

BIG SPRING HERALD

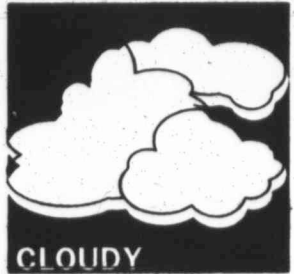
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MONDAY
December 21, 1998

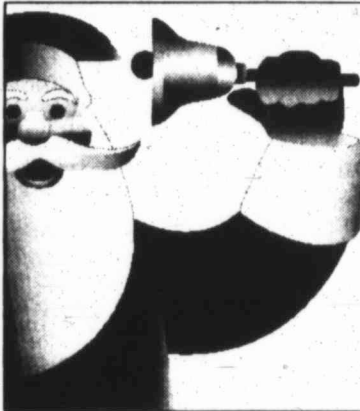
Tonight:



CLOUDY
TONIGHT 15°-18° **TUESDAY 30°-35°**

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.
- KBST, Mix 94.3 and the Herald are sponsoring a pet food drive for the Humane Society. Bring pet food to 608 Johnson or 710 Scurry.

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The eagle-eyed sentry scans the horizon for Santa's sleigh.



4 shopping days 'til Christmas
Sponsored by
BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 96, No. 52

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

Local stores are flooded with last-minute Christmas shoppers

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

Local stores drew a crowd Saturday as shoppers took advantage of the last weekend before Christmas.

"We had to wait until we got some time," said Mary Ann Wallace, browsing at the Big Spring Mall with Brenda Davis. "That's kind of the fun of Christmas," Davis added. "We like to shop."

"And we do everything at the last minute," Wallace said.



WALLACE **DAVIS**

Among the browsers and serious shoppers crowding the stores Saturday were those who are starting to feel the pressure of the season creeping up on

them.

For Todd and Judy Crawford, the last-minute shopping was a necessity.

"We waited until the last payday before Christmas," said Todd. The only problem with having to wait is that not everything else will be added.

"We've seen things we wanted, and when payday comes around, it's not there anymore." Planning ahead is definitely their plan for next year, said Judy.

"This last-minute stuff is hard to do."

Scott and Esther Whitmore normally have all their shopping done by now. But this year, they had a surprise.

"There were some friends I had forgotten," Esther explained. "And they sent us a gift, so we had to come out and get them something."

The Whitmores usually have all their shopping done by about the first of December, the couple agreed.

"She's good about getting it done early," Scott said.

Among those out this weekend, many agreed they wish

they had been finished a week or two earlier, so they could relax as the holiday drew closer.

Anita Ball, for example, has her shopping, present-wrapping and almost all of her decorating finished.

"I'm done," she explained as she was hitting the stores this weekend. "I just need one specific decoration, and I'm going to keep looking until I find it."

Ball plans to cook and bake all week, making her final preparations for a wonderful Christmas with family.

Canned food drive response 'excellent' so far

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

The Salvation Army canned food drive continues through the end of the year, and already, area schools have gathered about 18,000 cans of food for area needy.

"The canned food drive has been going excellent. We've even had people bringing in food here," said Danelle Castillo, social services director for the corps.

Area schools helped with the drive, and a combined total netted more than 18,000 cans, she said.

"One school brought in 4,000 cans. Forsan brought in staples, like bags of flour and bags of sugar," Castillo said.

The H-E-B Food Store Ring In A Miracle program is continuing through the holiday season, and Major Roy Tolcher, commanding officer of the local corps, said totals should be available in January.

"The Ring In A Miracle project is simple to do. When a customer is in H-E-B buying groceries, they just have to decide if they want to donate \$1 or \$2 to the Salvation Army, then let their cashier know," said Castillo.

That amount will be added to the register total, and all money collect will be given to the Salvation Army, she said.

TCA Cable continues its canned food drive, offering to eliminate the installation charges of new cable television



TCA Cable staff Susan Cevallos, left, Terri Born, and Peggy Crabtree arrange the cans donated for the Salvation Army food drive.

service or the labor charges for a service upgrade.

Castillo said TCA Cable's food drive always nets a large amount for the Salvation Army pantry, and she anticipates another boom year.

Peggy Crabtree, customer service representative with TCA Cable, said about 150 customers thus far have participated in the drive.

"It's going great, really, really well. We've had great response, and it is wonderful how this is

working," Crabtree said.

Those customers who have contributed have been new customers, as well as those upgrading their service, she said.

Castillo said the holiday food drive is important for restocking the food pantry the Salvation Army operates all year.

Food baskets will be sent to families as part of their Christmas program. These baskets contain turkey or hens, as well as the fixings for a tradi-

tional holiday meal, she said.

In addition to the Angel Tree program and food drive campaigns, the Salvation Army also provides written solicitations to local residents.

"For those not able to adopt an angel, or those who have not been able to send in their mail appeal, it is never too late to help at Christmas," Castillo said.

On Monday, volunteers final

See **FOOD**, Page 2

Tragedy

Local woman dies in accident on holiday trip

By **JOHN H. WALKER**
Managing Editor

A holiday ski trip turned into a tragedy in south central Colorado on Sunday for a Big Spring family when a one-vehicle accident claimed the life of 41-year-old Teri Thomas.



THOMAS

Thomas and her husband, Howard County attorney Mike Thomas and their three children, Allison, Jason and Scott, were on a holiday ski trip when the accident occurred at 11:30 a.m. (MST) seven miles south of Saguache, Colo. on U.S. Highway 285.

Mrs. Thomas was pronounced dead at 5:15 p.m. at San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa, Colo.

According to Colorado State Trooper Darren Barnes, the accident occurred after the vehicle had run off the pavement and struck a delineator pole.

"The father grabbed the steer

See **TRAGEDY**, Page 2

Pet food drive continues

Herald Staff Report

Howard County residents have just a few more days to contribute to a food drive benefiting the Big Spring Humane Society.

The project between KBST, Mix 94.3 and the Big Spring Herald continues through Thursday at the close of business. For the Herald, that's 1 p.m.

To help with the pet food drive, bring dry or canned dog

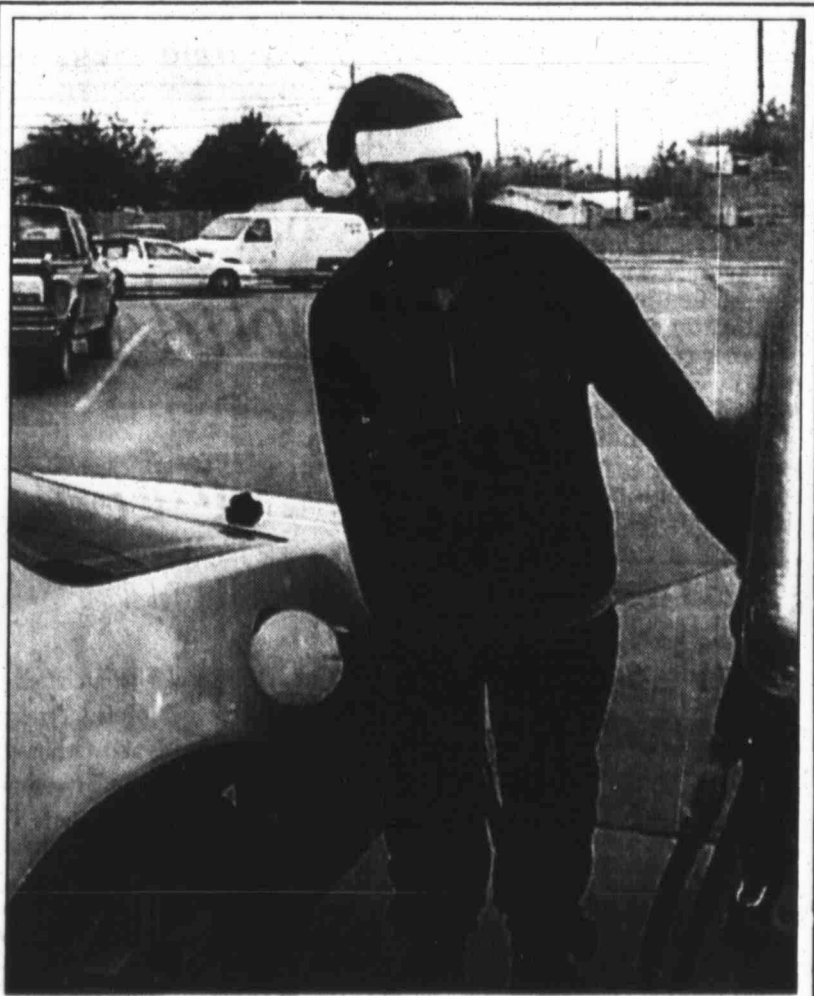
or cat food to KBST, 608 Johnson, or the Herald, 710 Scurry.

Those taking food to the radio station will receive a free CD, said John Weeks, general manager. Dry, canned or food in foil packets will all be accepted.

Humane Society volunteers said the shelter goes through 15 to 20 50-pound bags a week currently, just for dogs.

Cats food is also needed.

At the close of business that evening, the food will be delivered to the Humane Society.



Chris Knox of KBST radio helped out at the pumps on Saturday at H-E-B. The annual event helped raise money for the Toys for Tots campaign.



Pat Simmons, left, Michelle Werner, and Jane Jones count the birds of various species at Big Spring Country Club on Saturday afternoon.

Frosty weather blankets area

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Officially, winter begins tonight. In reality, winter-like weather moved into the area this morning, pushing temperatures into a downward plunge that will reach the teens this evening.

"We're seeing that the cold front, the strongest cold air of the year, began pushing through Big Spring this morning," said Ray Fagen, meteorologist with the National Weather

Service in Midland. "The story is that it is pretty much just going to continue to be cold through Christmas Day."

Fagen said Howard County residents can expect a low into the teens tonight. Skies will be cloudy and there is a possibility of some snow or freezing rain.

"We may see a few flurries, but less than an inch accumulation. This is nothing like the front we had that dropped six or eight inches on us," Fagen said.

Lows will stay in the teens Tuesday night, then "warm up" into the 20s, he said. Highs will

be in the 30s and 40s.

Temperatures will run around 15 degrees below normal. According to Fagen, normal highs for Big Spring this time of year are in the mid-50s, with lows in the mid-30s.

"Driving conditions will depend on what kind of precipitation we get," said Fagen.

Those planning on making holiday trips later this week are advised to use caution and check road conditions.

Wind chills will be in the sub-freezing range tonight.

OBITUARIES

Harriet R. Franklin

Service for Harriet R. Franklin, 79, Amarillo, formerly of Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1998. Burial will be in Memorial Park, Amarillo.

Mrs. Franklin died Thursday, Dec. 17, in Amarillo.

She was born in Fond Du Lac, Wis. She married Elmer L. Franklin in 1950, in Las Cruces, N.M. She graduated with an associates degree in accounting at Howard College at the age of 59.

Survivors include: her husband, Harriet R. Franklin of Amarillo; one son, K.W. Franklin of Amarillo; three daughters, Bernadette Schmitz of Ripon, Wis., Mary Ellen McLean of Euless, and Prudie Childress of Florence, Miss.; three brothers, Harold Richter of Port Orange, Fla., Gerald Richter of Fond Du Lac, Wis., and William Richter of Granbury; one sister, Marian Richter of Falls Church, Md.; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Arrangements under the direction of Schooler Gordon Funeral Home, Amarillo.

Lucille R. O'Brien

Lucille R. O'Brien, 79, Cleburne, formerly of Big Spring, died on Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998, in a Cleburne hospital.



O'BRIEN

Graveside service will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1998, at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Eldon Cook, retired Baptist minister, officiating.

She was born on Jan. 3, 1919, in Ellis County, and married Roy Lee O'Brien on June 21, 1971, in Arkansas. He preceded her in death on Dec. 18, 1991.

She had worked as a waitress for 15 years at the Lamar Restaurant in Big Spring, before moving to Cleburne in 1992.

She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include: two daughters and sons-in-law, Edith and

James McKenzie of Cleburne, and Esther and Leland Owens of Stephenville; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Sara Skelton of Taylor, and Jean and Ruben Steadmon of Big Spring; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Maxine Randell of Lake Isabel, Calif.; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a son, David Stuteville, her parents, five brothers and three sisters.

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

Paid obituary

Johnnie June Amos

Johnnie June Amos, 83, Big Spring, passed away Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998, at her residence after a long illness.

Funeral service is 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1998, at Myers & Smith Chapel, Dr. Ed Williamson, pastor of First United Methodist Church, will be officiating. Interment will be at Trinity Memorial Park. Mrs. Amos was born Nov. 9, 1915, in Garden City to John Chaney and Essie Cox Chaney. She moved to Big Spring at an early age. While working as a registered nurse at Indian Hospital in Whiteriver, Ariz., she met and married George Amos on May 17, 1941. She moved to Big Spring in 1946 with her family, where she lived the rest of her life. She taught for 26 years and retired in 1978 from Howard College, after setting up the LVN and RN programs.

She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by: her husband, George Amos of Big Spring; one son, John Paul Amos (and his wife, Becky) of Big Spring; two daughters, June Russell of Big Spring, and Vicki Hyer (and her husband, Tommy) of Keithville, La.; one brother, Jim Bob Chaney (and his wife, Anne) of Houston; one sister, Arlyne Johnston of Austin; nine grandchildren, Lisa Oxzendine (and her husband, Chris), Loryne Colette (and her husband, Lee), Jon William Amos, Jay Paul Amos, Dusti Amos, Hank Schauer, Holly Borel (and her husband Ray), Tim Hyer and Brett Hyer; 13 great-grandchildren, Miranda and Michelle Price, Danielle Oxendine, Ryane and Remy Colette, Zack and Briana Amos, Tammie Schaur, Adam and Sarah Borel, Christopher and Jonathan Hyer and Chase Johnson; several nieces and nephews.

she was preceded in death by one grandson, James Russell, and one son-in-law, Mickey Russell.

Pallbearers will be: Jon William Amos, Jay Paul Amos, Hank Schauer, Lee Colette, Jan Tom Whately, and Van Tom Whately. Honorary pallbearers will be Ray Borel and Chris Oxendine.

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

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Ponder of Germany; two brothers, Ron Ponder of Tulsa, Okla., and Terry Ponder of Germany; on aunt, Joan Smiles of Tucson, Ariz., one uncle, Robert McKinney of Lancaster; five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Jasper Wright

Service for Jasper Wright, 95, Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He died Monday, Dec. 21, 1998, at Comanche Trail Nursing Home.

H.D. "Ace" Gillette

Graveside service for H.D. "Ace" Gillette, 86, Big Spring, will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1998, at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Monroe Teeters, retired Baptist minister, officiating.

Mr. Gillette died Sunday, Dec. 20, at his residence.

He was born on Jan. 10, 1912, in Plaski, Tenn. He married Dorothy Rimmer in 1943, and she preceded him in death in 1974. He then married Ara Lee Bailey on Dec. 21, 1979, in Colorado City. He was raised in Franklin, Tenn. Mr. Gillette had lived in Big Spring since 1948, and worked as a heavy equipment operator for Bettelwomack Construction for 29 years, retiring in 1974. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include: his wife, Ara Lee "Dollie" Gillette of Big Spring; two sons, Wayne Gillette of Zion, Ill., and Pete Gillette of Big Spring; four daughters, Penny Timbs of Golden, Miss., Alma Evans of Jacksonville, Ark., Wanda Nelson and Sandra "Sandy" Norwood, both of Weatherford; 16 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

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

FOOD

Continued from Page 1

ize sorting and creating more than 700 angel tree children packages.

On Wednesday, those families who failed to meet the deadline for the Angel Tree program, will begin calling Castillo seeking Christmas for their children.

Castillo said she began creating a waiting list, but as more families came in, she decided to ask them to call her back Wednesday.

"I've had to tell them we may not be able to help, and I don't want to give them false hope. We've so many more needing help this year than last year," she said.

TRAGEDY

Continued from Page 1

ing wheel after the vehicle had drifted off the road," Barnes said. "The vehicle spun counter-clockwise two times, ejecting the mother."

Barnes said Teri and 18-year-old Allison were in the back seat of the vehicle and that neither one was wearing a seatbelt. Allison Thomas was treated and released from San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center.

He added that while it was "very, very windy" at the time of the accident, the roadway was dry.

Mrs. Thomas was a second grade teacher at St. Mary's Episcopal School, where she had taught for seven years. She is a former president of the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center board as well as the Big Spring Women's Club. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She was a graduate of Texas

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Tech University and earned her masters at the University of Houston. She married Mike Thomas on Dec. 22, 1978.

The Thomas family was recognized in October 1996 by the Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas as Big Spring's "Family of the Year."

Funeral arrangements were incomplete at press time.

SUPPORT GROUPS

MONDAY

•A1-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 Runnels (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 Runnels, Clyde Alsup 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 Runnels (formerly the TU building) For further information call Sondra at 267-7220.

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

TUESDAY

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

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.

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

•Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday in

February, April, June, August, October and December in the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 West Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.

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

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

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

POLICE

Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 3 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

•THREATS were reported at Wal-Mart.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported at 311 NE 8th.

•THEFT was reported in the lobby of 1209 11th Place.

•SETH NEWELL was arrested on local warrants.

•JESSIE MARTIN was arrested for disorderly conduct language.

•JOHN RUSK was arrested on local warrants.

•CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported at 1600 Robin.

•AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of East 47th.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported at 1002 N. Main.

•THEFT was reported at 311 Gregg.

•DOMINICA TRACKER was arrested for local warrants.

•ASSAULT BY THREAT was made in the 3300 block of West 80.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported at 311 NE 8th.

•THEFT was reported at 2310 Wasson.

•THEFT was reported at 1209 11th Place.

FIRE/EMS

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

FRIDAY

12:51 a.m. - 3200 block Parkway, medical call, one patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

2:52 a.m. - SMMC, medical call, patient transported to 3200 block Parkway.

7:04 a.m. - 1500 block Old Colorado City Highway, medical call, service refused.

9:59 a.m. - 500 block W. Seventh, medical call, patient transported to the VA Medical Center.

12:44 p.m. - 700 block N. Scurry, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

1:49 p.m. - SMMC, medical call, patient transported to 3200 block Parkway.

2:17 p.m. - 1500 block Scurry, medical call, patient transported to the VA Medical Center.

4:19 p.m. - SMMC, medical call, patient transported to 3200 block Parkway.

SATURDAY

3:21 a.m. - 200 block E. Sixth, trauma call, service refused.

5:43 a.m. - 900 block Goliad, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

6:20 a.m. - 400 block W. Fifth, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

11:45 a.m. - 600 block E. 13th, trauma call, service refused.

1:34 p.m. - 500 block W. 17th, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

2:15 p.m. - 900 block W. Fourth, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

4:06 p.m. - 2200 block Lynn, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

7:14 p.m. - SMMC, trauma call, patient transported to Midland Memorial.

5:25 p.m. - 900 block N. 87, residence fire, gas leak

5:56 p.m. - 100 block E. 16th, residence fire, gas leak

11:25 p.m. - Third and Birdwell, haz mat

SUNDAY

5:51 a.m. - 1500 block Sycamore, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

6:52 a.m. - 400 block Gregg, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

12:33 p.m. - 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

5:57 p.m. - 1000 block N. Main, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

6:49 p.m. - 500 block Westover, automobile fire, extinguished.

RECORDS

Sunday's high 67
Sunday's low 38
Average high 56
Average low 28
Record high 78 in 1981
Record low 8 in 1973
Precip. Sunday 0.00
Month to date 0.54
Month's normal 0.48
Year to date 13.18
Normal for the year 18.03
**Statistics not available

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NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331
Lucille R. O'Brien, 79, died Sunday. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park.
H.D. "Ace" Gillette, 86, died Sunday. Graveside services will be 4:00 PM Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Edith H. Henson, 81, died Friday. Services will be 11:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.
Kristine Dunham 49, died Friday. Services will be 1:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
James B. (Red) Nixon, 68, died Friday. Services will be 3:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
Johnnie June Amos, 83, died Sunday. Services will be 11:00 AM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
Jasper Wright, 95, died Monday. Services are pending.

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Woman gives birth to first known surviving octuplets

HOUSTON (AP) — Doctors knew the baby girl born to Nkem Chukwu two weeks ago would soon have plenty of company. Even they couldn't guess just how much, though.

Mrs. Chukwu delivered her daughter's remaining five sisters and two brothers Sunday, all members of the first known surviving set of octuplets. They ranged from 11 ounces to nearly two pounds, and all were on ventilators and listed in critical condition after birth.

There was no sure way to tell how many babies Mrs. Chukwu

was carrying until she naturally gave birth to one on Dec. 8. Dr. Brian Kirshon had thought there were six or seven total until a post-delivery examination brought the startling news.

"It wasn't until after that baby was born that we knew we had eight," said Kirshon, an obstetrician who specializes in high-risk cases at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

The babies were born from 13 to 15 weeks prematurely. Even so, doctors said Mrs. Chukwu required nine weeks of drug therapy to forestall labor. Those

drugs usually are administered for only three days to week, Kirshon said.

As a result, Mrs. Chukwu required surgery this morning to stop internal bleeding that were a side effect of the drugs, he said. He called the bleeding a "generalized ooze" from her abdominal wall.

"It was something not anticipated," Kirshon said. He said her condition was "stabilizing."

"Mom is a remarkable woman," Kirshon said. "She would go to any lengths to prolong this pregnancy."

Mom could go home as soon as a week, doctors said.

Mrs. Chukwu, a Nigerian native who now resides in Houston with her husband Lyke, had been taking fertility drugs. She conceived triplets last year but lost them midway through her pregnancy earlier this year.

Mrs. Chukwu had been taking three drugs to postpone labor, although Kirshon said giving birth to the early baby probably bought the other seven valuable time to mature. However, the littlest of the seven Sunday deliveries might not have sur-

vived much longer in the womb, he said.

The survival rate for babies born so young is 85 percent, doctors said.

"We're very hopeful all of the babies will survive, but they're critically ill newborns and we can't say for sure everything will be OK," said Dr. Patti Savrick, a pediatrician at Texas Children's Hospital, the adjacent facility where the babies were whisked one by one by a team of about 30 doctors and nurses during the 45-minute Caesarian section.

She said the eldest infant has been removed from a ventilator but is getting supplemental oxygen. The others remain on ventilators. All are sedated, she said today.

Dr. Leonard Weisman, chief neonatal specialist at Texas Children's Hospital, said he'll watch for lung and heart problems over the next few days. After that, metabolic problems and infections are a danger, he added.

Doctors said the babies will likely remain hospitalized for two or three months.

Reporters remains cremated after second autopsy

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — After a second autopsy confirmed earlier forensic findings that San Antonio Express-News correspondent Philip True was brutally murdered, his remains were cremated.

A spokesperson with the press office of President Ernesto Zedillo told the San Antonio Express-News on Sunday that the second autopsy corroborated the first one, that the cause of True's death was strangulation.

Mexican investigators and a forensic pathologist contracted by the FBI, Emma Lew, went Sunday to the remote Madre

Occidental mountains where True's body was found on Wednesday.

At that time, it was believed he had fallen to his death from a 300-foot ridge.

True's body underwent the second autopsy Saturday, just hours before a memorial service in the garden of his Mexico City home where he lived with his wife Martha and a boisterous parrot named Fidel.

The complete autopsy report will not be available for about 4-5 days, according to Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo.

"We took tissue samples to

conduct ... studies. These take several days to do cultures," Madrazo told reporters. "And we'll be able to study these together with criminal analysis from the field..."

"At that time, personnel from the attorney general's office, with all the evidence and proof, will be in a position to say what could (have) happened in this sad loss of ... Mr. Philip True."

The body was returned to the family Saturday night and taken to a funeral home for cremation.

Dr. Mario Rivas concluded following the first autopsy in Jalisco that True had been

strangled with either a cord or necktie.

The reporter's body was found in a shallow grave in a ravine deep in the Chapalagana Canyon on the border of Jalisco and Nayarit states.

An experienced solo hiker since his teens, True, 50, set out on Nov. 28 for a 100-mile trek through a remote region of the Sierra Madre where between 10,000 and 20,000 Huichol Indian live in scattered villages and ranches.

He intended to study and photograph the Huichol culture for the Express-News, the newspaper said.

Passenger train derails in Arlington; same train kills pedestrian earlier

ARLINGTON (AP) — Tragedy and trouble stopped the journey of an Amtrak passenger train as it rolled through Dallas.

The train, bound from Chicago to Los Angeles, first struck and killed a deaf woman on its way into the city Sunday, and then derailed as it left Dallas through Arlington about four hours later.

Nancy Martinez, 33, was struck and killed while walking on the tracks around 3 p.m., said Dallas police Lt. B.J. Watkins.

The woman lived in the area, but it was unclear why she was walking on the tracks in her southeast Dallas neighborhood, he said.

Passengers said they were not told why the train was stopped.

"It just stopped and they didn't say anything to us except to say that something happened," passenger Wayne Newell of Deer Park, Ill., said.

After a three-hour wait while police investigated the accident, the train continued on its scheduled route through Dallas before it derailed shortly after 7 p.m.

At least 15 of the 199 passengers aboard the double-decker superliner, Amtrak's Texas Eagle, were treated for minor injuries, officials said.

Eight passenger cars and one baggage car of the westbound train left the tracks, Arlington fire Lt. Pat English said.

"It's generalized mostly as neck and back pain," English said. "Nothing life threaten-

ing, it appears, at this time. So we're really thankful it wasn't worse."

John Wolf, an Amtrak spokesman in Washington, would not say how fast the train was traveling, nor did they have any explanation for the derailment.

The posted speed limit in the area is 60 mph, but the train was probably traveling much slower at the time it left the tracks, English said. Several passengers estimated the train was going no faster than 40 mph.

"All the damage is just crinkling on the cars," he said.

The Federal Railroad Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

The derailment occurred in an industrial area just south of the Six Flags over Texas amusement park and The Ballpark in Arlington. Derailed cars were confined to a ditch that separates busy Division Street from the railroad tracks.

Union Pacific Railroad crews also were dispatched to help clear the tracks with heavy equipment. That could take as long as two days, English said, which would mean the closure of Division Street for that period of time.

There are several retail businesses along the two-block stretch of the road, who could lose business as a result of the closing.

More than two dozen emergency vehicles were at the derailment site.

Police arrest 36 people protesting highway rerouting

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Police wielding pepper spray and bolt cutters arrested 36 American Indian and environmental squatters who were protesting a highway rerouting project.

Protesters began their occupation of seven condemned homes Aug. 10, saying the new road would cut through a Dakota burial ground still used for occasional ceremonies. State officials have found no evidence of burial grounds.

Utility workers shut off water, gas and power in October. Nearly 600 police moved into

the neighborhood with a bulldozer Sunday because they feared illegal natural gas hookups, said Bob McFarlin of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Gov. Arne Carlson, who paid an early morning visit to the scene, said the protesters endangered themselves and others.

"They're basically anarchists who have illegally occupied property, substantially terrorized a peaceful neighborhood in that part of Minneapolis and have brought tremendous harm

on that area for a considerable length of time," Carlson said.

Three protesters were taken to juvenile court and 33 were booked on felony charges of obstruction of justice. The last protester arrested was perched atop a chimney dressed as Santa Claus. About 40 demonstrators were allowed to flee.

Two injuries were reported, neither serious. At least one protester also reportedly suffered ill effects from pepper spray.

The highway rerouting has been planned for 40 years.

Opponents say it would harm the area's natural and cultural highlights, including a cold water spring and four 300-year-old oak trees that some Dakota consider a historic site for their religious practices.

Construction on the highway is slated to start next summer and be finished in 2000.

The operation to remove protesters was so massive that Minneapolis police, state troopers, and sheriff's deputies were enlisted to secure a 3,600-foot perimeter around the seven houses.

Pet program teaches trade to juvenile offenders

MARIANNA, Fla. (AP) — Fred Smith discovered at age 8 that there weren't enough hours in the day to take care of a dog and sell cocaine.

So Smith's pet of choice was a snake. It could survive in a small cage, didn't thrive on human attention, and was able to go days without food while he sold drugs on the streets of Florida.

Now at 16, Smith has plenty of spare time on his hands while he is confined to the Jackson Juvenile Offender Corrections Center in Marianna.

He will also finally get a chance to care for a dog in a pilot program in which juvenile offenders train canines for senior citizens while learning skills that may help them succeed when they are finally released.

"At least I've got something to fall back on," he said of the new program, the first of its kind in Florida.

FETCH, which stands for Friends of the Elderly Training Companions for Homes, aims to save canines from dog pounds and racetracks and make them companions for the elderly. To prepare the dogs for that role, the canines will be sent to centers for juvenile offenders, who will train them.

Charles Miner Jr., an appeals court judge, came up with the idea for the program.

"It occurred to me that a youngster who can get into your automobile without breaking a window and can get your stereo in 30 seconds can certainly be taught to train animals," Miner said.

Doug Price, 14, said he started

stealing things because he was bored and needed a challenge. FETCH appeals to Price because it will alleviate some of the boredom he encounters while serving time for armed robbery.

"It'll get me out of the pod," Price said. "Otherwise, you only get an hour outside every day. It'll give me a chance to help somebody instead of victimize them."

The Jackson juvenile center resembles a maximum-security prison, with electronic doors at every turn and razor wire surrounding the fences. Its superintendent, Dale Edwards, is conducting a screening process to find juveniles who he believes are ready for the program but admits there really is no way to tell whether their interest is legitimate.

"How do I know we're not

being used?" Edwards said. "How do I know this isn't just a ploy to get off the pod? And it may well be. But if you've complied in every other area of the facility, and you've shown a willingness to try things, I don't have a problem with someone saying, 'I don't know whether I'm going to like this, but I'd like an opportunity.'"

There are similar dog training programs in certain adult prisons across the United States. Florida's new 20-week program is expected to start in January with about five dogs, but that number could increase greatly if it is successful.

Upon completion of FETCH, the juveniles will be certified as pet nutritionists. That appeals to Smith, who says he wants to find a way to support his pregnant girlfriend.

Virginia considers warranty on high school grads

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia is considering a voluntary program that would effectively warranty the competence of its high school graduates.

State-supported colleges and universities spend approximately \$25 million annually to bring freshman up to speed on reading, writing and arithmetic through remedial coursework.

The idea under review by the

State Council of Higher Education would shift the cost of the remedial studies to the high schools that failed to produce freshmen ready to tackle college-level work.

Advocates of the warranty plan say it would encourage public schools to do a better job. But the leader of Virginia's largest teachers' organization said colleges shouldn't be

allowed to pass off costs incurred for students they never had to accept in the first place.

"I regard it as kind of a slap, because in the public school system we take any child sent to us," said Cheri James, president of the Virginia Education Association.

"Colleges are not required to take any person who applies,"

she said. "It's totally unfair for them to want to put everything back on the secondary schools for decisions (the colleges) are making."

The proposal is modeled on a program in Hanover County's public schools.

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—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Four-legged pals need assistance this holiday, too

For so many of us, the holiday season is not just a time to buy gifts for our families, it's also a time help out the less fortunate. We do that in many ways -- giving to social service agencies, donating items to churches and participating in fund drives. Those efforts make Christmas merrier for a lot of the needy in our community.

This year, we want to add another worthy project to the list. We urge you to support the Big Spring Humane Society with a pet food drive conducted by the Big Spring Herald, KBST and Mix 94.3.

It's easy to forget about the residents of the humane society's shelter. That's largely because they are no longer wandering our streets, thanks to the work of volunteers and staff at the facility.

Those hard-working volunteers give their time, and many also give their money, to support the shelter's work with homeless animals. But they can't do it all. They need the community's support in many ways -- especially when it comes to feeding the large population of our abandoned pets.

Alen Mince, maintenance supervisor for the shelter, said they use 15 or 20 50-pound bags of dry food a week, just for the dogs. Imagine the food bills this non-profit shelter faces when donations are running low.

Bring your dry or canned dog or cat food donation to the Herald office at 710 Scurry, or the radio station at 608 Johnson. The radio station is promising a free CD for anyone who leaves a donation there.

The drive will continue through Christmas Eve, when all donations will be delivered.

Take a few minutes when you're shopping this week and do something to help our four-legged friends.

While you're at it, consider giving a friend or family member a Humane Society gift certificate. Adopting a pet will bring joy into the life of your loved one, and will make the animal's life more pleasant, too.

OTHER VIEWS

The election of Hugo Chavez as president of Venezuela raises the question of the unraveling of the political system in all of Latin America and reveals the disillusionment some are feeling about worsening social conditions that have not improved under democratically-elected governments.

Venezuela began its democracy forty years ago with an unusual pact between the two of the country's principal parties that guaranteed an institutional stability not known in the region at that time.

But, at the same time, the leaders of the country never diversified the country's economy instead choosing to

rely heavily on its oil revenues.

As a result, the Venezuelan economy is highly susceptible to the world market's price fluctuations and has not diversified enough to create jobs and allow for funds for programs of social support to combat the rising unemployment and levels of poverty in the country.

Chavez's victory also reflects the growing discontent with Venezuela's traditional political system.

But it also demonstrates a phenomenon that is happening in other parts of the continent where leaders with an authoritarian bent are also gaining support.

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- By telephone at 263-7331
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- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalker@xroadstx.com.
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Located somewhere between liberty and order

On the record before the Supreme Court, we know only this about Jesus Morales: In 1995 he was arrested for violating Chicago's anti-loitering law. We aren't likely to learn much more about Morales, but before the court's term ends in June we will know a great deal more about the law.



JAMES J. KILPATRICK

The 1992 ordinance represents one more desperate effort by American cities to cope with the plague of urban gangs. The Department of Justice last year placed the number of these gangs at 23,000, with an estimated 650,000 members. Chicago has roughly 125 gangs, with such names as the Vice Lords and the Latin Kings. Upward of 100,000 members pledged them their allegiance. In a brief filed with the court, the U.S. Conference of Mayors spelled out the problem:

"These street gangs are not benign associations of disadvantaged youths, but sophisticated criminal enterprises. Although criminal gangs have long been part of the urban

landscape, they have taken a dramatic new direction in recent years, away from small-scale and localized activities to highly organized takeovers of entire neighborhoods based on the acquisition of lethal weaponry financed by the lucrative trade in crack cocaine."

The states have struggled in various ways to deal with the situation. California launched a campaign to prevent street terrorism. Ohio took the same approach. Arkansas has made it a separate felony to participate in gang crime. Florida and Georgia have increased punishment for gang-related offenses. Kansas makes prison time mandatory for convicted gang members.

In the case immediately at hand, Morales and five other defendants were convicted of violating the 1992 ordinance. They were sentenced to jail terms of one to 27 days, but the Illinois Supreme Court found the ordinance unconstitutional, vacated the sentences and enjoined enforcement of the law.

My guess is that the high court will affirm, either 5-4 or 6-3. At oral argument on Dec. 9, Justice David Souter seemed especially critical of the ordinance. He was bothered by the discretion vested in police officers. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor appeared to agree. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer wondered

about alternative approaches.

This is the key section of the Chicago law: "Whenever a police officer observes a person he reasonably believes to be a criminal street gang member loitering in any public place with one or more other persons, he shall order all such persons to disperse and remove themselves from the area. Any person who does not promptly obey such an order is in violation of this section."

The ordinance defines "to loiter" as "to remain in any one place with no apparent purpose." The Illinois Supreme Court looked at that rubbery language and found the ordinance "impermissibly vague on its face and an arbitrary restriction on personal liberties."

Several members of the court expressed concern about "no apparent purpose."

Justice Souter remarked that some people remain in one public place for a considerable time "just to watch the cars go by."

Justice O'Connor wondered at the possibility that gang members might congregate to discuss ending their criminal ways.

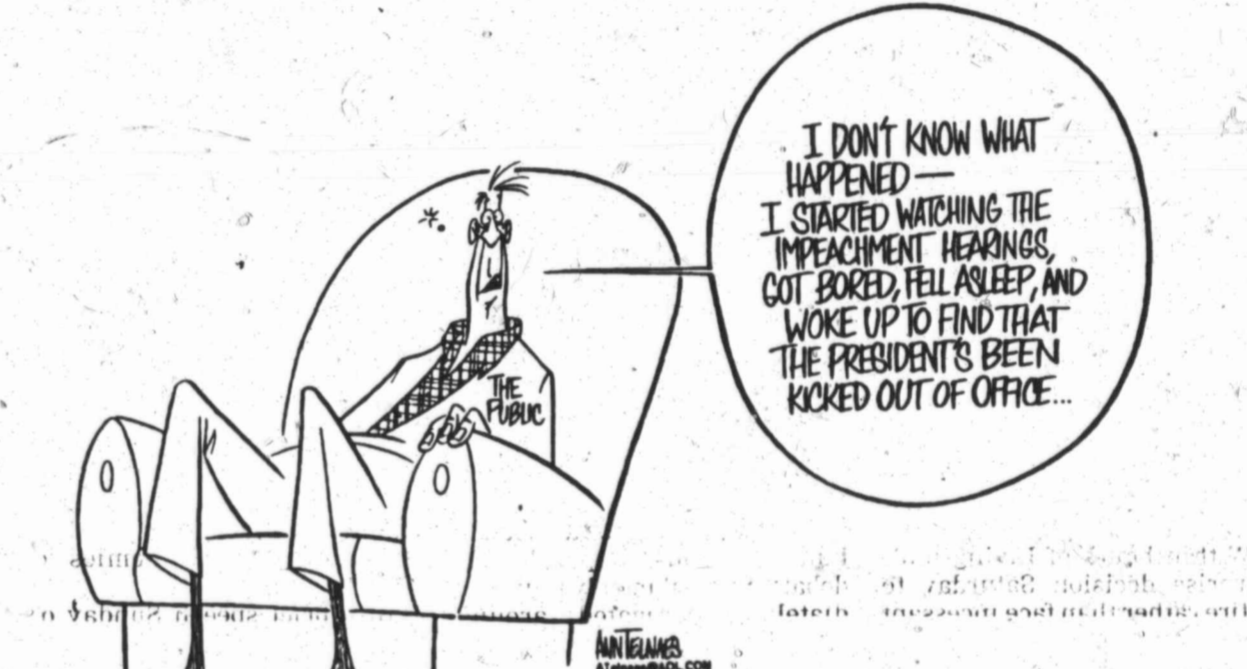
Justice Antonin Scalia, injecting a light note, thought such a gathering might have a highly constitutional purpose: Gang members might be exercising their right to complain about the police.

Justice Kennedy, the court's swing man in 5-4 divisions, asked if Chicago police are specially trained to interpret "no apparent purpose." Counsel assured him that their discretion is indeed restrained. Because of the state court's injunction, the law has not been enforced for the past three years, but under departmental rules arrests are made only in designated areas of gang activity.

Counsel for the city repeatedly emphasized that no one is arrested sheerly for loitering. Morales and his companions were arrested for failing to obey an officer's lawful order to disperse. There is nothing at all vague about operation of the law. An officer's order to "move on" is incapable of misunderstanding. It means MOVE ON!

The Morales case perfectly exemplifies the prodigious conflict that underlies a free society. Ideally we would live under a government of ordered liberty, but liberty and order are constantly in tension: Too much freedom breeds anarchy; too much order breeds tyranny. The depredations of street gangs are intolerable, but harassment of law-abiding citizens who hang around "for no apparent purpose" cannot be condoned.

The ordinance goes too far. A constitutional answer to street gangs must be found, but this well-intentioned act isn't it.



Disputes impair U.S.-Russian relations

By GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just a few years ago, many Americans dreamed that from the ashes of the Soviet Union would arise a reformist, democratic Russia determined to overcome the gravitational pull of communism and eager to join hands with its former adversaries.

For those who harbored those dreams, these are not good times. Lately, almost everything has gone wrong. "That euphoria was misplaced," said Peter Rodman of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom, a private think tank. Russian foreign policy has shifted in a sharply nationalist direction in recent years, the hallmark of which is that American global dominance must be opposed, he said.

Some Russians openly concede that objective. Gen. Leonid Ivashov said in Moscow last Friday that "Russia may become the leader of a part of the world community that disagrees with the (U.S.) dictate."

Clinton administration officials take a somewhat middle-of-the-road view on Russia's future. "Gloom and doom are no more justified now than was euphoria a few short years ago," says Strobe Talbott, the State Department's No. 2 official and leading Russian affairs expert.

The most obvious sore point in the current array of disagreements is Moscow's force-

ful opposition to last week's U.S.-British bombing campaign in Iraq. President Boris Yeltsin called the policy outrageous and, in response, withdrew his ambassadors from Washington and London.

Another conflict, with potentially longer-term consequences for the relationship, is the U.S. perception that Moscow has done little to halt the flow of nuclear technology to Iran.

"We have discussed our concerns at the highest levels," the State Department said Wednesday in a rare public rebuke of Moscow. "Russia has declined to halt all nuclear cooperation with Iran."

The Nixon Center's Rodman said Russia's friendship with Iraq and Iran is part of a broader effort by Moscow to cultivate ties with radical Islamic regimes opposed to the United States.

Talbott, the deputy secretary of state, finds peril, at least over the short term, in Russia's economic decline and its unhappiness with the results of Western ways of managing its economy.

As a result, he said, "we may be in for heightened tensions over security and diplomatic issues."

Indeed, everywhere one looks the U.S.-Russian relationship is in disarray. There are squabbles over distribution of American food aid. Washington is concerned over increasing anti-Semitism in Russia and the seeming official tolerance of it.

As an outgrowth of the squabble over Iraq, there are

signs that the Russian Duma, or parliament, may delay ratification of the START II treaty, which would cut the U.S. and Russian strategic arms stockpiles by more than half.

On the latter point, Talbott believes Russia will eventually be guided by self-interest. He said in a speech last month that Russia needs to ratify START II because it cannot afford to maintain its arsenal at Cold War levels.

And despite policies that seem hostile to the West, Talbott noted, Russia has gone a long way toward joining the European mainstream, joining the Council of Europe and dispatching troops to the Balkans, where they work side-by-side with NATO peacekeeping forces.

At week's end, the Russians appeared to signal an interest in not allowing disagreements with the United States to degenerate into a new Cold War.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright conferred by telephone on Friday with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. Calling it a useful exchange, Albright's spokesman, James Rubin, summarized the message she received:

"The Russians understand the importance of maintaining a broad-based relationship with the United States."

"They recognize the importance of having U.S.-Russian relations be a stabilizing factor, not a destabilizing factor. And they are going to continue working with us on a wide variety of issues."

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Ford, Carter urge censure of Clinton, end of impeachment proceedings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Presidents Ford and Carter today proposed to end the impeachment proceedings against President Clinton with a bipartisan censure resolution stating that he lied under oath. The linchpin would be language stating that Clinton accepted the findings in the resolution. But his admission that he did not tell the truth could not be used against him in a future trial. "Somehow we must reach a conclusion that most Americans can embrace and that posterity will approve," Ford and Carter wrote in an op-

ed column published in The New York Times. "Make no mistake, the judgment of history does matter. It matters profoundly. And impeachment by the full House has already brought profound disgrace to President Clinton. Whatever happens now will do little to affect history's judgment of him." Both men said their suggestion rises out of the precedents they set while president. Ford, who assumed office after President Nixon resigned following the Watergate scandal, later pardoned Nixon. Carter, who beat Ford in the 1976 presi-

dential race, later granted amnesty to those who had avoided the Vietnam draft. "While our acts of pardon or clemency are not directly analogous to the decision pending in the Senate, how that body resolves the issue can have similar benefits of healing and finality," Ford and Carter wrote. A fresh poll shows most Americans agree. In interviews shortly after Clinton was impeached on Saturday, 31 percent said the Senate should go ahead with a trial on the charges, while 63 percent said they would prefer

the Senate work out a compromise to instead censure or fine the president. The CBS-New York Times survey also showed Republicans with their worst popularity ratings in the 14 years the two news organizations had asked the question. Only 36 percent expressed a favorable view of the Republican Party, while 58 percent expressed an unfavorable one. The poll carried a 4 percent age-point margin of error. Members of both parties say they want a swift Senate resolution of the charges that Clinton lied and obstructed justice in

trying to cover up his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., noted today that the Senate could dismiss the case at any time with a simple majority vote of 51 senators. He said he favored a trial, a concept supposedly favored by the senior Democrat in the chamber, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-WV. Byrd has written an oft-quoted history of the Senate. "I think we need to follow the Constitution. I've said I'm going to take my cues from Senator Byrd; I think he's the expert," McConnell said. Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, suggested the first step should be a quick poll of his colleagues to determine if there is anywhere near the 67 votes needed to oust Clinton from office. If there are only 55 votes "then there has to be some consideration to what do you do that is the best under the circumstances to resolve this matter and in the best interests of the country," Hatch said. While that should include the start of a trial, he said, there are other options "where everybody could vote on this and vote their conscience and it would be fair."

Weariness, disgust and optimism in wake of Clinton impeachment

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) — On a morning made bleak by both weather and politics, Jill Cavalero emerged from a diner and produced two disparate thoughts about the newly impeached leader of the land. The first: "I still think he's doing a pretty good job as president." The second, a moment later: "I'm glad I'm not married to him, though." The high school librarian's assessments, delivered under a light drizzle on the sidewalk of this hillside industrial town 30 miles north of Pittsburgh, were just two of millions across the country Sunday. The events of an extraordinary weekend were beginning to sink in: President Clinton had been impeached. The House speaker-elect had quit. And, on top of it all, a bombing campaign against Iraq had just ended. All the conflicted feelings, all the months of recriminations

and accusations, all the uncertainties about the nation's future were darting through American minds and ricocheting across tongues as people tried to make sense of the whole mess. "Happy Holidays," quipped Barb Widenhofer, a drugstore manager a few blocks away. "You just want it to be over." Like her, many want desperately to move on. But for all the talk of a cynical, jaded public, a tempered optimism often shone through. "Our country seems to have a way of rising and overcoming obstacles," said Edward Wadding, an insurance and investment agent finishing the last crusts of his toast at the Olympic Diner on South Main Street. No fan of Clinton, he had favored censure nonetheless. Dozens of interviews by Associated Press reporters across the nation Sunday, a day after the impeachment and

House Speaker-elect Bob Livingston's abrupt resignation, reflected this amalgam of distaste, disorientation and tempered optimism about the system, if not about its political stewards. From south-central Los Angeles: "I think the impeachment will be good for the country," said Clayton White, 46, who favors Clinton's removal. "It shows that we care a lot about truth, honesty and basic principles in this country." From Bismarck, N.D.: "We're a forgiving country," said Bev Clausnitzer, drinking coffee with her husband at a shopping mall. "Look at O.J. You don't hear anything about him anymore." From Detroit: "He might have lied, but there isn't anybody who has been in the White House who has been a prayerbook," said Gloria Chapman, 58, clutching a Bible after attending services at Little Rock Baptist Church.

GOP leaders act fast to peg Hastert as speaker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drained from a tempestuous impeachment debate, and still smarting over election losses and the abrupt resignations of two GOP leaders, House Republicans felt they had to act immediately to replace Speaker-designate Bob Livingston. So they rallied behind Rep. J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois, a for-

mer teacher from Middle America who is as soft-spoken as outgoing Speaker Newt Gingrich is outspoken. Within hours of Livingston's surprise decision Saturday to retire rather than face incessant questions about his sexual history, Hastert had been anointed and his two potential rivals had dropped out.

Chaos roiled in the House chamber after Livingston made his stunning announcement in the waning hours of a historic but rancorous impeachment debate. Several members immediately congregated around Hastert and urged him to run. The Republican caucus meets Jan. 5 to confirm their choice for speaker.

Nation's retailers are still nervous about sales despite reports of 'good crowds'

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans did lots of holiday gift-buying at the nation's stores over the weekend, a signal that President Clinton's impeachment didn't stop shoppers from getting into the Christmas spirit. While retailers relished the heavy traffic, many still worried if the burst of last-minute purchases will be enough to jolt holiday sales to levels they had anticipated. "It was a very good weekend for all retailers," said Kurt Barnard, a retail consultant and president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report in Upper Montclair, N.J. "Shoppers weren't distracted at all by the impeachment," he said Sunday. "But can this weekend and the next few days make up for lost time and sales from the past few weeks? That is doubtful." Many expected this to be one of the best holiday seasons in recent history, thanks to strong consumer confidence, low unemployment and inflation levels, and sharp gains on Wall Street. But it has turned out to be a tough Christmas for many merchants. Most troubling has been the warmer-than-normal weather, which severely dampened sales of winter merchandise, like coats and sweaters. "The warm weather has been death," said Ed Carroll, execu-

tive vice president of marketing for Carson Pirie Scott, a Midwest department store chain. Many retailers were thankful that the American public didn't stop their buying to watch the Clinton impeachment hearings, which ran live on television Friday and most of Saturday. "We didn't see any kind of blip because of the impeachment," said Sally Hertz, marketing director of the South Shore Plaza mall outside of Boston. "People are finally realizing that yes, Christmas is coming this year and it's soon," she said. "In fact, Saturday was the busiest day in the mall's 36-year history." Several merchants were pleased to see business pick up over the weekend. Whether this season is a success or not depends largely on spending volume in the last days before Christmas. Last year, the three biggest shopping days of the year in terms of sales were Dec. 20, Dec. 22 and Dec. 23, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers, a New York-based trade group. "Finally, we are seeing an increase in traffic and sales," said Lisa Bennett, marketing manager at the Irving Mall in Irving, Texas, where cooler temperatures finally arrived last week. "We are finally hearing some big sales gains at many of

our retailers." Knowing that the last week of the season is so crucial, almost every retailer stepped up their promotions over the weekend. The biggest markdowns came in apparel, with merchants desperate to unload some of the clothes that have sat on shelves for weeks during the warm spell. The cheaper prices encouraged Toni Miller, a mother of two from the Seattle area, to get some buying done. In Chicago, Karen Welsh was shocked by the low prices she found at the Water Tower mall. "I go for sales," said Ruth Thompson, who was shopping at the Castleton Square Mall in Indianapolis with her husband. "That's the only way we can

afford it." Even with the heavy traffic over the weekend, retailers remain nervous about how the season will turn out. A number of merchants — especially the department stores chains — have already put their profits in jeopardy by taking unplanned markdowns on winter merchandise to clear out their inventories. "We are in a very aggressive mode (to boost sales), and many stores will be aggressive this week," said Michael Gould, chairman of Bloomingdale's. "There will be a lot of promotions that you might not have seen last year." With Christmas a heartbeat away, retailers are counting on many of those shoppers who

still have much of their gift-buying left to do. And they also expect to see big sales gains from their after-Christmas promotions. Last year, the post-holiday

sales saved many retailers from reporting disappointing results for the season. Chicago cab driver Nadeem Ahmed will wait until Christmas Eve.

Effects of bombing undetermined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military officials say it could take several months to determine whether they achieved their goal of degrading Iraq's warmaking capability with last week's airstrikes. President Clinton and his top national security aides say they did what they set out to do in a series of cruise missile and bombing attacks over four days. They back it up with photographs and videotape showing wrecked Iraqi military installations. But Pentagon officials caution that the bomb-damage assessment could take months, that the pictures are often deceiving and that Iraq may have to be

attacked again. Although troop reinforcements were expected to be ordered back to their U.S. bases today, the "containment" force in the Persian Gulf region remains some 20,000 strong, with no plans for relaxing the guard over Iraq. The administration, meanwhile, is shifting the direction of its policy on Iraq toward toppling Saddam Hussein from power. "We've tried to be very accurate in our damage assessment, not to inflate it or overstate it," Defense Secretary William Cohen said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "We had very specific military objectives. Those objectives, in our

judgment, have been met." Appearing later on ABC's "This Week," Cohen said that Iraq, as expected, tries to restore its capability to produce chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. "We're prepared to take it down again." The Defense Department revamped its format for describing bomb damage. During the airstrikes, Pentagon figures indicated that only one target in five was destroyed or severely damaged. Now the statistics list simply "confirmed damage" that may include light to moderate damage. On that basis, 73 out of 96 targets sustained some damage.

Hussein: Iraq victorious against 'enemies of God'

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Baghdad renewed its claim of victory today, and an extremist Muslim group threatened retaliation for the four days of U.S.-British airstrikes against Iraq. U.N. officials said humanitarian workers would return to the Iraqi capital Tuesday to resume supervision of food aid. The workers were evacuated to Jordan last week amid the bombardment. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in his first public comments since the attacks ended late Saturday, said Iraq was victorious against "enemies of God." In a brief speech Sunday on radio and television, Saddam said the Iraqi people and the army have proved to be "worthy of what your leadership

expected from you." "God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory," he said. Saddam met with his Revolutionary Command Council and members of the regional command of his ruling Baath Party, the official Iraqi News Agency said today. It did not say when the meeting was held or what was discussed. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said the United States might strike again if Saddam rebuilds such weapons. Iraqi officials have not allowed reporters to inspect areas where the most extensive damage occurred, including presidential palaces and defense installations. Al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group, said in a state-

ment sent to the Cairo office of Al-Hayat newspaper that the attacks were "a disgrace to the Islamic nation," the paper reported today. The group called for a "holy war" against the United States and a boycott of American and British products, the paper said. It also called for putting Clinton on trial as a war criminal. Anonymous calls to Al-Hayat also threatened attacks on Kuwaiti embassies and "American interests" in the Gulf. In Iraq's state-run newspapers, the rhetoric today was as strident as before the assault and repeated the government's assertion that it was the winner. "Victorious, as the bad bid has failed," said the headline in Al-Qadisiya.

The family of Gilberto O. Gonzales wishes to express their deepest appreciation for the prayers, love, kindness and support given to us during our time of sorrow, of our beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather. A special thanks to Scenic Mountain Emergency Room and Staff, Dr. Stevens, Myers & Smith Funeral Home, and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Affectionately The Gonzales Family

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NFL

Continued from Page 6

the second half. We got into a run, run, pass pattern. On the road, you have to extend the lead," said Steve Young, who had two TD passes for San Francisco, including a 75-yarder to Jerry Rice.

Packers 30, Oilers 22

Brett Favre and Antonio Freeman connected on three long touchdown plays on a snowy day in Green Bay. It was the first time in more than two months that the Packers had won two straight games.

The Packers clinched their sixth straight playoff berth Saturday when Washington beat Tampa Bay.

Freeman caught TD passes of 57, 68 and 32 yards in the first half and finished with seven catches for 186 yards.

Bengals 25, Steelers 24

At Pittsburgh, Cincinnati blew a 13-point lead, but rallied to break a nine-game losing streak and eliminate the Steelers (7-8) from playoff contention behind Jeff Blake's 367 yards passing.

It's the first time in Bill Cowher's seven years as coach that Pittsburgh hasn't made the playoffs.

The Bengals (3-12) have two of their three victories this season over Pittsburgh, including a 25-20 win on Oct. 11 that was their last until Sunday.

Giants 28, Chiefs 7

At East Rutherford, N.J., Kent Graham threw for a touchdown and ran for another as New York continued its late-season turnaround.

Percy Ellsworth returned one his two interceptions 43 yards for a score on the game's third play from scrimmage. The Giants had four interceptions and four sacks and are 4-1 since Graham replaced Danny Kanell at

quarterback.

Vikings 50, Jaguars 10

Randall Cunningham threw three touchdown passes and Randy Moss tied an NFL record with his 10th TD of at least 40 yards as Minnesota clinched home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

The win gave the Vikings (14-1) their first unbeaten record at home since 1989 and just their second since 1976, the last time they went to the Super Bowl. The 50 points against Jacksonville (10-5) gives the Vikings 530 on the season, 11 short of the record set by the 1983 Redskins.

Falcons 24, Lions 17

Jamal Anderson rushed for 147 yards and scored two touchdowns as Atlanta clinched its first NFC West title in 18 years and a first-round bye.

It was just the second division title in team history for the Falcons (13-2), who set a club record for victories in a

season.

Coach Dan Reeves, who was released from an Atlanta hospital Friday after quadruple heart bypass surgery, missed the game in Detroit. The Falcons, with defensive coordinator Rich Brooks acting as coach, fought back from a 17-10 third-quarter deficit with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter against the Lions (5-10).

Cowboys 13, Eagles 9

Holder Eric Bjornson scored a touchdown on a fake field goal and safety George Teague made a saving fourth-down tackle late in the game.

The Eagles (3-12) lost 34-0 to the Cowboys in November, but they gave Dallas heated competition until the final minute on the road. Emmitt Smith rushed for 110 yards on 25 carries for Dallas.

Cardinals 19, Saints 17

Jake Plummer led host Arizona on another last-minute desperation drive, set-

ting up Chris Jacke's 36-yard field goal on the final play.

The Cardinals (8-7), who last made the playoffs in the 1982 strike season while playing in St. Louis, can claim the final NFC wild-card berth with a home victory over San Diego next Sunday.

The loss eliminated the Saints (6-9).

Seahawks 27, Colts 23

Seattle, eliminated from playoff contention earlier in the day, rallied at home in the fourth quarter on touchdowns from Ricky Watters and Shawn Springs.

Watters, who set a career high with 178 yards on 32 carries, scored on a 33-yard run with 9:19 to go to close Seattle to 23-17. Then Phillip Daniels forced Marshall Faulk to fumble, and Springs picked up the bouncing ball and ran 14 yards to the end zone.

Raiders 17, Chargers 10

At San Diego, Wade Wilson, making just his third start

since 1996, threw touchdown passes to James Jett and Tim Brown on consecutive possessions in the second quarter, as the Raiders (8-7) snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Chargers (5-10) lost their fourth straight game, and quarterback Craig Whelihan threw two interceptions, giving him 13 in three games.

Panthers 20, Rams 13

Steve Beuerlein's 68-yard touchdown pass to backup tight end Luther Broughton with 2:44 left gave Carolina (3-12) the victory. Visiting St. Louis (4-11) is 0-7 against NFC West opponents this season.

Bears 24, Ravens 3

At Chicago, third-string tailback James Allen, making his first NFL start, got 135 of his 163 yards in the first half with bursts of 57 and 54 yards as the Bears (4-11) ended a six-game losing streak by beating Baltimore (5-10).

BOWL SCHEDULE

(All times CST)

Saturday, Dec. 19

Las Vegas Bowl

At Las Vegas

North Carolina 20, San Diego State 13

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Motor City Bowl

At Pontiac, Mich.

Marshall (11-1) vs. Louisville (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Friday, Dec. 25

Blue-Gray Classic

At Montgomery, Ala.

Blue vs. Gray, 11 a.m. (ABC)

Aloha Bowl

At Honolulu

Colorado (7-4) vs. Oregon (8-3), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)

Oahu Classic

At Honolulu

Air Force (11-1) vs. Washington (6-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 26

Heritage Bowl

At Atlanta

Bethune-Cookman (8-2) vs. Southern U. (8-3), 11:30 a.m. (NBC)

Insight.com Bowl

At Tucson, Ariz.

Missouri (7-4) vs. West Virginia (8-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 29

Music City Bowl

At Nashville, Tenn.

Alabama (7-4) vs. Virginia Tech (8-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

MICRON PC Bowl

At Miami

North Carolina State (7-4) vs. Miami (8-3), 6:30 p.m. (TBS)

Alamo Bowl

At San Antonio

Kansas State (11-1) vs. Purdue (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Humanitarian Bowl

At Boise, Idaho

Idaho (8-3) vs. Southern Miss (7-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN2)

Holiday Bowl

At San Diego

Nebraska (9-3) vs. Arizona (11-1), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31

Liberty Bowl

At Memphis, Tenn.

Brigham Young (9-4) vs. Tulane (11-0), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl

At El Paso, Texas

Southern Cal (8-4) vs. Texas Christian (6-5), noon. (CBS)

Peach Bowl

At Atlanta

Virginia (9-2) vs. Georgia (8-3), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Independence Bowl

At Shreveport, La.

Ole Miss (6-5) vs. Texas Tech (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 1

Outback Bowl

At Tampa, Fla.

Penn State (8-3) vs. Kentucky (7-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

Gator Bowl

At Jacksonville, Fla.

Georgia Tech (9-2) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 11:30 p.m. (NBC)

Citrus Bowl

At Orlando, Fla.

Michigan (9-3) vs. Arkansas (9-2), noon. (ABC)

Cotton Bowl

At Dallas

Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Texas (8-3), 10 a.m. (FOX)

Rose Bowl

At Pasadena, Calif.

Wisconsin (10-1) vs. UCLA (10-1), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sugar Bowl

At New Orleans

Texas A&M (11-2) vs. Ohio State (10-1), 6:30 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 2

Orange Bowl

At Miami

Syracuse (8-3) vs. Florida (9-2), 7 p.m. (ABC)

Monday, Jan. 4

Fiesta Bowl

At Tempe, Ariz.

Tennessee (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 7 p.m. (ABC)

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Games of Dec. 25 - 28

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15	
14	
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12	
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136 TOTAL POINTS

Name _____
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City, State (zip) _____
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HOW TO PLAY

Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter. To enter, clip along dotted line, then place game entry in POWER POINTS container at co-sponsor's retail outlet(s). Entrants must list name, address and phone number below.

LIMIT: You may enter only one coupon statewide per week.

DEADLINE: 2 P.M. THURSDAY

TIEBREAKER 1 Total points scored (both teams) in COWBOYS game.

TIEBREAKER 2 Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Kansas City at Oakland	NY Giants at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Tennessee	St. Louis at San Francisco
Buffalo at New Orleans	San Diego at Arizona
Carolina at Indianapolis	Seattle at Denver
Detroit at Baltimore	Tampa Bay at Cincinnati
Green Bay at Chicago	Washington at Dallas
Miami at Atlanta	Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
New England at NY Jets	Colorado vs. Oregon

POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES

- Object of the game is to amass as many of the 136 possible points as you can. Simply review the week's schedule of games, listed on entry form, and decide which game you are SUREST of picking a winner in. Write the name of your projected winner on the 16-point line. If that team wins its game that week, you win 16 points. Write the name of your second-surest winner on the 15-point line, and so on down to the 1-point line, which game you figure to be a long shot.
- Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If this step fails to produce a winner, the judges will apply Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in this game. If a winner still doesn't emerge, a drawing will be held among those contestants still tied. Decisions of the judges are final. The weekly statewide winner of the contest will receive \$1,000.
- Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc. will be disqualified.
- Entries that fail to forecast a winner from each and every game will be disqualified, as will entries that fail to distinguish between the Jets and Giants of New York.
- No points are awarded on tie games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week.
- Entering POWER POINTS constitutes permission by contestant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotional purposes at no charge.
- Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate.
- Any inquiry about or protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners.
- No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry form into POWER POINTS container at participating co-sponsors.
- Weekly deadline for entry will be 2 p.m. Fridays except when noted otherwise on weekly entry form.
- Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for legible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way.
- Limit: one entry per person per week. Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant, "group" entries, "systems" or other attempts to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Filing out extra forms and putting your friends' and relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.
- Contestants must have reached the age of eight (8) years by the Sunday of any week's play.

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Receptionist - Temporary, during busy season. Must be organized, pleasant and reliable and have basic office skills. Send resume in c/o PO Box 3709, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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Must be 18, work split shifts Mon-Sat. Apply at 2401 Gregg, Red Mesa Grill.

HELP WANTED
TEAM & SINGLE DRIVERS WANTED
OWNER OPERATORS ALSO NEEDED

We offer an excellent benefit package: \$500 Sign-on-bonus, competitive wage package, 401k with company contribution, retention bonus, Health/Dental/Life Insurance, and uniforms.

REQUIREMENTS ARE:
23 years old with 2 years semi driving experience of completion of an accredited truck driver school, CDL with haz-mat and tanker endorsements, pass, DOT and company requirements. We will help train you for a successful future in the tank truck industry.

Apply in person at **STEELE TANK LINES INC.**, 1200 ST. Hwy 176, Phone #(915)263-7656.

Town & Country Food Store, Full & Part time position open in Coahoma, Big Spring & Stanton. Able to work all shifts. Apply at 1101 Lamesa Hwy. EOE., Drug test required.

Wanted: Journeyman Electrician for residential and commercial wiring. Salary depends upon performance and experience. Apply at Nolan Electric, 1010 25th St., Snyder, TX 79549. (915-573-5117)

Welders needed. Apply in person at Browne Bros. in Colorado City.

WESTERN MARKETING
Needs individuals for phone sales. No calling necessary. Shifts: 8-5pm & 5-8pm & Saturdays. 268-1800.

YMCA
Seeking individuals to train & certify as Fitness area and Fitness Class Instructors. Must be physically inclined. Part-time positions only. Apply at YMCA, 801 Owens.

Experienced maintenance person needed for apartment complex. Must have experience in plumbing, electrical and A/C heating. Bring resume to Westex Auto Parts, Snyder Hwy. Call 263-5000.

HORSES
HORSESHOEING
25 Yrs. Exper.
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Rickie Brown
268-1469 or 270-7862

ANTIQUES
- Sale - Sale - Sale
Antique Mall
102-110 Main: 10-20-50% OFF. Antiques, collectibles, furniture, kitchen items, much more.

DOGS, PETS, ETC.
AKC Registered Miniature Dachshund puppies for sale. Just in time for Christmas!! Call 397-2762.

FOR SALE: 6mo. Black Tiny Toy Pooodle. Spayed. No papers. \$100. Call 263-3930.

For Sale: Christmas puppies. (Corgi's) \$50 each. 263-1324.

GROOMING ALL DOGS!
Boarding All Animals! Livestock Facilities! Call 263-2409
Debbie or Heather

Shear K-9 Grooming
Book early for Christmas.
Next Day Appointments!
756-3850

"Yo, Quero Chihuahua puppies for Christmas! Call 573-2333. Snyder.

GARAGE SALES
Carport Sale: 1506 Johnson, Sat. & Mon. 9-7 Appliances, baby items, dolls, jewelry, etc.

FOUND / LOST PETS
LOST DOG
Female, St. Bernard 1 yr old. Wearing red collar, answers to Tsunami. Vicinity of Muir. If found, PLEASE call 915-268-9878. REWARD will be given for her return!

LOST TAN MALE
Pekingese in the Carlton Drive addition. Reward! 267-1530 or 263-1938.

FURNITURE
BRANHAM FURNITURE
The Low price volume dealer. Livingroom, bedroom, dining sets, bedding. Large Selection! Best Prices!
2004 W. 4th • 263-3066

Z J's BASIC FURNITURE
Living room, bedroom, suits, dining room sets, at unbelievable low prices. Located in old Wheat's building. Come see us today.
115 E. 2nd 263-4563.

MISCELLANEOUS
CHRISTMAS GIFTS:
Weight machine with weights \$115; Air Hockey Table \$100; Wurlitzer Piano \$700 (OBO); call 263-4948 (leave message).

FOR SALE: Assorted Exercise equipment. Call 268-9148.

For Sale: Craftsman 10' Radial Arm Saw w/bench cabinet - \$650.00; also a Delta 12" portable Planer - \$280.00; also a small utility trailer. \$100. Call 267-2296.

MISCELLANEOUS
FOR SALE: Kirby Vacuum cleaner. Only used once. Asking \$700. but will negotiate. Call 263-7331 ext. 238 between 8am-2pm or leave message.

FOR SALE: Star Trek 400 6' Satellite Dish C-Band Dish receiver & remote. Good Condition & working. 399-4502

FOR SALE: Wolff Tanning Bed. Used very little. Call 267-1226 after 5:00pm & leave message, or 270-0013 (Daytime).

Ty Beanie Babies for sale. Current & soon to be Retired. Santa, Halo & More!! For prices call 267-3543.

UNIQUE WALKING SHOES
The Z-Tech shoe provides excellent support and comfort for the feet. It will put a spring in your step. For information call 267-6790.

WEDDINGS
Cakes, Abras, Arches, Silk Flowers, etc. Call now for appt. The Grishams 267-8191

PORTABLE BUILDINGS
Factory Direct - No middle man - heavy-duty steel carports, as low as \$39.00 a month - delivery and financing available 563-3108.

Price reduced - back from display - 14x24 office building - insulated and paneled with lighting - delivery and financing available. 563-3108.

SIERRA MERCANTILE
For all your building needs.
Portable
On sight - Carports 1-20 East • 263-1460

Special Purchase - 10x16 red barn - \$44.00 a month, delivery and financing available. 563-3108

Steel buildings, new, must sell 30x40 12 was \$10,200 now \$6,990; 40x60 12 was \$16,400 now \$9,990; 50x100 16 was \$27,590 now \$19,990; 60x200 16 was \$58,780 now \$39,990. 1-800-406-5126

SPAS
Christmas Special - 5 to 6 person Spa/Hot Tubs as low as \$54.00 a month delivery and financing available. 563-3108.

Damaged - 14'x40' garage/shed - delivery and financing available. 563-3108

HOUSES FOR SALE
Stanton 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home complete with swimming pool, carport, waterwell, sprinkler system, 2 storage areas. Completely remodeled, remodeling includes: cedar, carpet and spanish tile. Sits on 3 lots, 2 blocks from Jr. High and Elementary School. Priced to sell. Call 915-756-2821.

\$ "0.00" Down Payment, 100% Financing, Buyer's Total Move-In cost \$1,000.00!! On Purchase of 3213 Fenn. in Big Spring, or any comparable new home to be built by Key Homes Incorporated, in which buyer will sign a contract and get mortgage approval by Dec. 31, 1998. Certain income and credit restrictions apply. Offer limited to those who qualify for: Rural Development Financing or a VA loan. New Home prices start in the \$60K's. Call Now!! 915-520-9848.

\$300/dn., \$205/Mo. 2 bedroom, auto, heat, garage, fenced, 1804 Main. Must have excellent credit. 806-794-5964.

\$400/dn., \$287/Mo. 4 bedroom, 2 bath 2 living areas, central heat, utility room, fenced, newly decorated. 1509 Oriole. Must have excellent credit. 806-794-5964.

ABANDONED HOME!
Take over payments. Local 672-3152

ABANDONED HOMES in Big Spring.
Take up payments w/nothing down. Local 264-0510

Coronado Hills addition only 6 lots left. Call today **KEY HOMES, INC.** Harry Deter 553-3502 or 915-520-9848. 4/16/98

COUNTRY LIFE. Nearly 5 ac., 2 water wells, great water, trees, trees, trees, 3 car garage, 14x80 mobile home with 3 additions & covered by 32x104 awning, 8x80 & 32x14 covered porch, 14x65 mobile home with 8x30 covered porch. 2 large storage buildings. \$40,000. 264-7529.

Must sell: Starting price \$20's will work deal. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Call 268-1259 after 5 pm.

OWNER WILL FINANCE: 3 bd, 1 1/2 bath house @ 4108 Parkway Priced \$32,000. w/\$2,400 down, \$335 per month. CHIA. Call 425-9998.

MOBILE HOMES
\$1400 rebate on 1999 16x80 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Only at A-1 Homes Midland. West Hwy 80 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

\$1800 rebate on 1999 doublewide 28x62 3 bedroom 2 bath home with study. Only at A-1 Homes Midland West Hwy 80 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

\$500 down on a new 3 bedroom \$193 month 240 months 10% apr W.A.C. At A-1 Homes Midland, West Hwy 80 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

A-1 Homes want's you to trade in your used home on a new home today its worth more than you think at A-1 Homes Midland, West Hwy 80 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

Abandoned home call 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

Bankruptcy, Repo's, Divorces does not mean you can't buy a home. Call A-1 Homes Midland ask for Jesse James credit bandit. 1-800-755-9133 563-9000

Hey guys I've moved!! Come see the best selling homes on the market. Fleetwood has no competition at all. What's the worst thing that can happen!! I tell you to come get your new home ask for John at 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

Hey if you didn't need a new home you wouldn't be looking at this ad right!! Lets skip the double talk & let me put you in a new home today. I'll do whatever I can to put you in a new or used home. Call John at 563-9000 1-800-755-9133

I'm TIRED of TEXAS! Take over my payments. Call Ron at (915) 672-3152

SINGLE PARENTS!
We can help. 2, 3, & 4 br. Low down/low monthly/ E Z Credit. Call (800) 529-3195.

Looking for a new home call Calvin the credit doctor, divorced, no credit, 95% approval rate. 915-563-9000 A-1 Homes Midland, TX.

Looking for a new home. Don't settle for second best call Billy at A-1 Homes (915) 563-9000 or 1-800-755-9133.

Need a new home, looking for low payments. Call the credit doctor, Calvin! A-1 Homes 7206 W. Hwy 80 Midland, TX. 915-563-9000 1-800-755-9133

Your Big Spring and Howard County

Professional Service & Repair Experts

4 Lines / 1 mo. = \$39.95 per month.
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AFFORDABLE APPLIANCES
Affordable "Twice new" Rebuilt Appliances 1811 Scurry St. 264-0510 Washers, Dryers Refrigerators and parts.

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Prices Reduces On All Carpet. Carpet As Low As 12.95 yd. Installed Over 6 lb. 1/2 in. Pad & Tax included. Samples shown in your home or mine.

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Come See Us at **H & H CARPET** for all your flooring needs. Large selection. Competitive prices. 310 S. BENTON 267-2849 (se habla español)

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Steel Buildings Built On Site
Carports - Canopies - Barns - Pipe Fences-On Farm Welding - Repairs Corrals- Metal Privacy Fences - Metal Roofs

PEACOCKS Ave A & 3rd. St. Ackerly, Tx. 353-4290

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DESERT HILLS DEER PROCESSING \$45 Custom Cuts "Best Jerky Ever" North F.M. 700 Big Spring 263-7500

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SAM FROMAN DIRT CONTRACTOR. Topsoil, fill sand, Driveway Caliche. 915/263-4619. Leave message.

FENCES
B & M FENCE CO. Chainlink/Wood/Tile/Metal Repairs & Gates Terms Available, Free Estimates. Day Phone: 915-263-1613 Night Phone: 915-264-7000

Brown Fence Co. 263-6445 day time nite 398-5210. Fall specials on commercial, resd. farm & ranch fencing, also carports, decks, Ornametal Iron wk. FREE ESTIMATES.

J.T. WEST TEXAS FENCE & WELDING Free Estimates!! Cedar & Pipe Post Fence • 10 yrs exp. Has dozer! Garden City 915-354-2513 Sterling City 915-378-3077

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DICK'S FIREWOOD Serving Residential & Restaurants Throughout West Texas. We Deliver. 1-915-453-2151 Fax: 1-915-453-4322

Herald Classified ads work. Call us to place your ad at 263-7331.

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If you want round the clock care M & J Sitter Service can supply trained nurses aides to help you with all your In-Home care need's Call now. 1-800-957-4883. "We Care"

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GIBBS REMODELING Room Additions, Remodeling: All tile work, hang doors, much more. Call 263-8285

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HOUSE LEVELING BY DAVID LEE & CO. Floor Bracing • Slab • Pier & Beam. Insurance Claims. Free Estimates! References. "No payment until work is satisfactorily completed". 915-263-2355

Do you have a service to offer? Place your ad in the Herald Classified Professional Service Directory Call 263-7331 Today!

INTERNET SERVICE
Local Unlimited Internet Service No Long Distance No 800 Surcharge Computer & Computer Repair All Services On Internet Available Web Pages For Business & Personal Use. CROSSROADS COMMUNICATIONS 268-8800 (fax) 268-8801 We make it EASY for YOU to get on the INTERNET BIG SPRING'S PATH TO THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY!!!

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

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For Your Best House Painting & Repairs Interior & Exterior * Free Estimates * Call Joe Gomez 267-7587 or 267-7831

DORTON PAINTING Interior/Exterior Painting, Drywall & Acoustic, FREE ESTIMATES Call 263-7303

PEST CONTROL
SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954, 263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane, Max F. Moore

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LA COSTA'S Custom Pools & Spas Your dreams can come true!!! Customizing pools at reasonable prices for your budget. 915-268-9415

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

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

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Roofing All Types! Metal, Built Up, Wood, Comp., (Roof Repairs) Micheal Smith Locally Owned 1-800-303-9033

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AFFORDABLE SEPTICS Owners David Al & Kathryn Stephens • State Licensed • Install & Repair Licensed Site Evaluator. 264-6199

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SEP. INSTALL or REPAIR SEPTIC SYSTEMS-STATE LICENSATOR - SIGHT EVALUATOR. TRY MY BID FOR SIZE Call 267-7944. FREE BIDS TREE TRIMMING

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MIGUEL'S WELDING Residential, Industrial, Oil Field Exp. Portable Welding 661-8979 267-4308

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

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HOLIDAY SEASONAL ANNSRS Call us today!!! \$100.00 to \$446.00 CALL OR COME BY Security Finance 204 S. Goliad 267-4591 Phone applications welcome SE HABLA ESPANOL

GRAIN, HAY OR FEED
HAY Alfalfa & Grass Hay. All bale sizes. Semi-loads only. We deliver. (417)753-2164 or (417)839-8527.

UP TO \$1,000 REWARD

WILL BE PAID FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST & INDICTMENT OF ANY PERSON WHO HAS COMMITTED A FELONY CRIME: INCLUDING MURDER, RAPE, ARSON, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, BURGLARY AND ROBBERY

Crime Doesn't Pay. But We Do.

CALL CRIME-STOPPERS 263-TIPS (263-8477)

YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED FOR YOUR NAME

MONDAY

DEC. 21

Table with 33 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows representing time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) with program listings.

HAGAR



B.C.



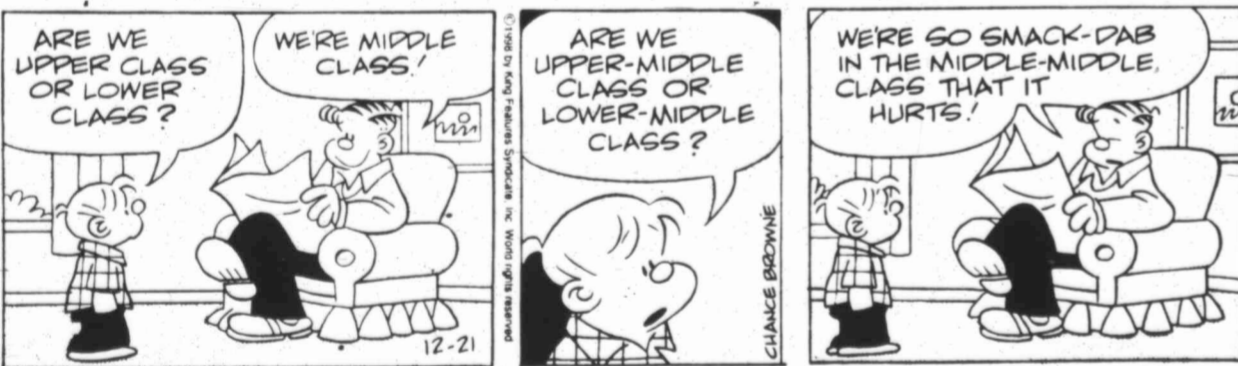
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WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 1998. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 7:56 pm CST.

Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on Dec. 21, 1898, scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered the radioactive element radium.

Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass. In 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published, in the New York "World."

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved: A grid with words filled in, including JOSEPHS, SODDENS, APPAREL, EPAULET, CHATEAU, DANSEUR, KEN, PRIMAL, TATE, ALIT, COTS, NRA, LIEU, BEDE, SPOOK, SALTERS, STEARNS, ONO, ORB, ESCROWS, SEALABS, FLOSS, PETS, OBOE, FAD, ELLE, SUNG, EVES, MIKADO, SUM, CERTAIN, MALAISE, TREACLE, ENLIVEN, SYDNEYS, DEAREST.

- DOWN 1 Devitalizes 2 Taj Mahal city 3 Math subj. 4 Desire 5 Brings to mind 6 Precipitous 7 Besides 8 Kanga's joey 9 Thwarted 10 Meager 11 Saint's glow 12 Affirm 13 Recruit's dinner 14 Baseball's Slaughter 15 Lansbury TV series, "Murder, She..." 16 Salon treatment, for short 17 Stratum 18 Vigilant 19 Gymnast 20 Comaneci 21 James Dean film 22 Used an oven 23 Gave a score 24 Expunge 25 Money owed 26 Person who 31 Person who 32 Must be paid 33 Unorthodox beliefs 34 Wedge-shaped piece of wood 39 Even 40 Small angels 41 Labored 42 Scorch 43 Following 44 St. Vincent Millay 45 Tap problem 46 Take lunch 49 Largest continent 50 Be up and about 51 Got up 52 Mine products 53 Gunowners' grp. 54 Talk baby-talk

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information: 915-263-7331 (Main Switchboard), 915-263-7335 (Circulation Calls Only), (Fax) 915-264-7205. Lists staff members like Chuck Williams, John H. Walker, Edwin Vela, Mark Sheedy, Tony Hernandez, Dianne Marquez.