

BIG SPRING HERALD

"Reflecting a proud community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

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TUESDAY

November 30, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 35°-40° WEDNESDAY 63°-65°

HELPING OTHERS...

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

If your organization has an established program to help others and you would like to be included in this list, call Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 234.



Angel Tree locations:

- Big Spring Herald (seniors)
- Big Spring Mall
- Al's and Son B-B-Q
- Wal-Mart
- Cosden Credit Union
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center
- Rip Griffin's Gift Shop
- Gale's Sweet Shoppe

Salvation Army Kettles:

- Wal-Mart
- Rip Griffin's
- Big Spring Post Office
- Bealls For Her
- Cinema IV

Toys For Tots:

- Cellular One in the College Park Shopping Center
- Pollard Chevrolet

See **HELPING**, Page 2

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MA'AM, TELL ME AGAIN WHY I CAN'T PLAY ONE OF THE WISE MEN IN THE PAGEANT?



25 shopping days 'til Christmas
Sponsored by
BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 97, No. 29

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.

Saturday's Community Christmas Parade to be 86 entries strong

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Eighty-six entries strong, this year's Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade promises to be the best yet.

"We're looking forward to a great parade this year," said Mark Sheedy, Herald circulation manager, who is in



SHEEDY

charge of lining up the entries for Saturday's event. "We have a number of churches, businesses, clubs and organizations entered, great participation from the schools, Howard College and the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf."

The Big Spring Police Department Color Guard will get the parade underway at 5:15 p.m., followed by Grand Marshal Pat Simmons. Parade-goers who line up along the route — north from FM 700 up Gregg to Sixth Street, east to Main, and north to Second Street — will see all of the color and pageantry. Santa

Claus will arrive in Big Spring in his sleigh at the end of the parade.

More than three-fourths of the entries are lighted, according to entry coordinator Elizabeth Flores. This will be the fifth year for the parade to be lighted, and the 13th year it has been held.

All four category champions from 1998 are returning to defend their respective titles in lighted, school/church, commercial/manufacturing and civic categories.

Boy Scout Troop 25 from Sands Springs will attempt to become the first-ever entrant to win four straight titles in any category when it defends its title in

the civic category.

Norwest Bank and Western Container will also be defending their titles this year — Norwest in lighted and Western in commercial/manufacturing. Last year's church/school winner, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, is also back.

Elbow first and third grade, Mountain View Lodge, the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Lake View Head Start, the Vietnam Memorial Committee, Big Spring Humane Society and the Texas Tech Ex-Students,

See **PARADE**, Page 2



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Vivian Glickman selected an angel from the Salvation Army Senior Angel Tree Monday. The senior tree is located at the Big Spring Herald. Children's Angel Trees are found at Rip Griffin's Gift Shop, Gale's Sweet Shoppe, Big Spring Mall, Wal-Mart, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Cosden Credit Union and Al's and Sons Barbecue.

Funds OK'd

Moore Development board to borrow \$2.3 million for loan in StarTek package

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

Moore Development for Big Spring directors approved resolutions borrowing \$2.3 million that will become a loan as part of the StarTek USA incentive package.

"Theoretically, they will earn payments with their payroll. If their payroll does not come to what their projections are, they will repay the loan in cash," said Charles Beil, president of Moore Development.

StarTek USA announced Monday it is opening a call center in Big Spring and hiring up to 450 people once the center is fully operational. Some 130 people have been hired thus far.

Part of the incentive package that helped secure StarTek USA in Big Spring, as opposed to at least 10 other cities that were vying for the center, was the guarantee of a loan to cover startup and remodeling expenses for the high-tech industry.

The loans were made from two different institutions to Moore Development. American State Bank has agreed to loan the development corporation

\$1.5 million. Interest charged on this loans is set at 7.89 percent, reduced from the prime lending rate of 8.5 percent.

An additional \$800,000 was secured from the Howard County Industrial Foundation with a 4 percent interest rate.

"Of course, we are basing the loans on our revenue," Beil said.

Moore Development collects about \$800,000 in a quarter-cent sales tax from Big Spring each year. From that amount, salaries are paid, and the rest is used to fund various economic development projects.

Beil said the loans stipulate that the tax will continue to be collected until the debt is repaid, regardless of the existence of the development corporation.

A seven-year repayment has been established for the two loans. StarTek has a 14-year contract with the development corporation for repayment.

"They are guaranteeing a \$1.5 million annual payroll," said Kent Sharp, executive director for Moore Development.

The loans are guaranteed by StarTek Inc., parent company of StarTek USA, Beil said. Total repayment for the loans amounts to about \$31,000 each month.

See **MOORE**, Page 2

Free tickets for Living Christmas Tree going fast, organizers say

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

Free tickets are still available for the Living Christmas Tree, but they are going fast.

"Ticket pick-up was very brisk yesterday," said JoAnne Forrest,



FORREST

of First United Methodist Church, which presents the Tree each year.

Nearly half of the nearly 2,000 tickets have already been distributed; others will be available as long as they last at the church office, 400 Scurry.

Both performances begin at 8 p.m., and a dress rehearsal on Saturday at 2 p.m. is also open to the public, but does not require a ticket.

"I think everybody is very excited about the fact that this

year is a much lighter production," said Forrest. "Last year was beautiful, but it was very classical."

This year's production includes appearances by children, a mime and the Big Spring High School flag corps. It does include the usual array of holiday music and hymns sung by a choir positioned on a giant, tree-shaped frame.

"We try to do something every year that is a little bit different," said John Ross, director of

the Tree. He and his wife, Denise, are co-music directors for FUMC.

Ross said the new concept for the Living Christmas Tree will add "movement" to the show. Appearing along with the singers and musicians will be young dancers from the Dance Gallery dressed as elves and sugarplum fairies; mime Lisa Wiggins; and the members of Mariah II, the high school flag corps.

This year's theme is "Love

Comes Down at Christmas."

Rehearsals hit high gear this week as the singers and crew members began their final week of preparation. The orchestra will practice all day Saturday.

Ross said shows like The Living Christmas Tree are rare these days.

"There aren't very many; it's kind of a lost art," Ross said. "I feel very blessed to be in a community that does this. It is our gift to the community for the holidays."

Howard College to host 21st Luminaria Thursday night

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

A traditional favorite for the holiday season begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, with flickering candles.

"This is a special Christmas gift to the community from Howard College that has become a tradition for our students and staff," said Javier Flores, Howard College assistant dean of students.

The luminarias will be placed in front of the administration building, and will continue across campus to the Dora Roberts Student Union Building.

Inside the SUB, special Christmas music, such as favorite carols and other holiday music, will be presented by

the Coahoma Junior High School choir about 7:30 p.m.

Santa Claus will be available to hear special gift requests, and hot chocolate, punch and cookies will be served during the festivities.

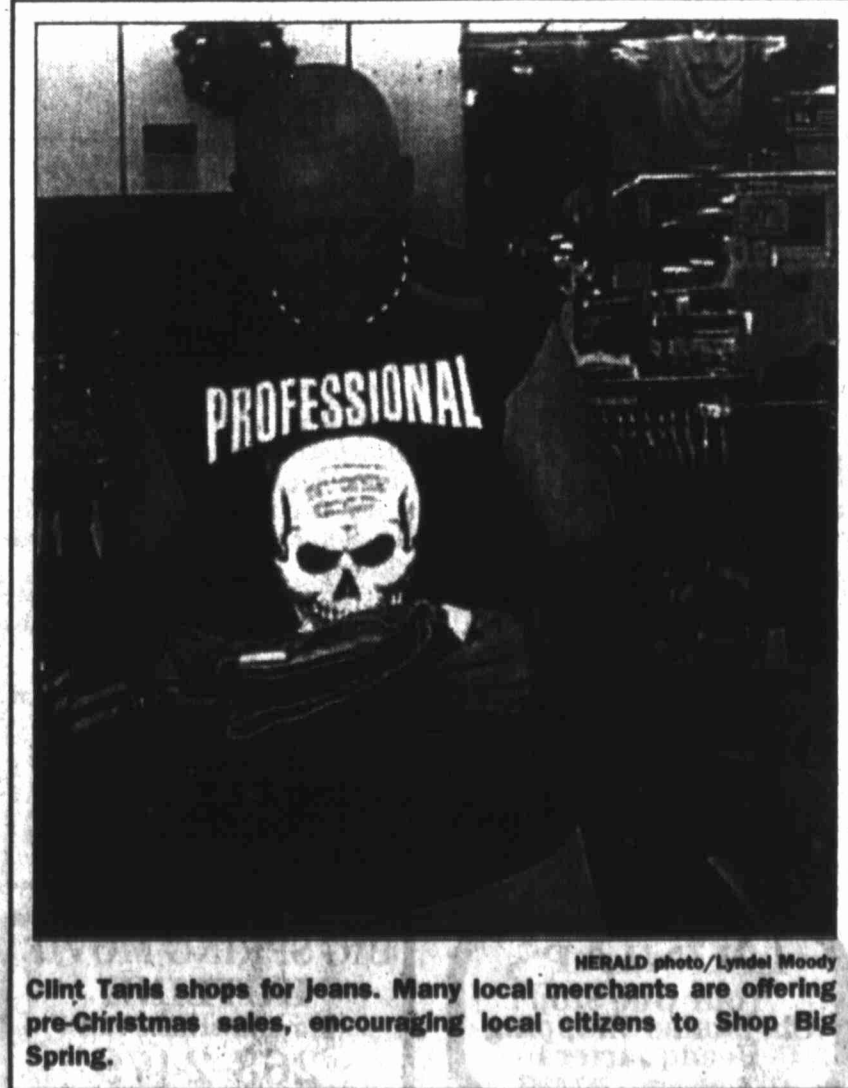
"In the past we have had several hundred people attend the luminaria, and we are hoping that many or more will stop by," Flores said.

Student Government Association members are responsible for placing the luminarias around campus, along with members of the Howard College Diplomats.

In all, Flores estimates about 40 students will help prepare the decorations and refreshments.

"We'll be setting up approximately 500 luminarias in front of Howard College, and we're inviting everyone to come see the lights, visit with Santa Claus and have some hot chocolate," Flores said.

Luminarias are a traditional



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Clint Tania shops for jeans. Many local merchants are offering pre-Christmas sales, encouraging local citizens to Shop Big Spring.

Bloodmobile to make stop in Big Spring

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

United Blood Services is bringing the Bloodmobile back to Big Spring on Thursday.

With travel and activities on the increase, area blood services need to increase the blood reserve. In order to supply the 12 area hospitals, United Blood Services (UBS) must collect more than 300 units each week.

"When you are out buying those presents, remember, the most precious gift you can give is the gift of life," said Johnna Pevey, UBS community relations representative.

"Now is the time for visiting and travel. Unfortunately, the increased travel and activity sometimes create the need for extra blood donations," she noted.

UBS would like to encourage

See **UBS**, Page 2

NOV 30 1999

OBITUARIES

Katharine H. Monroe

Katharine H. Monroe, 82, passed away following a long illness on Nov. 23, 1999. She was an 11 year resident of Las Vegas. She was born in Big Spring the daughter of H.S. Hanson and Lenora G. Hanson. Katharine is survived by her daughter and son of Las Vegas, Judith Gray, formerly of Big Spring, and James F. Monroe, formerly of Bakersfield, Calif. Other connections in Big Spring are Bernice Davis, sister, Carol Sneed, niece, and nephews Gary Hanson and Terry Hanson. Also nephews: Richard L. Moore of Greensboro, N.C., Michael Moore of El Paso, and Warren Schulte of Waco and Colorado. Katharine was retired from Kern Medical Center, Bakersfield, Calif., where she was employed as a telephone switchboard operator/receptionist. She resided in Bakersfield, Calif. for 32 years.

There is no service at this time; a memorial service will be arranged later. In lieu of flowers, suggested donations as memorials to any of the following: Nathan Adelson Hospice of Las Vegas, Alzheimer's Association, Arthritis Foundation, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Shade Tree Shelter, Humane Society, Animal Foundation of Nevada and to any hospice in donor's location.

Arrangements under the direction of Palm Mortuary, Las Vegas, Nev.

Paid obituary

Moises A. Viera Sr.

Service for Moises A. Viera Sr., 61, Portales, N.M., was 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, 1999, at the Church of God of the First Born in Portales with the Rev. David Viera officiating. Burial followed in the Portales Cemetery.

Mr. Viera died Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Plains Regional Medical Center, Clovis, N.M.

He was born on March 24, 1938, in Big Spring. He married Alvina Vallejo in Big Spring on Nov. 7, 1960. He lived in Big Spring until 1972, when he and his family moved to Portales. He was a member of the Church of God of the First Born in Portales.

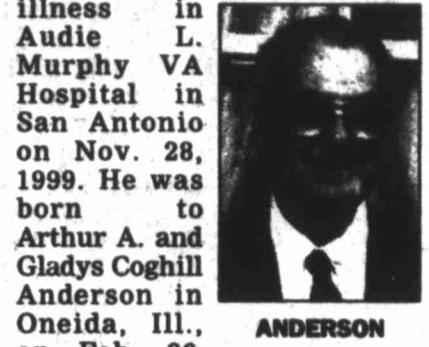
Survivors include: his wife, Alvina Viera of Portales; three sons, Arturo Viera, Moises Viera and Joe Viera, all of Portales; two daughters, Rosa Viera and Isabel Martinez, both

of Portales; seven brothers, Meliton Viera, Paul Viera, Charlie Viera, all of Big Spring, Ereciliano Viera Jr., Juan Viera, Angel Viera, all of Portales, and George Viera of Clovis, N.M.; one sister, Dominique Viera of Big Spring; and five grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Wheeler Mortuary of Portales, Inc.

Donald "Don" Anderson

Donald Arthur "Don" Anderson, 82, died suddenly after a short illness in Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio on Nov. 28, 1999. He was born to Arthur A. and Gladys Coghill Anderson in Oneida, Ill., on Feb. 26, 1917, and moved with his family to Big Spring when he was 12 years old. He married Jewel Maureen Cauble of Big Spring on March 9, 1938, and they had two children, Donald Gene and Janis Sue.



ANDERSON

He served in the United States Army during World War II and worked as an office machine mechanic in the family business, Thomas Office Supply, for 42 years until retiring in 1984. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Ida Ruth Couch of Corpus Christi, and a brother, Carl Dale Anderson of Fort Worth.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jewel Cauble Anderson of Big Spring; his son, Don Anderson and wife Victoria of Katy; and his daughter, Janis Anderson Grant of Round Rock. Also surviving are his five grandchildren, Stephanie Lea Anderson Derfus and husband Johnny of Tyler; Kristin Anderson of Houston; Wendi Sue Grant of Round Rock; Scott Anderson Grant and wife Traci of Fort Worth; Sarah-Caroline Grant Henry and husband Jeremy of Dallas. He is also survived by a brother, Robert Lee Anderson and his wife, Lois of Midland; a sister, Shurley Jean Masur and her husband Jim of Corpus Christi; brother-in-law J.D. Cauble and his wife Dorothy of Uvalde; and three great-grandchildren, Daniel Gannon Derfus, Lucke Anderson Derfus and Kaylee Sue Grant; and several nieces and nephews.

Don was a member and past deacon of the First Christian Church in Big Spring. He was past president of the American Business Club.

Visitation will be 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999, at Nalley Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, 906 Gregg. Funeral service will be conducted by the Rev. Gary Groves, former pastor, and the Rev. Jimmy Watson, pastor of First Christian Church, at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1999, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park immediately after the service.

Pallbearers will be Scott Grant, Johnny Derfus, Jeremy Henry, Bob Carpenter, Bill Tindol and David Tindol. He was a kind, gentle, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend who never said an unkind word about anyone. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to First Christian Church Memorial Fund, 911 Goliad, Big Spring, or a charity of your choice.

Paid obituary

Mildred S. Baker

Mildred S. Baker, 80, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Nov. 27, 1999, at a local nursing center. Graveside service was 10 a.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Claude Craven, retired Baptist minister, officiating. She was born Dec. 22, 1918, in Canton and had lived in Big Spring since 1923. She had worked as a waitress for many

years and had lived at Canterbury. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include: one son, Alvin Lee Baker of Honolulu, Hawaii; three brothers, Haskell Hudgins and Pete Hudgins, both of Big Spring, and Alvin C. Hudgins of Carbon; three sisters, Dorothy Jean Barnhill of Graham, Velma Lindsey of Sand Springs and Edna Cunningham of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

Ms. Baker was preceded in death by her parents, Charles W. and Mintie J. Hudgins and four sisters, Lurene Hale, Norma Burchett, Othell Boren and Cleo Noblitt.

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

Paid obituary

Ester Porras

Service is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Ester Porras, 82, of Big Spring. She died Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999, at a local nursing home.

James T. Dixon

Service is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home for James T. Dixon, 63, Big Spring. He died Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999, at his residence.

Death at BSSH under investigation

The Big Spring Police Department does not suspect foul play in the death of a Big Spring State Hospital patient, according to Sgt. Roger Sweatt.

The police department was advised of the unattended death of a state hospital patient on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 8:40 p.m. The death reportedly occurred as the patient arrived at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Due to the time and the location of the death, Justice of the Peace Bennie Green was called and he ordered an autopsy, which was performed in Lubbock on Thursday. Sweatt stated, "this is just a routine investigation." The police department expects to receive the autopsy report in about six weeks.

Two sexual assault cases reported Friday

Two sexual assault cases were reported to Big Spring Police officers on Friday.

At 6:50 a.m., a 28-year-old female reported to the police department that an adult male known to her had sexually assaulted her in a residence on the east side of town. Only minor physical injuries were received, according to reports. The case has been closed due to non-cooperation of the victim to further pursue the case, police said.

At 8:10 p.m., the police department was called to a location on the north side of town where a 19-year-old male reported that two male adults known to him had sexually assaulted him. No serious physical injuries were received, and the case is still under investigation, according to police.

MOORE

Continued from Page 1

Director Randy Hillman questioned whether these loans will negate any possibilities of other loans for the development corporation.

Bell and Sharp said future borrowing ability will depend on whether the lending institution chooses to loan funds, once a full financial standing of the development corporation is disclosed.

"Our first priority will be to the lending institutions. They

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

would weigh our cash flow with our existing loans," Sharp said.

UBS

Continued from Page 1

those in their 20s to make a practice of donating blood.

"Most of our regular donors are age 50 and older," Pevey said. "During World War II, it seemed to be the thing you did. And the younger generation back then stuck with it. They are getting older, and our younger generations haven't responded."

The maximum age to give blood is 79 years and 364 days. The Bloodmobile will be at Wal-Mart from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Those wishing to donate must:

- be at least 17 years old
- weigh more than 110 pounds
- have proof of identification
- know the names of any medication you may have taken within the last 30 days.

If you would like to make an appointment to give blood, please call 1-800-756-0024.

United Blood Services is the area's not-for-profit provider. UBS blood drive dates for Big Spring in the year 2000 are Feb. 3, April 6, June 8, Aug. 10, Oct. 19 and Dec. 21.

LUMINARIAS

Continued from Page 1

Mexican Christmas lantern, according to Webster's Dictionary. The displays are created with sand, small candles or tea lights and brown paper sacks.

The event is free and open to the public. Flores said Howard College's Luminaria is one event in a community that has many strong Christmas traditions.

HELPING

Continued from Page 1

Other efforts:

- H-E-B Food Stores "Ring In A Miracle" to benefit the Salvation Army. Tell your cashier what you want to give and either \$1 or \$2 will be added to your grocery total.
- Cox Cable of Big Spring is a collection point for the Salvation Army canned food drive.

• Church of the Nazarene will collect canned food for the Salvation Army during the drive-through nativity scene, Dec. 9-12.

• Pizza Inn, Goliad Elementary, St. Mary's Episcopal School, Forsan ISD, Moss Elementary and Big Spring Junior High are all holding canned food drives through Dec. 8.

• Norwest Bank is sponsoring The Giving Tree, which aids foster children. Come by and select an ornament and bring a gift back to the bank by Dec. 17.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

Association are just a few of the entrants for this year's parade.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 5,9,1

Cash 5: 5,25,30,31,34

Lottery numbers are unofficial until confirmed by the state lottery commission.

Others include Big Spring's High School and Junior High Bands and the Forsan Band.

"We ask that all parade participants be at the line-up site no later than 4 p.m. so we can get everyone lined out for a smooth start," said Sheedy.

Line-up begins at 25th Street and Gregg. Participants are being mailed a line-up sheet. Herald employees will be on hand to help position the vehicles.

The parade traditionally kicks off the Christmas season in Big Spring — with the illuminating of the lights at the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Hangar 25 Air Museum will also be open after the parade with a reception and display of its special lights.

Also that evening, Friends of the Settles will have a dance at the Settles Building from 6 to 11 p.m. Organizations and restaurants are being asked to rent booth space to sell food and drinks during the event.

Booths are \$20 each, to benefit the restoration project for the Settles. All profits made by booths can be kept by the organization or group.

Admission to partygoers will be free. There will be live music and the building will be decorated for the holidays.

To reserve a booth, call Andi Andrews-York at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 263-7641.

BRIEFS

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM will glow with holiday spirit after the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade on Saturday. Hangar 25 will be open to the public from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The hangar will be outlined in white lights and the interior will have special lighting for the holidays. Museum volunteers will be serving cookies, coffee and punch.

AARP 55 ALIVE MATURE Driving Course will be taught Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 6-7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Senior Citizens Center, Big Spring.

The course is open to all people age 50 and over, who must attend both sessions. After completion, participants are eligible for a 10 percent discount on auto insurance.

Cost is \$8 for the course and there are no tests or exams. Call 267-1628 to register.

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF Health will be giving flu shots every Wednesday through the winter months to those persons 18 years and older, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m. If you are on Medicare we will file. The cost to others will be \$5. For more information call 263-9775.

FIRE/EMS

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

MONDAY
2:17 a.m. — 600 block McEwen, medical call, service refused.

8:03 a.m. — 2800 block Clanton, trauma call, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

10:00 a.m. — 1700 block Scurry, medical call, service refused.

11:33 a.m. — I-20 and Highway 87, medical call,

patient transported to SMMC.

2:32 p.m. — 1900 block North 87, medical call, patient transported to Lubbock UMC.

3:13 p.m. — 1700 block Lancaster, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

5:14 p.m. — 600 block Circle, medical call, service refused.

9:26 p.m. — 400 block East 10th, medical call, service refused.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents from 8 a.m. Monday until 8 a.m. today:

• GUILLERMO BUSTAMANTE, 43, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• FLORENTINO SEPULVEDA, 37, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• PAUL WEATHERBY, 35, was arrested on a Midland County warrant.

• TOMAS MARTINEZ, 59, was arrested for local warrants.

• ARENTIVAZ GREGORIO, 57, was arrested for a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 800 block of West Marcy.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2400 block of South Monticello.

• THEFT was reported in the 300 block of Tulane where \$190 was reported stolen, and in the 2300 block of Wasson, and in the 3300 block of Marcy.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 100 block of East 15th where one Craftsman Reciprocating Saw worth \$100, one Porter Cable nail gun worth \$125, one T&W nail gun worth \$250, one Black and Decker saw worth \$200, and one 50-foot blue air hose worth \$75 were reported stolen.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 600 block of East 12th.

• DOG BITE was reported at the police department.

• INTOXICATED SUBJECT/DRIVER was reported in the 400 block of Gregg.

• MINOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE was reported in the 1000 block of Lamar

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following weekend summary:

ASSAULT, 5

FAMILY VIOLENCE, 2

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION, 5

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING, 2

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE, 2

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, 1

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID, 4

EVADING/FLEEING, 2

ALCOHOL TO A MINOR, 1

POSSESSION OF DRUGS, 2

RUNAWAY, 1

SEXUAL ASSAULT, 2

THEFT, 13

THEFT AT CONVENIENCE STORES, 1

UNATTENDED DEATH, 1

MAJOR ACCIDENTS, 2

ARRESTS, 28

MARKETS

Dec. cotton 49.20 cents, down 73 points; Jan. crude 25.35, down 61 points; cash hogs \$1 higher at 37; cash steers steady at 70 even; Dec. lean hog futures 52.32, down 87 points; Dec. live cattle futures 69.80, down 7 points. courtesy: Delta Corporation. Other markets not available by press time.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Ester Porras, 82, died Tuesday. Services are pending.

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

Donald Arthur "Don" Anderson, 82, died Sunday. Services will be 3:00 PM Wednesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the funeral home. James T. Dixon, 63, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, November 30, 1999, at his residence. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, Big Spring, Texas.

Big Spring Herald ISSN 0746-0811 USPS 0055-940
Daily except Saturday. BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.95 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.
The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, American Newspaper Association and West Texas Press. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas, 79720-9999.
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to: Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

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As m

CIUDAD (AP) — As many of missing citizens have two ranches border town. Authorities were believe the Juarez that emerged Mexican drug rization in

On Monday armed soldier black ski m one of the ra area 10 mile Juarez. Whi ered in fron concrete bl with graffiti rest of the across the s yard.

Topping t was a chain razor wire. No bodies

Judge

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Lawyers fo rival Papa Monday to le trate settle advertising f month, a jur pany had are tive ads about

In the trial member jury John's sl Ingredients, I advertisement were false Magistrate

Paren

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The parents girls were str pleaded for t were sexually all were shot i

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"The use of 'musical gro McLean rec McLean's offi Ms. Pierce s materials, rel

"The five y She is suing

Bob's Cust 409 Ea Fall \$

"Gara Inspection Get Yo Door

\$24.

CALL B 267

Special Th Big Sp Repair

As many as 100 bodies found on ranches near Texas

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — As many as 100 bodies of missing U.S. and Mexican citizens have been found on two ranches near this Mexican border town, officials said.

Authorities said those killed were believed to be victims of the Juarez drug cartel, a group that emerged as the dominant Mexican drug-trafficking organization in the mid-1990s.

On Monday night dozens of armed soldiers, some wearing black ski masks, surrounded one of the ranches in a desolate area 10 miles south of Ciudad Juarez. White iron gates towered in front of the ranch. A concrete block wall covered with graffiti surrounded the rest of the property, located across the street from a junkyard.

Topping the concrete wall was a chain-link fence with razor wire.

No bodies were seen being

carried out, but several soldiers left the ranch carrying duffel bags. No one at the scene would talk to reporters. A news conference scheduled for Monday night in Ciudad Juarez was canceled.

At Mexico's request, the FBI was sending agents and forensic experts to help recover and identify the remains, the Mexican Attorney General's office said in a statement.

The office announced Monday that it had launched a joint investigation with the FBI to solve the slayings and disappearances of residents on both sides of the border during the past several years.

Mexican and U.S. officials would not publicly release details on the graves Monday. But an FBI agent speaking on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press in Washington that as many as 100 bodies had been found on

two ranches near Ciudad Juarez, a city across the border from El Paso, Texas.

In a statement released late Monday, Mexican federal Special Prosecutor Enrique Cocina's office said "forensics experts will return to the sites tomorrow to remove the human remains," the El Paso Times reported. And the Mexican Attorney General's office said the FBI will be "assisting in the humanitarian action of recovery of the remains of Mexican and U.S. citizens," the Times reported.

Rodrigo Falcon, 18, said he and his family were caring for the ranch in the absence of the property's owner, whom he identified as Jorge Ortiz of El Paso. He said Ortiz hadn't been there for a while.

Falcon, who was on the verge of tears, said the soldiers wouldn't let him inside when he arrived from work at a near-

by factory.

It could not immediately be determined when the bodies were first discovered on the two ranches in northern Mexico.

It also could not be determined how many agents from both countries were involved in the investigation, but CBS News reported that 200 agents and forensic specialists were committed to the operation and that exhumations were to begin today.

For years, Ciudad Juarez has been headquarters for the Juarez cartel, a drug gang formerly run by Amado Carrillo Fuentes. Carrillo was the country's No. 1 cocaine trafficker before he died in 1997 after plastic surgery. In the wake of his death, dozens of people were killed in the city in what police believe was at least in part a battle for control of the cartel.

Linbeck expects to have investigation commission in place by end of week

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston construction company chairman Leo Linbeck Jr. says he expects to appoint other members of the commission that will investigate the tragic bonfire collapse at Texas A&M by the end of the week.

Linbeck, 65, chairman of Linbeck Construction Corp., was selected to lead the investigation into the Nov. 18 tragedy that took 12 lives and injured 27 people when logs being erected for the annual Texas A&M bonfire collapsed.

Linbeck was appointed by A&M President Ray Bowen and the university's Board of Regents.

"I told them I would do it with the understanding that it was a very crisp goal, it was a singular goal to find out what happened," Linbeck told the Houston Chronicle Monday.

Linbeck is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, prompting Regent Donald Powell of Amarillo to say his selection will assure the school that the investigation is conducted with the scrutiny only an outsider can offer.

"He is not reserved in his opinion. When he believes he is correct, he will speak," Powell said. "He is not swayed by the winds."

His job will be to determine what caused four stories of logs to topple.

Neither Linbeck nor A&M officials are concerned about his lack of hands-on experience in investigation.

"One has to bring an inquisitive mind and a certain skepticism to first impressions to any

of life's undertakings or else you are going to miss the mark," Linbeck said. "I've missed the mark many, many times. So perhaps from the point of view of having failed a lot, it will help me better understand what's needed to bring the truth to the surface."

Linbeck said the panel will include representation from across the state, and its members will not necessarily be engineers, builders or investigators.

He said the commission might include a college administrator but no one from A&M.

He said he is looking for commission members who will be "independent, thoughtful and objective."

"I am not looking for technical people (as commission members), we intend to hire the very best technical people we can identify," he said.

Linbeck said he has received assurances from A&M officials that they will turn over to his commission everything they know about the Bonfire collapse.

Although the commission will not have subpoena powers, Linbeck is hoping others who have knowledge relevant to the investigation will voluntarily turn it over to the commission.

Although the school has said they hope the investigation can be completed by March 31, Linbeck said, "if we are in the midst of the inquiry on March 31, we're not going to stop. I can assure you that."

All but one of the injured have been released from the hospital.

Judge will decide penalties in pizza lawsuit next month

DALLAS (AP) — Even though Mike Rawlings believes his company just prevailed in one of the biggest recent lawsuits over comparative advertising, the Pizza Hut chief executive doesn't believe the outcome will sell more pizzas.

Lawyers for Pizza Hut and rival Papa John's agreed Monday to let a federal magistrate settle a long-running advertising feud. Earlier this month, a jury found each company had aired false and deceptive ads about the other.

In the trial's key issue, the 8-member jury found that Papa John's slogan, "Better Ingredients, Better Pizza," and advertisements using the theme were false and deceptive. Magistrate William F.

Sanderson Jr. indicated Monday he will rule by mid-December whether to bar Papa John's from using the slogan, on which it spent \$300 million.

Rawlings, however, thinks pizza lovers might not care what the judge decides.

"Consumers buy pizza because they like the taste and not because of things like this," the Pizza Hut executive said Monday.

Pizza Hut, which filed the first lawsuit that led to this month's trial, sought \$12.5 million in damages, although lawyers said Monday they want to recover the cost of running "counter-ads," which officials put at \$4 million to \$12.5 million.

Pizza Hut, a Dallas-based divi-

sion of Tricon Global Restaurants Inc. of Louisville, sued last year over ads that, among other things, boasted that Papa John's uses filtered water in its dough while Pizza Hut uses "whatever comes out of the tap" — the ad showed water dripping from a rusty pipe.

Papa John's countersued over a series of Pizza Hut ads that suggested Papa John's uses old dough — Papa John's lets its dough rise for several days before baking.

John Schnatter, chief executive of Louisville-based Papa John's International Inc., was unavailable for comment Monday — a spokeswoman said he was extending his Thanksgiving holiday. The

spokeswoman said Papa John's intends to keep using the "Better Ingredients, Better Pizza" slogan unless the judge tells the company to stop.

Analysts who follow Papa John's said Monday that any damage from the lawsuit to the nation's No. 4 pizza seller will probably be short-lived.

"The investment community might wonder, does this tarnish the Papa John's brand?" said Scott Tilghman, an analyst with Ferris, Baker Watts Inc. "But the brand ... doesn't hang on a four-word slogan."

Tilghman predicted that Papa John's rapid growth — it is poised to soon overtake Little Caesar's for third in pizza sales, behind Pizza Hut and Domino's — will continue.

Parents of yogurt shop murder victims find answers in gruesome testimony

AUSTIN (AP) — Some of the parents of four girls slain at a yogurt shop in 1991 listened as a police officer read a statement in which one of the accused killers gave details of the brutal slayings.

The parents learned that the girls were stripped naked and pleaded for their lives. Some were sexually assaulted before all were shot in the head.

"This is what we have been looking for eight years," said Bob Ayers, whose 13-year-old daughter, Amy Ayers, was killed.

Speaking with reporters after the first day of a hearing to determine whether two of the suspects should be tried as adults, Ayers said he had finally found the details about his daughter's last moments.

"We heard the truth today," he said.

During a hearing Monday to determine whether Maurice Pierce, who was 16, and Forrest Welborn, who was 15, should be tried as adults, a police detec-

tive read the statement of Michael James Scott, 25, another suspect in the Dec. 6, 1991 slayings.

Pierce, now 24, Welborn, now 23, Scott, and Robert Burns Springsteen Jr., 24, have all been charged with capital murder for the slayings of four girls at an I Can't Believe It's Yogurt store.

Killed in the crime were Eliza Hope Thomas, 17; Ayers; Jennifer Harbison, 17; and Sarah Harbison, 15.

"We were all surprised because we only expected to find two girls inside the store," Scott told police. "There were two other girls sitting in the up front in the dining area."

Scott said the four girls were ordered to the back of the store, where Springsteen allegedly told them to strip naked. Scott told police he tied up the girls with their clothes.

Meanwhile, Pierce had allegedly searched the cash register and found little money, then demanded the girls tell

him where it more was hidden, Scott said.

"The girls were crying and whimpering, they were begging us not to kill them," Scott told police. "They said that they didn't want to die."

Scott returned to the front of the store and heard Pierce shoot two girls, he told police.

When he returned to the back, Springsteen was allegedly raping one of the girls. When he finished, Springsteen told Scott to rape one of the girls. He tried, but couldn't, Scott said.

Scott then shot one of the girls in the head, he told police.

The last of the girls to die was Amy Ayers, detectives said. Scott said he shot Miss Ayers, but she didn't die immediately. Pierce allegedly shot her again, but she didn't die. Scott said he thought he strangled her.

Scott then piled the bodies, loaded napkins, paper towels and cups on top of them and set them on fire with lighter fluid.

According to Scott's statement, the four men robbed the

yogurt shop because Pierce needed money.

Prosecutors had told the families about the gruesome sequence of events that would be read out loud, "but it was much more violent than we had hoped," said Pam Ayers, Amy's mother.

Mrs. Ayers said she had felt "a void" not knowing the circumstances of her daughter's death.

Hearing the testimony, Mrs. Ayers said she felt "a little bit of hatred and a little hurt."

Pierce and Welborn have been charged as juveniles. Prosecutors are seeking to charge the two as adults.

If tried as adults, Pierce and Welborn could face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

It could be bye-bye americanpie.com

AUSTIN (AP) — A disagreement between an Austin graphic designer and a rock star may mean bye-bye americanpie.com.

Desirae Pierce, owner of American Pie Design, is suing "American Pie" singer Don McLean in federal court.

Ms. Pierce claims in a lawsuit filed last week that McLean is violating her freedom of speech rights by forcing her to close her company's Web site, www.americanpie.com.

In July, McLean's attorneys accused Ms. Pierce of trademark infringement and demanded a name change. A private company that registers domain names for the U.S. government ordered the site closed until the dispute was settled.

"Don McLean's actions are not only malicious, but he's interfering with my business," Ms. Pierce said. "My studio relies on name recognition and my online portfolio to get new clients, and my domain name is a key part of my business."

McLean's lawyer, Bert Deixler of Los Angeles, and EMI Music/Capitol Records did not return telephone messages from The Associated Press Monday.

McLean is one of 14 people who hold trademarks for the term "American Pie." Registered in 1991, his trademark is for "entertainment services in the nature of musical group performances of musical concerts."

"The use of the term 'American Pie' for graphic design services is unrelated to the trademark for 'musical group performances,'" said Paul Danziger, Ms. Pierce's lawyer.

McLean recently hired a management firm to "vigorously police his trademarks," according to McLean's official Web site, www.donmclean.com.

Ms. Pierce says she has spent thousands of dollars replacing business cards and other promotional materials, relisting a temporary Web site address and informing customers of the change.

"The five years of equity I've put into this name is pretty much wasted," Ms. Pierce said Monday. She is suing for undisclosed damages, attorney fees and the right to keep her original domain name.

him where it more was hidden, Scott said.

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Overall odds of winning Weekly Grand, 1 in 4.56. Overall odds of winning Hearts Are Wild, 1 in 4.83. Overall odds of winning Lucky Lady Bug, 1 in 6.96. Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. © 1999 Texas Lottery.

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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John A. Moseley
Sports Editor

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John H. Walker
Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Perseverance paid off with StarTek pact

Patience and perseverance came through Monday with the official announcement that StarTek will be coming to Big Spring and along with it, the potential for 450 new jobs.

Yes, we know interviewing of potential employees was already under way, as were renovations on the former TG&Y building, the new "home" for the company's Big Spring site. But the announcement by StarTek Inc. over the Internet was the confirmation we had been waiting to hear for months.

Initially, the call center will operate 18 hours a day, five days a week.

Praise for this partnership goes to many, but none is more deserving than Moore Development for Big Spring Executive Director Kent Sharp, his staff, and the board itself. They put in many long, hard hours on the project and deserve our thanks for a job well done. It is worth an extra mention, too, that the announcement from StarTek comes during the same month that Moore Development lured Solitaire Homes — and another 200 jobs — to Big Spring.

Also deserving credit for bringing the high-tech company to our community are the citizens themselves, more than 1,000 of whom attended a session of a three-day employee research seminar held by StarTek in June. Their response proved that our community not only had the numbers and expertise StarTek was looking for, but the enthusiasm as well.

On that note, we'll take the time here to remind citizens that applications are still being taken at the Texas Workforce Center. You need not have applied during the research seminar to apply now. Go on down and fill out an application — our understanding is they have a number of positions as yet unfilled.

Others helping make it come together were the Texas Workforce Center, of course, as well as Big Spring City Council. The Big Spring Industrial Foundation deserves praise for its support on the financial end, and it was great to see that financial institutions such as American State Bank — which won the bid for the loan — were willing also to get behind the project.

Finally, we'd like to say thank you, StarTek, for choosing Big Spring for your newest call center. We think you'll be glad you did.

OTHER VIEWS

In 1997, members of Congress began allowing the companies that make prescription drugs to communicate freely with consumers. This allowed Americans to learn directly of medications that might help them.

Naturally, direct-to-consumer marketing also created a healthy demand for the products — drugs like Viagra for impotence and Claritin for allergies....

And now ... millions of people are asking their doctors about drugs they've seen advertised on television — and asking their insurers to pay for them. Prescription costs have been rising at the

rate of 15 percent to 20 percent a year.

Barrie O'Donnell of Prescription Card Services Health Systems, an Arizona-based company that helps companies cut prescription costs, told West Virginia legislators that direct-to-consumer marketing is probably helping to fuel the exponentially increasing costs of the state's Public Employees Insurance Agency....

The answer, unfortunately, is higher co-payments for prescriptions, so patients become as cost-conscious as their insurers.

CHARLESTON (W. VA.)
DAILY MAIL

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

Agencies provide hope for abused children

The boy sat at the end of a table at the Mount Dora (Fla.) Children's Home. He was a sturdy African-American lad of 12, obviously uncomfortable about being interviewed, but he would occasionally smile or laugh as the talk centered around Christmas.



CHARLEY REESE

The best Christmas he could remember came on a one-time visit to relatives in Alabama.

They had given him a helmet and bicycle and new clothes, and he remembered falling on the bicycle and getting mud on his new pants. He couldn't remember, though, where they had lived. It had been a long time ago.

But when I asked if he cared to recall the saddest Christmas, he said simply, "This one. My pop died." Then he lapsed into a sad silence. He struggled to control his emotions, but a tear trickled down his cheek. And the pall of sadness never left him. No thing any of us could say could cheer him. He didn't say another word, lost in his

memories of a man he loves. Pop, I thought, must have been one great man to leave such a huge hole in this boy's heart.

I didn't know then that the boy is one great kid with a big heart of his own.

The boy lived in West Palm Beach, Fla., and like most of the kids at the children's home saw virtually nothing of his father and was neglected by his mother, who had her own problems.

Some years ago, he showed up at a Sunday school, dropped off by his older brothers. After he continued to show up, the teacher, who also worked for the welfare department, decided to visit his home and learn more about him. There she discovered something quite remarkable.

The boy was living with his grandparents, both elderly and both with serious illnesses, and this young boy was actually taking care of them, cleaning the house, washing their clothes, often cooking. There was a bond of love between this boy and his grandparents that was something to see.

His Sunday school teacher — who is white, by the way — helped arrange for some assistance for the grandparents, and so this went on for some time, the boy and his beloved grandparents taking care of each

other. The grandparents knew, however, that a day was coming when they'd both be bedridden, so they agreed, reluctantly, that he should come to Mount Dora, where he now lives in a group home and attends the Christian Bible School.

Not long ago, his pop went to the courthouse at West Palm Beach seeking to gain custody of the boy's little sister. He suffered a heart attack and died. I'm glad I wasn't the one who had to tell him that his pop had died. It hurt bad enough to remind him of it. I think his grandfather would be happy to know that, as long as this boy lives, his grandfather's memory will live with him.

Three other children, girls whose names we won't use, all have stories that would curdle your heart. Of course, kids like these don't open up to visiting journalists. They put on a front. Cheerful. Pretty. Charming. Two want to be counselors when they grow up. Another isn't quite sure yet. Oh, by far, their best Christmases have been there at the home. They are quite elusive when asked about their pasts.

It's from the adults that you learn about the horrors in their lives.

One girl's sister is comatose from the trauma of sexual

abuse. The sister at the home has been shuffled from one foster home to the next. Behind her frail beauty, there is in her eyes the look of a survivor. Staff members are confident that she will do just that. She is very bright and very determined.

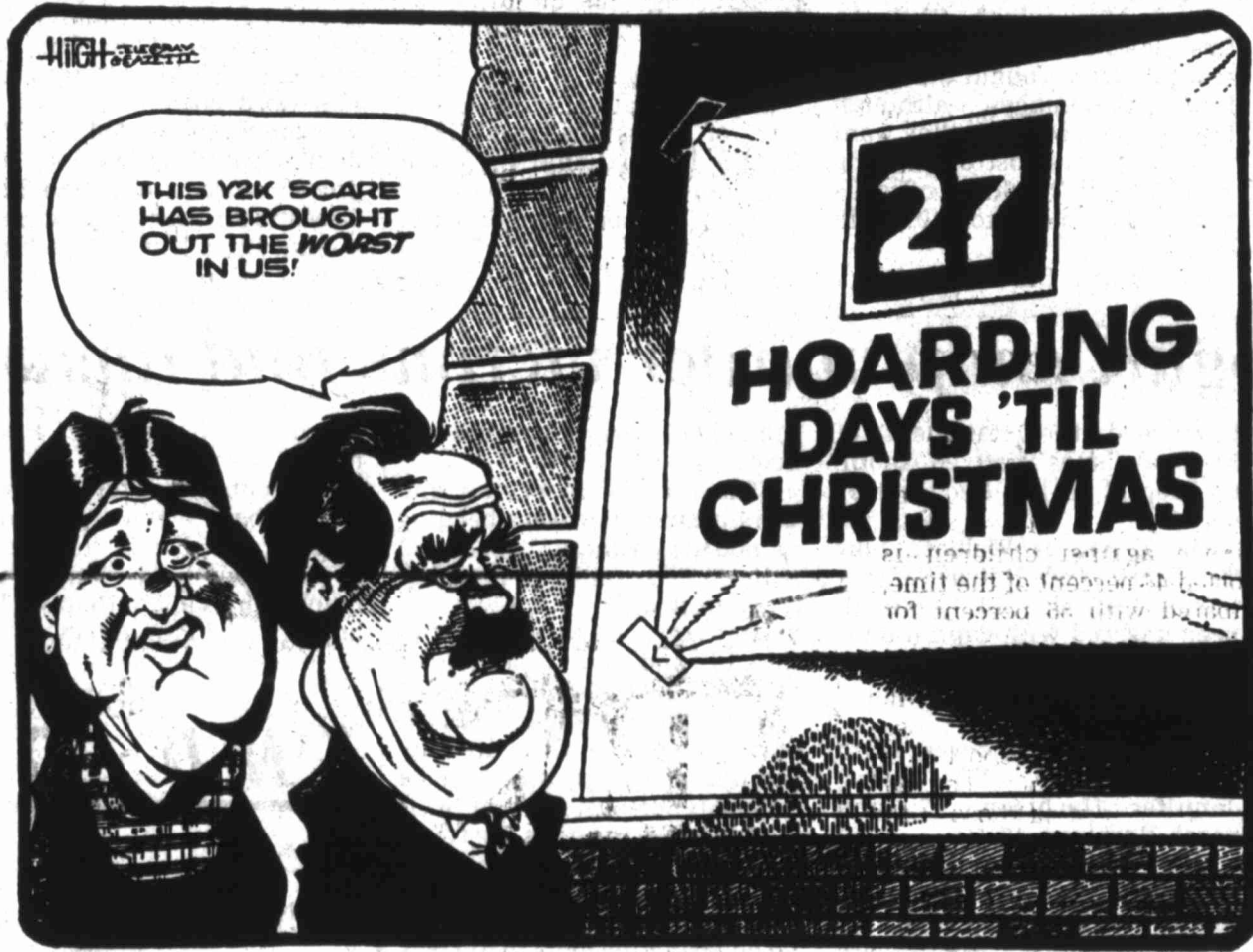
Perhaps the most shocking to me was a statement by James Moore, the director:

"You know, if they had a choice, 90 percent of these kids would choose to go home — to the beatings and the sexual abuse. It's the only home they know. It's what they were taught is love."

We live in a country of hell and hope, though much of it is invisible to those of us who are lucky. The hellish fires of abuse and neglect are consuming children every day. Most of us don't see them. We don't hear the screams.

The hope lies with people like the staff at the Mount Dora Children's Home, at the House of Hope, at Covenant House and Boys Town and all the other agencies, including the government, that fight every day to save a child.

The hope also lies with those generous people who support their efforts. And with people like the boy's grandparents. They are all God's firefighters, and if they fail, we will all be consumed.



Recalling the best of White House Christmases

Ronald Reagan had the best tree skirt, Bush the best tree. The Clintons had the most regal Christmas portrait, and the Carters one heckuva gingerbread house.

But it was Richard Nixon, believe it or not, who won my spirit-of-the-season prize, posing on the White House lawn with a snowman in 1973. (I couldn't tell if he was wearing wingtips, but he was hatless and looked cold. But then Nixon always looked cold. The snowman looked like G. Gordon Liddy.)

I was at the Jimmy Carter Library to see a temporary exhibit, "Impressions of a White House Christmas," pen-and-ink sketches by artist Lily Spandorf. You should go. Spandorf, who has designed a U.S. Christmas postage stamp

and exhibited at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, first started sketching White House Christmases for the now-defunct newspaper the Washington Star. She kept at it through several administrations. Her detailed black and whites make all the holiday glitter seem more fundamental, like an architect's rendering.

Interspersed with the drawings are archive photographs of the various first couples posing before their respective White House Christmas trees. (The White House, of course, has dozens of trees each year. I guess they designate a "main one" and use it for the portrait backdrop.)

Being somewhat of a Christmas decoration connoisseur myself, I found the exhibit revealing. It was a little like critiquing what the first lady wears to a ball, or whether the president goes hatless to his inauguration. By their trees you will know them.

Spandorf started the project with the Nixons. Pat, Richard and Tricia stood in front of a tree you might find at the Biltmore House, or in a movie about Victorian London. Beautiful, with ornate balls,

lots of gold tinsel.

I'll go out on a limb (spruce) here. Just by looking, you don't suspect that any of that trio spent the night on the floor under the tree, as I've been known to do. But I could be wrong about that.

The Carters had Amy, of course, who was the perfect age to get a major thrill out of seeing the White House decked out for the holidays. Their portrait tree was less formal than that of the Nixons, with lots of toy ornaments, even some made by children.

Spandorf sketched Chef Hans Raffert's gingerbread house, which had a tiny sign on its sugary pathway that said "Amy."

I wouldn't have minded spending Christmas with the Carters. I figure Carter had mayhaw jelly on his toast Christmas morning and at least read a story aloud at the foot of that tree.

Which brings us to the Reagons, who in 1986 oversaw a "Mother Goose Christmas." Nursery rhyme characters were all about — imagine Reagan communing with Little Miss Muffet — and the wide, sumptuous skirt beneath the

designated portrait tree was a thing of real beauty.

One of the many White House Christmas trees during the Bush years celebrated literacy, which, of course, was Barbara Bush's main cause. The ornaments were book characters — Little Red Riding Hood, Uncle Remus, Mary Poppins.

It was the best of all in a major forest of Christmas trees. (Not many first lady causes lend themselves to Christmas tree themes.)

Imagine the "Just Say No" tree or the "Health Care" pine.) I don't remember what the Clinton tree looked like. I was too busy admiring Hillary's red taffeta evening gown. (Of all the first ladies, she was the only one to wear a floor-length gown for the Christmas portrait. Barbara Bush wore a nice short red-lace dress; Nancy Reagan had on navy.)

Hillary looked stunning, like Hillary O'Hara. Bill needs glasses. Chelsea wasn't in the picture.

I've seen the official Christmas tree in England, the scrawny one on the lawn of the Parliament building. Any of our boys' beats the British.

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RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



Social

WASHINGTON — Long-scheduled Social Security changes from 65 to 67, with its first impact next year, although it's not yet known how much they will affect.

Don Blandin, American Savings Council, said retirement securities across the country won't be as shocked when Social Security is 65.

"I go through a lot of gasps in Blandin. As a retiree, people may be a little more shocked when they hear how much they will be affected."

Despina

SEATTLE (AP) — A may be raising the global trade mally open trade from nations ri they're quietly work done any "It is critical round of global tions," U Representative Barshefsky, officials from I ered for a meet Trade Organiz the time is right With Pres scheduled to ap hours Wedne world's news n Seattle, protest the time was r cast their ob WTO. Labor u ronmentalists Democratic Pa cies — view th trade body as a er rights and

Study: against

WASHINGTON — Violent crimes are reported to often than those even when a we the victim is Justice Departm Citing data 1996, the depart Juvenile J Delinquency, P Monday that on violent crimes a are reported t pared with the 4 lent crimes aga police are told a "Serious cate nile victimizati be coming to t police and the not," wrote D and Richard C office's study Crimes Against One factor in t ing is that 16 pe crimes against 12 to 17 — are r authorities, like instead of police. But even tak account, violen niles is not as fr ed as violence

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Social Security retirement age starts slow climb from 65 to 67

WASHINGTON (AP) — A long-scheduled increase in the Social Security retirement age, from 65 to 67, will start having its first impact on Americans next year, although many don't know it yet.

Don Blandin, president of the American Savings Education Council, said people attending retirement seminars he conducts across the country are shocked when he tells them they won't be eligible for full Social Security benefits at age 65.

"I go through that and hear a lot of gasps in the room," said Blandin. As a result, many people may be underestimating how much they need to save on

their own if they want to retire in their early 60s, he said.

A poll of Americans over age 25, taken this year by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, found that almost six in 10 think they will be eligible for Social Security benefits before they actually will be.

Ready or not, the normal Social Security eligibility age will begin creeping up next year until it eventually reaches 67 for those born in 1960 or later. Also, taking early retirement at age 62 will become less of a good deal.

The changes will initially affect people born in 1938, who turn 62 in 2000 and become eligible for Social Security's early

retirement option.

Those people can still choose to collect reduced Social Security benefits next year. If they did, however, their early-retirement benefit would be slightly less than in the past — 20 5/8 percent less than it would be if they wait until to retire until the usual retirement age, rather than the 20 percent reduction that has been standard before now.

That means the typical person retiring at age 62 in 2000 will receive \$721 a month, rather than the old formula's \$728.

For those born in 1938 who decide to retire only when they're eligible for regular Social Security benefits, the

wait will be two months longer than before, until two months after their 65th birthday.

"Americans are living longer and healthier lives, which is very good news, but the system needed to create greater incentives to work longer in order to continue to function," said Social Security Commissioner Kenneth S. Apfel.

Apfel said new annual Social Security statements mailed starting this fall to working Americans about two months before their birthdays are meant to help people understand the coming changes. The letters tell people their eligibility ages for normal Social Security benefits and their ben-

efit levels if they choose earlier or later retirement.

Starting with people born in 1938, the normal Social Security eligibility age will rise by two months for each year, until it reaches 66 for those born in 1943. It then stays at 66 for everyone born through the end of 1954.

If people whose normal eligibility age is 66 choose early retirement at age 62, their benefits will be 25 percent lower.

After that, the two-month-a-year climb in the retirement age starts again, until it is finally capped at 67 for those born in 1960 or later. People whose normal retirement age is 67 will see a 30-percent benefit reduction if

they choose to retire at age 62.

On the bright side, the yearly rate of increase in benefits for those who wait past their normal eligibility age to start collecting Social Security will gradually rise, up to 8 percent for those born in 1943 or later. It is 6 percent for someone turning 65 in 2000. This incentive is not offered beyond age 70, however.

The retirement-age increase was agreed in 1983 by Republican President Reagan and Congress, then controlled by Democrats in the House and Republicans in the Senate, as one of several changes to postpone looming Social Security cash shortages.

Despite the ruckus outside, trade ministers say they are hard at work

SEATTLE (AP) — Protesters may be raising a ruckus outside global trade talks that formally open today, but officials from nations rich and poor say they're quietly getting their work done anyway.

"It is critical to launch a new round of global trade negotiations," U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky told reporters as officials from 135 nations gathered for a meeting of the World Trade Organization. "We think the time is right."

With President Clinton scheduled to arrive in the wee hours Wednesday and the world's news media focused on Seattle, protesters also figured the time was perfect to broadcast their objections to the WTO. Labor unions and environmentalists — traditional Democratic Party constituencies — view the Geneva-based trade body as a threat to worker rights and environmental

protection.

Organizers say some 50,000 activists will descend on Seattle. Among the more mainstream demonstrators, the AFL-CIO has hired 200 buses to bring in thousands of union members who were gathering in a football stadium today before marching to the civic center where the trade ministers were meeting.

Clinton, who has staked much on the trade talks, was to address the WTO delegates Wednesday in an effort to prod warring delegations to put aside their differences and agree on a common agenda for new trade negotiations.

His last-minute effort to get other world leaders to attend as a way of bridging negotiating differences was rebuffed, but the administration said other leaders stayed away because of scheduling conflicts, not fears of failure.

The more radical activists

said they would lie down in roads and chain themselves to railings in what they billed as a "Festival of Resistance" literally to try and shut down the WTO by clogging up streets so delegates couldn't reach the meeting hall.

Police with riot gear have been guarding the entrances to the convention center where the trade ministers are meeting — and a special session Monday for various interest groups was delayed for several hours by an apparent breach of security that occurred just after the Secret Service had combed through the building, forcing another careful search for bombs.

None were found. Despite all the uproar, delegates to the WTO insisted the protesters would accomplish little more than making lots of noise. Business will go on despite any disruptions, they said.

Study: Brain scans suggest damage among veterans with Gulf War illness

CHICAGO (AP) — Brain scans of soldiers who believe they suffer from Gulf War illness indicate that their brains were, indeed, damaged by chemical exposures during the war, a study released today suggests.

Magnetic resonance spectroscopy, which uses radiowave energy to measure body chemistry, revealed up to 25 percent lower levels of a certain brain chemical in veterans who believe they have the illness compared with healthy Gulf War vets, researchers reported.

Lower-than-normal levels of the chemical, N-acetyl-aspartate, in the brain stem and basal ganglia suggest a loss of neurons in those areas, said the researchers, who presented findings at the 85th annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

The brain stem controls some of the body's reflexes, and the basal ganglia are switching stations for nerve impulses con-

trolling movement, memory and emotion. The basal ganglia, for example, are where the malfunctioning occurs that causes Parkinson's disease.

"This is the first time ever we have proof of brain damage in sick Gulf War veterans," said the lead researcher, Dr. James L. Fleckenstein, professor of radiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

"They can be believed — they're not malingering, they're not depressed, they're not stressed," he said of veterans. "There's a hope for treatment and there's hope for being able to monitor the progress of the disease."

Fleckenstein said treatments are being explored by his colleague, Dr. Robert W. Haley, an associate professor of internal medicine and chief of epidemiology at UT Southwestern. Haley helped define Gulf War syndromes and identify toxic

exposures associated with the likelihood of having them. He also revealed enzyme abnormalities that may be part of a biological basis for the disease.

In the new study, brain scans of 22 sick veterans revealed levels of N-acetyl-aspartate 10 percent to 25 percent lower than those in 18 healthy veterans, Fleckenstein said. The finding held up in an additional six sick Gulf War veterans drawn from a different part of the military, he said. The study was blinded, meaning radiologists interpreting the results did not know which patients were complaining of symptoms and which were healthy.

Researchers believe that soldiers who became ill were those who had a genetic vulnerability to certain chemicals that they were exposed to during the war, including nerve gas, the insecticide DEET, pet flea collars some wore to repel pests and the drug pyridostigmine bromide.

Study: Most violent crimes against children not reported

WASHINGTON (AP) — Violent crimes against children are reported to police much less often than those against adults, even when a weapon is used or the victim is injured, the Justice Department says.

Citing data from 1995 and 1996, the department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention said Monday that only 28 percent of violent crimes against children are reported to police, compared with the 48 percent of violent crimes against adults that police are told about.

"Serious categories of juvenile victimization that should be coming to the attention of police and other authorities are not," wrote David Finkelhor and Richard Ormrod in the office's study, "Reporting Crimes Against Juveniles."

One factor in the underreporting is that 16 percent of violent crimes against children — ages 12 to 17 — are reported to other authorities, like school officials, instead of police, the study said. But even taking that into account, violence against juveniles is not as frequently reported as violence against adults.

Including reports to other authorities as well as police, violence against children is reported 44 percent of the time, compared with 55 percent for adults.

In crimes with a weapon, 48 percent of those against children and 65 percent of those against adults were reported to police. When crimes caused injury, 57 percent of those with child victims and 65 percent of those with adult victims were reported to police.

"Too many crimes against our most vulnerable and defenseless remain hidden," said Shay Bilchik, the juvenile office's administrator. "We must teach our young people not to be too proud or afraid to go to the police, and we must train law enforcement to work with child victims."

Finkelhor and Ormrod suggested several explanations for the underreporting.

"There is a cultural predisposition, shared by parents, youth and police, to view nonsexual assaults against juveniles as something other than crimes — rather as fights, scuffles or child maltreatment."



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OCALA, FL — An ingredient derived from hot peppers that decreases inflammation in racehorse's legs, is now recognized as safe and effective for human use. The ingredient has been formulated into a product called ARTH-Rx™ and comes in a strength designed for humans. Researchers are excited and say the formula can relieve arthritis pain for millions.

Developed by the Phillips Gulf Corporation, ARTH-Rx is a breakthrough in the treatment of painful disorders ranging from minor aches and pains to more serious conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, tendonitis, backache and more.

Although the mechanism by which ARTH-Rx works to relieve pain is not totally clear, scientists suggest that pain is relieved because ARTH-Rx intercepts the messenger substance that sends pain signals to the brain.

ARTH-Rx is available in a convenient roll-on applicator without a prescription. According to a spokesperson for the company, due to the overwhelming demand for ARTH-Rx, supplies are sometimes limited. ARTH-Rx can also be ordered by calling 1-800-729-8446. *1999 POC

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IN BRIEF

Local golfers record aces on Comanche Trail holes

Two local golfers recently recorded holes in one while playing par 3 holes at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The most recent of the aces was Jerrod Beall's shot on Friday.

Beall recorded the hole-in-one using a seven iron at the No. 4 hole. The shot was witnessed by his brother, Stuart Beall.

Pat Loya recorded the first hole-in-one of his golfing career on Nov. 5 at the 15th hole.

Loya used a seven iron for his big shot, as well. Mike Dorton witnessed the ace.

Odessa Jackalopes slate 'Howard County Night'

The Odessa Jackalopes have scheduled Saturday, Dec. 11, as "Howard County Night" at the Ector County Coliseum where they'll take on the El Paso Buzzards at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the game are priced at \$3, \$5 and \$7, and team officials say they hope to have 200 or more Howard County fans on hand for the game.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call Carroll Jennings at 267-5201.

Garden City junior high girls squads top Bronte

Garden City's junior high Lady Bearcats swept a pair of wins over Bronte's young Lady Longhorns on Monday night.

In the "A" game, Jessica Hoch scored 13 points and chalked up six steals in leading the Lady Bearcats to a 34-11 win.

Amanda Henson and Meghan Niehues added four points apiece to the Garden City total as the Lady Bearcats "A" improved to 6-0. The "B" game saw Noemi Guerrero score six points and come up with five steals in leading Garden City to a 15-6 win.

Elsewhere, Garden City High School's junior varsity "B" girls team did not fare so well, dropping an 18-12 decision to Sterling City.

Angela Schraeder and Stephanie Scott paced the Garden City scoring with four points each.

Basketball boosters set meeting for today

An organizational meeting of the Big Spring Steers Basketball Booster Club has been scheduled for 5 today in the commons area at Big Spring Junior High School.

Parents of all Steers freshman, junior varsity and varsity basketball players are urged to attend, as well as all others interested in the boys' basketball program at the high school.

Cancer Society offering Texas Golf Pass again

The Howard County unit of the American Cancer Society is encouraging golfers to take advantage of the society's 2000 Texas Golf Pass.

The pass, which provides golfers with more than 450 rounds of golf at 273 Texas courses, is now available for a \$35 donation.

Both the Comanche Trail Golf Course and the Big Spring Country Club are participating in the program, as is the Stanton Country Club.

Those wanting to order the pass can do so by calling 1-800-ACS-2345. Details are also available at all three local courses.

ON THE AIR

Television COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6 p.m. — ACC-Big Ten Challenge, Wisconsin at Wake Forest, ESPN, Ch. 30.

8 p.m. — ACC-Big Ten Challenge, Duke at Illinois, ESPN, Ch. 30.

NBA 6:30 p.m. — New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers, TNT, Ch. 28.

NHL 6:30 p.m. — Dallas Stars at New York Islanders, FXS, Ch. 29.

Longhorns say Nebraska deserves to be title game favorite

AUSTIN (AP) — Even after beating Nebraska three straight times since 1996, Texas players said Monday the Cornhuskers deserve their role as favorites in the Big 12 Conference championship.

Texas (9-3, 6-2 Big 12) is the only team to beat the third-ranked Cornhuskers (10-1, 7-1) three times in the 1990s, including a 24-20 victory in Austin Oct. 23.

But Nebraska's three national titles since 1994 and its status among college football's elite make the Huskers legitimate favorites on Saturday in San Antonio, said Texas wide receiver Kwame Cavil.

"We'd be underdogs if we were 11-0. They deserve it," Cavil said. "They have more wins than we do and fewer losses than we have. We're just going to have to beat them every time we play them to

get the respect we deserve." Probably only Texas fans think the Longhorns can beat the Cornhuskers, who are favored by eight points, said Texas coach Mack Brown.

"Everybody in America outside of Texas thinks we're going to lose," Brown said.

Harsh words flew between the locker rooms when the teams last played. Nebraska players said they hated No. 12 Texas and were still upset about the Longhorns' 20-16 win in 1998 that stopped the Huskers' 47-game home winning streak.

Cavil, a trash talker who enjoys verbally sparring with defensive backs, said the jabs likely will continue until the end of the game Saturday.

"I know they'll really want to beat us. I know they'll be running their mouth a lot more. I don't think I'll have to initi-

ate it," Cavil said. Nebraska will feel more pressure to win, Texas players said.

Not only are they looking for revenge, the Cornhuskers also hope a lopsided win would push them past No. 2 Virginia Tech in the complicated Bowl Championship Series ratings and into the Sugar Bowl against No. 1 Florida State.

But those hopes grew slimmer Monday as Virginia Tech (11-0) increased its second-place lead over the Huskers from 0.63 points to 1.54 points in the latest BCS standings. The final standings, which determines the teams that will play in its title game, will be released Dec. 5.

The advantage, according to one computer expert, is all but impossible to overcome — even if Nebraska routs Texas.

"There's no suspense," Chicago-based computer expert Jerry Palm said. "If Nebraska wins 50-0, I'm not sure that could overtake Virginia Tech."

The BCS standings are based on a formula that considers The Associated Press media poll and the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll, eight computer rankings, strength of schedule and losses.

Florida State and Virginia Tech are 1-2 in the AP poll and the coaches poll.

Nebraska could have pulled closer to Virginia Tech but lost ground when the Huskers only barely beat unranked Colorado 33-30 in overtime.

Even if the national championship is gone, Brown said Saturday's game remains important. The winner goes to the Fiesta Bowl and a victory would be a big step toward winning a national title in the future, Brown said.

Green Bay stays alive with win over Niners

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Green Bay Packers revived their season while extending the San Francisco 49ers' losing spiral.

Brett Favre threw touchdown passes of 13 yards to Corey Bradford and 10 yards to Tyrone Davis as Green Bay defeated the 49ers 20-3 Monday night and pulled within a game of Detroit, Tampa Bay and Minnesota in the NFC Central.

Ryan Longwell added two short field goals for the Packers (6-5), who have rebounded with two consecutive wins after dropping three straight.

For the 49ers, it was their seventh straight loss. They have one offensive touchdown in the last five games, and have clinched their first non-winning season since 1982.

Things have gotten so bad for San Francisco that it has come to this: Steve Stenstrom went back to pass in the second quarter and dropped the ball without being hit.

"Our offense is terrible, there's no other way to say it," 49ers tight end Greg Clark said as San Francisco (3-8) was held without an offensive touchdown for the fifth game this season.

Favre, who made his 120th straight start to extend his NFL record for consecutive starts by a quarterback, went 25-of-36 for 246 yards. He has had two straight solid games after struggling with a thumb injury for much of the season.

"There is no secret we've been struggling offensively this year," Favre said. "I feel healthy for a change. When I drop back now, I'm not afraid to throw the ball anywhere. Before, I would try to aim it, and it didn't go where it was supposed to go."

The Packers, seeking a playoff spot for the seventh straight season, broke a four-game Monday night losing streak, and coach Ray Rhodes got his first victory on a Monday night after seven losses.

But the Packers know the 49ers they faced Monday night bear little resemblance to the Steve Young-led squads who challenged the Packers the past few years for NFC supremacy.

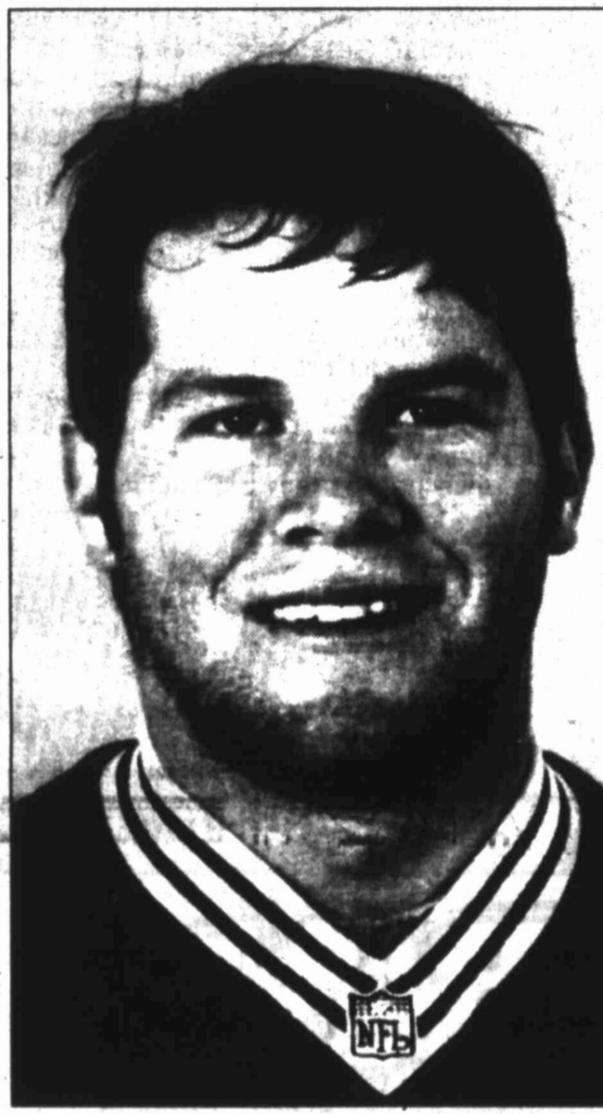
"It's obvious it's not the team that it has been, but I'm not here to knock them," Favre said. "Steve Young is the heart and soul of this team. They'll be back. When you've been on top so long, you've got to be knocked down some time. This is one of those years."

Wade Richey's 35-yard field goal early in the second period was the only score for the 49ers, who have been outscored 94-22 in their last four games. Stenstrom, a third-stringer who became the starter because of Young's concussion and Jeff Garcia's ineffectiveness, was 19-of-35 for 195 yards.

Stenstrom has yet to throw for a score in his three starts. San Francisco has failed to score in double figures in the past four games, a franchise record.

"We haven't had production at the quarterback position that we would like, or that we are used to having. But it certainly is not just the quarterback, it's sort of everybody," 49ers coach Steve Mariucci said. "We're searching for ways every week to win. Somehow we're just not able to execute on game day."

It's the longest skid for San Francisco since losing eight in a row in 1980, and ensures the 49ers will finish with their first non-winning



Green Bay quarterback Bret Favre, shown in this 1994 photo, extended his NFL record for consecutive starts by a quarterback to 120 Monday, leading the Packers to a 20-3 win over the San Francisco 49ers.

campaign since going 3-6 in the strike-shortened 1982 season.

A crowd used to seeing the 49ers win turned on the home team Monday night, showering them with boos even as the players were pelted by rain late in the game.

There was even more bad news for the 49ers — cornerbacks R.W. McQuarters and Monty Montgomery both left the game with broken bones.

McQuarters, also a kick returner for San Francisco, broke his shoulder blade. Montgomery broke his right arm.

The lone bright spot for San Francisco was Jerry Rice's four receptions for 63 yards, boosting his career total to 18,025 yards receiving. He's the first player in NFL history to surpass the 18,000-yard mark.

Rice had his two longest receptions of the season.

The first was an acrobatic over-the-shoulder catch that went for 32 yards in the first half and led to Richey's field goal.

"I felt we were moving the ball at times, but nothing happened," Rice said. "We need to try to turn this around. It's going nowhere fast."

Duke women remain strong despite losing of three top players

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duke faced a rebuilding job after losing three starters from its 1999 women's Final Four team.

With hustle and desire, the Blue Devils are doing what they can to make that task easier for coach Gall Goostenkors.

"This team plays with more heart and intensity than any team I've had," said Goostenkors, whose team returned to The Associated Press women's basketball poll Monday at No. 22. "They're willing to run through a brick wall to win a game."

Duke (4-1) was the lone newcomer in the poll, which still has Connecticut on top. The Huskies, who have been No. 1 from the start, got a boost from two straight 100-point games and received a season-high 40 first-place votes from the national media panel.

Losses by 10 ranked teams — all to other members of the Top 25 — triggered a realignment in the poll, with only Connecticut and No. 25 Wisconsin remaining in the same spot they held last week.

The poll had 26 teams because Virginia Tech tied Wisconsin for the final spot. No one dropped out.

Duke, out of the poll for one week, has come back strong after losing to Boston College in the second round of the pre-season NIT. The Blue Devils beat Vanderbilt 68-59, then defeated Florida A&M and then-No. 9 Penn State to win Duke Classic.

Georgia Schweitzer, one of the two returning starters, led the way with 18 points in the 63-49 victory over Penn State. Goostenkors said that game was perfect demonstration of how her team has to play.

"We fought and scrapped for every rebound, every loose ball," she said. "We have to be in order for us to be successful. We played with great emotion."

Connecticut held a 47-point lead in the voting over No. 2 Georgia, which received three first-place votes. No. 3 Tennessee and No. 4 Louisiana Tech each had one first-place vote.

UConn (4-0) looked to be in midseason form when it capped a stretch of three games in five days with a 101-58 rout of Pepperdine, its 100th victory in

WOMEN'S TOP 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and records through Nov. 28:

Table with 2 columns: Rank, Team (Record), and Record. 1. Connecticut (40) 4-0, 2. Georgia (3) 6-0, 3. Tennessee (1) 3-1, 4. Louisiana Tech (1) 3-1, 5. UCLA 2-1, 6. N.C. State 5-0, 7. Rutgers 2-1, 8. Auburn 4-0, 9. North Carolina 3-1, 10. Illinois 5-1, 11. Notre Dame 1-1, 12. Iowa St. 2-1, 13. Oregon 3-0, 14. Penn St. 3-1, 15. UC Santa Barbara 3-1, 16. Texas Tech 3-0, 17. Purdue 4-0, 18. Kansas 1-0, 19. Old Dominion 2-1, 20. Stanford 2-1, 21. Arizona 4-0, 22. Duke 4-1, 23. LSU 3-1, 24. Boston College 4-2, 25. Virginia Tech 2-2, Wisconsin 3-1.

the last-102 games at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies had defeated then-No. 14 Old Dominion 109-66 two days earlier.

Georgia (6-0), which beat Stephen F. Austin and Maine in a tournament after winning the pre-season NIT, replaced Louisiana Tech at No. 2. Tech, which slipped to fourth, was upset by Mississippi State but bounced back with lopsided wins over Southeast Missouri State and Weber State in Las Vegas.

Tennessee (3-1) climbed two spots to third after a West Coast trip that produced victories over Stanford and UCLA. UCLA, which started the week with an overtime victory over Texas, slipped one place to fifth.

North Carolina State (5-0) climbed from seventh to sixth after winning two games in Cancun, Mexico. It's the Wolfpack's highest ranking since they were sixth on Feb. 4, 1991. North Carolina State has moved up every week after starting the season at 20th.

Rutgers, Auburn, North Carolina and Illinois completed the Top 10. Notre Dame fell five places.

Malone passes Jordan on scoring list; Francis gets rude reception

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karl Malone got a standing ovation in Salt Lake City, while Steve Francis got a rude reception in Vancouver.

Francis, playing for the first time in the city he snubbed, was mocked, cursed and showered with "ing objects in Houston's 118-110 overtime victory over the Grizzlies on Monday night.

The rookie guard responded to the hostile crowd with a sensational performance, getting 24 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, with no turnovers, against the team that made him the No. 2 overall pick in the June draft.

"When it's you against all odds, I think that's when good players and good people do their best," said Francis, who forced a trade to Houston after he refused to sign with the Grizzlies. "I wasn't mad at nobody."

In other NBA games, New York beat Dallas 107-82, Miami defeated

Sacramento 98-88, Indiana edged Portland 93-91 and Utah topped Golden State 115-99.

Francis, who fouled out with 2:45 left in the overtime, sent the game into OT by hitting a 20-foot jumper with 2.6 seconds remaining. Then he put the Rockets ahead for good when he opened the extra period with a 3-pointer.

Charles Barkley added 22 points as Houston snapped a four-game road losing streak and handed the Grizzlies their eighth straight loss.

The game was briefly delayed in the fourth quarter when fans began throwing objects on the floor, including a tomato that splattered on the court. Someone also threw a tennis ball on the floor when Francis was attempting a free throw with 20 seconds left.

Fans also chanted a vulgar phrase while Francis was stretching on the court prior to the game. They also held up derogatory signs, including one that said: "Hey, Steve ya big baby. Grandma

left diapers for you at guest services." Mike Bibby led Vancouver with 25 points, but blew an opportunity to win the game in regulation when he missed two of four free throws in the final 19 seconds.

In Utah, Malone scored 27 points to pass Michael Jordan for third place on the NBA's career scoring list.

Malone made his first six shots, including an 18-foot jumper with 9:24 left in the first quarter that moved him ahead of Jordan. Fans at the Delta Center responded with a standing ovation, and they cheered again when the feat was announced a short time later over the public address system.

"When I finish playing, I'll look back on it and I think it will mean a lot to me then," Malone said. "Being from Louisiana, I wasn't supposed to play at this level. When it's all over, I'll look back and say I was pretty decent."

Malone made 12 of 14 field-goal attempts and narrowly missed a triple-

double with 10 assists and eight rebounds. He now has 29,299 points, trailing only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387) and Wilt Chamberlain (31,419). Jordan finished his career with 29,277 points.

Heat 98, Kings 88 Jamal Mashburn scored 22 points on his 27th birthday, and P.J. Brown added 18 as the Heat snapped Sacramento's eight-game winning streak.

Alonzo Mourning added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who built a 62-45 lead in the third quarter and were never seriously challenged after that in a meeting between division leaders.

Chris Webber led Sacramento with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Jason Williams added 17 points for the Kings.

Nicks 107, Mavericks 82 Charlie Ward made seven 3-pointers,

See NBA, page 7.

Thursday's Games

- Detroit 22, Cleveland 20, Miami 20, Minnesota 20, St. Louis 20, Tampa Bay 20, Texas 20, Washington 20, Wisconsin 20, New York 20, Philadelphia 20, Chicago 20, Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 20, Baltimore 20, Kansas City 20, San Francisco 20, Oakland 20, Los Angeles 20, Houston 20, San Diego 20, Atlanta 20, New Orleans 20, Tampa Bay 20, Kansas City 20, Carolina 20, Cleveland 20, Dallas 20, Houston 20, Minnesota 20, St. Louis 20, Tampa Bay 20, Kansas City 20, Philadelphia 20, Chicago 20, Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 20, Baltimore 20, Kansas City 20, San Francisco 20, Oakland 20, Los Angeles 20, Houston 20, San Diego 20, Atlanta 20, New Orleans 20, Tampa Bay 20, Kansas City 20, Carolina 20, Cleveland 20, Dallas 20, Houston 20, Minnesota 20, St. Louis 20, Tampa Bay 20, Kansas City 20, Philadelphia 20, Chicago 20, Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 20, Baltimore 20, Kansas City 20, San Francisco 20, Oakland 20, Los Angeles 20, Houston 20, San Diego 20, Atlanta 20, New Orleans 20, Tampa Bay 20, Kansas City 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SPORTS EXTRA

NFL GAMES

Thursday's Games Detroit 21, Chicago 17 Dallas 20, Miami 0 Sunday's Games Arizona 34, New York Giants 24 Cincinnati 27, Pittsburgh 20 Jacksonville 20, Baltimore 23 Buffalo 17, New England 7 St. Louis 43, New Orleans 12 Washington 20, Philadelphia 17 Tennessee 26, San Diego 27 Tennessee 33, Cleveland 21 Indianapolis 13, New York Jets 6 Tampa Bay 18, Seattle 3 Kansas City 37, Oakland 34 Carolina 34, Atlanta 28 OPEN: Denver Today's Game Green Bay 20, San Francisco 3 Thursday, Dec. 2 Pittsburgh at Jville, 7:20 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 Green Bay at Chicago, Noon Indianapolis at Miami, Noon New Orleans at Atlanta, Noon NY Jets at NY Giants, Noon St. Louis at Carolina, Noon San Francisco at Cincinnati, Noon Tennessee at Baltimore, Noon Washington at Detroit, Noon Philadelphia at Arizona, 3:05 p.m. Cleveland at San Diego, 3:15 p.m. Kansas City at Denver, 3:15 p.m. Seattle at Oakland, 3:15 p.m. Dallas at New England, 7:20 p.m. OPEN: Buffalo Monday, Dec. 6 Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.

SCHEDULED PLAYERS

CLASS 3A Division I Quarterfinals Region I Seminola Midland Lee (13-0) vs. Mesquite (9-4), 4 p.m. Saturday, Rediff Stadium, Odessa. Aldine Eisenhower (12-1) vs. Edinburg (10-3), 5 p.m. Saturday, Harlandale Memorial Stadium, San

NFL STANDINGS

Table with columns for Conference (AFC, NFC), Division (I, II, III, IV), Team, W, L, T, Pct., PP, PA. Lists teams like Indianapolis, Miami, Buffalo, New England, NY Jets, etc.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table with columns for Division (I, II, III, IV), Team, W, L, T, Pct., PP, PA. Lists teams like Washington, Dallas, Arizona, NY Giants, etc.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Table with columns for Division (I, II, III, IV), Team, W, L, T, Pct., PP, PA. Lists teams like Cincinnati, Cleveland, West, Seattle, Kansas City, Oakland, Denver, San Diego, etc.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table with columns for Division (I, II, III, IV), Team, W, L, T, Pct., PP, PA. Lists teams like Washington, Dallas, Arizona, NY Giants, etc.

Quarterfinals

Herford (12-1) vs. Waco Mickey (11-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Shotwell Stadium, Abilene. Texas City (12-0) vs. Alton (11-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, AstroDome, Houston. Division II Quarterfinals Region I Caryon (11-2) vs. Stephenville (13-0), 7 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving. Region II Greenville (11-2) vs. Ennis (12-1), 1 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving. Region III La Marque (11-1) vs. Port Neches-Groves, 7:30 p.m. Friday, AstroDome, Houston. Region IV Schertz-Clemens (13-0) vs. San Marcos (11-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Converse Stadium, San Antonio.

Quarterfinals

Starrford (11-2) vs. Sonora (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Plainview. Region II Celina (13-0) vs. Gunter (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Denton ISD Field. Region III Elysian Fields (12-1) vs. Alto (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Homer Bryce Stadium, Nacogdoches. Region IV Refugio (12-1) vs. Mason (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Southwest High School, San Antonio. CLASS 1A Quarterfinals Region I Wheeler (12-0) vs. Rankin (9-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Lowrey Field, Lubbock. Region II Aspermont (12-1) vs. Paducah (10-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Lowrey Field, Lubbock. Region III Celeste (9-3) vs. Detroit (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Pennington Field, Bedford. Region IV Charlotte (10-2) vs. Bartlett (12-1), 5:30 p.m. Saturday, AstroDome, Houston.

Transactions

BASEBALL American League NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with LHP Mike Stanton on a three-year contract. TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Named Scott Shannon trainer and George Poole assistant trainer. NATIONAL LEAGUE CHICAGO CUBS—Named Oscar Acosta pitching coach and Sandy Alomar bullpen coach. COLORADO ROCKIES—Sold the contract of LHP Roberto Ramirez to the

NBA

FLORIDA MARLINS—Appointed David Graberg vice chairman of the board of directors. HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with C Tony Eusebio on a two-year contract. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Activated F Jason Caffey from the injured list. Placed C Tim Young on the injured list. HOUSTON ROCKETS—Placed C Hakim Olajuwon on the injured list. FOOTBALL National Football League JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed DL James Robertson. Signed DL Chris White from the practice squad. Signed DE Troy Bailey to the practice squad. MIAMI DOLPHINS—Placed FB Kintroy Barber on injured reserve. Signed RB Brian Edwards. ST. LOUIS RAMS—Signed OT Matt Wilgus to a one-year contract. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Reinstated QB Ryan Leaf to the active roster. Waived LB Tracy Simien. HOCKEY National Hockey League ATLANTA THRASHERS—Reassigned G Rick Tabaracci to Orlando of the IHL. Reassigned D Mikko Kuparinen from Orlando of the IHL to HIFR Helsinki of Finland. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Recalled G Steve Passmore and F Jean-Pierre Dumont from Cleveland of the IHL. EDMONTON OILERS—Recalled D Brett Hauer from Manitoba of the IHL. NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Recalled D Karis Skratstam from Milwaukee of the IHL. NEW YORK RANGERS—Recalled D Dale Purinton from Hartford of the AHL. Assigned C P.J. Stock and D Terry Virtue to Hartford. TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS—Traded LW Todd Warriner to the Tampa Bay Lightning for a third-round draft pick in the 2000 entry draft. Recalled LW Adam Marr and D Dmitri Yakushev from St. John's of the AHL. VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Recalled C Artem Chubarov from Syracuse of the AHL and F Larry Shapley from Manitoba

NHL

of the IHL. Designated Shapley for assignment. Monday's Games New York 107, Dallas 82 Miami 98, Sacramento 88 Utah 115, Golden State 99 Indiana 93, Portland 51 Houston 118, Vancouver 110, OT Today's Games Atlanta at Toronto, 6 p.m. Washington at NY Jersey, 6:30 p.m. Dallas at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m. Sacramento at Orlando, 6:30 p.m. New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Denver at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Detroit at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Seattle, 9 p.m. Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday's Games Cleveland at Washington, 6 p.m. Philadelphia at Miami, 6:30 p.m. Houston at Phoenix, 7 p.m. Detroit at Denver, 8 p.m. Charlotte at Portland, 9 p.m. Indiana at Vancouver, 9 p.m. G. State at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Rose launches Web petition; lawsuit possible

NEW YORK (AP) — Pushing baseball to end his lifetime ban, Pete Rose is launching an Internet petition and might sue the sport to get the ban lifted. "You can't keep a guy from making a living," he said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's not the American way." Following an investigation of his gambling, baseball's career hits leader agreed in August 1989 to a lifetime ban from the sport. He applied for reinstatement in September 1997, and commissioner Bud Selig hasn't formally responded to Rose. "If you find in your heart you didn't want to give me reinstatement, just write back and say, 'No,'" Rose said. "I know he has stationery. I know the mail is delivered in Milwaukee." Rose claimed baseball's lawyers "blackmailed" witnesses against him.

NBA

Continued from page 6

tying the most in the NBA this season, and scored a career-high 25 points as New York routed Dallas at Madison Square Garden. It was the most lopsided victory for the Knicks in more than two years and moved them above .500 (8-7) for the first time in more than two weeks. Ward's seven 3-pointers were two shy of the Knicks record of nine by John Starks against Milwaukee in January 1998. Jaren Jackson of San Antonio also had seven 3-pointers in a game this season, doing it against the Mavericks on Nov. 20.

Pacers 93, Trail Blazers 91 Jalen Rose scored 22 points, and Dale Davis had 15 points and 12 rebounds as Indiana handed Portland its first home loss of the season. Scottie Pippen had a chance to tie, but his jumper went off the back of the rim with 8 seconds left. The Blazers had one more chance, but an inbound pass was knocked away and picked up by Indiana's Reggie Miller.

Miller scored 15 points, but shot just 2-of-11 from the field. The previous night, he was 1-of-9 with a season-low six points in a loss at Seattle. Rasheed Wallace had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Portland.

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BIG SPRING HERALD PRESENTS POWER POINTS THE ULTIMATE FOOTBALL CONTEST WIN \$1,000.00 WEEKLY Clip along dotted line

WEEK 13 Games of Dec. 5 - 6 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 136 TOTAL POINTS Name Address City, State(zip) Day Phone Night Phone

HOW TO PLAY Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter. To enter, clip along dotted line, then place game entry in POWER POINTS container at co-sponsor's retail outlet(s). Entrants must list name, address and phone number below. LIMIT: You may enter only once weekly. DEADLINE: 2 P.M. FRIDAY TIEBREAKER 1 Total points scored (both teams) in COWBOYS game. TIEBREAKER 2 Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES Cleveland at San Diego Green Bay at Chicago Indianapolis at Miami Kansas City at Denver New Orleans at Atlanta NY Jets at NY Giants Philadelphia at Arizona St. Louis at Carolina San Francisco at Cincinnati Seattle at Oakland Tennessee at Baltimore Washington at Detroit Dallas at New England Minnesota at Tampa Bay Army-Navy Texas at Nebraska

POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES 1. Object of the game is to amass as many of the 136 possible points as you can. Simply review the week's schedule of games, listed on entry form, and decide which game you are SUREST of picking a winner in. Write the name of your projected winner on the 16-point line. If that team wins its game that week, you win 16 points. Write the name of your second-surest winner on the 15-point line, and so on down to the 1-point line, which game you figure to be a long shot. Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If this step fails to produce a winner, the judges will apply Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in this game. If a winner still doesn't emerge, a drawing will be held among those contestants still tied. Decisions of the judges are final. The weekly statewide winner of the contest will receive \$1,000. 2. Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc., will be disqualified. 3. Entries that fail to forecast a winner from each and every game will be disqualified, as will entries that fail to distinguish between the Jets and Giants of New York and other similar teams. 4. No points are awarded on tie games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week. 5. Entering POWER POINTS constitutes permission by contestant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotional purposes at no charge. 6. Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate. 7. Any inquiry about or protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners. 8. No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry form into POWER POINTS container at participating co-sponsors. 9. Weekly deadline for entry will be 2 p.m. Fridays except when noted otherwise on weekly entry form. 10. Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for legible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way. 11. Limit: one entry per person per week. Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant; "group entries," "systems" or other attempts to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Filing out extra forms and putting your friends' and relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are disqualified prior to grading. 12. Contestants must have reached the age of eight (8) years by the Sunday of any weekly play.

Herald Classifieds

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Dietary Supervisor & RN/Assistant Director

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HELP WANTED

The Colorado River Municipal Water District

Dietary Supervisor & RN/Assistant Director

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE

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MIDWEST FINANCE Loans \$100-\$430

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Domino's Pizza Part time drivers needed

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Ward on a Friday - The Post and please call

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: White metal bunk beds, love seat, hide a bed, wing back chair, clothes, exercise bike, older record player. See at 100 Johnson or call 267-5203.

PORTABLE BUILDINGS

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

PRODUCE

Thus years pecans. Good quality. \$1.50 lb. Call 263-6765

ACREAGE FOR SALE

8 acres w/trailer house & lg. metal storage bldg., due N. of old Dairy Queen near Coahoma on Swinney St. 263-4410.

BUILDINGS FOR RENT

FOR LEASE: 5600 sq. ft. warehouse with 3 offices on 2 acres, fenced land. Hwy 350 11/2 mile No. 1-20. \$900 + dep. Call Westex Auto Parts 263-5000.

FOR LEASE: building on Snyder Highway. Approx. 1800 square feet with office on 1 acre. \$250 per month 100 deposit. Call Westex Auto Parts 263-5000.

FARMS & RANCHES

Irrigated farm, 200 ac. pasture 213 ac., 20 mi. S. of Big Spring on Garden City Hwy. Gov't allotment. Deer, quail, turkey, dove, Bunkhouse, windmill, stock tank. Irrigation well + 4 smaller wells. \$195,000. (817) 279-9915

HOUSES FOR SALE

\$1,000 TOTAL MOVE-IN!!! On 4 new homes to be built by Key Homes, Inc. in Monticello Addition. Paid child care and interest rate reduction to as low as 1% to qualified lower income buyers. Good credit essential. Maximum income limits apply. Financing provided by or guaranteed by USDA, Rural Development, formerly known as Farmer's Home. NO MONEY! You do not need to own a piece of land. Our plans, your color choices! Call now for a pre-qualification appointment. Call (915) 520-9848.

2200 sq. ft. New electrical, plumbing, windows, roof and doors. You finish remodel. Make reasonable offer. 267-2833 and ask for Jennifer.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Coronado Hills addition only 6 lots left. Call today KEY HOMES, INC. Harry Deter 553-3502 or 915-520-9848/41698

HOUSES FOR SALE

\$16,000 for very nice 2 bedroom 2 bath. We Finance You!! 563-9000.

1999 CLEARANCE SALE-A-BRATION New 3 bedroom with shingle roof upgrade appliances, thermal zone 1 & walk in closets - as low as \$165/month!

Had 4 - only TWO LEFT! USA Homes, 4608 West Wall, Midland 520-2177 or (800) 520-2177 Se Habla Espanol 10% dn, 11.25%, 360 months; with approved credit.

**\$250 per month!! for beautiful 3 bedroom, includes delivery, A/C and 5 year warranty!! 563-9000 9.50% VAR, 360 mos, 10% down, W.A.C. Cute 2x2. (915) 520-2178.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

STOP RENTING!! OWN FOR LESS! NO MONEY DOWN! Credit Needed! Guaranteed Approval! CALL NOW! 1-800-355-0029 ext.8117

ABANDONED HOMES

In Big Spring. Take up payments w/holding down. Local 264-0510

HOME BUILDER'S SALE

Out of City Limits 605 Driveway Road New home.

HOME BUILDER'S SALE

Builders Home 904 Wildfire 4 bds, 3 bath barn & roping arena

HOME BUILDER'S SALE

Lois, plans & est. for new Kenny Thompson 263-4548 Call: 664-8853

I'M MAD ... at banks who don't give us extra loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (264) 947-4475.

OWNER FINANCE

3 Br, 2 1/2 Bath. Large storage/room. Completely remodeled including new carpet, floors, counters & paint. 1107 Stamford.

Payments around \$385/mo. Down payment required. 263-1792 or 264-6006

Seller will help with closing costs so you can move in the immaculate recently remodeled 3 bdrm home. cent h/a, carport tile floors, storage bldg. new carpet, fresh paint. Payment approx \$350 move in cost approx \$1,000. Owner/agent 263-8982.

Very good 3 br 2 bath home on a super lot. Double in cost approx \$160,000. Boosie Weaver Real Estate 267-8940

MOBILE HOMES

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MOBILE HOMES

FEELING LIKE A STUFFED TURKEY In your teeny-teeny apartment? Get the space your family deserves with a new 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with over 1200 square feet for as low as \$1,999! USA Homes, 4608 West Wall, Midland 520-2177 or (800) 520-2177 Se Habla Espanol

GOOD CREDIT, BAD CREDIT, Bankruptcy, Divorce, Slow Pays, Call the Credit Doctor to own your new home. 80% Approval. 1-900-755-9133.

LIQUIDACION DE MODELOS \$911 Casa nueva con 3 recamaras, estufa, refrigerador, amplios closets, a tan solo \$165 al mes! Tenemos cuarto nos quedamos. USA Homes, 4608 West Wall, Midland 520-2177 or (800) 520-2177 Se Habla Espanol 10% dn, 11.25%, 360 months, with approved credit

Owner Transferred - MUST SELL! Lence: willing to work on easy terms. Call T. J. (915) 520-4411.

SI ESTA CANSADO de pagar Renta. Pese su credito esta mal, o tiene credito. Venga a verme en A-1 HOMES, Midland, TX. O hableme al telefono 563-9000 y pregunte por Cucco Arellino, para ayudarle en su casa movil nueva o usada.

ZIP - ZIP - ZIP! You'll give thanks in this spacious 2-2 with walk-in closets, large separate utility, as low as \$237/mo. with ZERO DOWN! USA Homes, 4608 West Wall, Midland 520-2177 or (800) 520-2177 Se Habla Espanol 10% dn, 11.25%, 360 months, with approved credit

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TUESDAY

NOV. 30

Table with 24 columns representing TV channels (KJCE, KERA, KOSA, etc.) and rows of program listings for Tuesday, Nov 30.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



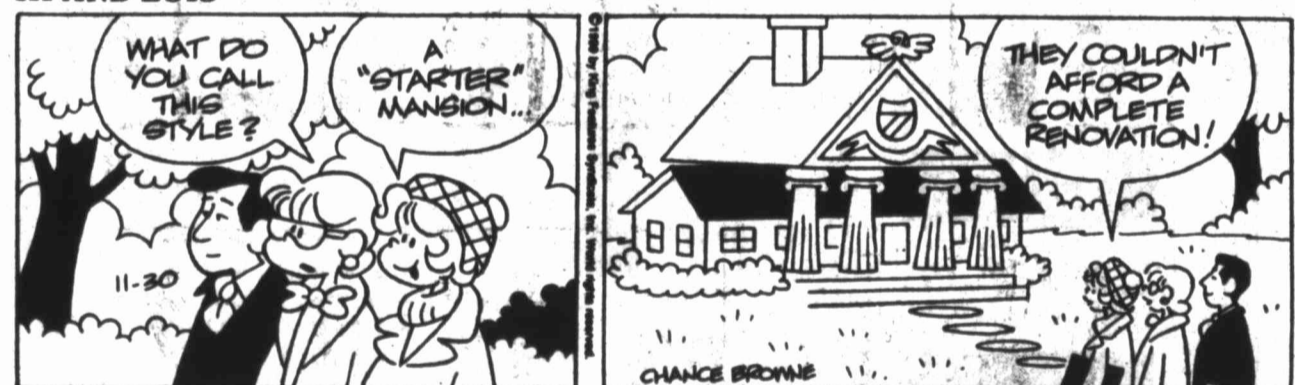
GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



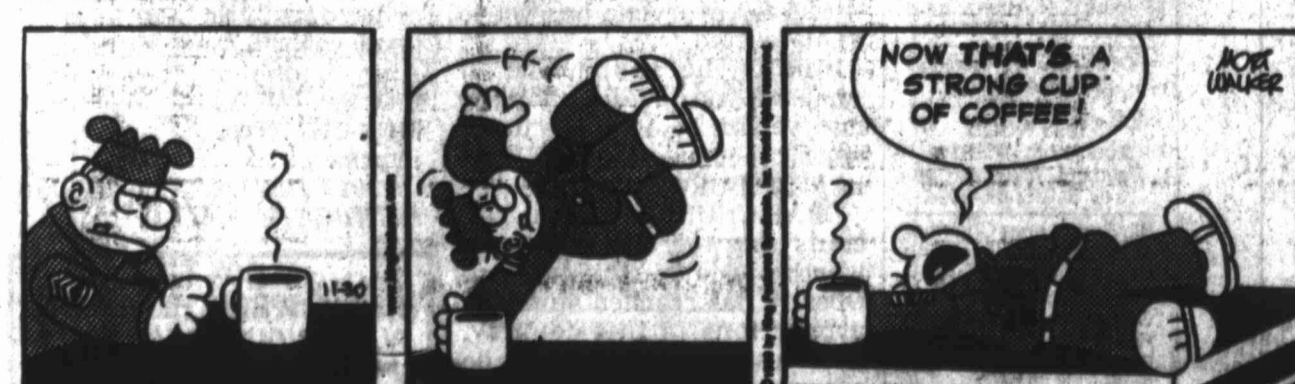
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, Nov. 30, the 34th day of 1999. There are 81 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Monday's Puzzle Solved section showing the completed crossword grid and answers.

trial, accused of political bias. He was acquitted by the Senate. In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as author Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Mo. In 1874, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace. In 1900, Irish author Oscar Wilde died in Paris. In 1936, London's famed Crystal Palace, built for the International Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire. In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland. In 1949, Chinese Communists captured Chungking. In 1962, U Thant of Burma was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations, succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjold. In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent. In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Brady gun control bill. Ten years ago: President Bush left Washington for his first summit with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev that took place aboard ships off the Mediterranean island of Malta. Alfred Herrhausen, chairman of West Germany's largest bank, was killed in a bombing claimed by the Red Army Faction. Five years ago: Two passengers died and nearly 1,000 others and crew members fled the cruise ship "Achille Lauro" after it caught fire off the coast of Somalia; the ship sank two days later. The Achille Lauro had gained notoriety in 1985 when it was hijacked by Palestinian extremists. One year ago: Quebec's separatist premier, Lucien Bouchard, was returned to power, but with only 43 percent of the vote, setting back the Parti Quebecois' goal of seeking independence from Canada. Deutsche Bank AG announced it was acquiring Bankers Trust Corp. for more than \$10 billion.

BIG SPRING Herald logo and contact information for the newspaper.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Gordon Parks is 87. Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr. is 81. Actress Virginia Mayo is 79. Former Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., is 75. Actor Richard Crenna is 72. Actor Robert Guillaume is 72. TV personality and producer Dick Clark is 70. Radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy is 69. Country singer Teddy Wilburn is 68. Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 62. Singer Luther Ingram is 55. Singer Rob Grill (The Grassroots) is 55. Playwright David Mamet is 52. Actress Margaret Whitton is 49. Actor Mandy Patinkin is 47. Musician Shuggie Otis is 46. Singer June Pointer is 45.