THURSDAY December 24, 1998

Today:



30°-35°

Tipsy Wrecker Service available for safe holiday

Big Spring citizens who find themselves a little too consumed with the holiday spirit tonight or on New Year's Eve don't have any reason to get out on the road and drive home.

Mitchem and Sons, Inc. wrecker service will continue its tradition of providing the "Tipsy Wrecker Service."

Big Spring residents who have been drinking can call the wrecker service and someone will pick them and their vehicle up and take them home.

Hours for the "Tipsy Wrecker Service" are from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. tonight and again on New Year's Eve. The number to call if you need a ride home is 267-3747.

WHAT'S UP...

MONDAY

☐ Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m, 1607 E. Third. Call Janis Dean at 267-3068.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus

☐ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Terry Hansen at 264-5175.

THURSDAY

☐ Gideons International Big Spring Cámp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.

□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and

☐ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus

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Merry Christmas! Sponsored by BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 96, No. 55

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.

"Reflecting a proud community"

Father, daughter celebrate first holiday together in 37 years

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Staff Writer

Debra Jackson and her father have reason to celebrate this Christmas.

Sitting in restaurants comparing ears, showing pictures of a third-place goat from a youth stock show, measuring smiles, and checking for natural red hair color may not be traditionfamily activities Christmas.

But that's just what Jackson and her father Herman Houston Farmer are doing this Christmas, as they celebrate their first holiday together after nearly four decades.

Their story spans 37 years and 2,200 miles, from Port Lavaca, Texas to Santa Rosa, Calif. A "messy divorce" separated the

children and their father when Jackson was about 3, she said.

"And I was told horrible things about him. When I first talked with my step-sister Robbie, I asked her, 'what is he

like? Is he mean? "And now I know he's not. He's really just a big teddy bear," Jackson said.

Jackson and her sister were adopted by their step-father, and their name was changed. Ironically, in 1972, when Farmer visited his uncle in Odessa, Jackson and her sister lived in a home right across the

For years, she never told anyone about her father, not even her high school best friends. But as she grew older, Jackson said wanted to know more than the stories she had heard.

Father James Liggett of St. Mary's Episcopal Church prepares the nativity scene in the sanctuary

Churches are planning special services on eve of Christ's birth

dren's Christmas play. At mid-

night, the traditional midnight

First Presbyterian Church

plans two services also. At 7

p.m., a candlelight service will

include Bible readings and tra-

ditional carols. A communion

At St. Paul Lutheran Church,

a 6 p.m. service will include,

"The Bethlehem Project," a per-

formance by children of the

Church, a 6 p.m. service is also

planned, this one with candle-

light and communion included.

Nazarene's Christmas Eve ser-

A duet by Pastor Roger Huff

and his daughter Jennifer,

First Church of the

At First United Methodist mass at 10 a.m.

vice will include special music. offer a special communion ser-

along with a solo by Clifton communion together can come

Platte, are among the special anytime between 5-7 p.m.

service will begin at 11 p.m.

mass will begin.

congregation.

"I wanted a family, and I wanted to find him, and I did," she

So Jackson and her husband Robert began searching for her father on Internet, at the advice of a friend. Once they logged on to Knowx.Com, Robert was able to locate Farmer.

"The initial search is free, and when they told me they had something with his name, I paid the \$6.95 with a credit card for the information." Robert said.

The service gave the couple county tax information on Farmer, including a telephone number. Jackson quickly called and asked about her father.

"He had kept the same telephone number for 35 years, just on the chance that we would

See **REUNITED**, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivan

Herman Farmer and his daughter Debra Jackson exchange a hug recently, celebrating finding each other after 36 years. Jackson wears the locket her dad gave her, and said she never takes it off.

Tiniest lives Sacred Heart reaches out to make sure local babies' needs are met

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Staff Writer

Baby presents for a baby Jesus are part of the Sacred Heart Catholic Christmas celebrations.

"We started this in the CCE (Christian Catholic Education) classes on Saturdays, and this has really grown," said church, secretary Teresa Rocha.

Each holiday season, church members and CCE classes collect baby presents and place, them in a wooden crib near the altar in the church.

Then, these presents provided by donation to the church will be given to Birthright.

"We'll take all the presents to Birthright after Christmas, around the New Year, so folks still have time to bring their gift," Rocha said.

The idea began several years ago, when the teachers of the CCE classes decided they wanted to do something special with their students for Christmas.

Margie Rodriguez began the first baby Jesus presents within her class, and through the past five years the program has grown to include parishioners and community members.

"They usually bring presents at Christmas Mass," Rocha said. Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated Dec. 24 at 5 and 9 p.m. Christmas Day Mass will See BABIES, Page 2A

"We are totally dependent on the community to provide, and we are thankful that we have a community that wants to see needs met.

-Pat Sutton, Birthright director

be at 10 a.m., Rocha said Traditional baby presents are the usual gift, she said.

Blankets, bottles, clothes, booties, crib sheets, diapers and other baby presents are wrapped in Christmas paper and placed in the wooden crib. "Sometimes they even bring car seats," Rocha said.

Birthright volunteer Cookie Elliot approached the church with the idea of providing gifts for the organization

"She came and talked to us an told us how there were women and girls, unwed mothers, who needed these things. That's why we do it." Rocha said.

"We bring baby presents for the baby Jesus, and it has gone really well," she said

Birthright is a nonprofit orga nization that offers free preg nancy testing and counseling

for pregnant women. The group is a supporter of

Weather should make Santa jolly

By JOHN H. WALKER **Managing Editor**

Features Editor

communion

Christmas

tonight.

everyone.

Big Spring churches are plan-

in

Eve

Holiday traditions in many

families include attending a

special church service togeth-

er. From early evening mass or

carols and Bible lessons to

communion at midnight, local

churches have something for

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

plans a candlelight service of

lessons and carols beginning at

10:30 p.m. Service of Holy

Communion is also planned

At Immaculate Heart of Mary

Catholic Church, a children's

mass is planned at 6 p.m. This

Christmas day at 10:30 a.m.

special

services

ning candlelight, carols and

Santa Claus should feel right at home as he makes his rounds through West Texas late tonight and early Friday as temperatures are expected to remain below the freezing mark.

"Highs will not be out of the until Saturday. These cloudy skies and wintry mix will continue Wednesday, Thursday and Friday," said Ray Fagen, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Midland.

Fagen said temperatures, which have dipped to 12 degrees twice this week already, are expected to remain in the 20s and low 30s through Christmas Day before a warming trend begins on Saturday.

But even with the cold weather forecast, Santa shouldn't have trouble making his rounds, as there will be only a minimal chance for light snow or freezing rain that could possibly interfere with Rudolph's navigational skills.

Fagen said the cold pattern will persist, but not too much moisture is expected with lowered temperatures.

"We may have occasional spits of light precipitation, and Thursday and Friday there is a slight chance of light snow or light freezing rain," he said.

Today and Christmas Day, highs should reach only to the lower 30s, still falling short of breaking through the freezing mark, he said, adding that any accumulation would be light.

"The accumulation should be nil, but with freezing rain and these low temperatures, that can cause slippery conditions," he said.

features. The message will be "l

service begins at 7 p.m.

anyone is welcome.

knew you would come." This

First Christian Church plans

a 6 p.m. service with candle-

light and traditional carols,

Scripture reading and a short

message. Dress is casual and

Sacred Heart Catholic

Church will have special

Christmas Eve mass at 5 p.m.

and 9 p.m. The 5 p.m. mass will

be bilingual. The church will

follow on Christmas Day with

St. Thomas Catholic Church

will have a bilingual, 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve mass, and a 10

College Baptist Church will

vice to families tonight.

Families who want to take

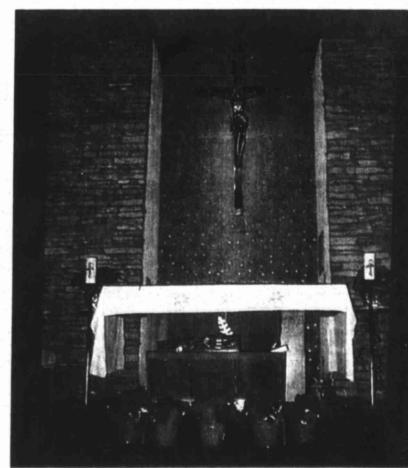
a.m. Christmas Day mass.

"Weak impulses moving through in the jet stream Thursday and Friday might cause the critical time of light precipitation," Fagen said.

Lows tonight and Wednesday night should remain in the teens, he said. Thursday and Friday night lows will be in the 20s. Highs will be in the 30s.

Saturday and Sunday the wintry weather may retreat somewhat, with highs expected in the 50s, he said.

The warmer weather is a concern for city officials, who are keeping a close watch on broken water lines across the community.



This crib near the altar at Sacred Heart Catholic Church is filled with presents for baby Jesus. These gifts will be collected through Christmas, and then given to Birthright.

OBITUARIES

Ray Avers Harlen
Service for Ray Avers Harlen,

78, Waco, formerly of Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, 1998, at the Harrell Memorial Chapel, Dublin. Burial will be in the Old Dublin Memorial Park.

Mr. Harlen died Monday, Dec. 21, at the VA Hospital in

 Waco. He was born July 3, 1920, in Big Spring. He was a retired service station owner.

Survivors include: three daughters, Brenda Sharp of Dublin, Fay Crowder of Lafayette, La., and Vickie Jackson of Red Oak; two sisters, Margaret Frizell of Fort Worth, and Iva Jewell Webb of Richmond, Va.; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchil-

Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society or American the Heart Association.

Arrangements under the direction of Harrell Funeral Home, Dublin.

Duval R. Wilev

Duval R. Wiley, Albuquerque, formerly of Big Spring, died on Monday, Dec. 21. 1998, at an Albuquerque hospital. Graveside service will be 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, 1998, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with Dr. Claude Craven, retired Baptist minister, officiating.

He was born on Sept. 14, 1923, in Pocahontas, Ark., and married Wanda Neel in Big Spring.

Mr. Wiley came to Big Spring in 1937 from Lubbock. He lived in Albuquerque in the early 70's and was a manager for Ace Auto Parts there until he retired in 1985.

He had belonged to the First Christian Church in Big Spring and served in the United States Army during World War II.

Survivors include: his wife, Wanda Wiley of Albuquerque, N.M.; a son and daughter-inlaw, Cliff and Calleen Wiley and granddaughters, Shannon, Devanie and Kendra Duval daughten and con in law, dudy and Lucky Near of ing them Phyllis said. Farmer

: Albuquerque, N.M. and grand- has had three major surgeries son, Brad Near of Tempe, Ariz.; this year, and suffers from a and granddaughter and her heart condition. .husband, Brandy and Ross Metzler of Albuquerque, N.M.

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

Paid obituary

BABIES

Continued from Page 1A

Right-To-Life, and provides maternity clothing for expect- ing mothers, as well as baby clothing, formula and other newborn baby needs, said Pat Sutton, director of Birthright.

"We put these items in a layette for a newborn baby and it is such a blessing. Our clients do not have the resources necessary to provide the things a newborn baby needs," Sutton

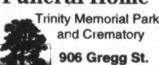
:, Birthright also acts as a liai-

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH

Funeral Home



(915) 267-6331

Duval R. Wiley, 75, died Monday, December 21, 1998. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM, Monday, December 28, 1998, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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Texas, 79720-9998

son between community donations and families in need, Sutton said.

Without our community, this organization would not exist. We are totally dependent on the community to provide, and we are thankful that we have a community that wants to see needs met," Sutton said.

REUNITED

Continued from Page 1A

call someday," Jackson said. When the telephone in Santa

Rosa was answered, Jackson said she hesitated slightly. "What do you say? I asked for him, and I asked if he had ever

lived in Texas," Jackson said. Her new-found step-sister Robbie shouted, "I've found my sister!" Jackson said.

Farmer and his wife of 35 years, Phyllis, were in bed that night when the phone rang. Phyllis answered and said to Jackson, "He's right here. He's been waiting 36 years for this phone call."

Jackson picks up the story then. "He had health problems, and she held her breath until she knew he was okay with the call. Then, she raced to the other phone."

Farmer said he sat straight up in bed when he realized it was his daughter calling. "That was the best phone call I've ever had in my life. We talked for four hours. I didn't want to hang up," Farmer, 61, said.

He said he never gave up hope that his daughters would find him. Their infant brother died in 1961, and Farmer drove 34 hours straight through from California to attend the funeral.

That was the last time he saw his girls, until March 19 of this year. But he and Phyllis always hoped the girls would become part of their lives.

"When we built our home, it was designed with the idea that the girls might some day live with us," Phyllis said. And she tells of the many

instances in the past 36 years when she woke in the middle of the night to find her husband crying, as he sat on the side of the bed, missing his daughters. he just couldn't die without see

Robert said during the first

month of reunion, the two of them talked two or three times a day. "Our phone bill was \$500. and that was only half of the bill, because they were making calls too."

On May 1, their anniversary, Robert and Debra flew to California for a reunion of father and daughter. The airplane landed in Las Vegas, where the Jackson's had been married.

"We looked out at Las Vegas, kissed and said 'Happy Anniversary.' That was our celebration," Jackson said.

By the time airplane landed in Oakland, Jackson's excitement was contagious.

"The other passengers let me off first, for their own safety. At first I was walking through the terminal, then jogging, and then flat out running.

"And the first time I saw him, he was sitting in a wheel chair carrying a bouquet of a dozen pink roses," Jackson said.

"I got to the airport that day about two hours early. I didn't want to be late," Farmer said. Both were nervous, and they

laugh as they recall how Jackson nearly wrecked the wheel chair, narrowly avoiding toppling them both, as they hurried out of the terminal.

"This is a fantastic ending and it's so sad that we couldn't be together all these years. I know if I had been around, she would-

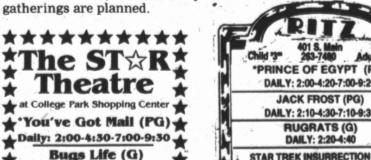
n't be so ornery," Farmer said. Along with a certain shape of their eye, small ears and a crooked smile, father and daughter share a well rounded sense of humor.

"There's so much we missed. He wasn't there when I had my first date," Jackson said.

"Which is probably a good thing," Farmer joked.

And now that Farmer, Phyllis and Robbie's son Matthew Woosley have traveled by motor home to Texas, more family gatherings are planned.

Daily: 2:15-4:15-7:15-9:15



Farmer has met his three grandsons, Jackson's sons, as well as his daughter Teloa Walters and her children, who all live in Odessa. Also, Farmer and Phyllis met their 15-monthgreat granddaughter,

Madison. "My sons have thanked me, and my sister thanked me for finding him. At first they were hesitant, and were uncomfortable," Jackson said.

old

The reunion will continue until Dec. 31, when young Woosley must return for school. Until then, the family plans to shop, feast and compare smiles.

"No matter what adults feel about each other when they divorce, please do not make the children pay for it," Jackson said.

And Farmer agreed. "The time and loss can never be recaptured, and I do not understand anyone who would not want to

Ice, cold weather hinder travelers

LUBBOCK (AP) - For many North Texans, heading home for the holidays proved to be a test of wills with Mother Nature as icy conditions forced flight delays and cancellations Wednesday, leaving many travelers stranded.

American Airlines canceled half its morning and early afternoon flights, but expected to do better as the day went on, said spokesman Tim Smith. The Fort Worth-based airline runs about 2,200 flights in and out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Texas roads also were problematic for travelers as ice and traffic accidents closed many major highways at different periods of the morning.

At Lubbock International Airport, 74-year-old Sydney Larsen sat patiently reading a newspaper as she awaited the arrival of the plane that was supposed to take her to Dallas hours before. several Apparently, the plane was being de-iced in Dallas and was scheduled to arrive within the

"If the weather is bad and they are having problems, they can take all the time they like. Mrs. Larsen said as she shifted uncomfortably in her seat. "I'm headed to see my sister, but I'm sure she would appreciate them trying to be safe.

Norice Craven, 42, anxiously awaited her parents' arrival on another flight delayed out of

Dallas. "We're not sure when they're going to get here," Mrs. Craven said. "They keep delaying the flight. It's a good thing (my par-

ents) are so patient."

The terminals at DFW filled throughout the morning with travelers stranded by flight cancellations.

"Getting to the airport was just a nightmare. With the interstate closed, you have to take access roads - forget it,' said Joe Koenieczka.

"I'm going to Wichita, Kansas, and they've canceled all the flights to Wichita. So I'm trying to get close enough so that somebody can pick me up — maybe in Oklahoma or in Kansas City," said Constance

McSarthing. 'We definitely didn't expect this," said passenger James Talley. "Twenty-five degrees we thought they said Celsius.

But they said Fahrenheit." Delta Air Lines, which has 125 scheduled arrivals at DFW, canceled 90 percent of its morning flights and expected to cancel 50 percent of its afternoon flights, spokesman Willis Uggen said.

At Dallas Love Field, Southwest Airlines had no cancellations, spokeswoman Christie Kerr said. However, departures were being delayed a bit for de-icing, she said.

Not only were holiday fliers stymied, but so were commuters and truckers. The professionals knew what icy roads



BIG SPRING ROUND THE TOWN



Anthony Hernandez, 2, cries to get off the lap of Santa, Pasqual Porras, at Lakeview Headstart. The school had a surprise visit from Santa for all of its students.

meant.

"No need to even drive it, just park it," said trucker Jesse Cummings.

Many of the amateurs apparently hadn't a clue.

"Four-wheelers were just going everywhere in the ditch in front of us, and it's just been real treacherous out here," said truck driver James McBryde.

"Like there's no ice out there that's how they're driving. And they're not making it to where they're going," said Arlington police Officer Doug Madden.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

 Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.

 A.D.D.A.P.T. non-profit support and learning organization about attention deficit disorder. learning disorders and dyslexia. Meets second Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May, Cerebral Palsy

building, 802 Ventura, Midland. ·Alzheimer's support group, noon, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, third Thursday of the month. Call Janice Wagner at

263-1211. ·Grief Support related to the death of a loved one. Call Nurses Unlimited, Inc., at 264-

 Alzheimer's Association Support Group, last Thursday of the month, Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway, 7 p.m. Call Viola Barraza at

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

Al-Anon support group, 8



CINEMA 4 RIG SPRING, T

\$3.00 ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM \$3.00 SENIORS & CHILDREN - \$5.00 ADULTS STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG) DAILY: 1:50-4:25-7:00-9:30 STEP MOM (PG-13) DAILY: 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:50 PATCH ADAMS (PG-13) DAILY: 1:40-4:05-7:20-9:40 THE FACULTY (R)

DAILY: 2:00-4:35-7:30-10:00 'Pass & Super Saver Restricted

p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria. FRIDAY

•Turning Point A.A., 8-9:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers. ·Alcoholics Anonymous, 615

Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. Big Book Study IF YOU HAVE A SUPPORT

GROUP LISTING, PLEASE SUBMIT IT IN WRITING.

BRIEFS

JURY DUTY FOR DEC. 30, 9 a.m., for the Howard County Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 2, has been canceled.

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

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

For more information call Janis Dean at 267-3068.

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

SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, will have free food for the area needy from 10 a.m. to noon



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A Message to **Our Clients** and Friends:





Barbara Brumley

219 Main St. Big Spring, TX. (915) 267-2501

When I joined Edward Jones 32 years ago, I had two goals. The first was to build a successful business here in Big Spring. The continued trust and support of my clients have allowed me to do so, and I sincerely thank each of them.

My second goal was to provide exceptional personalized service to every investor who chose to do business with Edward Jones. I've worked very hard to achieve this goal, but as my business has grown, it has become more challenging. That is why I'm so pleased to announce that a second investment representative, Barbara Brumley has joined me in my

Barbara will work with me in my office for the next 18 months, serving the needs of existing clients and extending our services to new investors. She will then open another Edward Jones office here in Big Spring.

I'm very pleased to be working with Barbara, and I'm sure you will be as impressed with her professionalism and integrity as I am. Should she contact you, I hope you will extend the same warm welcome I have received. As always, if we can be of service, please call or stop by the office anytime.

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

BIG SPR Thursda

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HOUSTON

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Five traffic deaths already, linked to freezing weather

people were killed on ice-glazed roads Wednesday as drizzle combined with freezing temperatures to paralyze highway traffic in North, Central and South

In Austin, 59 vehicles were involved in two pileups on both sides of Interstate 35 about 1 a.m. A 30-year-old man and 19year-old woman were killed in the chain collision.

In other fatal accidents: A 7-month-old baby was killed Wednesday morning when the car in which he rode crashed on an icy Interstate 10,

near Seguin, the Guadalupe

DALLAS (AP) - At least six County sheriff's department said.

- A man was killed and his wife was in critical condition after their car swerved on a patch of ice and veered into oncoming traffic on Interstate 10 in San Antonio, police said.

- In Fort Worth, police say one person was killed early Wednesday when a vehicle slid on ice and into a fence.

 In Duncanville, Charles Thomas, 33, of Dallas was killed when his car skidded on an Interstate 20 ice patch and slammed into a large highway sign standard.

Authorities said many of the

predawn wrecks were caused by lose it on a bridge deck to tie it Southwest Airlines spokes- coats, stocking caps, gloves, motorists being deceived by "black ice," which is as clear as

"One problem is that people in this part of the country aren't really familiar with driving under these conditions," said Dallas street department spokesman Coy Evans.

Ice and traffic accidents closed many major highways at different periods of the morning, especially at rush hour. In North Texas, tractor-trailer rigs had trouble navigating glazed parts of Interstates 35, 30 and 20 and the Dallas North Tollway. "All you need is one person to

up," said Mike Heise, a Texas Department of Transportation spokesman in Dallas.

A winter weather watch has been issued for Austin and much of the state. South Texas is expected to receive more freezing precipitation tonight.

The ice and the need to de-ice planes also forced flight delays and cancellations at the giant Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, airport spokeswoman Angel Biasatti. However, runways were in good condition and highways serving the air-

port have been sanded, she said. At Dallas Love Field, woman Christie Kerr said, "operations are routine."

Homeless shelters were packed to overflowing, sand trucks were mobilized to treat icy roads, and holiday shoppers bundled up as Texans braced Tuesday against the coldest blast of the season.

"We were at overflow (Monday) night and probably will be for the rest of the week, but we won't turn anyone away," said Gary Brown, director of the Star of Hope Men's Shelter in Houston.

Brown also was worried about running out of donated winter

heavy socks and sweaters to give to the homeless.

"We've given out more than 500 coats in the last two weeks,' he told the Houston Chronicle. 'We're starting to have to turn

people down." In Corpus Christi, the cold, conditions windy shrimpers off the water.

"On days like this, it's just too cold and windy to do anything but try and stay warm, kill time and find other things to do,' said shrimper Ted Scheuer, who was huddled inside a bait house, drinking coffee and eating cinnamon rolls

Music lovers band together in Christmas spirit

Gladen wants her musicians to know the joy of traveling on the

They have the time. They have the sponsors. They travel lightly. And gradually, Gladen is booking more and more gigs for the Mamas and Papas one week a trip to Refugio, the next a venture to a church across town.

The Mamas and Papas include about a dozen residents age 70 and older at the Aransas Pass Convalescent Center. Gladen is their assistant activi-

Last year she and other ing the Mamas and Papas' half-

staffers at the home were looking for new ways of encouraging residents to interact and exercise. Exercise, especially, is something they resist, said Jim Rogan, nursing director.

It occurred to Gladen that the residents always seemed to enjoy music.

She didn't see why they couldn't make some of their own. "I think it's a wonderful feeling we have Christmastime. I wish it prevailed all year. I'm sorry to say it doesn't," resident Kathryn Szewczyk, 64, a cancer survivor, said Friday morning durhour Christmas concert.

The Christmas carols were played from a recording. The Mamas and Papas supplemented the canned music by singing and playing tambourines, cymbals, maracas, hand drums and noisemakers. Gladen directed.

At 9:45 a.m., special-education students from Ingleside High School arrived by bus. For more than a month, seven or eight students have been joining the Mamas and Papas in rehearsals once a week.

Together, the teens and the seniors call themselves the Aransas Pass Rhythm Band.

"They asked me, so I came,"

said drummer Ignacio Trevino, 76. "I like it."

Down the row from him sat Florence Brooks, 88, an Aransas Pass resident since 1930. She played a tambourine.

"I love coming in here when the church is here, and singing the church songs," she said.

Gladen and activities director Donna Remus have been trying to pair each nursing home resident with one of the high school students and encouraging them to talk and get to know each other.

The music draws participants from both age groups out of their shells, Rogan said.

Three students with ties to Texas win British Marshall Scholarships

HOUSTON (AP) - Three stu- Spires, who plans to pursue dents with ties to Texas are winners of Marshall Scholarships, the British equivalent to Rhodes Scholarships.

The government grants allow U.S. students to attend a British college for at least two years. They cover tuition, books, travel and living expenses.

Justyna Gudzowska, straight-A student at Rice University, plans to study economics at Cambridge University. The Polish immigrant says she aspires to help Eastern European countries solve economic problems.

neuroscience research at Oxford University, is majoring in biochemistry and French at UT. Spires' research focuses on finding a cure for paralysis and mental retardation caused by

UT graduate Daun Nicole DeFrance, who plans to study in Oxford's joint program in math and philosophy, is pursuing a doctorate in structural engineering at Cornell University. She plans to teach aspiring engineers and scientists.

Britain established the The University of Texas' Tara Marshall Scholarships in 1953.

Flaw in rail, communication lapse suspected in derailment

Amtrak train may have forgot to try again to report it, derailed because of poor communication concerning a kink in the track, according to federal officials.

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The engineer of a Union Pacific freight train reported a rough patch in the rail to a dispatcher two hours before the mated \$1.35 million in damage Amtrak derailment Sunday, James Southworth, lead investigator for the National Union Pacific Railroad has ransportation Safety Board,

d Tuesday. The engineer said it felt like Dunn, a safety board senior investigator.

The dispatcher warned eastbound Amtrak Texas Eagle 22 of the rough patch, causing the train's engineer to slow down to noticed a kink in the rail and tried five or six times to report it by radio, but was unable to reach the dispatcher, Dunn

ARLINGTON (AP) - An busy operating the train and officials said.

> Later, westbound Amtrak Texas Eagle 21 traveled over the rail kink at 36 mph and nine of its 13 cars derailed, injuring 17 passengers and 11 crew members. The crash caused an estito the rail cars and tracks.

As a result of the accident, instituted a policy requiring trains in similar rough track circumstances to go no faster a lateral motion, said James than 10 mph. Before the new policy, the railroad dispatcher did not have to require slow travel over rough spots.

> The dispatcher had wide discretion over slowing trains or

The engineer said he became regarding track conditions.

Icy weather delays last-ditch Christmas shoppers DALLAS (AP) - Freezing in the way of a merry

rain and drizzle put a chill on Christmas shoppers Wednesday but not for long.

Shoppers who heeded warnings to stay home and off slick roadways began returning to North Texas shopping malls around noon, apparently deciding that rain or ice can't stand

Christmas.

But some mall officials said they expected their stores to empty out early as shoppers worry about roads becoming icy again after nightfall.

"I think it'll taper off around six," said Donna Evans, frontdesk receptionist at Northpark

Center in North Dallas.

Tomorrow, if the roads are dry, I think it'll be pretty busy," she said of Christmas Eve shopping. "It really depends on how frozen the roads are."

'It's not very crowded at all," said a secretary at a North -Dallas Foley's department store. "It is easy to stroll up and down

Bill Warner, Dillard's department stores' vice president, said the hazardous streets and traffic snarls interrupted what had been a week of solid Christmas sales performances.

"Crowds definitely were smaller than usual for the season this morning," he said.

whether to shut the tracks, 33 mph. The engineer then Dunn said. UP, which owns the track where Sunday's derailment occurred, also has created another policy to prevent breakdowns in communication

Houston bar that fought Elvis Presley's estate closing

break hotel for patrons of the Velvet Elvis bar.

After fighting — and losing a trademark battle with Elvis Presley's estate, the little Houston saloon is closing for good on Dec. 30.

"This really doesn't have anything to do with the lawsuit." insisted the bar's founder, Barry Capece. "That was an expensive ordeal, but we got through it."

But the lawsuit had the bar all shook up. It cost the owners thousands of dollars and their cherished name.

In 1995, Elvis Presley Enterprises sued the bar for trademark infringement, claiming the bar misled fans of the King into thinking it was an official Elvis shrine, like Graceland.

The bar's owners answered that the Velvet Elvis was meant

263-1631

HOUSTON (AP) - It's heart- to be tacky, a satirical jab at theme restaurants and the nation's growing obsession with celebrity.

The bar prevailed before a federal judge in Houston, who said the owners had not "stepped on the plaintiff's blue suede shoes.

But an appellate court in New Orleans overturned the decision. While the Presley foundation didn't win any damages, the bar was ordered to change its name. The Velvet Elvis became the Velvet E.

Business dropped off sharply. Capece - who blamed the slump on the NBA lockout said the bar is still viable. But, he said, the owners want to do different things.

New owners will reopen the bar next spring as "Woody's Place," after taking down all the velvet paintings of Elvis that adorn the walls.

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OUR VIEWS

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Pana says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.' the self me the truth, is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West 95th Street'

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the of truth and knowledge.

urginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as y as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make

able this existence. We should have no enjoyent, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with hich childhood fills the world would be extin-

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what make the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives for ever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) Sun in September, 1897. Her letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" - the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every quarter of the globe.

The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcelius Church's response is an annual tradition at the *Herald*. We hope you enjoy it.

Anti-religious fanatics carry it too far

o thousand years ago, King Herod drove Jesus, Mary and Joseph from the peaceful shelter of their Bethlehem stable into Egypt, where they hid

until it was safe to return to Israel. Today, Herod's troops have been replaced by the ACLU and likeminded zealots, who wish to drive the Holy Family from every public square in America.



CHAVEZ

Well, they haven't quite succeeded. At least in one little corner of small-town America, a creche adorns a public space unchallenged. I won't say where, lest I put the site on the ACLU'S Christmas Eve hit list, but it's there. I've seen it with my own eyes, as big as life

The scene is simple: a stable, a child in a manger, kneeling figures and nothing else. No ridiculous reindeer or silly snowmen, the secular symbols

the Supreme Court has insisted accompany any religious display on public property. So far, at least, there's been no public outcry over the exhibit, and no suits, either.

Other towns haven't been as lucky this year. In St. Ann, Mo., the ACLU won a restraining order preventing the city from erecting a nativity scene on public property. In Somerset, Mass., a federal district court ordered the removal of a government-sponsored Christmas display, even though it included a plastic Santa Claus, wreaths and trees, in addition to the nativity scene. "There is no superabundance of secular symbols to dilute the religious message of the

creche," the judge complained.

But even the inclusion of a superabundance of non-religious symbols doesn't guarantee that someone won't complain about a public creche anyway. In San Jose, Calif., earlier this month, an atheist group launched a protest march against the city's "Christmas in the Park," despite the elves, reindeer and the Aztec serpent god Quetzalcoatl, which accompanied the traditional nativity scene in the Plaza de Cesar

Chavez. (One wonders what the intensely devout Roman Catholic Chavez would have thought of a pagan god erected in the park named in his

And in Parker County, Texas, a local atheist won the right to hang a 4-by-8-foot sign reading, 'Happy Winter Solstice, the REAL reason for the season." beside the town's Christmas display.

The county issued the permit for the sign as part of a settlement of a lawsuit challenging the local creche.

But it's not just Nativity scenes that are endangered. Some public officials worry that any mention of the word Christmas by a government official is enough to run afoul of the First Amendment. Many -- if not most -- school districts around the country no longer take Christmas holidays, but rather Winter breaks. And woe to the teacher or parent who dares decorate the classroom with symbols of the season.

A friend who serves as a school volunteer in nearby Fairfax County, Va., tells me she's been officially warned not to bring red and green napkins to her son's Winter Holiday party, nor anything decorated

with holly, poinsettias or any other identifiable Christmas symbol. Candy canes are especially forbidden, I'm told, since they represent the staffs carried by the shepherds who stood watch in Bethlehem that

special night so long ago. This is anti-religion fanaticism at its most ludicrous and certainly not what the Founding Fathers intended. The Founders would be appalled to learn that the words of the First Amendment, which were meant first and foremost to protect the right of religious observance, are now being used to strip religion from the public square.

What is more, it won't work. Americans are too religious a people to allow anti-religion bigotry to dictate civic life. As quickly as the ACLU censors one public creche, dozens more appear.

Indeed, what the ACLU campaign seems to have accomplished is a proliferation of religious symbols, as many cities add menorahs, commemorating the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, alongside their creches. A nation founded by those fleeing religious persecution will not long allow religion itself to become a pariah.



soldier's Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give, And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, A sober thought came through

For this house was different, It was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier. Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder. Not how I pictured a United States Soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, Owed their lives to these sol-

diers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, And grownups would cele-

brate

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

A bright Christmas Day.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, On a cold Christmas Eve in a

land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,

"Santa don't dry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,

My life is my God, my country, my corps. The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,

I couldn't control it, I contin-

ued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still

And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, With a voice soft and pure, Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure.

One look at my watch, and I Merry Christmas my friend.

Addresses

· BILL CLINTON President The White House

Washington, D.C. · PHIL GRAMM U.S. Senator 370 Russell Office Building

Washington, 20510 Phone: 202-224-2934 KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator 703 Hart Office Building Washington, 20510 Phone: 202-224-5922 CHARLES STENHOLM

U.S. Representative 17th District 1211 Longworth Office Bldg. Washington, 20515. Phone: 202-225-6605

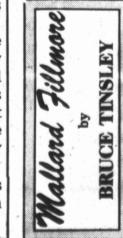
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knew he was right, and to all a good night.





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Four die in Manhattan fire that starts in Culkin family apartment

broke out today in two apartments of a Manhattan high-rise that neighbors said were occupied by the family of Macaulay Culkin. Four people were killed. A publicist for the Culkin

family said all family members were safe. The dead, two men and two

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women, were found on the 27th and 29th floors, according to Fire Commissioner Thomas

The apartments, on the 19th

floor, were listed in 1997 court papers as the family's residence, and neighbors said Macaulay's mother, Patricia Brentrup, and at least several of the "Home Alone" star's six siblings still live there. One official source who spoke on condition of anonymity said Ms. Brentrup

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is still registered as the tenant. Von Essen had no information on the Culkins and the family publicist, Paul Bloch, would not say whether they were in the building. "I can only tell you

very sad about the tragedy," Bloch said.

"I ran down the stairway ... and saw the Culkins in the lobby," said Steve Young, one of hundreds of residents who evacuated the smoke-filled building. It was not clear which members of the family Young saw. Von Essen said firefighters did not find anyone inside the apartments where the blaze began, 19D and 19E.

the apartment, recently moved out after getting married but often returned to visit.

Four firefighters also were injured in the blaze.

White smoke billowed from apartments and residents could be seen standing on the balconies outside their apartments. Residents were urged by firefighters to stay in their apartments to avoid the smoke-filled hallways.

The dead were not immediate-The actor, who was raised in ly identified. The mayor indi-

cated they were found in the ated. halls. "If people had stayed in their apartments, we might have come away without serious injuries," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

The lower 10 floors of the building include rented office space for many physicians from St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, which is across the street. Hospital spokeswoman Kathleen McGovern said patients and staff on all 10 of those floors were safely evacu-

The building is in a desirable section of Manhattan, steps from Lincoln Center and Central Park. A studio apartment there rents for \$1,800 a month.

The rent for the Culkins apartments was so high that lawyers in a 1997 child custody case between Ms. Brentrup and childrens' father, Christopher "Kit" Culkin, told a judge the family was "rent-

New York strikes down part of death penalty law

state's highest court has struck down a portion of New York's three-year-old death penalty law because it may unfairly encourage guilty pleas from defendants hoping to avoid lethal injection.

The Court of Appeals unanimously ruled unconstitutional the provision in the law which allowed defendants to plea bargain for life-in-prison sentences in exchange for not having to face a death penalty prosecu-

Chief Judge Judith Kaye said Tuesday that the U.S. Supreme Court decided 30 years ago that such a choice could tend to unfairly encourage guilty pleas, violating a citizen's rights to a jury trial and against self

incrimination. A defendant can be executed in New York only after being whether it has any implications found guilty at trial and then for cases that are already sentenced to death by a jury. Defendants who plead guilty to capital murder cannot be executed.

Thus, "the death penalty hangs over only those who exercise their constitutional rights

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - The demand a jury trial," the Court of Appeals said.

The Court of Appeals threw out the sentencing provision, but said the rest of the capital punishment statute which went into effect on Sept. 1, 1995, stands.

The decision sent those on both sides of the death penalty debate combing through Judge Kave's 19-page ruling to determine its effect on future capital cases and on the 38 people who have faced life-without-parole sentences since 1995.

The head of the state Capital Defender Office, Kevin Doyle, said it was unclear how many inmates serving life without parole can seek to have those sentences vacated in light of Tuesday's ruling.

'We're studying the decision and trying to figure out closed," he said.

Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes, meantime, said he would appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gov. George Pataki said he pleased was with

Christmas On The Farm.



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to maintain innocence and announcement. Study: AIDS care costs less than thought, researchers say

Studies show opposite conclusions WASHINGTON (AP) - Could foods that trigger symptoms,

milk.

ferers relief.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Care before the advent of AIDS drug for AIDS patients in the United cocktails that have proved pow-States is less expensive than erfully effective in fending off the disease and keeping \$20, \$20,000 per person per year, patients out of the hospital.
according to a study that tries. The study was conducted in the cost.

The study estimated a total cost of \$6.7 billion annually, or less than 1 percent of all U.S. expenditures on medical patients.

"Compared to what we spend on all kinds of other things, it's just not that much money" for the government to spend, said project co-director Dr. Samuel A. Bozzette, a health care researcher at RAND, the Santa Monica, Calif., think tank overseeing the government-sponsored research.

The \$20,000 tab is roughly onethird of the estimates from the early 1990s, when firm figures were hard to come by, and

it be that some cases of chronic

indigestion are caused by bacte-

gia and not, say, stress and

Two new studies came to

opposite conclusions, leaving

Indigestion, which plagues 25

percent to 40 percent of people

in Western nations, is only

Its symptoms — burning, gas, nausea and pain — can be caused by stress, stomach

ulcers, gallstones, inflammation

of the esophagus and eating too

much, too fast or eating spicy or

fatty foods. Treatment may include avoiding stress and

the question unanswered.

partly understood.

spicy food?

person per year, patients out of the hospital.

the best number yet on 1996, just as the combination therapy was coming into widespread use. It found 55 percent of people being treated for HIV were taking one of the newer AIDS drugs by December 1996. Doctors believe use of the new drugs has since risen sharply.

> The study estimated that only half of all American adults infected with the AIDS virus saw their doctor at least once every six months.

Many of those not getting care were unaware they were infect-

However, an encouraging 85 percent of those with full-blown AIDS were getting regular care, with most of them seeing AIDS

taking antacids and drinking

Doctors have wondered

whether Helicobacter pylori, the bacteria that cause ulcers,

might also play a role in the

non-ulcer variety of indigestion.

ulcers. If H. pylori also causes

indigestion, doctors could use

the same antibiotics to give suf-

Two large studies undertaken to determine whether H. pylori

is indeed a cause of indigestion

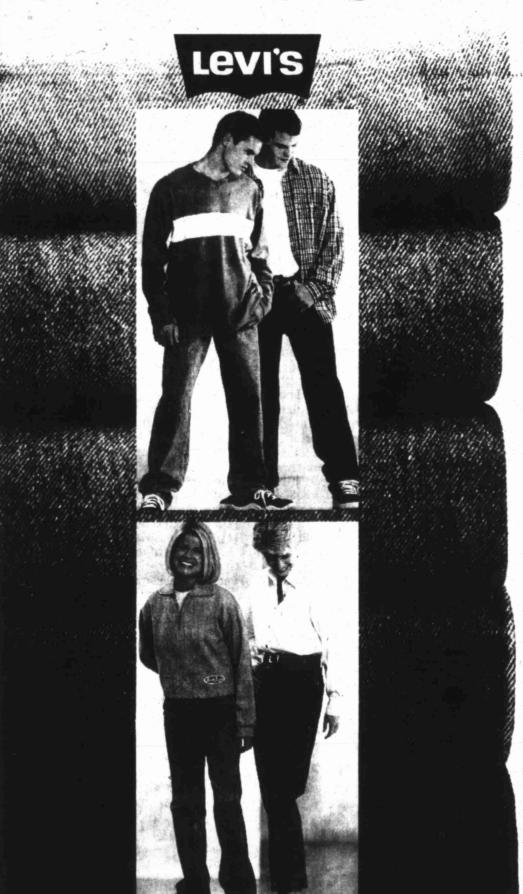
were published in Thursday's

New England Journal of

Antibiotics already are used to kill H. pylori in people with

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Displaced steel workers put

pressure on administration

WASHINGTON (AP) - The diplomatic code words for spy-State Department Wednesday ordered the expulsion of three Cuban diplomats at the United Nations for spying activities.

It said two other Cubans who were alleged to have engaged in similar activities left the country on their own several weeks

State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said the Cuban mission was informed that the three were being expelled "for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status" -

ing.

The three were said to have been linked to a case involving 10 people - all alleged to be Cuban agents — who were arrested in Miami September.

The names of the three Cubans were withheld. Two were said to be low-ranking diplomats and the third was described as mid-to-senior level. U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida E Silva said the three must leave by 5 p.m. on Dec. 28.

result of evidence developed during an exhaustive investigation by the FBI," Rubin said.

He added that the United States can't accept violations of U.S. law and "endangerment of our national security interests."

The Cuban delegation to the U.N. was informed Monday night that the United States tentatively planned to order the three to leave the country, said an official, asking not to be identified.

The department gave the

"This action was taken as a Cuban mission 24 hours to argue against expelling the three but it received no response before the deadline, the official said.

Jose Borges, spokesman at the Cuban U.N. mission, declined comment.

The expulsion was the first by the United States of a Cuban diplomat since Jose Luis Ponce, who was based on Washington.

About 10 Cuban diplomats have been expelled by the U.S. since the early 1980s.

him are behind the growing pressure on President Clinton to take more aggressive steps

to block steel imports. They are also placing the administration in a quandary as it searches for ways to fight the recent surge in imports. was ordered home in 1996. blamed for thousands of layoffs and other cutbacks across the country. Congress has given the administration until Jan. 5

> to come up with a plan. Houser, who lost his job at USX Corp.'s Fairless Works plant near Philadelphia the

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kind friendship is at the top of the list.

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WASHINGTON (AP)

Displaced steel mill worker

Ken Houser and others like

day before Thanksgiving understands the administration's desire to promote free trade globally. Houser simply disagrees with Clinton's prior-

"Clinton is stuck in the middle," said Houser, 44, who has worked in steel mills for a quarter century. "I agree with the world economy and everything, but when it comes down to the American workers, he's got to stand up for us. I don't feel they are doing it.'

Complaints have been filed against Japan, Russia and Brazil, but rulings are not expected until next summer.

Class-action suit takes aim at gun industry When the case goes to trial Handgun Violence. "If you can whole creates a widespread risk NEW YORK (AP) - A lawsuit before a federal jury in get to trial, you have a chance with indiscriminate marketing, accusing the gun industry of let-Brooklyn on Jan. 4, a high-rankto win. And if you win, the she said. ting weapons fall into crimiing industry defector is expectwhole face of the industry Barnes has armed herself

nals' hands goes to trial next month in a groundbreaking attempt to use the same legal weapon that proved so effective against Big Tobacco.

The class-action liability suit was brought in 1995 by the families of seven shooting victims. They are seeking unspecified damages

Previous lawsuits against the firearms industry have blamed shootings on gun defects or have alleged that guns are inherently dangerous. Courts have consistently thrown out inherently-dangerous claims, and the defective-gun cases have had mixed success.

This case is the first to accuse the industry of negligent marketing. It alleges gun makers knowingly "oversupply" the ed to testify that manufacturers look the other way while their products end up in the hands of

Defenders of the gun industry which generates sales of \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year - say manufacturers should not be held accountable for criminal use of a legal product.

But last week, U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein rejected a request by Smith & Wesson Corp., Beretta USA Corp., Ruger & Co., Accu-Tech and more than 30 other defendants to dismiss the lawsuit. That cleared the way for the case to go to trial. Gun-control advocates said that's a victory in itself.

"It's huge," said Joshua Horwitz, executive director of Washington-based Educational Fund to End would change.

Jack Adkins of the American Shooting Sports Council, an Atlanta-based trade association, said the case is "another attempt to shift blame where it doesn't belong. It won't work."

In urging Weinstein to dismiss the case, defense attorneys said that nearly all guns are sold and owned legally. They also noted that the plaintiffs have never conclusively linked the weapons used to kill their relatives to specific gun manufacturers.

"There is a total disconnect here," said Smith & Wesson attorney James Dorr.

The lead attorney for the plaintiffs. Elisa Barnes, responded that the "chain of, title" is irrelevant. What matters is that the industry as a

with a study by a New York consulting firm, the National Economic Research Associates, that concludes that gun makers oversupply states with weak handgun laws such as Florida, thus feeding a pipeline of illegal guns to states with strict controls like New York.

The study also found that manufacturers have substantially increased production of guns popular with criminals, such as 9 mm semiautomatic pistols.

Despite that evidence, the industry "would have us believe that the shootings ... are strange that occurrences happen because of matters beyond (their) control," Barnes said.

Barnes previously helped women claiming injury from

Many shopping online, but some have concerns WASHINGTON (AP) - While

last-minute shoppers frantically crowd the malls, Marguerite Smalls sits at her office desk and with a click of the mouse ticks off the gifts on her list. Videos for her daughter from

The Disney Store. Clothes for others from Spiegel. Maybe some shoes for herself.

"I just don't like standing in line," said Smalls of Greenbelt,

This holiday season, more and more shoppers are heading to the Internet: They're expected to spend \$2.3 billion online or more than double last year's \$1.1 billion, according to the firm Jupiter research Communications.

Although that remains just a fraction of total holiday spending, the desire to avoid crowds and dissatisfaction with customer service is leading to more Internet shopping just as it previously boosted catalog shop"I just don't like standing in line."

-Marguerite Smalls

ping, consumer experts believe. "People are always talking about shopping in that tone of voice, like, 'How do I beat the system?," said Mona Doyle, author of the Shopper Report, which surveys consumers about the retail industry.

Not all shoppers are comfortable with the idea, however.

"I'll never buy online again," said Daniel Ho, a student in Los Angeles who purchased a product for his computer on the Internet and eagerly awaited its promised two-day delivery.

Two weeks later, the item arrived, looking far different from what was touted on the Web. And it came with a notice that the company did not issue full refunds.

"The company told me you have to read what's in the manual — not the specifications on the Web," Ho said.

After much prodding by Ho and the Better Business Bureau, the company finally agreed to take the item back. But Ho still wasted \$20 on shipping. Now he figures it's just as easy to go to the store "Then I can return it," he

said. To avoid such problems, experts recommend that con-

sumers stick with stores they already know or look for signs that they can trust the business. Among those signs are a site's statement, which explains how the company will use any information it gathers,

such as the customer's address. Consumers need to look for clues that the site is secure before typing in credit card numbers.

"A lot of people who have never (shopped online) before have heard rumors, but don't know what they're supposed to be afraid of," said Anne Jennings, marketing communications manager at TRUSTe, a nonprofit group that offers a third-party oversight program.

About 400 companies carry the TRUSTe seal, which tells customers they have some recourse in disputes with the business. The business bureau started

giving out its own online seal in late November. Staff members check out the physical location of businesses with Web sites to make sure the company exists and is legitimate. As the number of shoppers

grows, more well-known and bigger stores have begun setting up Internet shop.

Kmart leapt onto the online retail bandwagon early in the

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National spotlight singles out Baltimore's warts BALTIMORE (AP) - For four down, even as other types of Officials defend the city by

breathless days, the number stood at 299.

Would the Baltimore police be able to hold the number of homicides this year below 300 for the first time in nine years?

Mayor Kurt Schmoke had said keeping a lid on the murder rate was a major priority. Three hundred was a threshold he didn't want to cross again. Officers were pulled from

desk jobs and called in on overtime. Many of the department's administrative functions were put on hold while a new flood of cops worked the streets.

The reply came in the form of 16-year-old Donte Brooks, who was found bleeding to death from multiple gunshot wounds early Monday. He became murder victim No. 300.

"If you just look at our murder rate compared to New York City, it really makes you sick,' said Gary McLhinney, president of Baltimore's police bodies in "The Baltimore are stacking up higher and higher."

Baltimore's apparent inability to bring its homicide count

Cornerstone **Financial** CDs Subject to change w/o notice 915-620-8383 888-681-0290 CORNERSTONE FINANCIAL 306 West Wall **Suite 1222**

violent crime have declined, has thrust a national spotlight on the city's dark side.

Schmoke recently went on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" to defend his city's reputation after Leno spent a week taking potshots at Baltimore for its other unhappy claim to fame — the highest syphilis rate in the country.

Just this week, the public learned that the Equal Opportunity **Employment** Commission had ruled the Baltimore Police Department discriminated against its black officers, who have long complained they were disciplined more harshly for infractions.

pointing out its achievements the development of the Inner Harbor, once a rusting manufacturing area and now a tourist destination; the demolition of dilapidated public high rises to make way for cozier low-income neighborhoods; and successes

in public health, such as

declines in teen births, infant

mortality and AIDS. Baltimore was giddy about its recent acquisitions of such popculture attractions as the Hard Rock Cafe, Planet Hollywood and the nation's first ESPNZone, a Walt Disney ven-

crime is down more than 30 per-field may be No. 302.

cent over the past 2> years, said spokesman police Weinhold. Property crime also has decreased significantly. Yet beyond the new glitter on the waterfront, Baltimore's row-

house-lined streets still harbor

poverty-locked neighborhoods and a rampant drug trade that fuels the murder rate. Baltimore, the nation's 14thlargest city with 650,000 residents, has about 46 deaths per 100,000 people — more than four times higher than the murder

York. Homicide No. 301 was recorded Tuesday and detectives think And homicides aside, violent a decomposed body found in a

rate in larger cities like New





Here's to a future that knows no ill,

A world filled with brotherhood, peace and good will.

Where every child has a place to call home, And a person is judged on his merit alone.

While this may seem like a pipe dream to some, We admit there's a lot of hard work to be done, And the best place to start is where we are living, By sharing the spirit of this season of giving.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL



Thursday

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next few da A recent Nice www.claus Clinton's 'Nice, but times," received w

name was archives. The Web holiday Inte puter users taking a br parties an shopping. are a little wish list to site even al mail to St. 1 In additio status at the Archives,

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tourism bure cism was ru be an unders Why would Northeaster Democratic aligned with istration?

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Check out Santa's list of naughty celebrities on the Web

people have President Clinton listed as "naughty" this holiday season, Santa still has the commander-in-chief's name listed under the "nice" column. But his status could change in the next few days.

A recent check of the Naughty Nice Archives www.claus.com, Clinton's status is teetering. "Nice, but has been naughty_at times," was the response received when the president's name was typed into the

The Web page is one of many holiday Internet sites that computer users can check out while taking a break from Christmas parties and last-minute mall shopping. And for those who are a little late on sending their wish list to the North Pole, the site even allows you to send email to St. Nick.

In addition to checking your status at the Naughty & Nice Archives, www.claus.com also offers an interactive Christmas village with games, holiday recipes, arts and crafts ideas,

LUBBOCK (AP - While some and an elf school, where you can earn a diploma. You also can get a persorvalized message from an elf or click on the toymaking machine and learn about the most popular toys.

Like most Web sites, www.claus.com isn't without advertising. Those who click on the power station in the village will see the Energizer bunny pop up. But it's a small price to pay for the holiday fun the site

And the site is less commercial than many. For example www.santaclaushouse.com is very commercial. But it's worth a look because it's based in North Pole, Ala., and it does allow users to send e-mail to

Another fairly commercial is www.santasworkshop.com. While there is plenty of advertising, the site offers Santa's Workshop, where you can find Christmas cards, stories and decorating ideas. Like most Christmas sites, you can e-mail Santa or one of his

For those who want to avoid

all advertisements, direct your cards to your friends. Internet browser www.santa.home.avana.net, where you can find "Santa's Home Page." Created by students at Lanier Middle School in Gwinnett County, Ga., this page allows users to sign Santa's wish list and to send email to him too. There's also a nice photo of Santa with milk and cookies.

Another interactive Christmas village can be found at www.northpole.com. Here you can visit Santa's den, the reindeer barn, and Santa's workshop. Don't miss the elves' clubhouse.

For those who want a lot of information but don't need all the bells and whistles, try www.santaclaus.com. In addition to sending e-mail to Santa, you can find out exactly how many weeks, days and hours until Christmas. There is a host of information about Christmas around the world as well as holiday stories, recipes, games and carols. The Christmas humor found here isn't bad and you can send virtual Christmas

You can vote on whether you believe in Santa Claus at www.saintnick.org. You/ also can read interesting facts such as Santa will have to make 823 visits per second this year if he's going to make it to every girl and boy. The site also includes games and Christmas carols and, like other places, you can send e-mail to Santa.

Animated and printable Christmas cards can be found at. www.santa.com. One unique feature at this site is the holiday trivia, which changes daily. There is a coloring gallery for kids, a list of what celebrities are buying this year and a place to send e-mail to Santa.

If you are more interested in Mrs. Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, go to www.northpole.net. You can retrieve messages from either of the two at this site. Glitter the Elf's update is posted here and

Quality Meats - USDA

Choice and Select

Lunch Meats/Cheeses

FREEZER PACKS

Beef

Chicken

preparations for Christmas.

For those who doubt there is a Santa, point your Internet browser

www.achristmas.com and look for the proof report. Case photos at this site include a NASA lunar shot showing reindeer hoofprints next to Neil Armstrong's footprints and a shot supposedly taken with the Hubble telescope. You can get a down-to-the-second countdown to Christmas and view a video of Santa.

At www.santaland.com you can find a large list of links to holiday sites. While the site is loaded with advertising, it also includes holiday stories and music as well as recipes and information about Christmas traditions. You can even find holiday plant tips at the site.

As Christmas eve approaches, kids of all ages may want to check out www.noradsanta.org,

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there's a daily update on Santa's where for the 44th consecutive year the North American Aerospace Defense Command will track Santa's around-theworld trek. "Live" radar and satellite reports will be posted hourly on this multimedia web

> Prior to Christmas the site will feature information such as calculations of Santa's milk and cookie consumption and "top secret" information about how Santa gets around so quickly.

> For those worried about bad weather slowing down Santa, www.weather.com/seasonal/holidays provides the weather forecast for the North Pole.

> And finally, President Clinton and others who have been wavering between naughty and nice can check out the Good-Bad List at www.santa.net. If you find your name on the bad list, you might want to try begging for mercy in an e-mail message to Santa.

Philadelphia: Rocky's hometown is no longer a city on the ropes

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - In Mismanagement caused city two. 1996, Mayor Ed Rendell convened a meeting of area business leaders and politicians and announced the city would try to land both the Democratic and Republican national conventions in 2000.

They stared at him in disbe-

"Philadelphia hadn't though t of itself this way," said one of those at the meeting, Tom Muldoon, chairman of the city,'s tourism bureau. "To say sker ticism was running high would be an understatement.

Why would the GOP pick a Northeastern city with a Democratic mayor closely aligned with the Clinton a dministration?

More fundamentally, who would want to come to hingdog, down-on-itself Philadel phia, a city whose folk hero was an country," Rendell said. inarticulate boxer who exists only in the movies, a place rants, with no Philly cheeseswhose reputation for colossal incompetence was sealed in 1985 when police chropped a bomb on the radical group MOVE, burning more than 60 houses to the ground and killing 11 people?

Last month, Renciell was vindicated

The Republican's decided to bring their 2000 convention here, and the spothlight was suddenly cast on a city that is making a comeback from the days when it was considered just a

Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of development is under way, 4,000 new hotel rooms are being built, and downtown F'hiladelphia is full

pit stop between Washington

and New York.

The turna round is a sweet victory for Rendell, a perpetually upbeat, overweight, rumpled exdistrict attorney who in 1992 took over a city that had little to offer asid e from the Liberty Bell and a setting for "Rocky" sequels.

At the time, Philadelphia was a symbol of urban decay.

bonds to be downgraded to junk status. City workers did not know if their next paychecks would clear. Businesses and whites headed for the border.

Rendell slashed city spending, turned over union work at City Hall and city jails to private contractors, and got unions to agree to a nearly three-year wage freeze.

His efforts helped turn an inherited \$250 million budget deficit into a \$169 million surplus, freeing up money to promote Philadelphia, the nation's fifth-largest city, with a population of 1.45 million, as a tourist destination.

"We've gone from a national laughingstock for the way the city operated, its financial con-dition and lack of vibrancy to one of the hottest cities in the

Restaurants - fine restauteak on the menu - are opening up all over downtown. There's a sparkling convention center and a new sports arena, First Union Center. Reading Terminal, a century-old farmer's market, was renovat-

After losing a startling 230,000 jobs in 30 years, the city had a gain of 10,000 jobs in the last

In just the past month, Lincoln National Corp., a Fortune 500 financial services company, announced it is moving its headquarters here from Fort Wayne, Ind. And the Walt Disney Co. disclosed plans for an indoor amusement park of interactive games and attractions that will cover an entire block downtown. It is expected to draw 1 million visitors a

Philadelphia "is an incredible tourist destination and a burgeoning entertainment area," said Art Levitt, president of Disney Regional Entertainment. "We really wanted to showcase our product here."

In run-down neighborhoods like north Philadelphia, crumbling buildings are being replaced with new single-family homes and townhouses. Library hours have been extended and city pools reopened.

"The city just seems like a more comfortable place," said free-lance writer Tom Starner, 46, who moved to Philadelphia 14 years ago with his wife.

Without a doubt, there are still problems. Philadelphia's unemployment rate as of October was 6 percent, compared with 4.6 percent national-

friendly wish of cheer

for Christmas to all our wonderful friends.

CURTIS BRUNS



This year, give the cook in your family a real holiday present - DINE OUT!

Traditional family-style Christmas dinner with all the extras including.... Turkey, Dressing, Glazed Ham, Roast Beef,

An Array of Vegetables, Fresh Homemade Rolls & Homemade Cobbler

1 am-9 pm

All You Can Eat

Rip Griffins



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best buffet and dessert is at the **Country Fare** Restaurant

Whether it be breakfast,

lunch or dinner, the

Big Spring Independent School District ment for the Year Endin

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital	Expendable	August 31,
		Fund	Fund	Project Fund	Trust Fund	1998
REVENUES:						
Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 9,945,724	\$ 565,646	\$ 1,074,906	\$ 335,886		\$11,922,162
State Program Revenues	10,693,028	283,061				10,976,089
Federal Program Revenues	108,356	2,310,345				2,418,701
Total Revenues	\$20,747,108	\$ 3,159,052	\$ 1,074,906	\$ 335,886	\$	\$25,316,952
EXPENDITURES:		and the life				
Instruction & Instructional Related Services	\$12,974,003	\$ 1,310,901	\$	\$	\$	\$14,284,904
Instructional & School Leadership	1,651,238	82,399				1,733,637
Support Services - Student (Pupil)	2,210,148	1,767,170				3,977,318
Administration Support Services	755,436	44		96	1	755,532
Support Services - Nonstudent Based	3,274,673	46, 107				3,320,780
Debt Services	49,476		1,016,902	26,300		1,092,678
Capital Outlay	212,475		-	5,825,851		6,038,326
Total Expenditures	\$21,127,449	\$ 3,206,577	\$ 1,016,902	\$ 5,852,247	\$	\$31,203,175
Excess(Deficiency) Revenues Over (Under)						
Expenditures	\$ (380,341)	\$ (47,525)	\$ 58,004	\$ (5,516,361)		\$ (5,886,223)
Other Resources	28,249			1,030,000		1,058,249
Other (Uses)					(5,968)	(5,968)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other		W 2				100
Resources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (352,092)	\$ (47,525)	\$ 58,004	\$ (4,486,361)	\$ (5,968)	\$ (4,833,942
Fund Balance - September 1, 1997 (Beginning) Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	6,144,098 (150,910)	29,240 143,750	138,708	8,292,471	5,968	14,610,485
Fund Balance - August 31, 1998 (Ending)	\$ 5,641,096	\$ 125,465	\$ 196,712	\$ 3,806,110	\$.	\$ 9,769,383

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Thursday, December 24, 1998

CHURCH

First United Methodist Church

The Reward For Righteous Living" (Luke 2:21-32) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry. The message is about how God gives us his love. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

We have a youth group called "Common Ground" led by our full-time youth minister, Vergil Feinsod. On Sunday evenings, mid high age young people meet in the Partee building at 5 p.m. and senior high young people meet at 7 p.m. to learn about Jesus and His way. Senior high Bible study meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday night. To learn more, call Mr. Feinsod at 267-6394

There is also the children's

by John and Denise Ross and a single adults class on Sunday

The First United Methodist Church has several Sunday School classes for adults, youth and children. There is a Wednesday noon Bible study class and meal each week in Garrett Hall and everyone is invited to attend.

Friends of Unity

Friends of Unity invite the community to share with them from 6 to 7 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, in a time of concentration on peace on earth. Friends of Unity is located in the Box Car at 100 A S. Main and will be open at 5:45 a.m.

First Assembly of God "A New Years Desire." is pas-

vocal and handbell choirs led See CHURCH, Page 10A

Mother's love shows girl true meaning of Christmas

layoff" had little meaning. With each day after her daddy had received a Christmas "layoff" notice, things around her home began to change.

To make an already darkened Christmas seem even bleaker, her newborn baby brother of just 13 days was in need of urgent surgery.

As the evening of the birth of Jesus grew closer, a mother began to ask the question of how she could make a little girl's Christmas a joyful one to be remembered.

Well the problem was difficult in that the "Christmas layoff" had taken away the only income this family had, and their savings were almost gone from a baby boy's upcoming surgery.

But then, with a wisdom that only comes from a God whose love g a v e mankind Christmas, our troubled mother gave a most memorable gift.

As our little girl ran in an early morning

rush to a small Christmas tree. she found but two gifts. The first was a craft kit of beads which, when put together, would make a picture of a small puppy.

And what about the second First Baptist Church.

EDDIE

TUBBS

gift? Well, it was a card with these simple words, "Dear Connie, this Christmas God gave you the baby brother you wanted so bad. Is17't God good to us?" So if you have been in search

for a gift of extraordinary value -- please remember the story of a little girl's mother who had the wisdom to give a gift whose value is beyond the cost of mere money.

And by the way, to a mother named Margie, I wish to thank you for teaching your little girl the value of God's extraordinary love, because your little girl, Connie, has given to me for more than 25 years a love whose value is beyond the cost of mere money.

Eddie Tubbs is pastor at

Shared experience creates bond in families

QUESTION: As a father, what should I be trying to accomplish with my son in these teen years?

DR. DOB-S O N Someone has said, "Link a boy to the right man and he selwrong." believe that is true. If a dad and his son can develop hob-



DOBSON

bies together or other common interests, the rebellious years can pass in relative tranquillity. What they experience may be remembered for a life-

I recall a song written by Dan Fogelberg that tells about a father who shared his love of music with his son. It is called "Leader of the Band," and its message touches something deep within me. The son talks of a father who "earned his love through discipline, a thundering, velvet hand." The father's "song is in my soul." The son himself has become a "living legacy to the leader of the band.

C'an't you see this man going to visit his aged father today. with a lifetime of love passing between them? That must have been what God had in mind

when he gave dads to boys. Let me address your question directly: What common ground are you cultivating with your impressionable son? Some father's build or repair cars with them; some construct small models or make things in a woods hop. My dad and I hunted and fished together. There is no way to describe what those days meant to me as we entered the woods in the early hours of the morning. How could I get angry at this man who took time to be with me? We had wonderful talks while coming home from a day of laughter and fun in the country. I tried to maintain that kind of contact with my

Opportunities to communicate openly and build the father-son relationship have to be created. It's a goal that's worth whatever it takes to achieve.

QUESTION: Can you give me a simple definition of menopause?

DR. DOBSON: It is a time of transition in a wo man's life when the reproductive capacity is phasing out. Menistruation gradually stops and hormonal changes occur. Specifically, the ovaries produce only about one-eighth the estroigen that they once did. This affects not only the reproductive system, but the emotions as well.

If you are having irregular

See DOBSON, Page 9A

Giving God credit

Family thankful for every day of life for baby born at border of viability

FORT WORTH (AP) — She came out a little, purple ball, with hands flying and feet kicking furiously in all directions, Baby Zoe's mother recalls. As a "border baby," born at just 23 weeks gestation, doctors gave her a 1 percent probability of surviving beyond her first week of life.

Perhaps because she refused to uncurl those tiny legs and hold still, Zoe Caldwell's length at birth was estimated at 6 inches. She was officially still under 12 inches when she was measured at one month, according to records at Harris Methodist Fort Worth, where the premature infant spent almost the first full four months of her life.

Now, in an effort to enable her to walk, Zoe, not quite 22 months old, is immobilized in a body cast that extends from just under her arms to the tips of her still-tiny toes

The cast, which she'll wear for the next two to four months, follows surgery Nov. 17 at Cook Children's "Medical Center to rebuild Zoe's left hip socket, which never completely formed, and to fit her leg properly in the new socket so that she can learn to crawl and walk.

rs ago, premature babies like Zoe had much Ten y slimmer chances of surviving — let alone thriving and learning to walk. But breakthroughs in technology and drugs have not only helped increase the odds of survival for preemies, but pushed back the age of viability to as early as 23 weeks gestation. These very premature infants often, like Zoe, continue to struggle, undergoing extensive surgery, taking medications to

mature their lungs more quickly and existing on spe-

Baby Zoe barely made it to 23 weeks gestation. When she was born Feb. 23, 1997, she weighed a whopping 1 pound 3 ounces.

"I had never seen anything like her," her mother, Tina Caldwell, recalls. "Her head looked like a small lemon, her fingers like pencil lead with the tiniest little fingernail at the end of each one. Her skin was very transparent -- so thin her veins and organs were visible." Clay Caldwell, Zoe's father and a professional chef, was equally surprised.

"The doctor cut my wife open for the C-section and suddenly pulled out this little purple baked potato -that's what she looked like," he says. "I expected a pretty pink baby. I didn't know that purple potato was my child." While Clay was collapsing in disbelief against the anesthesiologist, his wife was praying out

"She was imploring God to breathe the breath of life into our baby, and suddenly the name 'Zoe' just came to me," says Clay, a longtime student of theology. "It means 'the breath of God."

From the start. Zoe's life has depended on modern medicine -- and her parents say -- on more sublime miracles. As soon as Zoe was born, the neonatologist suctioned out the baby's mouth and throat and immediately tried to insert the smallest breathing tube available down to her tiny, premature lungs.

"He was saying the tube was too big and her throat was too small, and he couldn't get it down," recalls

Tina Caldwell. "Then, my sister, who was standing right next to the doctor, started praying out loud.

'I could hear her praying, 'Lord you make a way where there is no way,' and suddenly the tube just slipped on in."

Even with the breathing tube, Zoe wasn't given much hope, except by her parents who say they were totally overwhelmed and had no choice but to turn everything over to God.

Since her birth, Zoe has had surgeries to re-inflate a collapsed lung, to repair a ruptured small intestine and to correct her vision. And she has been treated for a life-threatening infection. Doctors say she has done amazingly well for a baby born on the border of viabil-

Last February, the family celebrated Zoe's first birthday with an open house for more than 100 friends

They designed the invitations with a picture of Zoe lying in a big bowl of salad greens and the words,

"Lettuce Rejoice." Today, says her mother, baby Zoe is "just as fiery and determined as can be. She knows all the neighbors

Life is at last becoming normal for Zoe and the Caldwells. Meanwhile, father Clay, who is chief chef for Kenneth Copeland Ministries Inc. in Fort Worth. takes full credit for the fact that Zoe's favorite food is

He gives God credit for all the rest.

Temple leader finally gets bar mitzvah

DALLAS (AP) — The cantor introduced him as "the big bar mitzvah.'

And big he was. Six feet 4 he stood, towering over the pulpit. His voice boomed through the sanctuary Nobody had ever seen any-

thing like it or ever thought they would. The rabbi was being bar mitzvahed. On a Saturday night at

Temple Shalom, it was standing room only. The women wore velvet and spangles. The men had their suits freshly pressed. His age, he says, is 591/2. He

has preached and taught and lived the Torah for more than three decades. But Rabbi Kenneth D.

Roseman never went through the most important ceremony of a Jewish child's adolescence. Because he lived in Greece when he was 13 and his family was on the left edge of Judaism and didn't put much stock in such ceremonies, he never officially became a bar mitzvah, which means son of the commandment.

any 13-year-old would do. He made a speech and chanted a passage from Scripture in Hebrew. The Hebrew was not a problem. But the chanting was something else.

As he does for every boy or girl, Cantor Don Alan Croll made a cassette tape of himself singing the appropriate passage. The rabbi studied hard.

"I've been driving around North Dallas listening to the tape and singing like an idiot," said Rabbi Roseman, a few days before the ceremony. "I'll probably make a fool of myself. But it won't be the first time or the last. It was a somber ceremony;

the rabbi made sure of that. When Lenora Hausman, the congregation's president, told Rabbi Roseman she wanted to honor him for 13 years of service at Temple Shalom and give him a bar mitzvah on the same evening, the rabbi was "a little bit flabbergasted and very flattered." But he made one thing

This would not be a joking

the pulpit. What goes on in the pulpit is my business," he said. They could roast him at the dinner afterward, but the ceremony could not be trifled with. And so it wasn't. But 13 is a

fanciful year, and the spirit of it caused even the rabbi to play a little. As the service began, he flashed a thumbs-up sign toward the choir. When he stepped up to deliver the traditional bar mitzvah speech, he couldn't resist mounting the steps that sit behind the pulpit for kids who aren't tall enough to see over the lectern.

Temple Shalom Assistant Rabbi Rick Schechter was a bit nervous giving the traditional bar mitzvah charge. What to say to such a great scholar, such a great teacher, such a man, such a mensch, he wondered before the service.

"He embodies Torah. He lives Torah," said the young rabbi, who sometimes solves his problems by asking himself, "What would Rabbi Roseman do?"

Rabbi Schechter settled on a speech that boiled down to

On Dec. 5, the rabbi did what event. "I am the rabbi. I control telling Rabbi Roseman to keep doing what he's doing.

Rabbi Roseman was nervous about his own speech. "Sure, absolutely, " he said when asked if the idea of the talk gave him the jitters. But speaking before the congregation always causes his heart to beat fast, he said.

He never forgets that he stands before God and the people. "Nerves are a human response that tell you that you are doing something out of the ordinary and important," he

On bar mitzvah night, he told the congregation that "to lift the Torah out of the ark and to touch its yellowing parchment, to read its archaic print, to identify with its legacy - this is something mystically special to

"To re-enact what Jews have done every Shabbat in every place where they have lived, in good times, but even under the most oppressive persecutions, even in the Nazi death camps. This is an almost indescribably religious experience for me."

NEWS

1905 Hyperion Club
The 1905 Hyperion Club met

Thursday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. in the home of Carol Scott. Paulette Turner and Fran Emerson were co-hostesses. Twelve members attended and Dorothy Coleman and Helen Hurt were welcomed as guests. Joyce Bradley presented a medley of Christmas carols and was accompanied by Delores Currie. Next meeting will be Jan. 21.

Mighty Oaks

The Mighty Oaks Senior Adult Club of East Fourth Street Baptist Church met at the Brandin Iron Steak House for lunch on Dec. 15. After lunch, the group returned to East Fourth Baptist fellowship hall for a business meeting, Christmas tree gift exchange, piano playing by Emily Pike, singing of Christmas carols, fellowship and refreshments. Prayer was led by Vera Hipp

See CLUB, Page 10A

periods, if you frequently cry for no apparent reason, if you are having "hot flashes" or night sweats, if your interest in sex has diminished, if you have very low self-esteem and are depressed most of the tirne,

HOLIDAY MEALS

(NAPS) - No more turkey sandwiches! Here is a smart way to use those holiday leftovers, from Jenny Craig.

Add leftover meats and vegetables to soups, stews and casseroles. This can be a great way to get children to eat their vegetables. Try this recipe, Autumn Turkey, Salad, from Craig's cookbook "Simple Pleasures.

1-1/2 cups cooked turkey breast 1/2 cup celery

1/3 cup halved red seedless grapes 1 Tbsp. coarsely chopped walnuts

toasted 2 Tbsp. nonfat mayonnaise 2 Tbsp. low - fat sour cream

1-1/2 tsp. chopped fresh dillweed

1 tsp. cider vinegar 1/8 tsp. salt

Combine first four ingredients in a small bowl, tossing gently. Combine mayonnaise and remaining four ingredients, stirring well. Combine mixtures and toss lightly. Cover and chill onehour.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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

THE LAST WORD

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. **Anne Bradstreet**

At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year. **Thomas Tusser**

Winter slumbering in the open air, wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring! Samuel Taylor Coleridge

of

r 24, 1998

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After arguing over Jesus, scholars tackle Paul's legacy

NEW YORK (AP) - You may have heard about the "Jesus Seminar." This group of several dozen Bible professors spent years taking ballots on all the sayings and incidents from the life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament Gospels, in order to proclaim which were fact and which were fiction.

Since the group worked from liberal to radical assumptions, it was no surprise that its verdicts were strongly negative.

The seminar, operated by a little think tank in Santa Rosa, Calif., has been hailed by some as the cutting edge of scholarly courage, but more often derided as the ultimate in modern arrogance.

Invigorated by all the publicity, the seminar has lately moved on from its search for the "historical Jesus" to figure sure about the "historical Paul."

many ordinary Bible readers as odd, and so will the Paul project. Don't we know a whole lot about Christianity's first great missionary from the New Testament Book of Acts and from Paul's own epistles?

Things are rarely that simple, however, in the inner sanctum of technical scholarship.

Many modern-day professors at universities and the more advanced theological seminaries question whether Paul actually wrote a number of the epistles attributed to him. More important, they treat Acts as more a propaganda piece than a solid work of history.

Along with the technical New Testament scholarship, biographies of the apostle have been piling up, too.

In 1996 Jerome Murphy-O'Connor produced "Paul: A Life"

University Press). Then last year, three intriguing titles appeared: "Paul Between Antioch and Damascus" by Martin Hengel and Anne-Marie Schwemer (Westminster John Knox); "Paul: The Mind of the Apostle" by popular writer A. N. Wilson (Norton); and "What Saint Paul Really Said" (Erdmans) by N. T. Wright, a vigorous critique of the skepticism of Wilson, his fellow Briton.

The latest conservative Protestant entry is "The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for of Tarsus" the Jew (InterVarsity Press) by Ben Witherington III of Kentucky's Asbury Theological Seminary. He contends it's quite plausible that Paul wrote the disputed letters that bear his name, though probably with the help of a secretary. And he proposes a 53-point chronology of Paul's career to harmonize Acts with events in Paul's letters.

Witherington complains that too many writers treat Paul as though he were a 20th century figure instead of a first century rabbi. He is enthusiastic about Hengel and Schwemer's scholarship, respects Murphy-O'Connor but has problems with his theories, and finds Wilson biased and out of touch

with the best research. Also entering the Paul debate University Luke wrote both the Gospel (Oxford that bears his name and Acts.

He's seen men literally changed

About 4,000 copies of "Son of

Sam/Son of Hope," which costs

\$15, have been sold or donated,

Volk said. Gospel Films would

not release sale figures for

"The Choice is Yours," priced

Berkowitz, 45, admitted to the

murders in 1978. His nickname

came from a note he left at the

sixth of eight shooting scenes

which read, "I am a monster. I

Serving six consecutive 25

years-to-life prison terms at

Sullivan Correctional Facility

in Fallsburg, N.Y., Berkowitz

said he converted to

The videos don't gloss over

his crimes. "Son of Sam/Son of

Hope" has the look of a horror

am the Son of Sam.'

Christianity in 1987

'Son of Sam' killer offers religious videos prisoners in the Bible studies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York's "Son of Sam" serial killer, David Berkowitz, says devil worship made him a murderer. Ten years later, a pocket-sized Bible led him to Jesus. Now, he aims to be a behind-bars Christian role model for criminals and way-

ward youth. That is the story told in two evangelical videos being offered to prison chaplains and youth counselors around the country. The videos' message is simple: If this guy can repent, so can you.

Taking the "Son of Sam/Son of Hope" video to a local prison, the Rev. J.D. Golden of the Church of God in Scottsboro, Ala., said he told inmates: "You saw what the grace of God could do for him."

Their response? "Every one of them stood to accept Christ." Golden said.

"Son of Sam/Son of Hope" was produced for ICN Ministries Inc. of Pensacola, Fla. "The Choice is Yours with David Berkowitz' was produced for Gospel Films Inc. of Muskegon, Mich., which distributes Christian movies around the world.

The companies say Berkowitz makes no money from the tapes and they only undertook the projects when they were certain the videos could not be used to help him win parole.

Some wonder whether the man who terrorized New York 21 years ago, killing six people and wounding seven others, should be anyone's spiritual

"I think it's over the top," said Graceann Smigiel, victim assistance coordinator for the New York attorney general's

"These people aren't important. We give them importance by telling their tale, whatever their tale may be, What is important are the people who have been left in the wake of his horror.'

ICN spokesman Scott Volk said Berkowitz's video is appro-

"I feel for the families who have been affected forever," he said. "But he's affecting lives of

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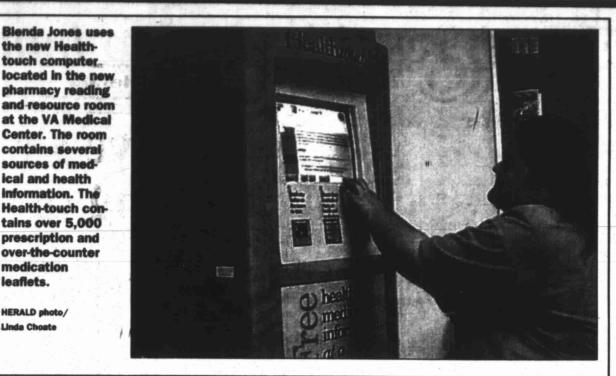
the new Healthtouch computer. located in the new pharmacy reading and resource room at the VA Medical Center. The room contains several sources of medical and health Information. The Health-touch con tains over 5,000 prescription and

over-the-counter

HERALD photo/ **Linda** Choate

leaflets.

medication



BRIEFS

Expected House speaker rates with the religious right

WASHINGTON (AP) - The presumed next Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert of Illinois, earned a 100 percent rating in the most recent voter guide from Christian Coalition, the religious right lobby.

The 15 House votes in the organization's ratings covered such issues as abortion, homosexuality, public needle exchanges, religious persecution overseas, aid for private school families, funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, and a proposed religion amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Two continuing members of the House Republican leadership, Majority Leader Dick Armey and Majority Whip Tom DeLay, also posted 100 percent ratings with the Christian Coalition. And so did outgoing Speaker Newt Gingrich and Bob Livingstone, who was in line to succeed Gingrich until he announced plans to resign from the House Saturday.

Church leaders decry bombing of Iraq WASHINGTON (AP)

Christian church leaders weighed in on the bombing of Iraq and once again many called the action a moral and diplomatic failure.

"The bombing of Iraq is a matter of international disgrace that reaches far beyond narrow partisan interests," said the Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett, staff executive of the United Methodist Church's Board of Church and Society. He said the church considers war "incompatible with the teach-

ings and example of Christ." 'Previous bombings and punitive international sanctions have failed to force the Iraqi government to comply with international and United Nations disarmament efforts," he said.

The Rev. Paul H. Sherry, president of the United Church of Christ said the church has a

experiencing for the past eight years."

The Most. Rev. Thomas E. McCarrick, archbishop of

assembly.

years as North America's representative in the honorific council presidium, alongside betterknown church leaders: former council official Agnes Abuom from Kenya; Anglican Bishop Jaabez Bryce of Tonga; Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Turkey, a senior figure in Orthodoxy's Ecumenical Patriarchate; Syria's Orthodox Patriarch Zakka Iwas; Korean Presbyterian Moon Kyu Kang; Argentina's Methodist Bishop Federico Pagura; and German Protestant Bishop Eberhardt

Bannister, 29, was chosen

Some female delegates

DOBSON

Continued from Page 8A

and if you lack the energy to get through your day --you need immediate medical atten-

There is hope for women who are suffering from symptoms associated with menopause. Estrogen replacement therapy can help put you on your feet again. There are other disorders that produce symptoms similar to menopause. That's why it is important to have a complete physical exam to get a definitive diagnosis.

Dr. Dobson is president of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903; or www.family.org. Questions and answers are excerpted from "Solid Answers," published by Tyndale House.

out what it thinks we know for The Jesus Seminar strikes

lately is a major figure in U.S. Catholic scholarship, Joseph A. Fitzmyer, a Jesuit priest and professor emeritus at the Catholic America. He has just produced an 830-page commentary on Acts for Doubleday's Anchor Bible series. Fitzmyer previously wrote the commentary on the Gospel of Luke, and he agrees with the tradition that "sacred responsibility" to protest the attack. "For the most vulnerable people of Iraq," he said, "a remote control' war by missiles and bombers is but a more overt form of the war they have been

Newark and chairman of the **International Policy Committee** of the U.S. Catholic Conference said, "It is regrettable that the international community has not succeeded in enforcing by peaceful means the cease-fire resolutions that ended the Gulf War, but war is not the

Kansas Methodist named to **World Council of Churches** presidium

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) -The Rev. Kathryn Bannister, the pastor of four small Methodist congregations in Rush County, Kan., was elected one of eight regional presidents of the World Council of Churches last week at the end of its eighth international

Bannister will serve seven

after a strong push by youth delegates to see one of their own elected as a president. The practice began at the last World Council assembly in 1991 when delegates elected a youth delegate from Sri Lanka as a presi-

expressed frustration that only two of the eight choices for president - Bannister and Abuom — were women, despite the WCC's stated goal of having 50 percent women in its repre-

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is the first

six letters.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" appears each Thursday as a cooperative effort of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Herald. Letters to Dr. Dobson may be sent to P.O. Box 444: Colorado Springs, Colo.; 80903.

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Catholic church reaching out to immigrants

Rev. Miguel Angel Solorzano there are two worlds in every major U.S. city: the Englishspeaking and the Spanishspeaking.

Between those worlds lies a vast - at times turbulent expanse of culture and tradi-

Catholic churches are often beacons for Hispanic immigrants searching for a familiar place in a strange, new land. The church is home to many immigrants and to generations of American Hispanics whose roots may be found in a cross section of Latin American countries.

To reach them, the church is learning a new language and new worship styles and assisting with such issues as discrimination and poverty in immigrant communities. Key to succeeding in its efforts are Hispanic priests.

"Hispanic priests can bring not only the Spanish language but also the Hispanic culture, heritage and perspective," said Jorge Delgado, new director of the office of Hispanic ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Galveston-Houston. A Hispanic priest understands how other Hispanics think, act

and react, he said. Houston-based Asociacion Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos (National Association of Hispanic Priests) is grappling with the rising number of Hispanics in the country. That increase is influencing the American church and the small band of Hispanic clergy serving its Hispanic members. Some of those priests are foreign-born; some were born in the United States. The church's challenge is to train the priests to serve a fast-growing community.

About 70 percent of the estimated 32 million Hispanics in the United States are Catholic, said the Rev. Jose H. Gomez, association president. But there are only about 2,400 Hispanic priests to help minister to them. Church officials project that by 2010, half of the American Catholic Church will be Hispanic. In the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, an estimated 40 percent to 45 percent of 1.2 million Catholics, including those not registered with a parish, are Hispanic. But Gomez estimates 1 million Hispanics live within the diocese's geographic boundaries.

The transition from a primarily Anglo church to a heavily Hispanic church is a mixed blessing, Gomez said. Most dioceses in the South and Southwest United States now require priests and seminarians to learn Spanish.

"The main problem is that Hispanics feel they are not welcomed (in American parishes)," said Gomez, who works with Opus Dei, a conservative Catholic organization, in Houston. Delgado, a Puerto Rican, agrees, adding: "If the Catholic Church does not give them a good welcome, they won't come back."

The influx of Hispanic immigrants is continuing despite Mexican border vigilance, said Mark Zwick of Casa Juan Diego, an immigrant and refugee center on Houston's

CHURCH Continued from Page 8A

tor R.T. Havener's message this Sunday morning at First Assembly of God, Fourth and Lancaster.

In the evening service at 6, the theme of New Years will continue with a message entitled "A New Years Determination.*

Special music will be a part of each service.

New Years Even there will be a "Watchnight" service beginning at at 9 and ending at 12:01 a.m. on Friday 1999.

This service will include a "Sing" from 9 to 10, followed by one hour of refreshments and fellowship. The activities will close with a service beginning at 11 which will include testimonies, a message "All things are New," and prayer.

The congregation invite you to join them in fellowship as they close out 1998 and begin

DUNLAPS

Now Thru Christmas Open til 7 pm Mon.-Sat. Sunday, 1-5 111 E. Marcy 267-8283

Americans who are escaping the ravages of Hurricane Mitch are trekking to the United

But learning Spanish is not the same as understanding the culture, said Gomez who also ministers to the Hispanic community of St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church in Katy.

One goal of the association is to sensitize English-speakers about the cultural differences

Catholics, especially new immigrants.

For example, Hispanic countries do not mandate parishioners to register as members. American parishes usually require family registration and at times refuse church services such as baptism and weddings to those who are not registered members, Gomez said.

The association recommends that parishes first try to meet spiritual needs of the and expectations of Hispanic Hispanics, then ask for regis-

tration, Gomez said. It is one way the association can be a bridge between cultures, Gomez said. Increasingly, American parishes are accommodating the spiritual needs of Hispanics through Spanish-language Masses and adapting to cultural traditions like Christmas posadas and celebrating the feast day of Mexico's patroness. the Lady of Guadalupe (Dec.

Zwick said the large size of many Catholic parishes is a

grants. "The small evangelical, fundamentalist churches tend to be small and have supportive, creative communities,"

Zwick said. "(Many leaders of the American Catholic Church) are not aware of what is taking place in the Spanish-speaking community of their own cities," said Solorzano, an associate pastor at St. Pius the V Catholic Church in Pasadena.

CLUB

Continued from Page 8A

Covington.

December birthday honorees were Dorothy Coleman, Marie Gillihan, Joe Stroup, Callie Bennett, Joy Fortenberry and Emily Pike.

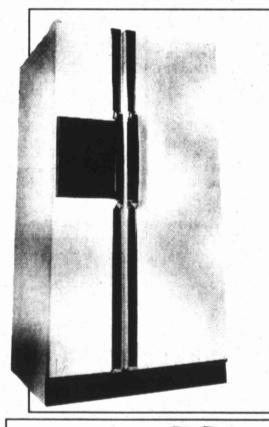
There were 23 members attending the meeting.

On Thursday night Dec. 17, 20 members and guests made the Christmas Light tour of Big Spring.

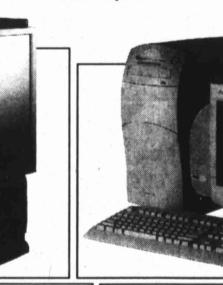
Van drivers were Garland Rudd and Jessie Jones.

Next meeting will be Jan. 19, 1999. Guests are welcome.

one day onl finance charge until January







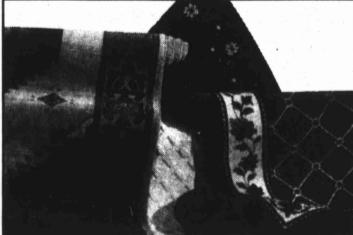
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After heart cheer arrive A&M By MIKE L Associated

COLLEG After Texa Branndon a shocking over No. Kansas Sta fans left messages his answ ing machir Finall cheers Stewart. He went

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TODAY: **COLLEGE B** 2 p.m. — Washington CHRISTMA

COLLEGE F 11 a.m. -Classic (AB 2:30 p.m. Colorado vs 7:30 p.m. Air Force vs (ESPN).

SATURDAY COLLEGE F 11:30 a.n Bethune Southern (N

7 p.m. — Missouri (ESPN). NATIONAL F 11:30 a.n

Vikings at T 3 p.m. — Chiefs at O

COLLEGE B Noon - F Louisville (C

After jeers and heartbreak, cheers finally arrive for **A&M's Stewart** By MIKE LUTZ

Associated Press Writer

COLLEGE STATION After Texas A&M quarterback Branndon Stewart engineered a shocking comeback victory

over No. 2 Kansas State, fans left 47 messages on his answering machine.

nade

Finally, cheers for Stewart. He went to

Tennessee and got bumped by Peyton Manning. He transferred to Texas A&M and lost

his job to Randy McCown. Then, the very day he decided that he'd played his last down of college football, Stewart was reinstated as the starter for the biggest game of the season.

With the Aggies down 27-12 in the fourth quarter of the Dec. 5 matchup, Stewart drove them to a 36-33 double overtime victory and spoiled the Wildcats' chances to play for a national championship.

Now, Stewart is the hero who will lead the Aggies on New Year's Day against Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl.

Everyone is saying it couldn't have happened to a nicer

"Throughout my career, I may have gotten some unjustified criticism," Stewart said. "I think a lot of people realized that a lot of times, the magnitude of that attention was a little more than was jus-

"I mess they wanted something good to happen for me and they are glad to see that

It was better than good. Stewart threw three touchdown passes, including the game-winner in the second overtime. He completed 15 of 31 passes for 324 yards against the stunned Wildcats.

It was a small example of what was expected all along. After a sparkling high school career at Stephenville, Stewart transferred to Texas A&M and ignited the hopes of the Aggie faithful. But he and McCown shared the starting job, before coach R.C. Slocum finally settled on his rival.

"Branndon without a doubt went to college with high expectations. Going through the thing at Tennessee got more notoriety," Slocum said.

"Then he comes here and he never said, 'I'm a hotshot and I'm going to lead you to the promised land.' Others said that about him. Throughout the process he had good games and games he didn't do as

After losing his job, Stewart never moped or became a divi

See STEWART, Page 2B

ON THE AIR

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

2 p.m. — New Mexico vs. Washington (Fox Southwest). CHRISTMAS DAY: **COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

11 a.m. — Blue-Gray Classic (ABC). 2:30 p.m. — Aloha Bowl Colorado vs. Oregon (ABC).

7:30 p.m. — Oahu Bowl Air Force vs. Washington (ESPN).

SATURDAY **COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

11:30 a.m. — Heritage Bowl Bethune-Cookman vs. Southern (NBC).

7 p.m. — Insight.com Bowl Missouri vs. West Virginia (ESPN). NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

11:30 a.m. — Minnesota Vikings at Tennessee Oilers (Fox).

3 p.m. — Kansas City Chiefs at Oakland Raiders

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Noon — Kentucky at Louisville (CBS).

Oilers' derrick being replaced by red, blue fireball; Titans name

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -The Tennessee Oilers' blue oil derrick is out for the soon-to-be Tennessee Titans. In its place: a Greek-inspired fireball.

Bud Adams, owner of the NFL franchise, unveiled the logo to go with the new Titans name.

The man who started the Oilers in Houston 38 years ago acknowledged it won't be easy seeing his family's emblem retired along with the nick-

"It's been a long time, but I think it's appropriate to come up with a name that would be more fitting for the state of Tennesssee than the name Oilers," Adams said after the unveiling.

The Greek-inspired logo features a dagger-edged "T" accented with silver on a navy blue background surrounded by the three stars of Tennessee's state flag in a circle, which is set off by a tail of red and Columbia blue flames.

plays off the importance of fire But once he got inside, he was

in Greek mythology, which spawned the Titans name and ties in with Nashville's designation as "the Athens of the

The Oilers' nickname officially will be retired by the NFL after the Pro Bowl in February. That is when the franchise becomes the Titans as first announced by Adams last month.

Adams unveiled the new logo in a tent adjacent to the Parthenon, Nashville's replica of the monument in Greece. Fans trying to sneak a peek at the new logo unclipped the tent walls, and most were happy with what they saw.

"I like it," said Craig Williams of Murfreesboro, who took a break from working on the halftime show for the upcoming Music City Bowl to see the new logo. "It's differ-

Scott Wright of Nashville didn't get to see the logo until after Team officials said the logo the team's ceremony was over.

happy.
"It'll grow on you. I bet it looks real good on clothing," he said.

Fans already were lining up at area stores to buy the new Titans' merchandise Tuesday after the announcement. But many had to wait for delivery trucks that weren't scheduled to arrive until mid-afternoon.

That is a big difference from the Oilers' merchandise, which has been lingering on store shelves throughout Tennessee despite big price markdowns.

The new logo also drew good reviews from the people who will be playing in the Titans' gear in 1999. The free T-shirts hanging in the lockers gave the Oilers, eliminated from the playoffs Monday night, something to look forward to.

"To me, it represents going into a new direction and into a new era," said cornerback Denard Walker. "I think a lot of teams have done that — the Broncos, the Patriots — I think it's great. It's time for some-



thing new.

New uniforms won't be introduced until sometime in January, and the Oilers tabbed to play in the Pro Bowl will be dressed in the familiar white, red and Columbia blue.

Adams agreed in July to change the name of the fran-

chise, which was the Houston Oilers from 1960 until becoming the Tennessee Oilers in 1997. He announced last month that the new nickname would be the Titans, the original nickname of the New York Jets in the old American Football League. which Adams helped found.

Boxing's big drama was in a hearing room

By ED SCHUYLER, JR.

AP Boxing Writer Evander Holyfield and

Lennox Lewis won in 1998, but the biggest boxing drama of the year played out in a Las Vegas hearing room Mike when

HOLYFIELD

Tyson got his license back. Tyson's ban from boxing for biting Evander Holyfield's ears ended when the Nevada State

Commission voted 4-1 on 19 Oct. restore license. He is set to Francois Botha on Jan. 16 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Out-of-ring **TYSON** problems, however, did not end for the 32-year-old former

heavyweight champion. On Dec. 1, he pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges that he kicked one man and punched another following a fender-bender on Aug. 31 in Gaithersburg, Md. He is to be sentenced Feb. 5, and an Indiana judge will then decide how it will affect Tyson's probation from his rape conviction. His probation is sched-

uled end in March. Holyfield and Lewis defended their heavyweight titles and were set for a championship unification fight March 13 in Madison Square Garden.

Holyfield, the 36-year-old IBF-WBA champion, outpointed Vaughn Bean in less-thanexciting fashion in an IBF mandatory title defense before 41,357 fans in the champ's hometown of Atlanta. He was

YEAR-IN-REVIEW: BOXING

supposed to make a WBA mandatory defense against Henry Akinwande of Britain on June 6 in New York, but the fight was called off when Akinwande tested positive for hepatitis-B.

Lewis, the 33-year WBC heavyweight champion from Britain, escaped serious trouble in the first two rounds and stopped Shannon Briggs in the fifth round on March 25 in Atlantic City, N.J. He also made a mandatory defense in which he was unimpressive in outpointing Zeljko Mavrovic of Croatia on Sept. 26 at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn,

Boxing's biggest non-heavyweight attraction, Oscar De La Hoya, defended the WBC welterweight title twice. In the second defense, he stopped Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico in the eighth round of their rematch. De La Hoya was supposed to

defend his title against former WBA welterweight champ Ike Quartey of Ghana, but that Nov. 21 bout was rescheduled for Feb. 13 in Las Vegas after De La Hoya got cut while spar-In November, a woman sued

De La Hoya, accusing him of raping her in a hotel room in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, in June 1996. A lawyer for the 24year-old boxer said the suit was financially motivated. Roy Jones Jr., considered by many boxing people to be the

best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, fought three times winning two championship fights and one non-title match.

In the non-title bout, he stopped Virgil Hill, a former light heavyweight champion,

in the fourth round. Jones, who will turn 30 on Jan. 16, added the WBA light heavyweight title to the WBC championship he already held by outpointing Lou Del Valle on July 18.

Fernando Vargas emerged as a potential star on Dec. 12 when only five days after his 21st birthday and in his 15th pro fight, he stopped veteran Yory Boy Campas of Mexico to win the IBF junior middleweight championship.

De La Hoya's battering of Chavez, a former junior lightweight, lightweight and junior welterweight champion, probably ended the 36-year-old Mexican's career, at least as a major fighter.

The career of Roberto Duran, the stuff of legend, also apparently came to an end when the 47-year-old Panamanian was stopped in the third round by William Joppy in a bid for the WBA middleweight title.

Duran posted a 102-14 record and won lightweight, welterweight, junior middleweight and middleweight titles in a career that began in 1967 During that time, the only years in which he didn't fight were 1985 and 1990.

Archie Moore, Markson, Chris Dundee and Don Dunphy, all who played key roles in boxing for decades, died during the year.

Moore, 84, scored 141 knock outs in an incredible 27-year career that ended when he was 49. He was light heavyweight champion for nine years.

Markson, 92, was involved in the promotion of more than 2,000 fights by the time he retired as president of Madison Square Garden Boxing in 1973. Dundee, 91, was a longtime promoter and manager and brother of trainer Angelo Dundee. Dunphy, 90, known as the Voice of Boxing, called more than 2,000 fights on radio and television.

NBA Lockout

Owners' proposal gains another player as Stern prepares to cancel season

By VIN A. CHERWOO

Associated Press Writer

First it was Karl Malone, now it's Kevin Willis.

One day after Patrick Ewing expressed surprise at Malone's view that the NBA's latest contract offer was "fair," Willis called for players to vote by secret ballot.

"The majority would vote for the owners' latest proposal, just to start playing ball again," the Toronto Raptors forward said Tuesday, defying his union

While the first signs of dissension appear to be forming in the players' unity. NBA commissioner David Stern talked about getting permission to cancel the season.

Stern, interviewed by Fox Sports News while on vacation in Aspen, Colo., said he called Billy Hunter, the head of the players union, to convey his intentions. "I've told him we have serious

disagreements," Stern said. "I'd love to sit down and negotiate. I would say we are getting pretty close" to losing the season for lack of a contract after owners locked out players.

"If nothing happens in the next several days. I think I'll be required to schedule a board meeting of our Board of Governors for right after the first of the year.

Stern needs to get permission from the Board of Governors before he can cancel the season.

Malone was the first player to express a favorage view of the proposal that, arrived by overnight mail last Thursday and outlined the owners' concessions.

"To me, I feel the deal is almost done," the Utah star said Saturday before playing in the See NBA, Page 2B

advantage and when you have

the division sewed up,"

Shanahan said. "When you lose

that edge, all of a sudden you

"We came out and we played

against the wall in a Monday

can get embarrassed

charity exhibition game in Atlantic City, N.J. "Without a doubt, that deal (the owners' offer) is fair. It just needs some minor changes. I think the deal

Ewing disagreed Monday, saying "all they did was make the numbers look great, but it's not a good deal.

On Tuesday, Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, dismissed rumors that Malone and is working with Jazz teammate John Stockton to bring the owners' proposal to a vote or replace union leaders Ewing and Alonzo Mourning.

"That's not true: I have never heard of it," Manley said. "I don't know where that comes from. ... I don't know that Karl has even talked to John lately.

Today marked the 11th day since the last round of bargaining, and players continue to lose \$50 million a week in salaries. If a deal isn't reached soon, the entire season will be scrapped.

Steve Woods, Willis' agent and a professor of sports business at South Carolina, endorsed his client's view.

"I believe that a blind ballot would be acceptable." Woods said. "I think 80 percent would accept it (the proposal), based on the 15 players I talk to on a regular basis. They would accept it and be ready to play tomorrow.'

Union spokesman Dan Wasserman disagreed

"We conducted conference calls over the last two weeks with more than 120 players on each call," he said. "At least a dozen players on each call specifically told us they will wait for the negotiating committee to recommend a deal

Shanahan confident slumping team will regain its edge DENVER (AP) - Through 11 Pro Player Stadium. The on 16 carries, leaving him with when you have homefield

games, they were the class of the NFL, knocking off opponents with ease. Through 13 games, despite sudden breakdowns, they remained undefeat-

Now, the Denver Broncos have lost two straight games. Fans calling sports talk shows are panicking, and Broncos players are beginning to doubt themselves.

Not to worry, coach Mike Shanahan insisted less than 24 hours after the Broncos' 31-21 loss to the Miami Dolphins.

The unflappable Shanahan said his team, which on Dec. 6 clinched homefield advantage throughout the playoffs, has momentarily lost its edge as it closes out the regular season with some meaningless games.

Monday night's game in "ami would have had huge implications if the Broncos had taken an unbeaten record into managed just 29 yards rushing

Broncos would have had to get by the Dolphins in order to maintain their hopes for an undefeated season, duplicating a feat accomplished only by the 1972 Dolphins. Both present and former Dolphins didn't want that to happen. But the Broncos stumbled the

week before, suffering their first loss, 20-16 to the Giants. That took much of the drama out of the game with Miami, although the game was impor-

tant to Miami's playoff hopes and pitted future Hall of Fame quarterbacks Dan Marino and John Elway.

Marino was marvelous, throwing for 355 yards and four touchdowns. But Elway and running back Terrell Davis, the NFL's leading rusher, both flopped. Elway completed only 13 of 36 passes for 151 yards and two interceptions, while Davis

1,830 yards and one game remaining — on Sunday at home against Seattle (8-7).

Shanahan said Elway developed a strained hip flexor muscle during the game that limited his mobility, and Davis was slowed by bruised ribs - neither of which should bother either player next week.

But he made it clear that injuries weren't the cause of his team's latest loss.

"Dan made some great throws, and their receivers made some big plays in man coverage," Shanahan said. 'Defensively, there were a number of times when we weren't in the right spot. Offensively, we had some opportunities we didn't take advantage of."

sub-par performance for a Broncos team that heretofore had appeared invincible. "You lose your edge a little bit first playoff game.

It marked the fourth straight

maybe 20 or 30 minutes, but we didn't play Bronco football for 60 minutes. And when you don't do that against a team that's hungry and is playing for a playoff spot and their backs are

> night game and in their backyard, then the outcome is what happened to us.' Shanahan could take comfort in the fact that last year the Broncos also lost in the 14th and 15th weeks of the season, then

win the Super Bowl. On the other hand, the Broncos stumbled toward the end of 1996, too, and despite having homefield advantage bowed to Jacksonville in their

Asked if he saw a decline in confidence among his players over the last two weeks, Shanahan said, "No. I see a sense of urgency. I really feel good about our team and the type of character we have. Sometimes you lose, but you've got to keep your focus. There's only one thing that matters: You've got to play well once you get to the playoffs. I've got confidence we will.

His players seemed less cer-

"How much work do we have to do before the playoffs?" safety Tyrone Braxton said. "A hell of a lot."

Tight end Shannon Sharpe said he and his teammates had 'better start looking deep into ourselves. I don't want to hear how we don't have anything to play for. We've got to shore things up before'we go into the playoffs. If things don't change, we're not going to go very far."

Is the Fiesta Bowl the only one that matters need a convincing win over No. North Carolina State wide when No. 10 Tulane (11-0) plays 8 Texas A&M (11-2) in the Sugar receiver Torry Holt vs. Miami Brigham Young.

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Football Writer

The bowl season has come to this: One game matters, maybe two; the others don't.

College football wants a national title game, and just about has one when No. 1 Tennessee (12-0) plays No. 2 Florida State (11-1) in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4.

While the winner will be crowned national champion in the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll, No. 3 Ohio State still has an outside shot at finishing No. 1 in The Associated Press' media poll.

The Buckeyes (10-1) would

Bowl on Jan. 1, followed three days later by a lackluster Seminoles' victory over the Volunteers in Tempe, Ariz.

Voters in the AP poll consider all bowl games before casting final ballots, while the coaches have agreed to make the Fiesta Bowl winner No. 1 no matter what happens in the other bowls. The final AP poll is released on Jan. 5.

Looking for a few other entertaining games over the holidays? Try the Micron PC, Alamo, Holiday, Liberty, Gator and Orange for starters.

— Micron PC: Features two intriguing pro prospects - running back Edgerrin James.

— Alamo: Can a depressed No.

4 Kansas State (11-1) shake off the disappointment of being bounced out of a Bowl Championship Series game and rebound against Drew Brees and unranked Purdue?

- Holiday: Will speed-demon No. 5 Arizona (11-1), deflated after losing out on a Rose Bowl trip when UCLA lost to Miami, outrun No. 14 Nebraska (9-3), or will the Huskers avoid their first four-loss season since 1968?

Liberty: Shaun King, the nation's passing efficiency leader, tries to put the finishing touches on a perfect season

assignment scout.

Brigham Young.

— Gator: No. 17 Notre Dame

(9-2) is reason enough to tune in, but in No. 12 Georgia Tech (9-2), the Irish are dealing with a team it was lucky to beat last season. And the Yellow Jackets haven't forgotten.

 Orange: If you like the color orange, then show up in Miami on Jan. 2 when No. 7. Florida (9-2) plays No. 18 Syracuse (8-3) in an all-orange Orange Bowl — at the Orange Bowl Pootballs will be flying, too, with Donovan McNabb in his last game for the Orangemen — going pass-for-pass with the Gators' Doug Johnson.

Tune in to the Cotton Bowl. too, for Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams' last game at Texas. The Longhorns go against Mississippi State, which put a scare into Tennessee before losing in the SEC title game.

The picks. No. 21 Oregon (minus 51/2) vs.

Ducks may not be over season-ending loss to Oregon State. ... COLORADO,

Oahu Bowl (Friday) No. 16 Air Force (minus 31/2) vs. Washington

Running of Blane Morgan vs. passing of Brock Huard. ... AIR FORCE, 24-20. Insight.com Bowl (Saturday) No. 23

Missouri (minus 31/2) vs. West Tigers' defense capable of shutting down Famous Amos. ... MISSOURI, 31-

Music City Bowl (Dec. 29) Virginia Tech (minus 5) vs. Alabama 'Bama is 10-0 vs. Hokies; Tech lost

three times by combined 10 points. ... ALABAMA, 29-22. Micron PC Bowl (Dec. 29) No. 24 Miami (minus 7) vs. North **Carolina State**

Look for a game of big plays. ...

MIAMI, 34-31.

Alamo Bowl (Dec. 29) No. 4 Kansas State (minus 12) vs.

Wildcats are down, Purdue QB Drew

Brees can put them out. ... PURDUE, 33-31.

Eagles' 1-2 punch of RB Derrick Nix and WR Sherrod Gideon should domi-SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI, 41-

y Bowl (Dec. 30) No. 14 Nebraska (minus 3) vs. No. 5

Huskers may outsize Wildcats, but 'Zona will outrun them, ... ARIZONA, 24-

Liberty Bowl (Dec. 31) No. 10 Tulane (minus 7) vs. Brigham

Green Wave try for perfect season with a new coach. ... TULANE, 38-21.

Sun Bowl (Dec. 31)

Southern California (minus 16) vs. Texas Christian Does TCU belong in the postseason? ... SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 35-13.

Peach Bowl (Dec. 31) No. 13 Virginia (minus 2) vs. No. 19 Georgia

With two-way stal Champ Balley, 'Dawgs may have the edge. ... GEOR-

Independence Bowl (Dec. 31)

Outback Bowl (Jan. 1)

Texas Tech (minus 9·) vs. Mississippi Ole Miss has much to overcome new coach, three-game losing streak. ... TEXAS TECH, 28-14.

No. 22 Penn State (minus 61/2) vs. Kentucky Wildcats have a QB (Tim Couch);

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

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Gator Bowl (Jan. 1) No. 12 Georgia Tech (minus 11/2) vs. No. 17 Notre Dame Irish lack offense, Tech doesn't. ...

GEORGIA TECH. 28-21. Citrus Bowl (Jan. 1) No. 15 Michigan (minus 3) vs. No. 11

Arkansas Both teams looking for a 10-win season. ... ARKANSAS, 27-24.

Cotton Bowl (Jan. 1) No. 20 Texas (minus 61/2) vs. No. 25 Mississippi State Longhorns can pass, too. ... TEXAS,

Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) No. 6 UCLA (minus 91/2) vs. No. 9

Bruins' Cade McNown passes for more points than Ron Dayne can run

for. ... UCLA, 38-24. Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1) No. 3 Ohio State (minus 121/2) vs.

No. 8 Texas A&M Buckeyes 2-7 in bowls under coach John Cooper. ... OHIO STATE, 31-23.

Orange Bowl (Jan. 2) No. 7 Florida (minus 71/2) vs. No. 18 Last time Gators coach Steve Spurrier

was part of this one, it was as the '66 Heisman winner. ... FLORIDA, 34-31.

Flesta Bowl (Jan. 4) No. 2 Florida State (minus 5) vs. No. 1 Tennessee Watch for a Bobby Bowden trick play

to turn game. ... FLORIDA STATE, 17-13.

SCOREBOARD

BOWL SCHEDULE

All Times CST Saturday, Dec. 19 Las Vegas Bowl At Las Vegas North Carolina 20, San Diego

Thursday, Dec. 24 **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 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. Saturday, Dec. 26

Heritage Bowl

At Atlanta

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

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

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 Southern Cal (8-4) vs. Texas Christian (6-5), 1 p.m. (CBS)

Peach Bowl Virginia (9-2) vs. Georgia (8-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

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**

Georgia Tech (9-2) vs. Notre Dame (9-2), 11:30 a.m. (NBC) Citrus Bowl Michigan (9-3) vs. Arkansas (9-2), Noon (ABC)

Cotton Bowl

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

Texas A&M (11-2) vs. Ohio State (10-1), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 2 Orange Bowl At Miami Syracuse (8-3) vs. Florida (9-

2), 7 p.m. (ABC) Monday, Jan. 4

Flesta Bowl At Tempe Artz. Tennessee (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1), 7 p.m. (ABC) Saturday, Jan. 16

East-West Shrine Classic At Stanford, Calif. East vs. West, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 23 Senior Bowl North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24

Hula Bowl At Kahulul, Maul South vs. North, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League

ANAHEIM ANGELS—Placed 1B Mark Johnson on waivers for the purpose of giving him **BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed** to terms with RHP Tomokazu

At Dallas

Texas (8-3), 10 a.m. (ROX)

Rose Bowl year contract At Pasadena, Calif. KANSAS CITY ROYALS-"There is no way we'd threat- well, Agreed to terms with RHP Ken Ryan and OF Rob Ducey on

Named John Wathan special

National League PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—

one-year contracts. PITTSBURGH PIRATES-Agreed to terms with SS Rafael Bournigal, RHP Jim Dougherty, RHP Todd Ritchie, C Chris Tremie, INF Matt Howard, OF Ray Montgomery and 1B Ivan

Cruz on minor-league contracts. BASKETBALL American Basketball League ABL-Announced it has suspended operations. Women's National Basketball HOUSTON COMETS—Signed

Van Chancellor to a multiyear

contract extension.

FÖÖTBALL **National Football League CLEVELAND BROWNS**— Signed WR Corey Bridges, LB Darion Conner, DB Corey Dowden, DT Bill Duff, QB John Dutton, and DT Albert Reese.

Signed CB Reggie Rusk. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS-Signed WR Horace Copeland. Placed WR Brice Hunter on injured reserve. HOCKEY National Hockey League

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS-

NHL-Promoted Doug Periman to vice president of business affairs and special CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS-

Recalled D Christian Laflamme from Portland of the AHL and C Todd White from Chicago of the NEW YORK ISLANDERS-

Claimed D Eric Cairns off waivers from the New York Rangers.

giving him one more to prove himself. Running back Dante Hall said he knew the quarterback was up to the task against Kansas

"He was so at ease with what he was doing, like he had nothing to lose," Hall said. "It was kind of the way he carried himself, his body language. "That was a great job for

Branndon to be ready," offencoordinator Kragthorpe added. "I'm so happy for him because he's a good person. He showed character and maturity about the whole situation.

"I'm happy ... because we won the game and because of all that he's gone through here at Texas





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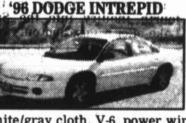
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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

vote." "A secret ballot is something the union is adamantly against because they would feel it would tear a hole in their blan-

that is worthy of putting to a

ket of unity," Woods said. "The players union unity is based more on peer pressure and collective egos rather than on reasonable minds coming to a reasonable conclusion.' In addition to losing out on salaries, some players are

beginning to miss out on

endorsement revenue. Nike, the

world's largest athletic shoe

company, is exercising its

option to withhold quarterly

payments to most of the 230 NBA players it has under contract. spokesman Vizhier ' Nike Mooney admitted the decision risked alienating some athletes, but said that after three straight quarters of declining Nike profits, the company must reassess

its investment in the league.

en our relationship with the NBA or the many NBA players we're partnered with," Mooney "But as a business, we have to make common sense, fiscally responsible decisions." Fila USA also is taking that

action, but Adidas, another footwear manufacturer, has not followed suit.

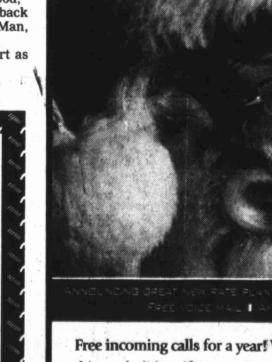
Continued from Page 1B

sive force. Instead, he made the most of his reps in practice.

Then McCown broke his collarbone Nov. 27, scoring a touchdown late in the Aggies' 26-24 loss to Texas. The break wasn't diagnosed until the following Wednesday at practice.

"I told Shane (Lechler) before practice that Wednesday I didn't think I'd play again because Randy was playing so good," Stewart said. "He came back (after practice) and said, 'Man,

you spoke too soon." It was a break for Stewart as



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Justice Dept. launches Salt Lake investigation

NEW YORK (AP) - The Justice Department and the FBI formally opened an investigation today into alleged improprieties in Salt Lake City's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

A Justice Department prosecutor met in Salt Lake City today with FBI and other law enforcement officials looking at accusations that members of the Utah bid committee used scholarships and other gifts and favors to buy the votes of International Olympic Committee members:

'We've opened an investigation into allegations of improprieties in connection with the Salt Lake City Olympics bid," department spokesman Myron Marlin said in Washington.

Marlin would not elaborate on the possible charges or areas of investigation.

Until now, the department said only that it was conducting a preliminary review. But after today's meeting, law enforcement officials decided they had enough information to broaden the investigation, law enforcement sources said on the condition of anonymity.

The formal investigation starts immediately. The Justice Department refused to comment on the scope or duration of the investigation.

USA Today, in today's editions, said the preliminary review had focused on possible extortion and tax and wire fraud.

Should investigators attempt to bring a tax fraud case, according to USA Today, they would be required to show that Salt Lake organizers misused tax-exempt funds by buying the lavish gifts or by financing scholarships for relatives of IOC members.

The federal probe is the fourth inquiry into the Salt Lake allegations, and only one of them is expected to be finished by the time the IOC meets to discuss another major issue doping.

While the IOC expects to wrap up its own probe by Jan. 23, at least two of the other inquiries won't finish until after a worldwide drug summit set for Feb. 2-4.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Olympic Committee appointed a fivemember panel headed by former Senate majority leader George Mitchell.

Mitchell, who helped frame the Northern Ireland peace accords and is expected to play a key role in President Clinton's impeachment defense, said the panel would hold its first meeting next week and finish by the end of February.

"We have to be thorough, but at the same time we have to do this promptly," Mitchell said. The Salt Lake Organizing Committee, meanwhile, said an investigation by its ethics board would report its findings

at a Feb. 11 meeting. "All we need to do is determine what happened, at whose hand, and why," said Gordon Hall, a former Utah Supreme Court justice who heads the SLOC probe. "I don't envision that it will take a long time to

do that." While the Salt Lake scandal, and allegations of more widespread corruption in awarding Olympic cities, had riveted the IOC over the past two weeks, a leading member said the doping summit set for Lausanne, Switzerland, would not be

delayed. "That schedule will not change," IOC vice president Anita DeFrantz said.

Mitchell said the goal of his investigation was to ensure future Olympics in the United States are as clean as fans and sponsors expect them to be.

"I believe the Olympic movement holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Americans and people around the world," he said. "We intend to investigate what happened in the past and make recommendations to assure that the selection of U.S. candidate cities for future Olympics is fair and above reproach."



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Proverbs 24:3



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I Corinthians 7:28

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

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K.V.J. Isaiah 7:14

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\$400/dn., \$287/Mo. 4 bedroom, 2 bath 2 living areas, central heat, utility room, fenced, newly decorated. 1509 Oriole. Must have excellen

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

Coronado Hills addition only 6 lots left. Call today KEY HOMES, INC. Harry Deter 553-3502 or 915-520-9848.4/16/98

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Zero down Seller pays al closing cost. Total house payment as low at \$375. To qualified buyer. 3/2, 1753 square feet, carports, parking for RV & Boat. Storm windows, fenced yard, remodeled 2907 Cactus Drive 264-0628 call for appt.

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\$1000 Park Allowance in Midland. Call Jay at A-1 **Homes** for information about Allowance with Limited Time! Hurry! 1-800-755-9133,

\$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**

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\$500.00 Down \$1,000.00 cash back on a beautifu Fleetwwod 16x80 3 bedrooms 2 bath only \$296.00 a month 11.25% APR w.a.c. Homes of America, 48th. & Andrews Odessa 1-800-725-0881 or (915)363-0881.

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

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1-800-755-9133 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 "No credit, bad credit, bankrkuptcies, etc. Call the credit doctor for your

free credit analysis.

Homes of America, 1-800-725-0881 or Land/Home No Payment til 99! Only at Oakwood Homes, 1-20 & Bus 83 in Abilene 800-529-3195 wac

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*Por Que Renta! Homes America Ofrece Comprar! Fleetwood Neuvo y usado Financimeinto facil Venga Homes of America, 4750 Hwy Andrews 1-800-725-0881 (915)363-0881

We buy used mobile homes A-1 homes (915) 563-9000

Year END SALE! \$1999 off all 1998 homes or \$1000 Shopping Spree Rebate on select models. Must present this as on your 1st visit, USA HOMES, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. Not valid with any other offer.

Year end used home liquidation sale prices starting at \$995.00. Call Homes of America 1-800-725-0881 363-0881. Se Habla Christians, longeral

Zero down Britis your land deed of title on your mobile home. Move in before New Year's Nationwide of Midland 520-5850 o r 800-456-8944

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR

FRIDAY, DEC. 25: You are unusually lucky this birthday year. You feel better, happier and enjoy life with more gusto. Expand your circle of friends. You'll find each day more rewarding than the last. Domestic life becomes secure; you might buy a home or make an important investment. Handle finances conservatively. Money easily slips through your fingers. If you are single, love could be found during your daily routine. You might have more than one suitor. If attached, your relationship benefits from excellent communications, and improving the quality of your tie. PISCES can

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

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263-5000.

\$950.00

(915)363-0881.

Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) There is a lot on your mind. Give in to contentment and relaxation. Others are thrilled by what takes place. A friend or loved one does something special. You won't forget this Christmas for a long time. Make an extra effort for a difficult person. Tonight: Beam away, ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Attend to a parent or someone you respect. They could be elusive, but mean well. It. becomes clear how deeply you are cared about. Let others play a bigger role in your life. Give up the need for control. Loving surrounds you. Tonight: Add your special touch to the celebrations.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Others turn to you. You are

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2 bedroom, 1 bath. 910 E. 6th. Call 267-3841 or 2 bedroom, 1 bath Duplex.

1501 Lincoln-B. Call 267-3841 or 556-4022. 3 bd., 2 bath, 2 living areas. C/H/A, fridge/stove. \$500./mo. + dep. Cal 263-0436.

3 bd., 2 bath duplex. 2107 Main #A. \$250./mo., 508 Settles & 1600 Jennings. \$125./mo, \$100/dep. 915-363-8243.

4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1504 Lincoln, Calf 207-3841 or 556-4022

Beautifully Remode Brick home, 3+/2. Fenced Double garage w/home office or studio + bath. \$900./mo. 506 Hillside 268-9201.

Clean 2 bd. Fenced yard. 304 W. 19th.\$275./mo., \$100./dep. Call 267-1543. FOR LEASE: Nice 2 bd., 1 bath. Good location \$395./mo., deposit & references required. No pets!! 263-8513.

Small 3bd. Mobile Home C/H/A, w/d, stove & refr \$350./mo., \$150/dep. HUD Midway area. Çall 393-5585 anytime or after 2pm 267-3114. Three bedroom, one bath,

covered carport, good neighborhood. \$350/mn. \$150/dep. 267-5646. Two especially nice 2 bedr. 2 bath houses with appliances. \$600/mn. for

one house; \$ \$700/mn for

Doris at 263-6525 or Home Realtors at 263-1284.

For sale full blood Beagle 457-2276 (Forsan)

COUNTRY LIFE. Nearly 5 ac., 2 water wells, great water, trees, 3 car garage, 14x80 modular home with 3 additions & covered by 32x104 awning. \$40,000.

Extra Nice! Close to shopping & hospital. Clean, No pets! 267-7705 or 267-2079.

PUBLIC NOTICE OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL **WELL PERMIT**

Sharp Image Energy, Inc., P.O. Box 1888, Big Spring, TX is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other of and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Clearfork & Wolfcamp Formations, Vealmoor Lease, Welf Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 1 Mile NE of Vealmoor in the Oceanic (Pennsylvanian) Field, in Borders County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth nterval from 700 to 6950 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are ly affected, or requ Gas Division, Railroad nission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austir Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/46)

more instrumental in the Christmas celebrations than

HOROSCOPE

you realize. Others are thrilled that you're part of their plans. You actually might have to do the party rounds. You let go and enjoy later in the day. Tonight: Smile into the wee hours.**** CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Relish the dreamy quality of this Christmas. Someone chooses the perfect gift or knows just the right words. A possible trip could be in the offing as a result. A partner comes through for you in a big way. Others are excited. All eyes are on you. Tonight: Bask in the moment.****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Expect only good today. A partner clearly cherishes you. There is reason for bliss. Someone touches a chord that takes you into another realm. Talk about the future and travel possibilities. Call those at a distance who can't be close. Tonight: It gets better and better.****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Others are refreshing as they dote on you. Feelings are extreme. Your ability to make others happy is as strong as it has ever been. You feel good about yourself as you manifest true giving. Your nurturing ways touch a partner's heart. Tonight: Enjoy receiving.*****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You naturally give of yourself now. You understand the true essence of giving. There is a unique quality of caring that is developing between you and a youngster, or if single, a special love interest. Don't hold back any longer. Tonight: Share a lot with others.****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You finally have reached the harvest in a relationship. It could involve a child or paramour. Feelings exchanged have a euphoric quality. Material gifts can't touch on this depth. News from a friend or family member puts a smile on your face. Tonight: Happy at home.****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

You don't need to go far this holiday. Staying close to home and family proves even more rewarding than Christmases. Indulge people in your daily life; let them know how much they mean to you. An important call or news comes forward later in the day. Tonight: Get frisky.****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

Reach for people whom you care about. Your call means more than you are aware. Exchanging feelings is rich and intense. Someone touches you on a very deep level. See others later in the day. Tonight: You receive something special.*****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Dazzling best describes this holiday season for you. You cannot do enough for someone. You naturally know how to please others. A vision or special wish comes true for you at the eleventh hour. Stay anchored, return calls, spread holiday cheer. Tonight: Share

your vision.****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Others come to you, revealing long-term desires. Feelings abound. Someone can delight you with his choice of presents. You might remember this holiday season for a very long time. Your instincts pay off later in the day. Tonight: Thank someone in a special way.****

BORN TODAY

Singer Annie Lennox (1954), singer Barbara Mandrell (1948), actress Sissy Spacek (1949)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 000-6000, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

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

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Cold turkey is best Christmas present smokers gave himself

DEAR ABBY: It will be three years this Christmas that I gave myself the best Christmas gift anyone could give me. I quit smoking, cold turkey. It was Christmas Eve and I had two cigarettes left in the pack.

When I finished the last one. I looked at the pack, crumpled it up in my hand, and thought to myself how much I disliked everything about cigarettes. When I threw

the pack away, I decided then and

there I wouldn't run to the store for more?

ABIGAIL

VAN

BUREN

I can't explain what happened to me the next day (Christmas), but it was as though I had never smoked a cigarette in my life! I didn't go through any nicotine withdrawals or have the shakes, or even think about wanting a smoke -- and I still feel the same way today.

In the past, I had quit for 3 1/2 years, twice for two years, once for 18 months, for a total of nine years. They were horrible times. Any time I was in the presence of a person who was smoking, I wanted a cigarette. I suffered from withdrawal and the shakes. I now know that I will never smoke another cigarette.

Abby, I started when I was 13. I am now 52 and hope to live another 30 years. My parents were smokers, but they quit more than 30 years ago. Today, they are 79 and 83 years old. My mother lost three sisters to cancer (two of them were smokers). My father lost two brothers and two sisters, one of whom had emphysema, one had cancer, and two died of heart attacks. They were all heavy smokers.

I just want to say, Don't give up trying. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I've never felt better and am looking forward to the rest of my life. -- BEEN THERE, DONE THAT IN NEW YORK

DEAR BEEN THERE: Congratulations on kicking your addiction. You're right; it was the best Christmas gift you could have received. My read-

ers confirm that although it's a jolt to the system, "cold turkey" is the most effective way to stop smoking. Perhaps your letter will inspire other smokers to quit smoking. I can't imagine a more meaningful gift to themselves and their families.

DEAR ABBY: I have been engaged almost 14 months. My fiance never mentions marriage. When I bring it up, he says the relationship isn't great enough to discuss marriage. The only time he wants me is when I tell him I'm going to move on with my life.

He told me that I care far too much for him, and if I want him to love me the way I want him to, I will have to start caring less for him. He is much older than I am.

Abby, I just don't feel the love is being returned. Before we got engaged, he cheated on me and lied about it. He claims she was "only a friend," but it happened more than once. He still keeps in contact with her. I now have a hard time trusting him when he goes anywhere.

He says I have to forget about the past and move on to the future. I don't believe people can move on with the future while the past still haunts them. What do you think? --WANTS TO BE LOVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WANTS TO BE LOVED: From what you have described to me, I'm hesitant to call your arrangement an engagement. If your "fiance" is serious about marrying you, he certainly doesn't act like it. Listen to your intuition. It's pointing you in the right direc-

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Have a merry Christmas, but also keep in mind: If you're drinking, do not drive; if you're driving, please do not drink

Good advice for everyone -teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris. Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is includ-

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THURSDAY DEC. 24 KMID (2) KPEJ (3) KERA (5) FAM (6) KOSA (7) WFAA (8) KWES (1) WTBS (1) UNI (13) DISN (14) NASH (15) TINC (16) SHOW (20) HBO (22) KMLM(24) ARE (25) DISC 28 TNT 30 AMC 31 BET 6 :9M News (CC) Elmo Saves lig 12 Show ireat Christ 8 :PM Holiday Glory 9 :9M Your Heart (CC) Eve .. Your Hee ER (CC) ribute Live Mad Abt. Yo 18 Hours (CC) Our Favorite Fun Food Life in Wo (CC) (CC) 10 :PM News (CC) Nightline Misa del Gallo del Papa Ent. Tonight First Method Our Favorite Toys **FOX Sports** ops (CC) :10) Movie 11 :PM at Christ 12 :AM ist Chur **BLONDIE**







FAMILY CIRCUS





B.C.





I HOPE

YOU LIKE

17

IT'S YOUR

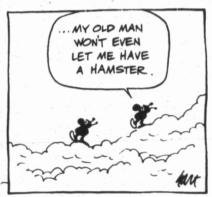
CHRISTMAS

PRESENT!

I haven't cottien yours yet. I was

GOING TO STOP ON

THE WAY HOME:



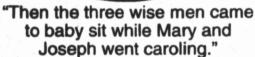
MAYBE I'LL JUST

HANG ON TO THIS

UNTIL I'M SURE I

LIKE MINE.





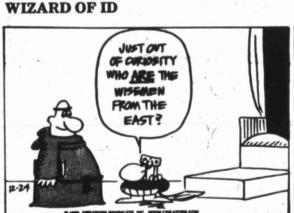


You DID IT WRONG, DAD. IT'S S'POSED TO BE HUNG BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE.

MERRY

MERLE.

CHRISTMAS,





HI AND LOIS













SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILY







THIS DATE

IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 1998. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo VIII astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve televi-

sion broadcast.

ACROSS 5 Open-hand 9 Freeze 14 Ms. Fitzgerald 15 Coarse greens 16 Core group 17 Montgomery Clift movie 19 Church instrument 20 Take it easy 21 Prepares to

By James E. Buel

5 Cast-iron pan

Molten rock

According to

12 River of Russia

enclosures

18 Stand on hind

cap 22. Fiscal exams

23 Lover of Eros

24 Mate of a very

Clift movie

indicator

10 Insertion

11 Border

13 Farm

Haley or Trebek

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

propose 22 Request another hearing 25 Remaining 26 Function 27 Transform

30 987-65-4321 grp. 33 Actress Cannon

35 Clift movie 37 Blood of gods Raw mineral 40 Fountain orders 41 Clift movie

44 Sacred ceremony 45 D.C. VIP 46 Extreme 48 Sister

49 Island off Donegal 50 Denver pro 52 Soviet dictator

55 Reject disdainfully 57 Russian ballet company 58 Clift movie

62 Silly 63 Tightrope, e.g. 64 Grain-field weed 65 Sword choice 66 Disagreeable responsibility

DOWN 1 Use an ax 2 Inventor Whitney

showy bird 25 Poorest, 28 Navigational 29 Ed's intro of Johnny

30 Section of track 31 "__ of Liberty" 32 Go-ahead 34 Japanese

Fort Washington, MD Wednesday's Puzzle Solved PADRE KNAVES TAKEOUTS IVORY OSCAR OLDSTERS TRIAGE SEETHROUGH GRID legs 21 French soldier's EATON

> 52 Snow gliders 53 Singer Turner 36 "School Scandal" 54 Part of U.A.E. 38 Clift movie 55 Part of a leg 42 Persian Gulf country 56 Andes nation 43 Head cavitie 58 Couple 47 Make well 59 Squeal

60 Shed tears

61 Magic spell BIG **SPRING**

49 Isolated

51 Pesky insects

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On this date:

In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama, who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India, died in Cochin, India.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski. Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to broadcast a music program over radio, from Brant Rock, Mass. In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave

his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halevy's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In 1943, President Roosevelt

appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord. In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's

"Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC TV.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds - one second for each day of captivi-

Ten years ago: President-elect Bush nominated Elizabeth H. Dole, onetime transportation secretary, to be his secretary of labor.

Five years ago: The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, who had blended Christian and psychiatric principles into a message of "positive thinking," died in Pawling, N.Y., at age 95.

One year ago: Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the aging revolutionary known as "Carlos the Jackal," was sentenced by a French court to life in prisonfor the 1975 murders of two French investigators and a Lebanese national. Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune died in suburban Tokyo at age 77.

Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 78. Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 58. Recording company executive Mike Curb is Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 53. Actress Sharon Farrell is 52. Actor Clarence Gilyard ("Walker, Texas Ranger") is 43. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 42.