque keyed on Luker's favorite receiver, Cody Cardwell, so Luker switched with success to other targets.

Stephenville went into the game needing 109 yards to beat the 45-year-old record of 8,375 yards by Sugar Land in 1953. That was the Sugar Land team led by the legendary Kenneth Hall.

The Yellow Jackets finished with 374 yards for the day, raising their 1998 total to 8,581 yards.

"To accomplish that and win state is the best thing you can have in a season. To set goals and be able to accomplish them is unbelievable," Luker said.

"We had receivers that could run, running backs that weren't selfish and a line that got better every week."

La Marque carried a 13-0 record into the game. The Cougars were the three-time defending state champion and were appearing in its sixth straight title match.

But the Cougars lost to Stephenville in the 1993 and 1994 state finals and were hoping to avenge those losses. It was not to be.

The Cougars made it look easy in the first quarter, going ahead 7-0 on Tim Parker's 3-yard run in the first quarter.

But Luker threw touchdown passes of 18 yards to T.J. Douglas and 33 yards to Chris Bvatt and J.W. Boren's 28-yard

field goal gave the Yellow Jackets a 17-7 halftime lead.

Boren added a 44-yard field goal and Luken connected with Bvatt on a 40-yard pass that set up Jimmy Ferrazas' 5-yard TD run in the third quarter.

A blocked punt gave Stephenville possession at the La Marque 33 with 6:46 left in the game, and Matt Tinklenberg capped a five-play drive with a one-yard run, widening the lead to 34-7.

It was the first time all season that La Marque had given up more than two touchdowns.

After the initial touchdown, La Marque quarterback Sean Guidry was unable to solve the swarming Stephenville defense.

An exchange of fumbles at midfield set the Cougars up for the game's first score.

Stephenville's B.J. Mercer recovered a fumble on the La Marque 49, but the Cougars' Charles Lemons recovered a fumble by Luker on Stephenville's next play.

The Cougars needed only five plays to score. Parker ran for 30 yards to the 19, and finished off the drive three plays later with a 3-yard run.

Luken's 52-yard pass to A.B. Combs set up an 18-yard touchdown pass to Douglas four plays later. Douglas gathered the ball in at the 5 and backpedaled into the end zone.

Luken's 46-yard pass to Cody Cardwell set up Boren's 28-yard field goal for the 10-7 lead with 1:33 left in the second quarter.

Stephenville's defense shut down La Marque on three and out, and Luken took the Yellow Jackets 56 yards in six plays.

Starting the drive with 1:09 left in the half, Luken hit Cardwell for a 15-yard completion and then connected with Bvatt on a 33-yard touchdown pass with eight seconds left in the half.

Newton 21, Daingerfield 0

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — Newton quarterback David Walker set up a Newton touchdown just before halftime and also enabled a two-touchdown fourth quarter advantage, leading the Eagles to a 21-0 victory Saturday in the Class 3A Division II championship.

Walker, who completed just 3-of-7 passes for 118 yards, connected with Neal Williams for 52 yards in the Eagles' deepest penetration of the first half, reaching the Daingerfield 28.

Williams got behind two Daingerfield (14-0) defenders, catching the ball at midfield before being run down by Nakia Williams.

LaGerald Jackson picked up 27 yards down to the one, before

Clifford Dean crossed the goal line one play later. Williams tackled on the extra point as Newton (14-1) led 7-0 with 3:24 left in the second quarter.

The three-play, 80-yard scoring march followed Adam Hall's 27-yard field goal attempt that sailed wide to the right.

On the fourth quarter's first play, Walker hit Myron Davis for a 52-yard strike with 11:53 remaining in the contest. The drive covered 79 yards in eight plays.

Dean powered his way up the middle for a 2-yard Eagles' touchdown in the closing minutes.

Jackson led Newton on the ground with 101 yards on 17 carries. Daingerfield's Montoya Brown rushed for 98 yards on 20 carries, 75 of which were in the first half.

Daingerfield had its chances early, when the game was still scoreless.

The Tigers reached the Newton 24-yard line, but Eric Wood's pass on first down was intercepted by the Eagles' Rod Gully.

One series later, Daingerfield threatened again by driving to the Newton seven. However, the Tigers were flagged on consecutive calls for illegal procedure. Facing fourth-and-four at the nine, Halls attempt from the left hashmark missed the uprights.

Belcher gets big bucks from Angels; four players reject arbitration offers

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tim Belcher joins the list of free agents who have spurned the Boston Red Sox, agreeing to \$10.2 million, two-year contract with the Anaheim Angels.

On a busy Friday, pitchers Roger Pavlik and Bill Swift, and catchers Terry Steinbach and John Marzano rejected salary arbitration offers from their former teams and remained free agents.

The four, who had been offered arbitration Dec. 7, may continue to negotiate with their former teams (Seattle for Swift and Marzano, Minnesota for Steinbach, Texas for Pavlik) through Jan. 8. After that, they would be ineligible to re-sign with their former clubs until May 1.

Belcher, a 37-year-old right-hander, was 14-14 with a 4.27 ERA in 34 starts for the Kansas City Royals last season. He gets \$4.6 million in each of the next two seasons, while the Angels have a \$5.1 million option with a \$1 million buyout.

"This possibly could be my last contract," Belcher said. "You have to look at it realistically. I came in winning with the Dodgers in '88 and would like nothing more than to go out a winner."

Boston had sought to sign Belcher, who instead joins Mo Vaughn in Anaheim. The Red Sox, who also lost out on Bernie Williams and took themselves out of the Albert Belle bidding, have made just two major moves since they were eliminated from the playoffs, signing infielder Jose Offerman to a \$26 million, four-year deal and right-hander Mark Portugal to a \$3 million, one-year contract.

Meanwhile, another of baseball's big offseason dates approaches: the Dec. 20 deadline to offer 1999 contracts to players on 40-man rosters. Any player not offered a contract by the deadline becomes a free agent.

Some teams use that deadline to get contract agreements, threatening to let players go free if they don't sign.

Outfielder Danny Bautista, Atlanta's only player eligible

for salary arbitration, agreed to a \$470,000, one-year contract. With 19 players signed, the Braves' payroll is at \$70,845,000, third in the majors behind Baltimore (\$75,092,637) and Los Angeles (\$71,870,286), according to figures compiled by The Associated Press.

Minnesota right-hander Frankie Rodriguez agreed to a \$455,000, one-year contract, Texas left-hander Eric Gunderson agreed Friday to a \$450,000, one-year deal, and Tampa Bay left-hander Scott Aldred agreed to a \$425,000, one-year contract.

Some teams announced which players wouldn't be given contracts. Montreal is letting go outfielder F.P. Santangelo, right-hander Marc Valdes and left-hander Tim Young. Houston

won't give one to right-hander Ramon Garcia, and Cincinnati won't give one to right-hander Keith Glauber.

San Francisco is not offering contracts to pitchers Osvaldo Fernandez and Alvin Morman, catcher Brian Johnson and infielder Jeff Ball.

Outfielder Shane Mack agreed to a minor league contract with San Diego that pays him \$500,000 if he makes the team, and several minor league free agents agreed to minor league contracts: outfielder Luis Polonia with Detroit, infielder Craig Paquette and right-hander Josias Manzanillo with the New York Mets, and right-hander Mark Hutton and shortstop Aaron Holbert with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

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Rich Brooks getting new lease on coaching career with Atlanta

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Rich Brooks coached in St. Louis, he always was looking up at San Francisco in the NFC West standings. This week, as interim head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, he has a chance to look down at the 49ers.

Brooks, filling in while Dan Reeves recovers from heart bypass surgery, brings Atlanta into Detroit with a chance to do something it hasn't done since 1980: clinch the NFC West and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

The Falcons (12-2) are using Reeves' health as incentive. "We've got to rally around Dan," center Robbie Tobeck said. "Hopefully, we can get that first-round bye so we can have Dan back on the sidelines in the playoffs. I'm sure that's where he wants to be, and that's where we want to have him."

The Falcons have won seven straight since a 28-3 loss to the New York Jets when quarterback Chris Chandler was out and 44-year-old Steve DeBerg was at quarterback. Their two most impressive wins were 44-10 at New England and 31-19 at home against the 49ers.

Good news for Falcons' running back Jamal Anderson: Detroit (5-9) allowed 328 yards on the ground in its 35-13 loss at San Francisco Monday night and the 49ers limited Barry Sanders to 28 yards in 14 carries.

But that was on a slow track. The Lions prefer the artificial turf of the Silverdome, where they're 4-3 compared to 1-6 on the road.

Still, they have little incentive — their marginal playoff hopes disappeared Monday night — and they'll probably be without quarterback Charlie Batch, who injured his back against San Francisco.

"All year long we've lost games and played below our abilities," Sanders said.

He could be speaking of his entire decade in Detroit.

In other games today, Baltimore is at Chicago, Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, Kansas City at the New York Giants, St. Louis at Carolina, San Francisco at New England, Tennessee at Green Bay, Indianapolis at Seattle, Oakland at San Diego, New Orleans at Arizona, Atlanta at Detroit, Philadelphia at Dallas, and Jacksonville at Minnesota.

Denver is at Miami on Monday night, matching old rivals John Elway and Dan

NFL THIS WEEK

Marino.

Denver at Miami (Monday night)

What was supposed to be the game of the season now is notable primarily because it's the first meeting between John Elway and Dan Marino since 1985 and only the second of their careers.

Other than the quarterback show, there are two questions:

1. Now that the Broncos have lost, how hard will they play? Probably hard, simply because Mike Shanahan called last week's loss to the Giants "a wake-up call" that can help his team get ready for the playoffs.

2. How will the Dolphins rebound from last week's loss to the Jets? Probably well, because they badly need another win to guarantee a playoff berth and Zach Thomas and some others want to show they were wrongfully left off the AFC Pro Bowl squad.

San Francisco at New England

Drew Bledsoe underwent surgery on his broken finger this week and Scott Zolak will start for New England, which must win to stay where it was entering the weekend — in the final AFC wild-card spot.

"Disappointing" San Francisco could finish 13-3 and not win the NFC West. The 49ers have had a lot of games where they've passed for 328 yards and run for 82, but Monday night's 35-13 win over Detroit was the first time since they became a consistent winner 18 seasons ago they've done the opposite.

Jacksonville at Minnesota

Jacksonville, which looked like a lock in the AFC Central, now must win its final two to ensure it holds off Tennessee. And it will have to do it with rookie Jonathan Quinn at quarterback.

It's not as if Minnesota doesn't have incentive. It needs this win to ensure holding off Atlanta for home-field advantage in the NFC.

Tennessee at Green Bay

The Oilers could still win the AFC Central if they beat the Packers and then the Vikings at home next week, and the Jaguars lose to the Packers and

at home to Pittsburgh. The Packers, with all their injuries, still need one more win or a loss by Tampa Bay or Arizona to clinch a playoff spot.

New Orleans at Arizona

The Cardinals need to win this one and their finale at home with the Chargers to clinch their first playoff berth since 1982 and first in a non-strike season since 1975. But the Cardinals rarely make things easy — they had to go to overtime to beat Philadelphia last week and almost lost in Washington after leading 31-0.

Philadelphia at Dallas

The Cowboys haven't been the same since losing Deion Sanders and could still lose the division to the Cardinals if they lose this and their finale with Washington, and Arizona wins two. A win here, however, and the Cowboys get the division crown and the third seed in the NFC playoffs.

Kansas City at New York Giants

Two playoff teams last season that won't be there this year — although the Giants have an outside chance of making it.

But both have come on lately. The Giants made their season with the stunning 20-16 win over previously unbeaten Denver last week, the Chiefs have won two of three since los-

ing six straight, with the loss a close one in Denver.

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

The Steelers look like they'll miss the playoffs for the first time in Bill Cowher's seven years as coach. One reason is Kordell Stewart, who's regressed at quarterback. He lashed out on the sidelines when Cowher benched him last week, although they met Wednesday and supposedly made up.

The Bengals, who usually play badly in the first half of the season, are managing to be consistent this season, playing badly in both halves.

Oakland at San Diego

The Raiders have lost four straight, mirroring the 1995 season, when they started 8-2 and finished 8-8.

The Chargers have a strong defense but no offense; Craig Whelihan and Ryan Leaf threw seven interceptions between them at Seattle last week. June Jones, meanwhile, is dreaming of next year in Hawaii as he draws up game plans for the Chargers.

Indianapolis at Seattle

The record doesn't reflect it, but the Colts are making progress.

Peyton Manning continues to improve and Marshall Faulk needs 132 yards receiving in the

final two games to join Roger Craig as the only back to get 1,000 yards running and catching in the same season.

Baltimore at Chicago

How can the Ravens be 5-9 with five Pro Bowlers? Two of the Pro Bowlers are special teamers and linebacker Ray Lewis, who is good, is marginal. The Bears have no Pro Bowlers — on merit.

St. Louis at Carolina

It looks like Dom Capers will be out as the Panthers' coach, perhaps a victim of the strategy that got the team to the NFC championship game in its second season. The Panthers signed a whole bunch of old guys early and the young guys, like Kerry Collins bombed out. Dick Vermeil isn't secure either, although last week's upset win over New England helped.



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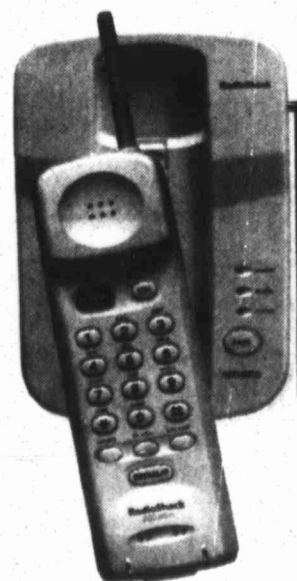
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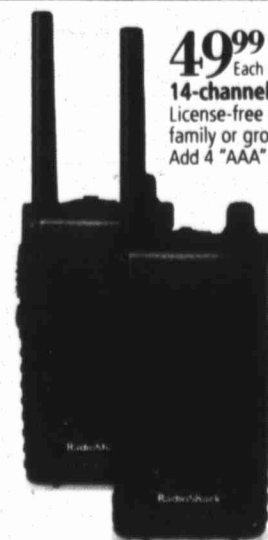
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JETS

Continued from page 14A

their first NFL division title.

Vinny Testaverde threw for two touchdowns and the Jets took advantage of Buffalo's sloppiness for a 17-10 victory. It gave New York (11-4) its first AFC East crown — the last time it won a division was in 1969, when it was part of the AFL — and the inside track for a first-round playoff bye.

If Jacksonville loses either of its final two games, the Jets will get that bye.

The Bills (9-6), who lost a fumble and an interception, dropped several passes and

failed to get in-bounds on others, must go the wild-card route to make the playoffs. They were hurt by Victor Green's controversial interception on a tipped ball with 3:52 to go; replays showed he dropped the ball.

Testaverde hit on a 71-yard touchdown pass to Detric Ward in the third quarter for the winning points. He also connected with Wayne Chrebet for a 7-yarder on the Jets' first drive.

The Pro Bowl quarterback finished 14-for-23 for 184 yards and was not intercepted on a blustery day that clearly affected Buffalo's Doug Flutie. He was 14-for-38 for 220 yards.

FOOT SPECIALIST

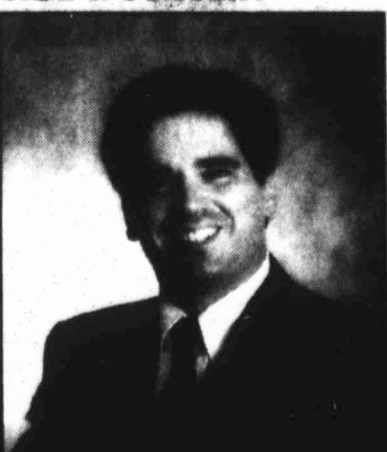
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By the only four until Christmas have traded each year's holiday wishes for forgotten Christmas. Gift giving or at least wise men Baby Jesus comes down to all of us. What Claus, de others? answers.

QUICK TRIVIA

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◆The Great Meteor Crater of Arizona lies between Flagstaff and Winslow. A meteorite is believed to have struck the earth there 50,000 years ago.

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



Jim Hicks wishes more people would believe in Santa Claus.

And not just because it would increase his employment opportunities at this time of year.

Hicks, who suits up as the jolly one for private parties, school events and Big Spring Mall, thinks kids need the sense of magic and wonder that a figure like Santa creates.

"I just see they stop believing in him at a younger and younger age," said Hicks. "Maybe it has to do with all that TV."

And on television programs and movies, "Santa sometimes gets a bad rap," Hicks added.

But for the kids who do still believe, there's nothing like seeing him live, in person. At St. Mary's Episcopal School on Thursday, Hicks was there in costume and with candy canes, ready to thrill youngsters in the extended-day program.

"I enjoy it almost more than anyone," said Hicks. "For the younger ones, who really do believe, just the look in their eyes is worth it."

When Hicks enters the cafeteria, which is filled with tiny believers, there are gasps from all sides. As he passes by on his way to a chair at the front, little hands reach out for his.

"Ho, ho, ho, Merry Christmas!" he shouts. There are squeals of delight.

In his time as the famous Claus, Hicks said he has answered countless queries about all things Santa. From "Where are your reindeer?" (on the roof, of course) to "How does your sleigh fly through the air?" (with magic), he has to come up with sometimes split-second answers.

Where is Mrs. Claus? Supervising the elves at the North Pole. Are you real? Touch my hand and see for yourself. How many elves do you have and what are all their names? I have so many I can't count them all.

Concerning the black athletic shoes he wears instead of boots, Hicks tells those who ask that Santa's feet need a rest, too. And his Timex? Santa has to know what time it is so he can keep up with his busy schedule.

"Some of the older ones say they know I'm really not Santa, just one of his helpers, and that's fine with me," Hicks said. "I can distract them by talking about what they want for Christmas. That always works."

Most kids ask for the old standbys: dolls, cars, Barbie items and, this year, "A Bug's Life" toys. There was the young girl, though, who asked for something even Santa could not imagine carrying all the way from the North Pole.

"She wanted a bobcat," Hicks recalled. "I asked her if she meant a real bobcat, and she said she did. I said maybe a house cat that looked just like the real thing?"

The girl was satisfied with the slight substitution and Santa was saved.

Of course, some children are absolutely terrified of Santa Claus, and for that, Hicks has a solution.

"I just reach out slowly, and softly touch them," he said. "I talk in a low voice and that calms them down."

Hicks said he's been asked to play Santa



At left, Alysia Ramlerz thinks for a moment while giving Santa Claus her list for Christmas this year. Alysia was one of the St. Mary's Episcopal School extended-day kids who got to visit with the jolly one last week.

at several events, and he thinks he knows at least part of the reason.

"I don't need a pillow," he said, patting his jolly, Santa-sized middle. "This is the real material."

For the kids at St. Mary's, not much was left to question about the guy in the red and white suit: They had the facts.

"He flies in a sleigh with reindeer," explained Matthew Cooksey. "The reindeer are Vixen, Rudolph and there's one more."

But how does Santa keep up with all those Christmas requests? Easy, Matthew explained.

"He just makes a list and checks it twice."

And Santa's helpers at the North Pole?

"His elves make the toys," explained Austin Newton. "They do a lot of stuff, too -- put the Christmas tree up, put the toys in the bag..."

Braden Witt tied Santa in with the "real reason for the season."

"(Santa) brings presents a lot to kids, for Jesus' birthday," Braden explained.

And Chris Edwards understands why Santa does all this work at Christmas every year.

"To make children happy."

With that, Jim Hicks would definitely agree.

"It's not just a job," he said. "For the little ones, it is really refreshing to see."



Above, Corey Awtry got in some one-on-one time with Santa Claus by agreeing to sit on his knee. At left, a shy Kaitlin Wright talks to the surprise Christmas-time visitor while Alysia Ramirez waits her turn at St. Mary's School last week.

STORY BY DEBBIE L. JENSEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDA CHOATE

Christmas traditions: Where did they come from?

By the time this is printed, only four days will remain until Christmas. Most families have traditions they follow each year. Have you ever wondered how some of the traditions were started? Have we forgotten the REAL meaning of Christmas?

Gift giving may have started or at least intensified when the wise men brought gifts to the Baby Jesus to celebrate his birth. Anyway, that custom comes down through the years to all of us.

What about trees, Santa Claus, decorating, candles and others? Let's look for a few answers. According to my

information, and some comes from Rev. James X. Weiser, SS Weston College, Mass. a foremost authority on Christmas lore. Also per Eugene White, Mesquite, and others. There are so many legends, it would take volumes to cover them all.

TREES: all the trees of the forest had gifts of fruit, nuts, fine wood, sugar or other special gifts for the King; all except the little spruce and other evergreens. The spruce was sad and drooping. The angels saw this and came down and decked the sad little tree with stars, thus making it a thing of beauty.

No doubt you've read of Saint

Winfred, an ancient missionary to the Tunic Tribes. He came upon some natives preparing to sacrifice a young girl under a huge oak, their sacred tree.

In anger, he felled the tree in record time. The natives were awed by his great strength. They gathered around to attack him but



MYRTLE GRIFFITH

suddenly a beautiful evergreen sprang up where the oak had been. Sir Winfred shouted, "not the oak, tree of death, but this 'tree of life' shall be yours if you follow the 'King of Life'." The natives were so impressed they spared his life.

Another legend tells of the flight of the Holy family into Egypt. Exhausted, they took shelter under a huge evergreen tree. When King Herod's soldiers came near it lowered its branches to conceal the exhausted family. When danger had passed, the Baby Jesus blessed the tree. Today if you cut a pine cone in half lengthwise, you will see the print of a

tiny hand. Try it.

Then there is the legend that the first Christmas tree was an apple, the fruit of which symbolized the fall of man in the garden of Eden and his salvation through the birth of Christ.

However, historians believe the first Christmas tree originated in Germany. In early days they erected a wooden pyramid which was topped by a star and called "The light of the world." The first wave of German immigrants settled in New Amsterdam, bringing this tradition with them in about 1700.

SANTA CLAUS: Santa Claus

and lighted trees have strange ancestors. Jolly St. Nick came from pagan heritage while the lighted tree is of Christian origin. Does it surprise you that they became combined?

For many years in European Countries, Dec. 6 was observed as "Feast of St. Nick" who was patron saint of children. Very little is known about Saint Nick except that he was the Bishop of Myra, an orphan, and died about 350. Legends say he helped poor children by slipping coins through their windows at night.

The Dutch brought this tradi-

See GRIFFITH, Page 2B

DECEMBER 20 1998

STORK CLUB

Richard Brandon, boy, Nov. 15, 1998, 1:47 p.m. in San Angelo, six pounds 3 1/2 ounces and 18 3/8 inches long; parents are Richard C. and Mary L. Hilario.

Grandparents are Aurora P. Reyna, Anita Casillas, both of Big Spring, and the late Benito S. Hilario.

Great-grandfather is Eusebio V. Paredes.

He also has one sister, Cecily Paredes.

Paid announcement

Francisco Dylan Cantu, boy, Dec. 10, 1998, 5:25 a.m., six pounds 11 ounces and 20 inches long; parents are Sarah Fannin and Francisco Cantu.

Grandparents are Helen Fannin, Elbert Fannin, both of Big Spring, Jesse Cantu, Victoria, and Mayela Cantu, Midland.

Santana Kobe Cruz, girl, Dec. 7, 1998, 12:45 p.m., 5 1/2 pounds and 19 inches long; parents are Christina Ruiz and Raymond Cruz.

Grandparents are Juan and Mary Ruiz of Coahoma, and Joe and Soila Cruz of Big Spring.

Bhili S. Darlene Gill, girl, Dec. 1, 1998, 9:58 a.m., eight pounds five ounces and 22 inches long; parents are William Deric and Cara Ann Gill.

Grandparents are Eric and Margaret Johnson of Big Spring and Mac and Melody Statham of Dallas.

Madison Nicole Grant, girl, Dec. 1, 1998, 6:42 a.m., four pounds nine ounces and 17 3/4 inches long; parents are Lahoma Goodblanket and Ronnie Grant.

Grandparents are Scott and Marcia Goodblanket of Sand Springs, and Gary Grant of Coahoma.

Kody Mark Phernetton, boy, Dec. 12, 1998, 10:28 p.m., nine pounds six ounces and 21 3/4 inches long; mother is Tammy M. Phernetton.

Grandparents are Gus Phernetton and the late Eddie Lou Phernetton.

Michael Anthony Mungia, boy, Dec. 11, 1998, 11:02 a.m., seven pounds 11 1/2 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long; parents are Anthony and Brenda Mungia.

Grandparents are Willie and Linda Mungia and Antonio and Maria Murillo, all of Sonora.

Brittany Marie Wilson, girl, Dec. 14, 1998, 10:41 a.m., five pounds nine ounces and 19 inches long; parents are Charles and Nicole Wilson.

Grandparents are Maria Wilson of Lubbock, Eunice Speck of Lawton, Okla., and Wyoneta Elliott of Midland.

Tyler Anthony Sparks, boy, Dec. 5, 1998, 2:16 p.m., eight pounds three ounces and 20 inches long; parents are Anna and Randy Sparks.

Grandparents are Vicki Evans, Randy Robertson, Jerry Moring, and Ben and Christine Sparks.

HUMANE SOCIETY



Pictured: "Oakley" Male Terrier mix, white with brown and black spots, 1 year old, neutered.

Special Note: All dogs and cats presently available for adoption at the shelter have received their vaccinations, including rabies.

"Crystal" Female Terrier mix, white, 1 1/2 years old.

"Homer" Male pit mix with lab, 1 year old.

"Jagger" Male lab mix, black,

5 years old.

"Big Mama" Female Husky cross, black with tan markings, 3 years old, spayed.

"Buckie" Male Australian Shepherd, gray with black spots, 1 1/2 years old.

"Billy Gun" Male Boxer mix, brown with white, 1 year old.

"Tattoo" Male Chow mix, black, 1 year old.

"Measles" Female heeler mix, red with white, three years old, spayed.

"Jade" Female lab mix, black, 5 years old, spayed.

Also, there are plenty of assorted puppies.

These, plus many more dogs and cats are awaiting adoption. Adoption fees for dogs are just \$50 and cats are \$40. This includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, wormings and rabies shots. Also covers feline leukemia tests for cats. All pets come with a two-week trial period.

9-year-old girl filled with the spirit of Christmas

SAN ANGELO, (AP) — The evergreen garlands and homemade ornaments give the appearance of a big Christmas, but holidays in the Castillo home will be a little slim this year.

A single mom, Lupe Castillo, has a seasonal job and is currently in the middle of a layoff. She and her 9-year-old daughter, Marissa, don't expect to have a lot of money for Christmas presents.

But Marissa is OK with not receiving a lot of expensive gifts. She knows there are a lot of kids around San Angelo whose parents can't afford any gifts — children who don't even have shoes to wear or clothes that fit. And she believes that by helping those kids, her own Christmas will be filled not with toys, but with the joy of giving.

Marissa is collecting aluminum cans to raise money for people who turn to the Salvation Army for help during the holidays, for people who are less fortunate than she is.

Last Thanksgiving, Marissa and her mom went to the Salvation Army to serve lunch. The experience touched her heart.

"I saw how all the people there had to go to the Salvation Army because they hardly had any food," said Marissa, a third-grader at Fannin Elementary School.

She went back for Christmas and handed out stockings with toys to children, and Marissa wanted to do more.

GRIFFITH

Continued from Page 1B
tion to New Amsterdam. Later an English colony was founded. Many of the new Amsterdam residents were opposed to Christmas and did not celebrate it nor the Feast of Saints.

Ancient German Folklore scripts tell us that the pagan god, Thor, was god of peasants, his element fire and his color red. He had a long white beard and traveled in a chariot pulled by two goats. He came down chimneys to be in his element. He lived in the far north among the icebergs. The jolly old elf saint became Santa Claus, which is strictly of American origin.

In Iceland it is customary to light a huge candle which can't be snuffed out except by someone named Mary. The Irish say, "who knows, Joseph and Mary may come again, but to the Holy Isle on the farthest edge of Europe." In many American homes a "Christ child candle" is put in a window to light His way in case of an earthly visit and to atone for his birth when there was no room to shelter Him.

POINSETTIAS: Many Christmas decors feature poinsettias. This plant was brought to the U.S. from Mexico by our first ambassador to that country named Joel Roberts Poinsett. Another legend tells of the very poor little girl who was heartbroken because she had nothing for the Virgin Mary. She gathered some straggly flowers near her hut and lo, in her hands they turned into lovely red poinsettias.

One of our popular greeneries is holly, often called Christ Thorn. The leaves supposedly represent the crown of thorns. A holly wreath represents life everlasting as well as the crown of thorns.

Its use goes back to the time of the Druids. It was considered magic against evil spirits. It was even used in some medicines of that time. The

Romans made wreaths of holly entwined with good and bad wishes to bring good luck to visitors during the holiday season.

In many countries it is still believed that domestic animals know the exact hour that Christ was born and they kneel in their stables with heads toward Bethlehem. In colonial Massachusetts, Christmas was outlawed and considered evil. That law was not repealed until 1856.

The U.S. almost didn't have Christmas in 1914. World War I was less than a year along, Christian leaders across the world petitioned the leaders of both sides to declare a ceasefire for Christmas Day. Neither side agreed.

However, a strange thing happened (this is documented), at midnight Dec. 24 a silence was noted at the battle ground. Suddenly from the German trenches came a loud "Froelich Weenacten" and from the allied trenches came "Merry Christmas to you, Krauts." Heads popped up and soldiers poured out into no man's land. They greeted one another and for 24 hours English plum pudding was washed down with German schnapps.

Word had spread all up and down the lines, Christmas was celebrated for the 24-hour period by both sides. The soldiers mixed and mingled. Thus a ceasefire was celebrated in spite of the generals on both sides.

In my mind the fact stands out that the birth of a baby born in a manger is still celebrated 2000 years later. Doesn't that prove "His Kingdom shall be without end?" They crucified and tried to forget him but still his birth is remembered and celebrated.

May you all have a happy and safe holiday season and a bright and prosperous 1999.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Yule be surprised how much you know about the season

Associated Press

Christmas — a time of peace and piety, but also a time for parties and presents, pageants and poets, and posing questions just for fun around a blazing hearth.

Let us begin our annual Christmas quiz with the poets, who proclaim this the season of love:

"Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love divine;

Love was born at Christmas,

Star and angels gave the sign."

Who wrote that lovely quatrain?

If your answer is the 19th-century poet Christina Rossetti, award yourself a bonus five points when tallying your final score. Now proceed to tackle the next 20 Questions, either on your own or in a battle of wits and witticisms with your holiday guests.

THE QUESTIONS:

1. Who in Whoville caught the Grinch shoving the Christmas tree and presents "up the chimney"?

2. In Gian Carlo Menotti's opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors," what did Amahl offer the Three Kings?

3. Which of the Tales of Hoffmann became a classic Christmas ballet?

4. Did Santa Claus ever win an Academy Award?

5. When and what is Boxing Day?

6. What new gift did True Love send on the fifth day of Christmas?

7. Which former railroad telegrapher became Rudolph's all time best-selling balladeer?

8. What timely new space-age toy will Santa's elves be loading on the sleigh this Christmas Eve?

9. On what date is the Twelfth Day of Christmas?

10. In what form did the

Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come present itself to Ebenezer Scrooge?

11. Was the Old Testament Ebenezer, like Scrooge, a "squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner"?

12. Who was the most famous Scrooge of the air waves?

13. St. Luke's gospel tells us, "Mary brought forth her first-born and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes." What are swaddling clothes?

14. What is the all time best-selling Christmas recording?

15. How many days has Hanukkah?

16. How many candles are in the Hanukkah candelabrum?

17. President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880 began the custom of giving Christmas gifts to the White House domestic staff. What did each receive?

18. Each Christmas season during his presidency Franklin Roosevelt wound up in hot water with the Washington, D.C. fire department. Why?

19. Every Christmas the White House chef creates a gingerbread house for the First Family. What was used to pave the driveway of the delicacy baked for President Ronald Reagan?

20. In which two oceans would you find a Christmas Island?

ANSWERS:

1. "Little Cindy-Lou Who, who was not more than 2," that's who.

2. His crutch.

3. The Nutcracker, with Tchaikovsky's enchanting score.

4. Yes, in 1947, Edmund Gwenn's Santa in "Miracle on 34th Street."

5. The first weekday after Christmas. The name arose from the custom in British stately homes and offices of

See QUIZ, Page 3B

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QUIZ
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QUIZ

Continued from Page 2B

giving "Christmas boxes" — gifts, sometimes cash — to the help.

6. Five golden rings.
7. Singing cowboy Gene Autry.

8. Miniature enameled figures, like toy soldiers, depicting astronaut John Glenn alongside his Friendship 7 capsule in 1962, payload specialist Glenn boarding the Discovery shuttle at age 77 for his recent return to space, and a white-haired U.S. Sen. Glenn in a dark business suit. From Mattel.

9. Jan. 6, also known as "Little Christmas," when by tradition Christians observe the arrival of the Wise Men at Bethlehem. In Shakespeare's time, it marked the end of the holiday revels, an occasion for house parties, masked balls and theatrical offerings like his romantic comedy "Twelfth Night."

10. Only an outstretched hand protruding from a black hooded shroud, a hand that eventually dissolved into a bed post.

11. No way. Ebenezer was not a person but a stone memorial set up by Samuel in gratitude for heavenly help in defeating the Philistines. The Hebrew word means "stone of help."

12. Lionel Barrymore. His radio version, later a best-selling record, is considered the definitive rendering of the Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol."

13. "Strips of linen to restrict the movement of a newborn infant," according to the Oxford English Dictionary. In Elizabethan English the term was "swaddling clouts."

14. Bing Crosby's recording of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas."

15. The Jewish festival, also spelled Chanukah, lasts eight days.

16. Nine.
17. A \$5 gold piece.

18. The Roosevelts insisted on burning real candles on the real evergreen tree in the family quarters of the White House.

19. Jelly beans.
20. The Pacific and the Indian.

SCORING:
Score one point for each correct answer.

A perfect score of 25, bonus included, ranks you as a master or mistress of the revels. Scores between 20 and 24 put you alongside Santa in the driver's seat on that midnight sled run. From 15 to 19 points designates you elf emeritus in Toy Land. Scoring between 10 and 14 entitles you to don a lamp shade and frolic like Old Fezziwig, the father of the office Christmas bash.

A tally below 10 leaves you a bit out in the cold, chanting out of tune with the carolers.

'Holly Jolly Murder'
Christmas reading just for fun

A Holly Jolly Murder. Joan Hess. Penguin Putnam, Inc., New York. November, 1998. 283 pages. \$5.99.

A Holly Jolly Murder is the twelfth book in a series with Claire Malloy as the toocurious book-seller and a m a t e u r crime solver. Owing and running a book store, Claire manages to eke out a living for her and her sixteen year old daughter Caren. Claire is a fairly patient and loving mother, dealing with her daughter's teenage angst with a sense of humor and a "wait until tomorrow" philosophy. Claire's good sense, however, fails her as she becomes acquainted with a group of diverse Druids who come to the store to order books about witchcraft and associated ceremonies.

Curious about the cult's odd and bizarre behaviors, Claire agrees to join the solstice celebration — just as a witness. Before she has time to see anything, it becomes apparent one of their number has been murdered. Claire's recent fraternization with this group leads the police to consider her behavior somewhat suspicious on one hand, but they are quite willing to accept her opinions and observations as rather oblique help in their search for the killer.

While Joan Hess gives Claire a quick and witty tongue, her best writing is done as she

manages to paint daughter Caren with whatever authenticity that can be given to someone whose mood swings vary from the height of Mt. McKinley to the depths of Death Valley. If you've weathered raising teenagers you will be able to whisper a prayer of thanks that yours are gone, and if you've never been privy to living with the not-yet-mature, you won't quite believe the extremes. It's okay either way.

The author flavors Claire's life with romance as she continues her long-term relationship with Peter; However, in this story Peter makes some strange decisions leaving Claire floundering. Hess never does finish Peter's story, and the reader is left wondering why Claire doesn't take some action, but she's left to wobble in the land of do-nothing. Perhaps there's another story left to tell with these two.

This certainly isn't a story about typical Yule season festivities. However, if you want to give yourself a gift, you might consider an afternoon of reading when all the shopping is done, the gifts are wrapped, and you have finagled a holiday invitation for dinner — and you don't have anything to do. Of course, this is a fantasy, but if you need a few moments respite in a already crowded time, enjoy this romp among some strange characters which is seasoned with a corpse here and there and decorated with an abundance of suspects.

Aside from not being the best story around, A Holly Jolly Murder has enough substance to give Scrooge a scare as well as a giggle now and then.

RATING: (**) two out of four = Just for fun!



PAT WILLIAMS

WHO'S WHO

Paula S. Adams, formerly of Ackerly, received the Master of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



ADAMS

She is a 1978 graduate of Belton High School and a 1988 graduate of Baylor University.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Clara Adams and the late Paul B. Adams, formerly of Ackerly.

A total of 778 seniors, graduate students and doctoral candidates received degrees in the summer of 1998 from Colorado State University.

Among those receiving degrees was Erik Thomas Holtz, Big Spring, receiving a bachelor's degree in soil and crop sciences.

Angela Tubb of Big Spring was one of 104 graduates who participated in commencement exercises at Lubbock Christian University on Dec. 12.

Tubb graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and is the daughter of Richie and Jill Tubb.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Music educators offer caroling tips

WACO, (AP) — For years in Houston, Hewitt and Waco, Suzie Wright has led carolers at her school, through her neighborhood, to homes of shut-in church members, even on the back of a moving flatbed truck. For those interested in planning their own caroling outing with friends or family, the Sul Ross Elementary School music specialist advises a basic starting point.

"It should be something where everyone has a good time," she said. "Don't worry if the notes aren't in place. It's the character and joy of the season we want to emulate."

This Christmas hundreds of Texans will form small groups to serenade neighbors and others with songs of the season. It's a tradition with ancient roots. Many music historians trace the practice of singing carols and Christmas hymns back to medieval times; some Christians like to believe it started with the angels who sang to announce Jesus' birth, as recorded in Luke's account of the Nativity.

While the prospect of singing songs in public may daunt a few, Christmas caroling offers the comfort of relative anonymity, fellow singers' support and listeners frequently in a generous, forgiving mood. If you can't sing outdoors in your neighborhood during Christmastime, when can you? Church groups, Christmas parties, Sunday school classes, Scout troops, supper clubs, families with older children — all offer the raw materials

See **Caroling**, Page 4B

ON THE MENU

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
MONDAY-Charbroiled steak, potatoes, green beans, pea salad, milk/roll, apple crisp.
TUESDAY-Chicken, potatoes, carrots, tomato/cucumber salad, milk/roll, pudding.
WEDNESDAY-Fish, french fries, spinach, soleslaw, milk/cornbread, fruited gelatin.
THURSDAY-CLOSED FOR

THE HOLIDAYS
FRIDAY-MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

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IN THE MILITARY

Marine Cpl. Ross Norton, son of Russell and Doris L. Norton of Big Spring, is scheduled to spend the holidays deployed to Okinawa, Japan, with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

The 1995 graduate of Garden City High School, joined the Marine Corps in June 1995.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Duane Brooks, son of Frank V. Brooks of Big Spring, is scheduled to spend the holidays deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton, home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The 1982 graduate of Irion County High School, Mertzon, joined the Navy in January 1987.

Deadline for items for Sunday, Dec. 27, is Tuesday noon

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DECEMBER 20 1998

CAROLING

Continued from Page 3B

needed to carol, namely people willing to go out and share their holiday cheer and songs with others.

Not only is there a great wealth of Christmas songs, both sacred and secular, to sing, but most people know at least one stanza to many of the season's favorites, thanks to school and church programs, family music times, radio and television and hours of mall-bound shopping.

Wright, like many of her peers, is up to her elbows in music this holiday season. Voyces a cappella, a vocal ensemble she directs, will perform twice. Wright also will lead a small choir of her Sul Ross students in Christmas music.

She and other local church choir leaders and music teachers offered their suggestions to make caroling a happy experience.

— Notify your audience. If you want to take your group to sing for shut-ins, a nursing home or to specific locations, contact your listeners in advance to make sure they'll be there when you come.

— Be safe. If caroling outdoors at night, wear light-colored clothing or something reflective. Carry flashlights and watch for approaching cars. Ask several adults to accompany kids.

— Let a singer with good pitch start the song. Wes Gilliland, music director of First United Methodist Church of Woodway, points out that many Christmas carols have a wide tonal range that can trap unwary carolers if they start too low or too high. He suggests a pitchpipe might help.

— Choose familiar songs that your carolers will know. The music libraries of some churches have small books of carols created specifically for caroling. Others may want to hand out song sheets for their singers.

Those who are Internet-savvy can download words to many Christmas songs from such sites as [www.spots.ab.ca/\(tilde\)ice/jennifer/xmas/songs.html](http://www.spots.ab.ca/(tilde)ice/jennifer/xmas/songs.html) and artforkids.mining.co.com.

— One reminder: If you're caroling outside in the dark, you'll need a flashlight.

— Begin with a brief warm-up or a longer rehearsal. Have your singers meet together for last-minute instructions and a song or two to warm up. If caroling with children, a slightly longer rehearsal may help refresh memories about song lyrics and get young singers focused on the caroling at hand, says Baylor Associate Dean of Music Georgia Green.

— Keep your program a reasonable length. For some, especially younger singers, the joy of Christmas starts to flag the longer a group is out singing. Generally, plan on caroling for about an hour, a little less if the weather is cold, a little longer if much of your time will be spent driving from point to point. Highland Baptist Church Minister of Music Gary Rhodes recommends singing two songs per house.

— End with hot chocolate (or hot cider) and cookies. All of those interviewed for this story agreed here: The best way to make caroling fun is to finish it off with some goodies.

To get you started in Christmas caroling, here are the words to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," a traditional English carol that many groups use to close their house-to-house singing, and to perennial holiday favorite "Deck the Halls."

We Wish You a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.
Chorus:
Good tidings to you and all of your kin,
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding,
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding,

Oh, bring us a figgy pudding and a cup of good cheer.
(Repeat chorus)
We won't go until we got some;
We won't go until we got some;
We won't go until we got some,
So bring some out here.
(Repeat chorus)
Deck the Halls
Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la,
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.
Troll the ancient yule-tide carol,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
See the blazing yule before us,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Groups help put dinner on the table

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Terrie Navarette and Christen Hester, young mothers living on Camp Pendleton Marine Base, say it has never happened to them, but they know other families who have run out of baby formula or have had to serve peanut butter sandwiches for dinner after the family's military paycheck ran out. The women say they and their husbands budget carefully, planning out meals for the next two weeks before going grocery shopping. But some-

times all the budgeting in the world isn't enough. Both women depend on the monthly food ministry provided by Military Parish Visitors, an outreach program of the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, to help keep their families eating balanced meals. Recently, more than 120 families carrying plastic bags lined up in the early evening chill to receive a bounty of squash, corn, onions, cucumbers, oranges, apples, ramen noodles, prepared salads, bread and

cookies. Before the distribution, Pat Kellenbarger, director of the two-woman staff of Military Parish Visitors, said a prayer asking God to bless the families. "I know a lot of families would be suffering quite a bit if it wasn't for (Pat)," said Navarette, 23, who has two small children. "All the stuff we get here is stuff we wouldn't buy because of the price. We (buy) fruit, but not a whole lot of it."

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- save 40% 2-piece sweater sets
- save 30% long-sleeve blouses, shirts and knit tops
- save 30% fleece separates
- save 30% juniors' collections
- save 25-40% selected juniors' Canyon River Blues® jeans

- gifts for him**
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- save 50% flannel shirts and turtlenecks
- save 50% Canyon River Blues® woven shirts
- save 50% corduroy pants
- save 40% gloves and mufflers
- save 40% flannel pjs and boxers
- save 30-50% team apparel
- gifts for kids**
- save 50% nylon and fleece sets

- gifts for kids**
- save 50% girls' 7-16 overalls
- save 30-50% team apparel
- save 40% packaged blanket sleepers
- save 50% turtlenecks and flannel shirts
- footwear**
- save 40% select fall shoes for the family
- save 40% select athletic shoes for men, women and kids
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ODDS-N-ENDS

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP) — The Grinch can't steal Christmas here — Santa Claus has an alarm system. And he's keeping local law enforcement busy.

When a 15-foot figure of Santa twice tumbled off his perch atop the L&P Office Products building on Main Street, police couldn't tell whether vandals or inclement weather caused the fall.

Roger Brown, who has organized the Snowflake Festival Parade for years and twice

helped restore Santa to his perch, wasn't taking any chances. He helped install an alarm system that automatically notifies 911.

On Wednesday, the scanner bleated "Santa is being vandalized" at least ten times. Each time, city police had to respond to make sure no one was vandalizing Santa.

Dispatchers at 911 theorized high winds could be triggering the sensor. They are trying to contact Brown to fix the problem.

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The company that makes those silly foam Cheeseheads hopes to get its way — its Cheesehead Whey, to be exact.

Foamation Inc., makers of the orange-and-yellow hats molded from polyurethane foam in the form of a cheese wedge, has moved its plant to St. Francis, Wis., a Milwaukee suburb.

Company officials have requested permission from the City Council to rename the street in front of their new

building to Cheesehead Whey — as in curds and whey.

"We like things different, kind of off the beaten path," Chris Becker, Foamation co-founder, said Tuesday. "We just like to have fun with things, including names, and we knew it didn't make sense to name our new building. So why not our new street?"

Alderman Richard Lentz was cautious about the proposal. "A street name change is a pretty permanent thing. What if they relocate again?"

Alderman Stanley Raclaw Jr. had a different problem. "My only concern would be that this be done at no cost to the city," he said.

Council members say they'll consider the idea. If they don't rename a major avenue, officials say they might rename a side street.

WESTON, Fla. (AP) — A judge has ordered two neighbors, who live just three doors apart, to stay away from each other after a foul dispute over

dog poop. Richard Eisenberg's 1-year-old golden retriever has been accused of soiling lawns in the gated community of Camellia Island.

Eisenberg's neighbor, Mark Rader, 35, claimed that when his wife rebuked Eisenberg, the dog's owner retaliated by putting dog feces in their mailbox.

Eisenberg, 31, denies it and says Rader then threw a plastic container filled with dog droppings at him and punched him in the face, leaving a gash on his forehead that required eight stitches.

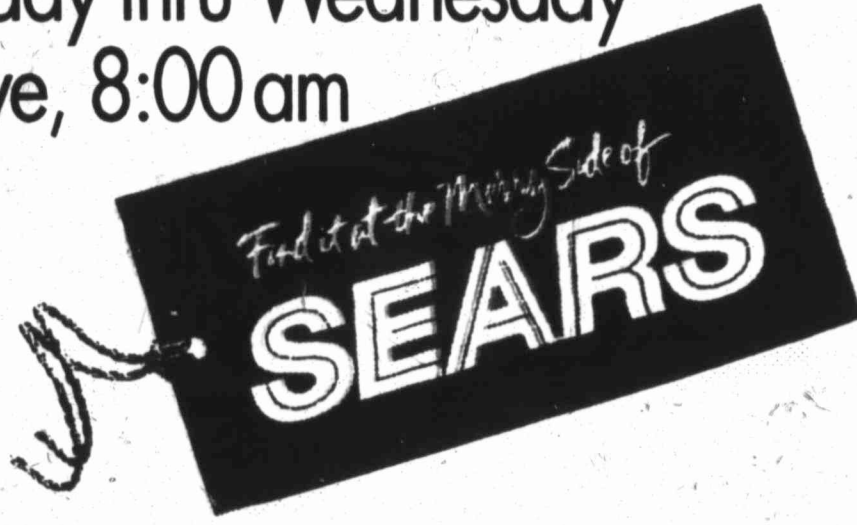
Rader admits he confronted Eisenberg, but says he never attacked him. "He said Eisenberg threw the container of feces back at him when he turned to leave, staining his white shirt."

On Tuesday, Broward Circuit Judge Lawrence Korda stepped in.

"Very few neighborhoods come to a fist fight because of dog feces," Korda said. "It's an uncivilized way to deal with such things."

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- Top Kids Video Sales**
(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)
- "Lion King II: Simba's Pride," Walt Disney Home Video.
 - "Lady and The Tramp," Walt Disney Home Video.
 - "Teletubbies: Here Come The Teletubbies," Warner Family Entertainment.
 - "Teletubbies: Dance With The Teletubbies," Warner Family Entertainment.
 - "Mary-Kate & Ashley Olson: Billboard Dad," Dualstar Video.
 - "Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island," Warner Family Entertainment.
 - "Quest For Camelot," Warner Family Entertainment.
 - "Hercules," Walt Disney Home Video.
 - "The Little Mermaid: Special Edition," Walt Disney Home Video.
 - "Anastasia," FoxVideo.

- Top Video Rentals**
(Compiled from a national sample of rental reports)
- "Armageddon," Touchstone Home Video.
 - "Deep Impact," Paramount Home Video.
 - "Dr. Dolittle," FoxVideo.
 - "The Mask Of Zorro," Columbia TriStar.
 - "The Negotiator," Warner Home Video.
 - "The Horse Whisperer," Touchstone Home Video.
 - "Small Soldiers," Universal Studios.
 - "Godzilla," Columbia TriStar.
 - "A Perfect Murder," Warner Home Video.
 - "Hope Floats," FoxVideo.

- Top Video Sales**
(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)
- "Armageddon," Touchstone Home Video.
 - "Small Soldiers," Universal Studios.
 - "The Mask Of Zorro," Columbia TriStar.
 - "Titanic," Paramount Home Video.
 - "Dr. Dolittle," FoxVideo.
 - "Lion King II: Simba's Pride," Walt Disney Home Video.
 - "Godzilla," Columbia TriStar.
 - "Gone With The Wind," MGM/UA Home Video.
 - "The Wedding Singer," New Line Home Video.
 - "Cats," PolyGram Video.
- Further information is available at Billboard Online on the World Wide Web at <http://www.billboard.com>.

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Santa letters coming Dec 23

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Here's something for the holiday stocking: Try shares of stocks

ATLANTA (AP) — Talk about the gift that keeps on giving. Suppose, instead of answering that classified ad and shelling out \$100 for Tickle Me Elmo last holiday season, you had presented your child with \$100 worth of stock in BellSouth Corp., a fast-growing Baby Bell that offers direct-from-the-company purchase of its shares. The value of that stock a year later would be \$169, with the

increase in the stock's price plus dividends between Dec. 7, 1997, and Dec. 7, 1998. Tickle Me Elmo is available this year in most stores. Price: under \$30. The practical-minded have been giving savings bonds and passbook accounts to children for years. Another alternative is stuffing some stock into that stocking. "It's a great investment for

their future and it's a great learning tool," said Dennis Fish of Atlanta, who has been giving stock — usually Coca-Cola — to children of family and friends for years. "And it doesn't break like a toy gift might." Owning stock might get kids to track their company's performance and learn about the ups and downs of the market. Individual investors can buy stock via the Internet and dis-

count brokerages or directly from some 500 companies that offer that option. However, many companies and brokerages require a minimum investment, usually \$250 to \$1,000, or charge commissions. At least one company specializes in single-share gifts: One Share of Stock Inc., which was started four years in San Francisco ago by Lance Lee, a broker struck by the number of

people asking for small amounts of stock. He offers single shares with frameable stock certificates, and even sells the frames for \$30 to \$50 extra. For gifts large and small, advisers such as Charles Carlson, author of "The Individual Investor Revolution," suggest giving children stock in companies they are familiar with. On favorite gift is Disney Co.

stock, whose colorful certificate depicts Walt Disney surrounded by characters such as Mickey Mouse and Dumbo. One Share currently offers Disney for \$81, \$49 of which is a commission. (The minimum to make an initial purchase directly from Disney is \$1,000.) Other stocks younger players might relate to include Toys R Us, Hasbro, Mattel, McDonald's, Hershey.

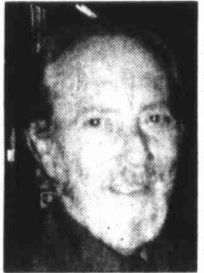
IN THE NEWS

Bert Hilger is the new service manager at Bob Brock Ford, and coincidentally employee of the month. He has been with the Lincoln Mercury Nissan dealership for 28 years in various capacities.



HILGER

Ralph Osborne is new to the service department. He is a Nissan Senior Technician with 10 years experience. He is also ASE master certified.



OSBORNE

Gwen Morton, M.A., OTR has opened her occupational therapy clinic, Specialized Therapy Services, at 710 Gregg St., Room 104. The clinic provides professional, individualized treatment and rehabilitation of the shoulder, arm and hand. For an appointment, call 263-4450.



MORTON

Edward Jones, the St. Louis-based financial services firm, rose 47 places this year to be ranked number 161 among the nation's 500 largest private companies, according to Forbes magazine's November issue. The firm also ranked No. 1 for the sixth consecutive year in a December industry survey conducted by Registered Representative magazine. "We are pleased to see our firm recognized in these prestigious rankings," said John Bachmann, Edward Jones' managing principal. The local Edward Jones office is at 219 Main St., 267-2501.



Kim Phinney arranges some watches at the Karat Patch, which features all types of items, including original, one-of-a-kind gift ideas.

Karat Patch has shoppers hopping for original, one-of-a-kind gift ideas

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

The Karat Patch may not be the place for Bugs Bunny to select his produce. But for Christmas shoppers seeking an original, one-of-a-kind gift, visiting Jay and Kim Phinney's jewelry design retail shop at their new location, 997 E. FM 700, may be what's up, doc. "I do all the custom design work. I do all my own original pieces here, and that's our hallmark. What you see in here you're not going to see anywhere else," said Jay Phinney, owner and designer for the Karat Patch. Phinney said while he enjoys

working with all mediums of jewelry, he specializes in working with colored gem stones. "We've cut our niche in colored stones. I do everything with jewelry — repairs, ring sizing, chains and repairing," he said. Phinney began his apprenticeship in jewelry design and creation about 16 years ago. He worked closely with another jeweler about a year, then began his own work. "It all started with an extended jewelry course at Howard College. It lasted six months, and by the end there were six of us there. That was 15 years ago and the class hasn't made since then," he said. Recently, the Karat Patch has relocated to the new building at

997 E. FM 700. He moved from his former location on 11th Place for several reasons, he said. "I thought this was more accessible. Parking is better here, and here I designed the store from the ground up," he said. The show room floor has a carrot theme, and Phinney said he has collected carrots for several years. "Customers have brought us carrots, and we do have carrots everywhere," he said. A sharp eye for detail, Phinney said his creations are original. He generates ideas from reading several contemporary art and jewelry publica-

See KARAT PATCH, Page 7B

Checking out

Scanners are now more accurate, but still, you'd better check the price twice

WASHINGTON (AP) — Holiday bargain shoppers beware: Before you tote home that super-sale item, make sure the price at the checkout counter matches the number on the clearance sign. One of every 28 sale items scanned the wrong price at checkouts, overcharging customers two-thirds of the time, according to a study being released today by the Federal Trade Commission. The rest of the time, the inaccurate price was too low, undercharging the consumer.

Overall, this year's survey of scanner pricing found an improvement in accuracy from a smaller study done in 1996. Of the 107,096 items checked in food, department, drug, hardware and other stores, one of every 30 was mispriced. Two years ago, scanners showed an incorrect price for one of every 21 items. "That's an incredibly low error rate given the amount of price changes that take place in a single department store," said Pamela Rucker, spokeswoman for the Washington-based National Retail Federation. "It's nothing for retailers to be ashamed of."

Retailers have made concerted efforts to improve their pricing accuracy, she said, for example by making in-house auditors responsible for overseeing price changes or by offering managers financial incentives for maintaining accuracy. In addition, some new inventions help ensure accuracy, said Mona Doyle of the Philadelphia-based Consumer Network, such as electronic shelf labels at supermarkets. The digital screen automatically shows an item's new price when it is changed in the store's computer. Consumer complaints about

price scanning have decreased this year, Doyle said. "I think you have more attention to it in the industry," she said. "It has definitely gotten better — not that it still doesn't drive consumers up the wall." Consumers headed to the grocery stores can relax their guard slightly, but those doing home repairs should be more careful: Food stores were the most likely to meet standards for acceptable accuracy; hardware stores were the least likely to do so. More stores today have acceptable accuracy in pricing — defined as having at least 98 percent of the items scan correctly — than they did two years ago, according to the survey conducted by weights and measures officials in 36 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The study found 71 percent of stores passed inspections, compared with only 45 percent in 1996. In 29 percent of the stores inspected, officials found an average of only 91 percent of the items scanned correctly — a figure that the survey and most states consider an accuracy problem.

An error occurs when the price charged for an item at checkout does not agree with the lowest advertised, quoted, posted or marked price. The report, prepared in conjunction with the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology, also showed that consumers are doing even better than they did two years ago when scanners undercharge for an item. Undercharges run an average of \$5.38, compared with \$2.96 in 1996. The cost of overcharges averaged \$3.20. The frequency of errors in non-sale items was slightly lower than for sale items. One of every 32 non-sale products came up with pricing mistakes.

Combines and computers work together

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — Right after combines and tractors, add to the list of essential farm equipment one more tool: a computer. From e-mail and Internet access to tracking crops and dairy herds, the computer is quickly replacing pencils, notebooks and scraps of paper in both barns and farmhouses. "I view the computer as being the cheapest hired man on the farm," said Doylestown dairyman Dave Bishop. The most advanced farmers

have been using early Apples and TRS-80s for 20 years, but as in every other sector of society, the computer is becoming more and more prevalent. Farmers have yield monitors and global positioning systems in their combines to track how well different sections of their land are producing. They have computers in their home to track their finances. And more dairy farmers are using their computers to keep track of their cows: how much milk each cow is producing,

when they're scheduled to go into heat, how much they've been fed. Dairy herd management programs, such as Cowsearch, allow a farmer to punch in a variety of information about each cow, then work with the data. The farmer can print out pedigrees for his cows, search his herd database to match the specifications of a buyer, even figure out which bull he should mate with heifers in his herd to produce the best calves.

Agriculture faces changing times

Agriculture in Howard County is facing changing times. With change, some win and some lose. The way that you cope as an individual or as a community is what determines whether you are a winner or a loser. Change always brings opportunity. We are truly in a world market for agriculture. Agriculture depends on a strong world export market to keep the markets strong for all

agricultural commodities. A good comparison that most people understand is oil prices today. Oil is as cheap as it has been since the '70s. Why is this? The Pacific Rim Countries are using approximately 1 million barrels of oil less per day because of economic conditions. It is a fact that when times get hard, people buy only what they must have and will usually buy the cheapest, alternative. The cotton market has been very weak this year and is projected to be weak next year. Why? Demand will be down. People buy only items they need. So less clothes, towels, other cotton products are purchased. To further complicate things since oil prices are

cheap, synthetic fibers are cheap. So instead of buying cotton they are purchasing cheaper synthetic fibers. One usually has to seek out new opportunities. They do not usually seek you out. So we as individuals and as a community must seek out and research all potential opportunities to diversify our agricultural economy and our agricultural producers. This is vital to both them and us as a community if we want to continue to progress forward. So as the new year begins lets all make a commitment to take the initiative as leaders within our community to solve the crucial problems that we have and that will come up before us in the future so that we all might have a better place to live in the future.

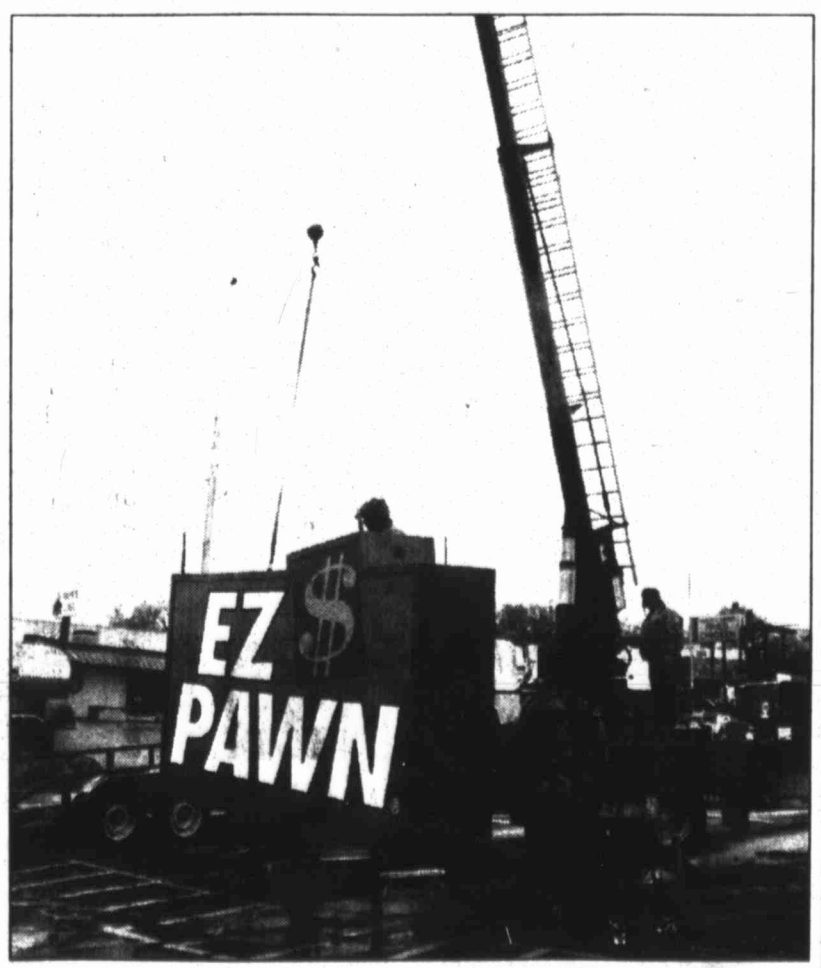


DAVID KNIGHT

EZ Pawn opens location here

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

You'll find jewelry, stereos, electronics, computers, sporting good and household items at the new EZ Pawn on Gregg Street. But you won't find small caliber handguns. "We disposed of more than 2,000 small caliber handguns, we gave them to the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire Arms) and the police. We decided, on our own, that these do not provide any value to the communities we serve," said Mitch Carley, marketing director for EZ Corp., the company that owns EZ Pawns. The new store opened Friday, and customers seeking to buy good, used items, or to borrow money on their own items, may find quality service at the store, according to Carley. "We are a lender center first, and a retail center second. We believe we are the best pawn shop in the world for three reasons: one, we loan more, two, we have outstanding values, and three, we have absolutely the best service in the industry," Carley said. The new store, complete with balloons for the grand opening, is colorful, with display cases filled with merchandise enhanced by lights. The 50th EZ Pawn to open this year, Carley said the



The EZ Pawn on Gregg Street was the 50th to open this year and growth is expected to continue.

growth of the corporation is expected to continue. "More than 50 percent of our 300 stores are in Texas. We are going to continue to be as aggressive as we are, we are

not going to slack off," he said. Lending money is the first priority with the business, although the showroom floor is

See EZ PAWN, Page 7B

BIG SPRING Sunday, Justice of t China Lo Precinct Bad Chec The addr known addr remain until If any probl contact Chir 2226. Crawford, Big Spring Deleon, D 10th, Big Spr Gonzales, Spring Hernand Big Spring Hilger, Je Spring Hodges, Fr Big Spring Hodges, T 21st, Big Spr Lane, Tiff Clyde Larson, Jo Spring Lopez, M Lamesa Lozano, S Big Spring Luck, Jef Drive, Apt. 4 Lujan, Glor Odessa Matthews, Big Spring Miramonte Big Spring Palencia, L Spring Pavlovsky, Lubbock Pearce, Del City Perkins, T Spring Servantes, 521, Big Spr Smith, Bar Odessa Talamante Golder, Odess Tipton, M Coleman Torres, A Hickory, Swe Tovar, Rac (SWCID), Big Howard Co Marriage I Vance Ray Elizabeth Stur Arnulfo Ma Gonzales, 36 David Ira Misty Maelee Scott James Ann Erwin, 2 Robbin De Amanda Wrig Court Reop Motion to o probation: Tor Pachl, Danny Richard Til Nelson, Rub William A. R Larry V. Willi Cecil R. Ro Gonzales, Jr., Anthony Ra Beard, Ricard Luis Hernand Fabiola Ocho Michael Mata Probated Katherine Fay 180 days in jail \$250 fine and KARAT Continued fro tions, he said "I'm inter sculpture. Th with what's s he said. Currently, ing jewelry theme, and h original piec flavor. His work he believes p to a finished "Most of m require a min EZ PAW Continued fro designed to retail mercha "The un-ba growing and And we are them with ins best service

PUBLIC RECORDS

Justice of the Peace

China Long
-Precinct 1, Place 1
Bad Checks/Warrants issued:
The addresses listed are the last known addresses. Names on this list remain until all fines have been paid. If any problems with this list, please contact China Long's office at 264-2226.
Crawford, Randall, P.O. Box 1929, Big Spring
Deleon, Denie Eugene, 708 N.W. 10th, Big Spring
Gonzales, Angel, 410 Bell, Big Spring
Hernandez, Omega, P.O. Box 1574, Big Spring
Hilger, Jennifer, 1101 Mesa, Big Spring
Hodges, Frances M., 1804 Alabama, Big Spring
Hodges, Tammy Michelle, 1004 E. 21st, Big Spring
Lane, Tiffany M., 217 Shannon, Clyde
Larson, Joanna L., 810 W. 16th, Big Spring
Lopez, Michael, 602 N. Flint, Lamesa
Lozano, Sandra, 2908 Cherokee, Big Spring
Luck, Jeffery B., 1624 Sunset Drive, Apt. 404, San Angelo
Lujan, Gloria, 1411 S. Grant No. 73, Odessa
Matthews, Kathy, 3701 Connally, Big Spring
Miramontes, Arthur, Jr., 2616 Ent, Big Spring
Palencia, Lucinda, P.O. Box 61, Big Spring
Pavlovsky, Ronald, 5412 8th Place, Lubbock
Pearce, Deborah, Box 182, Garden City
Perkins, Teri L., 1108 Nolan, Big Spring
Servantes, James Candy, P.O. Box 521, Big Spring
Smith, Barbara, 1203 N. Goloe, Odessa
Talamantez, Barbara, 1208 N. Golder, Odessa
Tipton, Monte, HC 75, Box 85, Coleman
Torres, Adam Mauricio, 1205 Hickory, Sweetwater
Tovar, Rachel L., 3200 Ave. C. (SWCID), Big Spring

Howard County Clerk's Office:

Marriage Licenses:
Vance Ray Jones, 38, and Marsha Elizabeth Sturdivant, 39
Arnulfo Martinez, 44, and Alice Gonzales, 36
David Ira Adwell, Jr., 22, and Misty Maelee Michulka, 21
Scott James Honea, 23, and Lori Ann Erwin, 21
Robbin Dean Cooley, 34, and Amanda Wright, 21

Court Records:

Motion to dismiss revocation of probation: Tom Burk, Michael David Pachl, Danny Ray Light, James Richard Tilmon, Barbara Ann Nelson, Ruben Bruce Powers, William A. King, Alan Lee Hall, Larry V. Willis, Charles Lee Yarber, Cecil R. Rodriguez, Antonio A. Gonzales, Jr., Raul Gonzales, Craig Anthony Rangell, Edward Lester Beard, Ricardo Munoz Martinez, Joe Luis Hernandez, Joseph Lee Turner, Fabiola Ochoa, Elviera Brito, Joe Michael Mata
Probated judgment DWLI: Katherine Faye McGee \$250 fine and 180 days in jail, Rodney Keith Allen \$250 fine and 180 days in jail, Betty

Muniz \$250 fine and 180 days in jail, Rafael Garcia \$400 fine and 180 days in jail
Judgment & sentence DWLI: Javier Valenzuela Ruiz \$500 fine, \$162 court cost and 14 days in jail, Christopher David Gonzales \$250 fine, \$184.25 court cost and 3 days in jail, Abner Hollis Shellman \$250 fine, \$184.25 court cost and 3 days in jail
Judgment & sentence harassment/telephone: Christine Menezes \$100 fine and \$219.25 court cost
Probated judgment criminal mischief over \$50/ less than \$500: Roger Fierro \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
Revocation of probation and imposition of sentence: Steven Anthony Rodriguez, Raul Mendez, Jason Lee Diaz, Michael Vanderbilt, Steven Loyd Bateman, Lupe Hernandez
Judgment & sentence possession of marijuana under two ounces: Michael Dean Nall \$500 fine, \$184.25 court cost, Jason Lee Diaz \$500 fine, \$254.25 court cost and 90 days in jail
Judgment & sentence assault: Jason Lee Diaz \$500 fine, \$254.25 court cost and 90 days in jail, Raul Mendez \$1,000 fine, \$254.25 court cost and 180 days in jail
Probated judgment theft over \$50/under \$500: Alvin Lamar Roberts \$500 fine and 180 days in jail
Order of dismissal: Sherry Rae Burdette, Jan Webb Foresyth, Betty Boyd O'Connell, Quenton Donnell Clark, Joe Lee Royster, Ronald Walter Anderson, Frank Joseph Leible, Kenneth Mearns, Jr., Joe H. Rodriguez, Doris White, Dolores Hernandez, James R. Nolan, Karl James Schoenfeld, Esequiel Calderon, Lupe Roy Gomez
Probated judgment assault: Timothy M. Duffey \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
Probated judgment possession of marijuana under two ounces: David Dean Fisher \$500 fine and 180 days in jail, Javier Valenzuela Ruiz \$400 fine and 180 days in jail, Isaac L. Martinez \$500 fine and 180 days in jail, Francisco Loya \$250 fine and 180 days in jail, Eliza Cole \$300 fine and 180 days in jail
Probated judgment DWI: Barry Lee McLemore \$750 fine and 180 days in jail, Rodney Keith Allen \$1,000 fine and 180 days in jail, Richard Vela \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail, Louis V. Chapa \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail, Mickey Aubrey Emerson (2nd offense) \$2,000 fine and 365 days in jail
Probated judgment DWLS: Louis V. Chapa \$250 fine and 180 days in jail

118th District Court:

Filings:
Accounts, notes & contracts:
Co-Ex Pipe Company vs. Fred Nicholson, d/b/a Fort Davis Feed & Supply
Sue Read vs. Milton Mallard Providian National Bank vs. Enrique M. Rodriguez
Cain Electrical Supply Corp. vs. Neil Blakley, d/b/a Blakley Electric
Injuries & damages with a motor vehicle:
Gwendolyn Combs vs. Shawn Hayden Tanner and Norbert Guillott
Robert Cansino vs. Larry D. Duggan and Baize Trucking
Pamela Hayes vs. Barney Rubinstein
Family:
Susan Corkern vs. Don Lewis
Joseph Bradley Robertson vs. Denise Ann Robertson
Edith Hamilton vs. Jimmy Long
Brenda Lee Perez vs. Vernor H. Garcia
Patsy Garza vs. Roberto P. Garza
Divorce:
Sandra Kay Darnell vs. Mack Gene Darnell
Margie Marie Strickland vs. Bruce Alan Strickland
Charles Byron Harrington vs. Judith Ann Harrington
Injuries & damages:
Sue Read vs. Fred Eugene Forster, III and Sunpoint Securities, Inc.
Rulings:
Michealle Lynne Jordy vs. Claude Wayne Jordy, family law
Eugene Moreno Vasquez vs. Dora Rivera Vasquez, family law
Connie Sue Morris vs. Jackie Dale Morris, family law
Cindy R. Stephens vs. Ricky Stephens, family law
Juan M. Basurto vs. Maria Ann Basurto, family law
Sally Brito Amaro vs. Pedro Amaro, Jr., family law
Debra Dancer vs. Lawrence Dancer, family law
Lorenzo Yanez vs. Melinda Machado Yanez, family law
Howard County, Et Al vs. Carol Taylor and McKenna Taylor, judgment-tax
Alisa Kay Pierce vs. Jerry Clinton Pierce, family law
Estate of Wayne Basden vs. In Re, transfer-other
Howard County, Et Al vs. Sara Martinez, judgment-tax
Darla Heffington vs. David Heffington, family law
Betty Jo Hernandez vs. Julie Alta Reading and William, dismissed-IDM
Annie B. Samuel, Et Al vs. Big Spring State Hospital, dismissed-IDO
Cary Dale Brown vs. Katherine Dean Brown, transfer-family
Manuel Vasquez, III vs. Abel Moving and Transfer, judgment-IDM
Shannon Dale Bunch vs. Alton Ray Fambro and Kathy, judgment-IDM
Stacey J. Keller vs. Thomas K. Morgan, dismissed-family
Leigh Ann Fleming vs. Stephen Franklin Fleming, family law
Alanda Lee Picazo vs. Geronimo Picazo, granted-divorce
Diana Ann Sosa vs. Manuel Sosa, family law
Citizens Federal Credit Union vs. Aginaldo Martinez, III, judgment-ANC
Howard County, Et Al vs. Ricardo Lomas, judgment-tax
John S. Flores vs. Ruth Flores, family law
Bernard Kenneth Myers vs. Kristi Gail Myers, granted-divorce
Judy Saldivar vs. Paulita Martinez, dismissed-IDM
Darryl H. Powell vs. Howard Hornsby and John Paul, dismissed-IDO
Broughton Farm Company vs. Scott Underwood, judgment-IDO
Abdul R. Baluch, M.D. vs. The Original Clinic, ANC
Howard County, Et Al vs. Vance Miller, judgment-tax
Norman Bearden vs. Sharon Masingill, dismissed-IDM
Dena D. Jobe vs. Troy M. Jobe, divorce-granted
Allan Reuarn Daves, Jr. vs. Zeita Mar Daves, divorce-granted
Howard County, Et Al vs. Lynn Kerney, judgment-tax
Howard County, Et Al vs. A.G. Gilbert, judgment-tax
Angela D. Clanton vs. Don Lloyd Brooks, family law
Doyle Railsback vs. Alma A. Martinez, judgment-IDM

Kristine Roubek Moore vs. Gary Raymond Moore, divorce-granted
Lupe Gutierrez vs. Big Spring State Hospital, judgment-ANC
Lisa Currie vs. Jerry Jon Currie, divorce-granted
Howard County, Et Al vs. Mike Tovar and wife, judgment-tax
Tammy K. Acuff vs. Johnny Lance Dean Acuff, divorce-granted
Melissa Elaine Brown vs. John Edward Poffranger, family law
Jeannetta Ramey Newsom vs. Michael Robert Newsom, divorce-granted
Carmelita Chavera vs. Marcos Chavera, dismissed-divorce
Lori Lee Savell vs. Deland W. Savell, judgment-family
Maria Del Carm Cervantes vs. Anthony A. Lewis, judgment-family
Donna Jo Makowsky vs. Terry Rob Makowsky, granted-divorce
Herbert Daniel Dedrick vs. Doris A. Crawford Dedrick, granted-

divorce
Rose Lea Sandridge vs. Stephen Larry Sandridge, granted-divorce
Matthew S. Dahmer vs. Cheree S. Dahmer, granted-divorce
Royce and Laura Kemper vs. Clifford Ferrell, D.O., Et Al, dismissed-IDO
Jennifer Gamble vs. Albert Smith, family law
Lisa Arenivaz vs. Miguel Arenivaz, family law
Yolanda Mire vs. Danny Rodriguez, family law
Arlene Morin vs. Gilberto Sanchez, dismissed-family
Misty Rose King vs. Terry Wayne King, granted-divorce
Melissa Dawn Edenfield vs. Jerry Lawrence Edenfield, granted-divorce
Fred Marcus Phillips vs. Melissa Phillips, granted-divorce
Cheryl Ann Starr vs. Darryl Thomas Starr, granted-divorce
Kayla Jo Karr vs. Timothy Craig

Karr, family law
Priscilla Ann Garcia vs. Oscar P. Garcia, family law
Pauline A. Wood vs. Milas Reason Wood, granted-divorce
Cecilia G. Hilario vs. Joseph Turner, family law
Jack Ross Cathey, Sr. vs. Katie Lou Cathey, dismissed-divorce
Sandra Lynn Dean vs. Robert Edward Dean, judgment-family
Beverly Ann Covarrubias vs. Alfredo Covarrubias, judgment-family
Denise Qualls vs. Erik Qualls, judgment-family
Melissa Ann Chavarria vs. Petre Chavarria, judgment-family
Sheila Chappell vs. Howard Wayne Chappell, family law
Nora Gunter vs. Frank Douglas Williams, family law
Carmen Cervantes vs. Anthony Lewis, family law

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But don't forget you must redeem your certificate at the Big Spring HEB, 2000 S. Gregg by Wednesday, December 23rd.
Seasons Greetings
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KARAT PATCH

Continued from Page 6B
tions, he said.
"I'm interested in art and sculpture. These keep me fresh with what's going on out there," he said.
Currently, Phinney is creating jewelry with a Christmas theme, and he is also designing original pieces with a Christian flavor.
His work is meticulous, and he believes patience lends itself to a finished work.
"Most of my custom designs require a minimum of one week

preparation. But I am not going to sacrifice quality in the interest of saving time," Phinney said.
Photograph albums filled with pictures of Phinney's creations sit atop display cases. The pieces available for sale begin at \$20, and range upward.
"I've made about 80 percent of the jewelry in here," Phinney said.
Store hours have been extended for the holiday season. On Tuesday, the Karat Patch will be open until 8 p.m., and Jay and Kim will also be open Saturday. Regular hours are

Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call the Karat Patch at 267-1480.

EZ PAWN

Continued from Page 6B
designed to highlight their retail merchandise.
"The un-banked customer is growing and they need help. And we are prepared to help them with instant cash with the best service available," Carley

said.
The store is open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The phone number is 267-1370. A full staff, including manager Jesse Sanchez, have been hired. Sales loan representatives are Elaine Sumpter, Murphy Henry, Sue Henson and Gloria Flores.

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DECEMBER 20 1998

Herald Classifieds

AUTO FOR SALE

1989 Toyota Tercel, 4 door hatchback, automatic, am/fm stereo, a/c. \$2100 or best offer. Call 268-9612.

1994 Chrysler New Yorker. Fully Loaded! Good condition. Call 263-4918 leave message.

'93 Chevrolet APV Van Mark III. Factory conversion. Loaded. Excellent Condition. \$6000-268-9544.

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'97 Chrysler Sebring LXI. 24,500/miles excellent condition. \$17,500 OBO. 263-1437 or 267-2892.

FOR SALE: '88 F-250 Ford Supercab. Flatbed ranch pickup. 8 mos. left on warranty on motor. Single rear wheels. \$2500. 398-5565.

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'95 CR 250. Super sharp, won't find another like it around. \$2500 serious inquiries only. 264-0123.

'94 Chev. PU Ext. Cab Silverado w/ Conv. Pkg. Loaded, one owner. Red w/gold trim. \$15,750.

'79 Chev. PU. V8, Auto. Longwide bed, tool box. \$1450.

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915 263-5000

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1966 Chevrolet 3/4 ton, 350 4 speed, long wide bed. See at PERCO or call 267-9523 after 6:00 pm. \$1,800 OBO.

1986 Ford Supercab XLT 4/wheel drive, less than 92,000/miles. \$1,850 will talk trade. Call 263-2061 or 267-7247.

'94 Z-71 Black Chev. Ext. Cab Pickup. 60/40 seat. 1 owner, loaded. 42K. Immaculate. \$15,900. 268-9544.

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HELP WANTED

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up to **\$2,000**
CUSTOMER CASH ON SELECT '99 NISSANS
plus
AN ADDITIONAL **\$500 off**

*900 NISSAN CUSTOMER CASH OFFER IN ADDITION TO OTHER FACTORY INCENTIVES ON ANY NEW 1999 NISSAN MAXIMA, PATHFINDER, ALTIMA, FRONTIER, SENTRA OR ANY REMAINING NEW 1998 MODEL.
Get to your participating Nissan retailer, make your best deal on any of the above vehicles and get an additional \$500 off from Nissan. *900 offer ends January 4th.

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