

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

FRIDAY

December 3, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



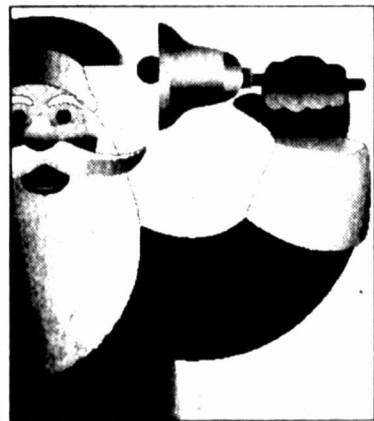
PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 32°-35° SATURDAY 52°-55°

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:

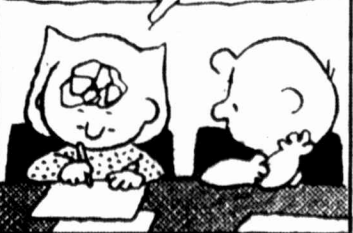
- Cellular One in the College Park Shopping

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I'M WRITING A LETTER TO MRS. CLAUS. I DON'T THINK SHE GETS ENOUGH CREDIT.



22 shopping days 'til Christmas Sponsored by BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 97, No. 32

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.

Miss America may attend Veterans Stand Down 2000

By JOHN H. WALKER
Editor

If details can be finalized, Miss America 2000, Heather Renee French, will be in Big Spring on Sunday, Jan. 16 and Monday, Jan. 17 to participate in Veterans Stand Down 2000. Her appearance in Big Spring will be her only one in West Texas.

Veterans Stand Down 2000 is a four-day event, running Jan. 14-

17, aimed at providing services to veterans who are not mainstreamed into society.

"As the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran, I pledge my heart, my hands and my voice to helping homeless veterans fight the battles they face on our nation's streets," French said during the Miss America pageant.

"So they don't face these battles alone, I urge all Americans"

See **STAND DOWN**, Page 2A



A 19th-century-style waltz is one scene in the Howard College Theater production of the play "A Christmas Carol" which may be seen at 8:15 p.m. today in the Municipal Auditorium. The cast of more than 40 are all local residents wearing period costumes of the era.

HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Judge issues ban on burning for Howard County

Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart issued a burn ban for Howard County today.

"The burn ban will be in effect until the next County Commissioners meeting on Dec. 13. We will then discuss making the ban permanent," Lockhart said.

Dry weather and the little prospect of any significant change in the weather was the deciding factor in placing the ban according to Lockhart.

Thousands expected to line streets for parade

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Fifteen thousand or more spectators are expected to brave some chilly weather and line Gregg Street Saturday to experience the gaiety and color of the Big Spring Herald Community Parade.

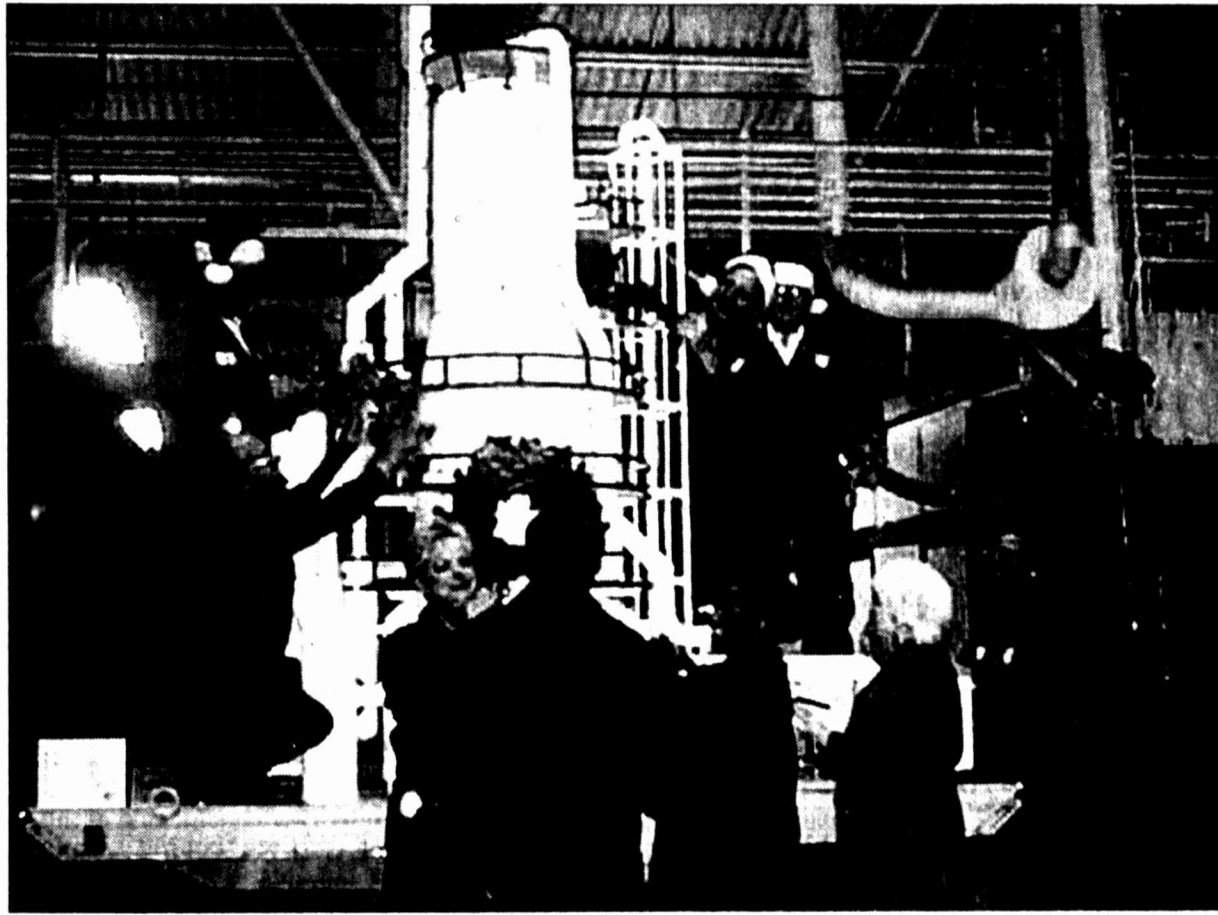
With more than 80 confirmed entries — many of them lighted — the parade will be one of the largest held across the Southwest this holiday season.

Spectators are advised to wear a coat. Forecasters are predicting a high of 53 to 54 Saturday, and it could dip to the high 40s by the time the parade gets under way at 5:15 p.m.

"We're looking at a high in the upper 40s with a 10 to 15 mile per hour wind from the northwest," said a forecaster from the National Weather Service in Midland. "At that time of the day, the wind chill will be in the 30s, probably high 30s."

No precipitation is forecast, however, and spectators and parade participants can bundle up to enjoy the evening, which will continue with the opening of the Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights and various receptions around the community.

The parade, led by the Big Spring Police Department Color Guard and Grand Marshal Pat Simmons, will line up in a 17-block area bordering 25th Street and Gregg. The



Randy Hillman, Tim Hannicutt, Verna Davis, Jannetta Bowden, Randy Hillman, Ernie Morgan, Steve Weber, Cliff Cunningham, Gloria Bain, and Don Riley decorate one of three Fina entries for Big Spring Herald Christmas Parade.

route will travel north from FM 700 up Gregg to Sixth Street, east to Main and north to Second Street. Spectators are invited to take a spot anywhere along the way.

Floats will be judged in four categories: lighted, school/church, commercial/manufacturing and civic. The judge's stand, furnished by Harris Lumber & Hardware, will be located adjacent to the Herald warehouse building.

This will be the fifth year for the parade to be lighted, and the 13th year it has been held.

Opportunities are plenty for fellowship on Saturday night

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

For after the parade entertainment, there are several options Saturday night, including a party, reception and a look at holiday lights on a local church.

If it's beef stew, chili and burritos you are looking for, the Settles Building promises to be a festive place.

"It'll be a good place for family and friends to meet after the parade," said Andi Andrews York. "We have some wonderful decorations up. It will be a very festive, very family-oriented atmosphere."

Named the "Party After the Parade," the event serves as a fundraiser for Friends of the Settles, as well as the nine to 12 groups and individuals who will have booths there. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the band will begin playing at 7. The event will run until about 11 p.m.

As of noon today, those planning to have booths were:

- Rip Griffin's Country Fair Restaurant, offering beef stew and cornbread.

See **PARTY**, Page 2A

SATURDAY'S COMMUNITY PARADE LINEUP

The official lineup for the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade:	9. The Dance Gallery	19. Rainbow Girls	174
1. Big Spring Police	10. Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce	20. Max-L-Tires	28. VFW Post 2013
2. Grand Marshal	11. VA Medical Center	21. Clifford Hart antique cars	29. Coahoma Methodist Church
3. Fina fire truck	12. Alberto's #1	22. Clifford Hart antique cars	30. Texas Tech University Masked Rider
4. Fina fire truck	13. Alberto's #2	23. Clifford Hart antique cars	31. Texas Tech Ex Students Association
5. Fina float	14. Harley Owners Club	24. Clifford Hart antique cars	32. Western Container
6. Fina mini catcracker	15. Sacred Heart & St. Thomas Catholic Churches	25. San Springs BSA Troop 25	33. Cub Scout Pack 305
7. Fina retirees	16. Quality Pumping	26. Big Spring Fire Department	34. Open
8. Big Spring High School and Junior High bands	17. Elbow 1st and 5th grades	27. Girl-Scouts Troop	35. Pat Gray
	18. Open		

Festival of lights to be bigger, brighter

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights celebrates its third lighting of the spring Saturday, following the community parade.

Everyone is invited to be at the spring about 6:30 p.m.



SIMMONS

for a short opening ceremony which will be followed by the lighting at 6:45 p.m.

Organizers said the Festival of Lights is bigger and brighter than ever.

"This year, there will be 250,000 lights twinkling along the spring and trails. They reflect the love of this community and the volunteers who make this exhibit possible," said Pat Simmons, festival committee chairman for the event.

Big Spring High School metal

trade students were among those who contributed to the display for a second year, under the direction of instructor Dee Highley, two classes constructed an eight-foot nativity scene and a six-foot peace sign.

The students worked on the project from the beginning of the school year in August until October. High school students Paul Mareno, Toby Arenavaz, Jesse Herrera, and Robert Toney

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 2A

Deadline nears to get packages in the mail in time for Christmas

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Deadline to mail packages in time for Christmas is Dec. 15 according to John Saxton postmaster for the Big Spring Post Office.

"Please mail early to enable the post office to give you the



SAXTON

service you deserve as a customer and to alleviate the delays in delivering your care packages," said Saxton.

Post office officials warn that this year's mail crunch could be complicated by an increase in bill payments and other business materials sent by mail instead of e-mail and its potential Y2K problems. Saxton has not seen any increase of mail at the Big Spring Post Office due to Y2K precautions.

See **MAIL**, Page 2A



John Kearney plays Santa to Jessica Cortez at this year's 21st annual Howard College Luminaria, held Thursday. Luminaries were placed in front of the administration building and across campus to the Dora Roberts Student Union Building. Inside the SUB, Santa Claus listened to children whispering their special gift requests. Also, the Coahoma Junior High School choir sang Christmas carols to a large audience.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

DECEMBER 3 1999

A&M investigative committee meets today

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A five-member committee investigating the Nov. 18 collapse of the Texas A&M bonfire will hold its first meeting today on campus.

Texas A&M officials began releasing evidence Thursday from the bonfire collapse, including bonfire builders' tattered handbooks, photos of the bonfire scene, memos and police reports.

An A&M police report revealed that one of the crane operators was an Aggie student who was not licensed to operate a crane but told officers he had been doing it for years.

No evidence has come out to suggest that crane operation was a factor in the accident that killed 12 people and injured 27,

however. "I can't overemphasize the fact that we know nothing about what happened yet, and we're not going to jump to conclusions until we have a full body of facts and all of the circumstances to support those facts," Houston construction executive Leo Linbeck Jr., told The Dallas Morning News. Linbeck is leading the task force.

University officials already have said freshman and sophomores were allowed to work on the upper levels of the tiered log tower, contrary to written rules.

Additionally, the hazard control measures listed in the "Bonfire Safety Handbook" call for "professional operation of crane."

The book states that rule was

designed to prevent logs from swinging into or falling off the stack.

Bill Kibler, A&M's associate vice president for student affairs, said he has too little information to know whether a student operating a crane is a safety violation.

"The safety handbook calls for a 'professional operator.' It doesn't say 'licensed,'" said Kibler, who was A&M's bonfire adviser from 1983-92.

The handbooks — hand-sized spiral notebooks wired and taped together — contain to-do lists and quotes from former so-called Red Pots, the nine seniors and nine juniors who are responsible for overseeing the construction of the bonfire. But they only rarely include

sketches for how to build the bonfire, according to a report in today's Austin American Statesman.

A&M officials have said there are no blueprints for how to build the bonfire, which is 55 feet tall when it is completed. They have said the Red Pots, who select their own successors, teach the next class about the construction and pass it down in notebooks.

Meanwhile close-up photos released Thursday show the center pole, the spine for the stack, broken in at least three pieces, including what appears to be a break where bolts, metal plates and thick cabling reinforced where the pole was spliced together from two 50-foot pine posts.

Pastors gather to rally against church burnings

DALLAS (AP) — Their shouts echoed throughout a downtown Dallas hotel.

Pastors from 16 states stood and yelled repeatedly in unison. "No more burned churches!" Thursday at the opening of a conference on hate crime sponsored by the National Coalition for Burned Churches.

"We cannot sit idly by and let someone put a torch to our place of worship," said the Rev. Terrance Mackey, director of the coalition.

Mackey was pastor of the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greeleyville, S.C., when it burned in June 1995. Two Ku Klux Klan members were convicted of the fire at the predominantly black church.

Mackey said the problem of church arsons has not gone away since the rash of burnings in 1995 and 1996. He founded the Charleston, S.C.-based coalition in 1997 to provide support for church leaders.

On Thursday, he called for law enforcement agencies to prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

"We can no longer allow this to happen in our country," he said. "We must stand together and unite ourselves against

those that will burn our places of worship."

Mark Briskman, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, agreed that hate crimes should be investigated thoroughly but said government agencies have found no evidence of an organized conspiracy by hate groups to target churches of color.

"In investigating all church burnings, we discovered almost as many white churches have arsons as well," he said.

Race is not the only factor in hate crimes, Mackey said. Gender bias and anti-religious sentiment also lead to crimes against churches. Such a crime occurred in September at Fort Worth's Wedgwood Baptist Church, where seven people were shot to death and seven others were injured.

The Rev. Lucy Martinez believes the fire that destroyed her small church in a colonia near the Mexico border was intended to silence her voice.

But the church has grown stronger, she said, united by tragedy.

"We are still meeting," said Ms. Martinez, pastor of Templo Fe y Victoria. "We are still shouting. No one is going to shut us up."

Facing uproar, Mexico suspends car deposit program

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican government suspended a day-old program that charged U.S.-registered cars deposits of up to \$800 to cross into Mexico.

Faced with angry opposition from both sides of the border, Mexican officials Thursday night announced that the program — which went into effect on Wednesday — is suspended "until further notice" on orders from President Ernesto Zedillo.

Officials will meanwhile conduct a "careful analysis" to come up with modifications, the Interior Ministry said in a news

release.

Under the program, people taking their cars past a 15-mile strip along the U.S.-Mexico border were required to pay a refundable deposit of up to \$800, depending on the age of the car. They could recover their deposits if they left the country within six months.

The Baja California peninsula and some parts of Sonora state were exempted to preserve easy access to Mexico's west-coast beaches.

The government said the program was necessary to prevent

the illegal importation of cars, which often are cheaper in the United States, and to protect the domestic car industry. Officials here say more than 10 percent of the cars in Mexico are illegal and U.S.-registered.

But critics said the measure would reduce U.S. tourism to Mexico.

Thousands of Americans drive across the border each month, and many Americans are uneasy with the idea of entrusting such large amounts of money to the government, or simply don't have the cash or a credit card, critics

said.

In addition, groups representing Mexicans living in the United States said the deposits would make it hard for many to return home. The Mexican Senate added its voice to the chorus of opposition Thursday, urging the government to terminate the program.

The president's order to suspend the program was in response to the Senate's request as well as to vehement opposition from groups in the United States, the Interior Ministry said.

Another Texas charter school closes; lawmakers contemplate changes

AUSTIN (AP) — Another independent charter school has closed suddenly, causing some lawmakers to question whether they need to tighten regulations over the operations.

The Academy of Austin, a public charter school that opened in August with more than 200 kindergarten through sixth grade pupils, abruptly closed Wednesday.

Dozens of unaware parents and pupils were stranded when they arrived at the school, which had been stripped of its desks, computers and furniture. "I got up to drive my child to school and there was no school," said Donna Mercer, whose daughter attended first grade.

Officials at Academy of America, the Southfield, Mich.,

company that ran the school, surrendered their charter, said Texas Education Agency spokesman DeEtta Culbertson.

In the faxed letter, Academy of America officials said the charter was being surrendered "due to circumstances beyond our control."

"We were not able to make the school operate in an environment we felt was appropriate for the proper education of students."

Contacted Thursday by The Associated Press, a receptionist at Academy of America said the company's official who could comment was ill. The receptionist refused to release the names of officials.

The state was investigating the company, which has changed its name several times

since applying for charters in Texas, TEA spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe said.

The company operates four other charter schools in Texas — in Beaumont, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas.

Education Commissioner Jim Nelson appointed a monitor to oversee those four schools "to go in and look at them to see if there are any problems to see if there is anything we need to work on at this point," Ms. Culbertson said.

Gov. George W. Bush, a long-time charter school supporter, remains committed to the program despite the recent problems, said a spokeswoman.

"Gov. Bush continues to support charter schools as an alternative for students and parents, and he believes that we should

not let the troubles of a few take away from the overall success of the program," Bush press secretary Linda Edwards said.

But Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, said it may be time to tighten regulations regarding charter schools, which the Legislature authorized in 1995.

Charter schools are publicly funded but operate independently of local school districts and are free from many state regulations.

For example, the state has no authority to compel charter schools to complete the semester or school year.

"I'm outraged. I'm amazed that somebody would pull a stunt like this," Bivins said. "It certainly makes me question the contracting process we enter into with people seeking charter schools. Leaving children in the lurch is simply unacceptable."

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, opposed charter schools. He said Wednesday

that the closing of the Austin school and six others that have gone under statewide, proves he was right.

"I was afraid of the fly-by-nighters. But mostly, I was afraid of what might happen to the children and the quality of education they receive," Barrientos said.

The charter schools have promised a higher-quality education with curriculum bonuses such as entrepreneurship, business and state-of-the-art computer labs.

Tornado kills two people, injures five

CHICO (AP) — Two people were killed and at least five were injured when a tornado touched down Thursday evening in Wise County and destroyed three homes.

Luke and Cindy McKittrick were killed in the twister. Their 20-month-old granddaughter, Kylie, was injured but is in good condition at Decatur Community Hospital, where another victim was treated and released.

Two victims are listed in crit-

ical condition and one is in good condition at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth.

The severe weather — associated with a Pacific cold front moving through the state — produced high winds, downpours and quarter-sized hail, authorities said.

Wise County Sheriff's Department and emergency officials say witnesses saw rotational winds indicating the damage was caused by a torna-

do.

But the National Weather Service has not determined whether down-burst winds or a tornado is to blame, said meteorologist Jesse Moore. The National Weather Service will join other emergency personnel in the area later today to assess the cause of the damage.

Jo Schweikhard Moss, spokeswoman for Division of Emergency Management in Austin, said officials have set up a command post in the area.

ANTHONY ASPEN BARN DOOR BASSET BASSET MIRROR BENCHCRAFT BLACKHAWK

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Men's Claiborne Sport Shirts Sweaters and Slacks Now Sale Priced Only (58) Pieces	75% Off	Christmas Turkey Platters 16" Oval reg. \$26 Only (28) Pieces	\$4⁰⁰
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DEC 03 1999

EDITORIAL

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

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

Charles C. Williams, Publisher; John H. Walker, Editor; John A. Moseley, Sports Editor; Debbie Jensen, Features Editor; Bill McClellan, News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each Friday, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

THE CAST, CREW AND DIRECTOR OF "A CHRISTMAS CAROL," the community play effort which debuted Thursday night and closes with an 8 p.m. performance at Municipal Auditorium tonight.

PAT SIMMONS, who not only agreed to serve as grand marshal for Saturday's Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade, but who is also coordinating that night's lighting of the Trail of Lights at Comanche Trail Park.

HOWARD COLLEGE, for hosting another entertaining Luminaria Thursday evening and helping get us in the Christmas spirit.

BLOOD DONORS, who despite busy schedules, took the time to donate at the United Blood Services Bloodmobile Thursday.

MOORE DEVELOPMENT FOR BIG SPRING AND STARTEK, which approved final agreements this week to bring a 450-employee call center to Big Spring.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you Big Spring! Recently I stopped over in Big Spring and my sister took me to the Vietnam Memorial.

It was a very moving experience, which I will never forget.

As one who served in that effort four times from 1967 to 1972, while in the military, I just want to say I appreciate the gesture by the citizens of Big Spring.

MURPHY A. WOODSON SAN ANTONIO

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank the following businesses and restaurants that helped make the hospitality room a great success during the Lady Hawks' basketball tournament (Nov. 18, 19, 20).

They are: Big Dipper Donut Shop, Big John's Feed Lot, Butcher Block, Coca Cola, Culligan Water Conditioning, Dairy Queen, Furr's Cafeteria, Galle's Sweet Shoppe, Gills Fried Chicken, H-E-B, Neighbors' Convenience Store, Rocky's Tex-Mex, Santa-Fe Sandwiches, Schlotzsky's Deli, Subway Sandwich Shop, and Pizza Inn.

We appreciate their support. These businesses help make events like this more attractive to visitors of our community, which makes them want to come back.

ALBERT CARLIE LADY HAWK FAST BREAK FAN CLUB BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The Methodists of Big Spring, Garden City, Ira, Coahoma, Snyder, Fluvanna, Westbrook and Colorado City would like to express appreciation to all that made our Mission In Motion project a success.

A special thanks to Buck Lee of the Bargain Mart and Roy Petty of Westbrook for moving our trailer, and to all the businesses that saved us buckets, which we packed with cleaning supplies. These buckets are known as Flood Buckets because they are shipped to areas ravaged by flood waters.

They couldn't have accomplished the task without you. We are already planning for the trailer's return in April.

Matthew 25:24-40 is our motivating call to service. May God shower you with blessings and fill you with His love this holiday season.

WYNELLE HALE BIG SPRING

Paul would be candidate for political MVP

If there were such a thing as the Most Valuable Player award for politicians, I'd nominate Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas.

Paul, a physician, is a true American libertarian. The last time he ran for office in a district already gerrymandered to defeat him, that greatest phony of all time - Newt Gingrich - tried to defeat him by supporting a liberal Republican in the primary election.

You can thank Paul that the federal government's plans for a national identity card were defeated. A 1996 bill had required every state to make their driver's licenses conform to federal mandates, but Paul and others killed it in this past session before it could take effect.

He also led the fight against a bank regulation that would have required banks to spy on their customers and report to the federal government any "unusual" transactions. He has introduced a bill to repeal the Bank Secrecy Act under which this odious regulation was spawned. Let's all hope that, in the next session, he's victorious.

Paul also succeeded in getting the U.S. House of Representatives to end the needless military-draft registration, but someone slipped it back into the bill along with financing for it in the Senate. Our draft-dodging president, of course, signed it into law. This despite the fact that the Pentagon says this program is a waste of money.

Paul has always been fighter for liberty, and I've always admired him. The first time I ever saw him was when he single-handedly opposed increasing by \$8 billion the U.S. contribution to the World Bank, a rat hole if ever there were one.

Paul ran for president one year on the Libertarian Party ticket, but, of course, the

majority of Americans are not Libertarians. Like all the other Libertarian nominees, he was ignored by the media. And, in fact, he is ignored by the media even as he serves as a Republican.

One of the things that annoys me about members of the national press is that they do not cover Congress anymore except in the most superficial and biased manner. Every story is written as a partisan battle instead of a conflict over substantive ideas, and only the media's pets get invited to be talking heads on the national TV shows. You will play heck trying to find out what a proposed bill actually would do from television or newspapers.

There are, in fact, some admirable people serving in the House and the Senate - people who are genuinely conservative - but you would never know that they exist if you watch the national TV shows. There are, in fact, important battles fought over important issues, but you would never know that, either, from watching the TV shows. If it isn't about partisan poli-

tics or sex, the TV shows aren't interested.

I am confident and sad that, when future historians write about the decline and fall of the United States, the failure of the press to inform the people will be counted as a principle cause.

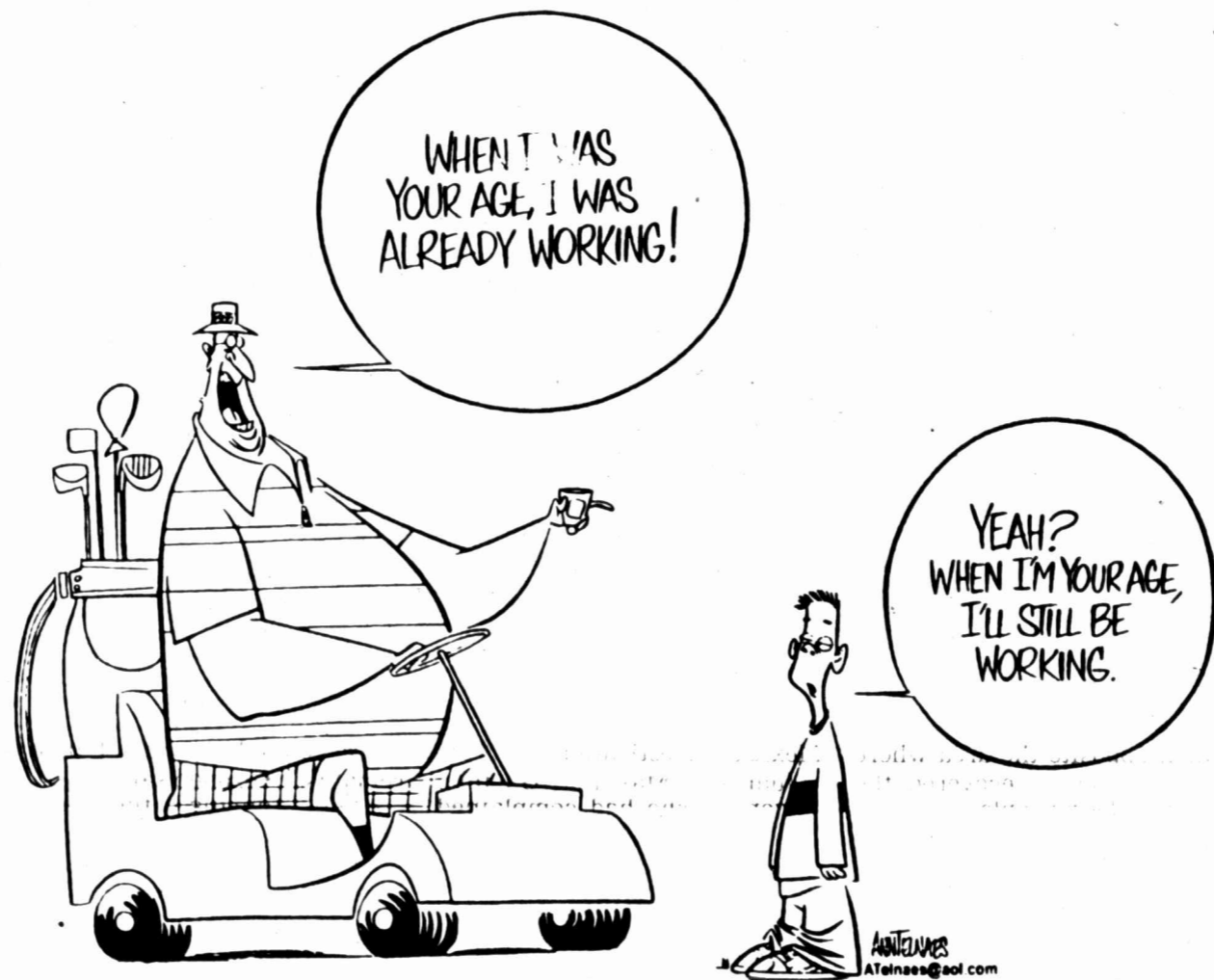
The great Alexander Solzhenitsyn, another man the press chose to ignore after he blasted them, said that the press, in absence of violence by the government, censored itself by adhering so closely to what was fashionable. Referring to the press' ritualistic croaking about the people's right to know, Solzhenitsyn said that the people also have the right not to have their divine souls stuffed with garbage.

Unfortunately, in most cases you can find out more than you want to know about athletes, entertainers and actors but far less than you need to know about the good leaders who are struggling to preserve liberty and to restore integrity to government.

Rep. Ron Paul is one of those leaders. I hope you appreciate him.



CHARLEY REESE



Finally reaping the benefits of Martha

I owe Martha Stewart an apology. I've decided she's not just the border-stenciling, hydrangea-grafting, mosaic-making, ice-sculpting, paint-mixing monster I had made her out to be.

I've been critical in the past, and that had to hurt her. After all, she probably stays up late nights worrying about what I think.

Martha's an easy target. Not a day goes by that I don't receive some Martha Stewart spoof or joke via e-mail. There are entire magazines devoted to making fun of Martha.

Anyone who is as tirelessly clever and filthy rich as Martha is bound to be despised by the hoi polloi, we who barely manage to knot our clean socks and must regularly reread the directions for making Jell-O.

I was weak. I joined in the catty chorus of Martha-bashing. I especially resented her for dashing off a newspaper

column as an afterthought. On top of all her other pursuits, she tackled syndication as if writing were as simple as decorating a home-grown Christmas tree with homemade cookies in the shape of registered, purebred dogs.

I'll admit I hated the very look of her. On top of her appallingly industrious nature, she manages to glow like a model for perfume-free makeup. That cool, unstudied style sure doesn't help matters. Princess Grace in bluejeans.

Martha's casually coiffed, honey hair barely brushes the top of her plain white shirt collar. But what looks breezy on her would look downright sloppy on anyone else.

All of that no longer matters. It's history. In my book, she's tops. I will never snipe at Martha by e-mail again.

For Martha has done what nobody else ever managed to do, a task much more difficult than painting a steppingstone with yogurt to encourage a green beret of moss, or stacking three cake plates straight up in the air without breaking them all.

She has taken the tacky out of discount. She has introduced a line of housewares and gardening supplies in the stores of a major discount chain, and her wares are decidedly

untacky. They are downright classy, in fact. Inexpensive, yet classy. Her colors are pastel, not putrid. No lime greens or purples, which used to be the options in discount finery.

I've never understood why merchandisers believe thrifty souls who frequent discount emporiums have no taste. Why can't polyester pants come in ecru as well as orange, or cheap cotton shirts in solids as well as stripes? Does it cost more to tone down the dye? Should the thread count of a bedsheet determine its hue?

It was the philosophical and pecuniary puzzle of the last half of the fast-dwindling century. The arrival of big discount stores amplified the question.

Why did these false assumptions about bargain hunters persist? Was there some conspiracy between Madison Avenue and moneyed matrons who wanted to monopolize beige linen? It baffled those of us with shallow pockets and high standards.

Martha has solved the puzzle, shattered the myths, rocked the retailers. She has made mincemeat (gourmet) of that age-old practice of punishing the frugal with Polynesian prints and unnecessary pleats.

Thanks, Martha. And forgive me.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

ADDRESSES

- BILL CLINTON, President; PHIL GRAMM, U.S. Senator; KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, U.S. Senator; CHARLES STENHOLM, U.S. Representative; HON. GEORGE W. BUSH, State Capitol; RICK PERRY, Lt. Governor; DAVID COUNTS, Representative; JOHN CORNYN, Attorney General; HOWARD CO. COMMISSIONERS; BEN LOCKHART, county judge; ERMA BROWN; JERRY KILGORE; BILL CROOKER; GARY SIMER; BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL; TIM BLACKSHEAR; GREG BIDDISON; OSCAR GARCIA; CHUCK CAWTHON; TOMMY TUNE; JOANN SMOOT

How To Contact Us

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us: In person at 710 Scurry St. By telephone at 263-7331. By fax at 264-7205. By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalker@xroadstx.com. By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. Our normal hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Our offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

Advertisement for Bruce Tinsley's 'Mallard Fillmore' wrestling products, featuring a cartoon of a wrestler and promotional text.

Delega

SEATTLE (AP) - Isters narrow ences on farm had to resolve labor rights an issues before round of talks trade barriers.

Wrapping up negotiations m street protests World Trade hoped to reach today with a de ic agenda for covered by the U.S. Trade

Charlene Bars chairing the ses ministers would the night Thu goal of having a the end of toda sions are sched

She said the were making " progress."

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NEW YORK (AP) - enough of "Wh Millionaire"? hard to escape

ABC annou that the quiz will become a ABC's prime-ti ing three times Jan. 11.

It will be Tuesdays and three hours of each week.

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Startling TV ers flocked to with the apoca space-age set de run in Novemb the competition

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Delegates struggle for agreement on future trade talks

SEATTLE (AP) — Trade ministers narrowed their differences on farm policy but still had to resolve bitter fights over labor rights and a host of other issues before launching a new round of talks to reduce global trade barriers.

Wrapping up four days of negotiations marred by violent street protests, the 135-nation World Trade Organization hoped to reach the finish line today with a deal on the specific agenda for what should be covered by the new talks.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, who is chairing the sessions, said trade ministers would work through the night Thursday with the goal of having a finished deal by the end of today, when the sessions are scheduled to wrap up. She said the various groups were making "quite significant progress."

But other WTO officials cautioned there were still a large number of issues to be resolved, with all countries waiting until the 11th hour before giving in on long-held negotiating positions.

"Never underestimate the potential for a breakdown," WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell told reporters late Thursday. "This could still fall apart. It is at a very delicate stage."

President Clinton has infuriated developing nations, who account for more than 100 of the 135 members of the WTO, by saying rules protecting workers should be included in future trade deals — and that sanctions should be imposed on violators.

Developing nations, whose economies have expanded thanks to cheap labor, say richer countries are only pressing

the issue to protect themselves from inexpensive imports.

Some Asian nations have hinted they won't agree to a new round of trade talks if it includes any mention of labor rights, which they believe should be handled separately from WTO rules governing global commerce.

"If Clinton pursues the labor issue, it may make us wonder what's the point?" said Asmat Kamaludin, secretary-general of Malaysia's ministry of international trade and industry. "We cannot agree to the inclusion of labor in the WTO."

The talks that began Tuesday have been overshadowed by violence in the streets, with almost 600 people arrested since demonstrators who view the WTO as a global menace successfully disrupted the meeting. Seattle police in riot gear are patrolling streets in a down-

town area that is under curfew in an official state of emergency.

Businesses say they have lost \$7 million in sales, and another \$2 million in damage has been tallied, as the massive trade event that was intended to showcase Seattle was spoiled by the rioting.

Arriving Thursday evening in Philadelphia, Clinton said he was pleased that the United States had hosted the trade talks in Seattle, despite the disruptions. "It was a good thing for our country to be part of the debate over the future," he said.

While some countries said the WTO might end up failing to launch even a scaled-down negotiating round, U.S. negotiators continued to express optimism that a way would be found to paper over huge differences that exist between countries.

Bush avoids gaffes, stresses record in his initial debate

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Together at last, the six Republicans who want to be president haggled over taxes, abortion, Social Security and their qualifications for the White House in a contentious debate that found George W. Bush on the defensive.



BUSH

Bush, the leading GOP candidate, avoided a major gaffe and stressed his record as a two-term Texas governor to know how to lead, he said Friday night.

It was the first of three debates this month, perhaps the best chance for the field to chip away at Bush's lead. Arizona Sen. John McCain has closed the gap in some polls in this first-in-the-nation primary state, but trails far behind Bush in other states.

Several of the candidates had events scheduled in New Hampshire today.

McCain questioned Bush's \$483 billion tax cut plan, but otherwise avoided the criticism leveled at Bush through the 90-minute forum. The Vietnam War hero courted voters with witty one-liners and a pledge to clean up the nation's political system.

"I am prepared to be the president of the United States," he said.

Interviewed today on ABC's "Good Morning America," McCain said of Bush: "I think he did a fine job" but ruled out a Bush-McCain ticket.

"Under no circumstance would I want to be vice president of the United States," McCain said.

The GOP presidential field — Bush, McCain, Steve Forbes, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Gary Bauer and Alan Keyes, stood behind identical podiums in the WMUR television studio here. The Granite State casts the first ballots of the presidential primary season on Feb. 1, and the forum, televised nationally by Fox News, marked a quickening of the campaign.

Under the evening's format, two reporters questioned the candidates. The subjects ranged from Social Security, abortion and foreign policy to a question to Bush about Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his weapons stockpile.

Bush said he would "take out the weapons of mass destruction."

Less than a minute into the debate, Bauer challenged Bush to join him in pledging that his vice-presidential candidate "will be pro-life. Mine will be. I hope tonight that Governor Bush will clarify and finally agree... that his will be," the former White House aide said.

Keyes, Forbes, Bauer and Hatch criticized the tax-cut plan Bush announced this week, but Bush had a ready rejoinder. "Well, for some it's not enough. And for some my tax cut is too big. Which leads me to believe I may be doing something just right," he said.

Forbes accused Bush of ducking three previous debates. "I'm glad everyone is here, including Governor Bush, who is no longer AWOL," he said.

Bush hadn't planned to debate until next year, but his campaign reversed course after McCain began to chew up his lead in the polls in New Hampshire.

'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' will be regular series

NEW YORK (AP) — Can't get enough of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"? It may soon be hard to escape it.

ABC announced Thursday that the quiz show sensation will become a regular part of ABC's prime-time schedule, airing three times a week starting Jan. 11.

It will be on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays — three hours of "final answers" each week.

"Tens of millions of viewers sent a very clear message that they wanted more 'Millionaire,' and we're going to deliver," said Stu Bloomberg, co-chairman of ABC Entertainment.

Startling TV executives, viewers flocked to the game show with the apocalyptic music and space-age set design. Its 18-night run in November laid waste to the competition, enabling ABC

to win its first ratings "sweeps" month in five years.

Its last airing, the night before Thanksgiving, drew nearly 30 million viewers.

Contestants answer a series of multiple-choice questions on general topics and pop culture that start off easy and get harder as the money gets bigger. Game players can telephone a friend or poll the audience for advice.

The genial Regis Philbin is the host of the American adaptation of a successful British series. His question "Is that your final answer?" has quickly become a national catchphrase.

So far, the show has made only one instant millionaire: a 31-year-old Internal Revenue Service employee who won when he was able to identify Richard Nixon as the president who appeared on the TV series

"Laugh-In."

Executive Producer Michael Davies initially argued for keeping "Millionaire" as a special event to air several nights in a row every few months. He was worried the show's appeal would burn out if it was on all the time.

But ABC executives thought other networks would fill the public appetite for game shows when "Millionaire" wasn't on. ABC, which has struggled to establish new comedies and dramas, also could not ignore its biggest hit in years — especially one that's relatively cheap to produce.

"They've caught lightning in a bottle and they're using it," said CBS President Leslie Moonves. "I'm a bit jealous."

Fox has already rushed "Greed," a lightly disguised "Millionaire" knockoff, to the

air. CBS and NBC both plan new game shows early next year, with CBS's "Winning Lines" coming from the same producers as "Millionaire."

The excitement harkens back to the first game show craze on network television, in the late 1950s, which came crashing down amid a cheating scandal. Television executives are trying to bring back several quizzes from the old days, including "The 64,000 Question," "Twenty-One" and "What's My Line?"

The one-hour "Millionaire" editions will begin at 8 p.m. EST on Tuesdays, 8 p.m. EST on Thursdays and 9 p.m. EST on Sundays.

Several ABC series are being displaced as a result. Production was canceled for the David E. Kelley-produced drama "Snoops."

Digging to continue at suspected mass grave sites, police official says

JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Forensic experts from both sides of the Rio Grande will resume digging today in their efforts to unearth human remains at two suspected mass grave sites south of this Mexican border town, a Mexican police spokesman said. Authorities would not say whether any more human remains were found Thursday at the south Juarez site known as Rancho de la Campana.

Specialists from the FBI and Mexican Attorney General's office spent all day digging in the northwest corner of the ranch, opposite the area where they previously recovered the remains of six people.

"They will resume their work today," said Isidoro Gersen, spokesman for the Mexican federal police.

A news conference was to be held today in Juarez by Mexican Attorney General

Roberto Madrazo.

Gersen said he expects the attorney general will provide more details about the joint U.S.-Mexican investigation.

Juarez Mayor Gustavo Elizondo, who had complained about not being notified in advance about the operation, and Chihuahua Attorney General Arturo Gonzalez Rascon were escorted Thursday by federal officials who showed them the excavation activities

at Rancho de la Campana.

"They showed me the (northwest corner) where they are working and where they think there could be (more) human remains," Elizondo said.

After touring the site, Gonzalez Rascon fielded questions from reporters, who asked why state law officials had not searched the ranches before missing people despite the fact that other people had told them where they were buried.

Gonzalez said the investigation was complex and that his staff fully supported the U.S. Mexican investigation.

FBI and Mexican officials announced Monday they had launched a joint investigation into "the murders and disappearances" of 100 or more people, who are believed to be victims of the Juarez drug cartel.

The operation includes 65 FBI agents and experts and about 500 Mexican federal anti-drug

agents and army soldiers.

More than 200 people, including 18 to 24 U.S. citizens, disappeared in Juarez since 1993, when the Juarez drug cartel under Amado Carrillo Fuentes was on its way to becoming the biggest and most violent drug organization in Mexico.

The cartel battled rival drug-traffickers for control of the Juarez territory, with frequent execution-style hits and kidnappings.

New flight service being inaugurated between New York and Cuba

NEW YORK (AP) — A private charter company is set tonight to start regular, direct flights between New York and Havana for the first time since the early 1960s — yet another indication of increasing flexibility in U.S.-Cuban relations.

The flights won't be bringing hordes of New Yorkers for glamorous weekends of rum, beaches and cigars that were notorious in pre-Castro Cuba and immortalized in films such as "Weekend in Havana."

Only researchers, journalists, Cuban-Americans visiting relatives and other individuals eligible for U.S. visas will be allowed to travel on the Marazul

Charters flights, which will be inaugurated tonight at New York's John F. Kennedy airport.

Marazul has hired El Salvador's TACA airlines to take 150 passengers on the nearly four-hour flights, which cost \$629 round-trip. Most of the first flight's passengers are Cuban-Americans from New Jersey, although about 30 are traveling to attend a film festival in Cuba.

Marazul founder Francisco Aruca, who will be on board, says he hopes the new weekly service will help improve relations.

"I think it's a reflection of the times," Aruca, 59, said in an interview from his headquar-

ters in Miami. "I do believe that slowly, we are moving in the right direction in terms of normalizing things in terms of Cuba."

American have been barred from legally traveling to Cuba as tourists because of an embargo imposed on the island in the early 1960s. The embargo has been maintained since then in a bid to promote democratic change.

Miami-based companies, however, have organized regular charter service to the island for years, mostly to cater to Cuban exiles eager to visit relatives and bring them medicine and other items unavailable there.

The Clinton administration halted the flights in March 1996 after Cuba shot down two civilian planes. The planes, which belonged to a Miami-based exile group, searched the Florida

Straits for people trying to flee Cuba on rafts but also had flown over Havana to drop political leaflets.


The Treasury Department allowed Miami Havana charter

flights to resume in June of last year, after Pope John Paul II visited Cuba and the U.S. administration unveiled a program to increase humanitarian aid to the country.

The Living Christmas Tree



First United Methodist Church
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Nursery Available



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A large patch of color on a dog's back and upper sides is called a blanket.

The month of June has three birthstones, pearl, alexandrite and moonstone.

Got an item?

Do you have a story idea for the life/ section? Call 263-7331. Ext. 236.

Happier holidays

Coping skills, avoiding pitfalls can make season meaningful

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Features Editor

You have surely heard of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," but have you heard about the 12 pitfalls of the holiday season?



KELLY

Everyone should consider them, said Dr. Jerry Kelly, executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Center.

The center lists the "12 pitfalls of Christmas" as:

- Waiting until the last minute to shop. Longing for "the old times." Overspending. Child custody. Deciding between in-laws. Loneliness. Overeating.

"We expect the holidays will fill all the voids within us. That is one reason we get into this 'consumption flurry,' trying to fill the emptiness."

- Drinking too much. Holiday obligations. Excessive sympathy for the less fortunate. Division of labor problems. The "year end blues."

Kelly said the "holiday blues" are often a result of one or several of these pitfalls.

He said many people suffer from "blues" at this time of year, often at one of two levels.

"One is if you have suffered a tremendous loss, such as a death or accident," Kelly said. "The holidays often serve to bring that back up again."

That can happen, he explained, whether the loss occurred at the holidays or at some other time of the year.

"If it happened at the holidays, then the feelings of grief are likely to be more constant and powerful," Kelly said.

"If it happened at some other time, you will probably remember the holidays with that person that you lost, and there is some grief that has to be worked through."

Another level, he added, is the unrealistic expectations we place on the holiday season.

"We expect the holidays will fill all the voids within us," Kelly said. "That is one reason we get into this 'consumption flurry,' trying to fill the emptiness."

He said to remember that loneliness can happen, even in the midst of a large family celebration. And keeping in mind the 12 pitfalls can prepare you for dealing with the inevitable problems as they come up.

With preparation and through making healthy choices, "you can create the kind of holidays that will be sustaining for you," Kelly said.



Baritone David Marrow and flutist Gloria Steelman, with pianist Linda Hill (not shown) performed Thursday as part of St. Mary's Episcopal Church's 'Advent Offerings.'

CHURCH NEWS

First United Methodist Church

"Be Prepared" (Matthew 3:1-12) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry.

Youth meet on Sunday afternoon with Mid-High youth meeting at 5 p.m.

There is a Wednesday noon Bible study class and meal each week in Garrett Hall and everyone is invited to attend.

For more information call the church office at 267-6394.

First Baptist Church

Because of the generosity of a special member, First Baptist Church has joined others in the

community by lighting the exterior of our facility. We will officially turn on the lights at 6:30 p.m. Saturday immediately following the parade.

"In the Time of Herod" is the morning sermon topic that Pastor Eddie Tubbs will share on Sunday.

Do you need help getting into the Christmas spirit? Join us Sunday evening at 6 as the children's choirs share the sounds of Christmas.

The music ministry led by Stan Hanes will present "A Christmas To Remember" next week.

Eastside Baptist Church is hosting its Children's Christmas Craft Fair Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come drop off the kids while you go shopping, ages 6-12. Children will make crafts while learning the Christmas Story.

On Dec. 5, at 2 p.m., members of the LWML (Lutherans Women's Missionary League) will host a Christmas Tea.

On Dec. 9, at 10 a.m., and at 1 p.m.

in the fellowship hall. Advent midweek devotions will be held in the annex on Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The children's Christmas program will begin at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24, in the sanctuary.

On Dec. 25, at 10 a.m., the Christmas Day service will be held. Pastor Kohl is in charge of the service.

On Dec. 26, worship service will be held at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School.

On Dec. 31, the congregation will enjoy games beginning at 8 p.m. At 11 p.m., worship service will be in the sanctuary.

First Christian

"A Heart Like His, Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David," by Beth Moore is a Bible study that will be presented by the Christian Women's Fellowship.

Dr. Watson's sermon this Sunday will be entitled, "A Season for the Sinner." On Sunday, Dec. 12, the follow up sermon will be "A Season for the Spiritless."

Spring Tabernacle

Spring Tabernacle will be giving food away on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m., and at 1 p.m.

will be giving away Christmas presents to kids. We invite the mothers to come pick out the gifts for your children.

Victory Baptist

The singing group New Covenant will be performing at Victory Baptist Church, corner of East 11th Place and FM 700, at 11 a.m. Sunday.

First Presbyterian

A short service of carols, readings and presentations about the meaning of Advent is planned Sunday at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On Wednesday, the children of the church will present their annual Christmas pageant telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

Members and others have the opportunity to contribute to our Cherub Tree and Sock Tree, both located in the sanctuary foyer.

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Members and others have the opportunity to contribute to our Cherub Tree and Sock Tree, both located in the sanctuary foyer.

Advent: A series of joyful 'welcomings'

Happy New Year! You're wondering if I've checked my calendar recently.

Well, in fact, I have. Not the normal one that most of the world follows but the one the church follows.

Advent is not just about the Christ who dropped in to visit us at a certain point of time in a certain place on the planet.

Advent is also the Christ who still comes into our lives today when we turn our thoughts to him in prayer and meditation.

Advent comes from a Latin word that means "coming." Advent makes the shocking claim that in Jesus Christ of Nazareth we see and experience the coming of God into the world and our lives.

Advent invites us to remember and give thanks that Christ CAME. Advent takes us back in history to simple people - Joseph, Mary, shepherds...

Advent also turns our minds toward the future, that Christ WILL COME AGAIN. He lived and died in first century Palestine, he rose again after three days and is alive forevermore.

Advent calls us to wonder again that the God who created everything came to be with us, one of us, flesh and blood.

Advent calls us to wonder again that the God who created everything came to be with us, one of us, flesh and blood. The church tried to put it into words a long time ago.

But Advent also calls us to the joyous realization that Christ COMES. We can go

through Advent, reading those familiar stories from long ago and yet miss what Advent is really about - that Christmas is forever coming to our world.

It is not just something in the past to remember and celebrate. It is a present reality.

Advent is not just about the Christ who dropped in to visit us at a certain point of time in a certain place on the planet.

Advent is also the Christ who still comes into our lives today when we turn our thoughts to him in prayer and meditation.

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STEVE STUTZ

CLUB NEWS

Order of the Eastern Star

Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star, will have a covered dish supper Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

p.m. The program will be presented by Joyce Ball, Grand Paige to the Worthy Grand Matron of Texas, at the Masonic Temple.

The Woman's Forum

The Woman's Forum met Nov. 19, in the home of Betty Thomas with Martha Fielder serving as cohostess.

Thompson, juvenile probation officer, who gave an interesting program on our local juvenile problems.

Levels of punishment depend on the crime. They may be placed in home supervision with probation officer check, detention, boot camp and prison.

Edna Faye Smith, program chairman, introduced Margy

interesting. Helen McDonald, president, called the meeting to order.

Edna Faye Smith gave a report on items needed by the State Hospital.

The next meeting will be a Christmas luncheon at Zula McCray's home on Dec. 10, with club officers serving as cohostesses.

SLICE of life!

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

THE WOMEN'S AGLOW MEETING will be Monday starting at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments and a 7 p.m. meeting at the Howard College Cactus Room.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD pastor R.T. Havener will preach on "God's Luminaries" Sunday morning at 10:40 at the church, Fourth and Lancaster.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CIRCLE SIX, SIX MILES north of Stanton on Hwy. 137, will have a Christmas light display. There will be hayrides to tour the camp and see the lights at 6 p.m. on Dec. 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19.

THE LAST WORD

Opportunity is missed by many people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. Thomas Edison

How many really capable men are children more than once during the day. Napoleon I

Fate chooses our relatives, we choose our friends. Jacques Dellille

BIG SPRING Herald Friday, Decem

Paste

VENTURA, C cement floor of a house of ramps walls, 120 young boards bow scu prayer. "Check this ou the Rev. Ryan surfer and serva youths gathered of a plywood ram He reads a pas Bible, peppering tion with "dude 12 disciples as "h It's part of a 7- gram the 25-yea pastor calls "Bo that short tim Southern Calif Angeles has alm worship: Skate adise for skate skaters.

Atheists sue to r cross fr cliff disp

BOISE, Ida Atheists are th file suit to rem cross from a cl looks this city.

Chicago talk-s Sherman cont group Idaho Ath intend to file s court next year lighted cross r Table Rock.

"It's blatantly tional," Sherm spokesman fo Atheists, said i tions of The New The group promot of church a

The Idaho Jay cross on public and purchased \$100 in 1972 to a tial constitution Sherman cont was rigged.

"Whenever go torializes abou putting a religio public land, it mate of bigotry hatred and tyr non-Christians against atheist lar," Sherman sa



Pastor successful with his 'board for the Lord'

STUTZ

Continued from Page 6A

VENTURA, Calif. (AP) — On the cement floor of an industrial park warehouse of ramps and curved plywood walls, 120 youngsters sitting on skateboards bow scuff-marked helmets in prayer.

"Check this out. This is so awesome," the Rev. Ryan Delameter — skater, surfer and servant of Christ — tells the youths gathered around him at the foot of a plywood ramp.

He reads a passage from his well-worn Bible, peppering his word of God oration with "dude" and references to the 12 disciples as "homeboys."

It's part of a 7-month-old outreach program the 25-year-old Assembly of God pastor calls "Board for the Lord," and in that short time, his flock in this Southern California town near Los Angeles has almost tripled. His house of worship: Skate Street, a plywood paradise for skateboarders and in-line skaters.

The youths usually pay \$12 for three hours of skating. But when Delameter is preaching, they skate for free in a deal the minister worked out with Skate Street's owner. The only caveat: sitting quietly through a 15-minute Bible lesson.

While Delameter talks, the skaters, wearing neon or chrome helmets well-scuffed from bad landings, sit on their boards and they listen. Their ages range from 12 to 18. Boys outnumber girls 100-to-1.

The Bible lesson ends with prayer, and many take off their helmets and bow their heads.

Sometimes, Delameter brings Christian rockers who play while the skaters jump back on the their boards and head for the half pipes and rails.

It's the right message at the right price, says Tyler Batten, 16.

"It's in our setting and we learn about God," he says.

For others, 15 minutes of Bible stories is a small price for free skating on a weeknight.

"It keeps the kids off the streets and keeps people from yelling at us," says Morgan Bier, 16, who adds with teen-age pride that his surname is German for beer.

Parent Greg Hayes regularly shuttles a station wagon full of teen-agers to the Tuesday night sessions.

"It's reaching them where they're at," he says. "We bring the church to them."

On one recent day, Ryan Latham, a friend of Delameter and a youth pastor at Torrance Assembly of God, took over the Bible lesson with an anti-drug message: Latham, the 21-year-old son of a police chief, told how he had regularly smoked marijuana and got drunk on tequila and gin.

Finally, he said, "I kind of lost hope." Friends suggested he read the Bible. "I didn't believe in God. They chal-

lenged me, and I said it was bogus," said Latham, wearing black shorts, a gold Los Angeles Lakers shirt and black ballcap. "I started reading. The more I read the less I could prove it wrong."

Then he went to a Christian rock concert. "They were dressed just like me. They were cool," he said. He said he gave up cigarettes, drugs and booze and "surrendered to the Lord."

"I not only believe it, I live it, too," he told the Skate Street youths.

He urged them to look for him on the skate ramps if they want to talk. Then he grabbed his own skateboard and joined them.

In seven months, Delameter's "24-7" youth group (an every hour, every day commitment) has grown from 60 skaters to 175 some nights.

"We've been building friendships with kids," Delameter said. "It's great letting the kids learn about God on their level."

We don't live in anxiety about the future, especially as we count down the days until the new millennium, for we know He will be there with us and for us when it arrives.

Advent bids us to a nostalgic looking back to what was (Christ came), a celebration of what is (Christ comes), a joyous anticipation and preparation for what is to be (Christ will come again).

Even so, Lord Jesus, come... Steve Stutz is pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

How do you stay away from stress during the holidays?

Share your tips with us, and you may become part of an upcoming feature.

Call 263-7331, ext. 236, or write to: life! section P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring; or e-mail to: jwalker@crcom.net with life! section in the subject line.

Atheists may sue to remove cross from cliff display

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Atheists are threatening to file suit to remove a 60-foot cross from a cliff that overlooks this city.

Chicago talk-show host Rob Sherman together with the group Idaho Atheists say they intend to file suit in federal court next year to have the lighted cross removed from Table Rock.

"It's blatantly unconstitutional," Sherman, a former spokesman for American Atheists, said in recent editions of The New York Times. The group promotes separation of church and state.

The Idaho Jaycees built the cross on public land in 1956 and purchased the plot for \$100 in 1972 to avoid a potential constitutional challenge.

Sherman contends the sale was rigged.

"Whenever government editorializes about religion by putting a religious symbol on public land, it creates a climate of bigotry, intolerance, hatred and tyranny against non-Christians in general and against atheists in particular," Sherman said.

Baptists asked to reconsider missionary plan

CHICAGO (AP) — Religious leaders are asking Southern Baptists to reconsider a plan to bring thousands of missionaries to Chicago next summer.

Members of an interdenominational coalition say they fear the missionaries' presence could spark violence against Jews, Hindus and Muslims, whom the Southern Baptists have said they want to convert to Christianity.

"While we are confident that your volunteers would come with entirely peaceful intentions, a campaign of the nature and scope you envision could contribute to a climate conducive to hate crimes," said a letter from the Council of

Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago.

The letter, sent Saturday to Southern Baptist Convention president Paige Patterson, cites vandalism last May at a mosque in suburban Villa Park and a July shooting in which six Orthodox Jews were wounded outside their North Side synagogue.

Hindus, the subject of a Southern Baptist prayer booklet issued last month, have staged protests in Boston and Houston, as well as cities in India.

Among other things, the Baptist booklet says Hindus have "darkness in their hearts that no lamp can dispel."

The Southern Baptist Convention, which has nearly 16 million members nationwide, has circulated similar prayer books aimed at Jews and Muslims.

Chicago will be the first stop next summer in the Southern Baptists "Strategic Cities Initiative," a plan to expand the Nashville-based church outside its southern stronghold. Other cities on the tour include Phoenix, Los Angeles and Boston.

A Southern Baptist spokesman, Herb Hollinger, said the goal is to spread the Christian gospel in urban areas — "maybe door-to-door knock- ing, maybe neighborhood block

parties." He would not comment on the letter because he had not seen it, but he said the missionaries would not specifically be targeting Hindus, Jews and Muslims.

"We're not going there with antagonism in our hearts ... in fact the contrary," Hollinger said in a telephone interview Saturday. "We have a message that we think will bring encouragement and hope to people."

"Seeking converts is one thing, but bringing in 100,000 outsiders changes everything," said Rabbi Ira Youdovin, executive director of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and chief author of the letter.

RELIGION BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-tech manufacturing company has resolved a dispute with Muslim employees over their right to pray at work.

Solectron Corp., based in Milpitas, Calif., and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, on Tuesday announced the resolution of a dispute that began when more than 30 Muslim contract employees in Atlanta, Ga., quit their jobs assembling cellular

phones. They said they were not allowed to offer obligatory prayers during work breaks.

Muslims pray five times a day, and the workers, all refugees from Somalia, had asked to take two five-minute prayer breaks each shift.

Discussions between the council and company officials resulted in the reinstatement of the contract employees, compensation for back wages, a

restatement of Solectron's commitment to diversity, and a contribution to a refugee relief agency that serves the Somali community in Atlanta.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Presbyterian congregation aims to buck the trend of new church buildings that look like auditoriums by constructing a \$20 million stone Gothic-style church designed to make a statement about God's

grandeur. The style was inspired by Europe's austere churches of centuries ago and by Gothic-style churches built by earlier generations in Tennessee.

"Our philosophy is that all of life is an expression of what we believe, and we hope to build a church that expresses something of the transcendence and sovereignty of God," said the Rev. Jim Bachmann, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church.



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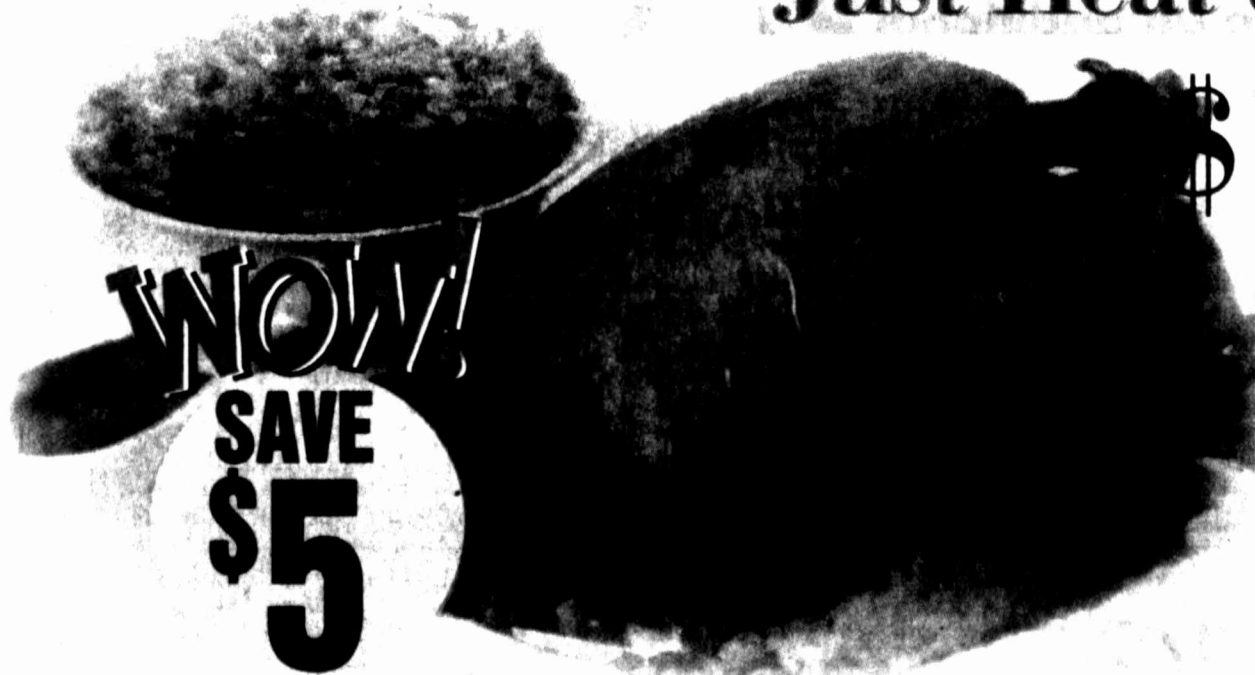
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ON THE

Television

NBA
7 p.m. — Indian
Utah Jazz, TNT, Ch

FIGURE SKATING
8 p.m. — Nation
Lifetime, Ch. 40

SPORTS EXTRA

SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFFS

CLASS 5A DIVISION I

Quarterfinals
Region I
Midland Lee (13-0) vs. Mesquite (9-4), 4 p.m. Saturday, Ratiff Stadium, Odessa.

CLASS 4A DIVISION I

Region I
Hereford (12-1) vs. Waco Midway (11-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Shotwell Stadium, Abilene.

CLASS 3A DIVISION I

Region I
Lamesa (11-2) vs. Texarkana Liberty Eslo (12-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Birdville ISD Stadium.

CLASS 2A DIVISION I

Region I
Blad (11-0) vs. Canadian, 7 p.m. Saturday, Vernal.

SIX MAN Semifinals

Green (12-1) vs. Bull (11-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Florida.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct., PF, PA. Includes teams like Indianapolis, Miami, Buffalo, New England, N.Y. Jets.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct., PF, PA. Includes teams like Washington, Dallas, Arizona, Philadelphia, Cincinnati.

Top 25 - BASKETBALL

Table listing top 25 basketball teams and their records.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Announced the retirement of OF Darren Kintner.

TOP 25 - FOOTBALL

Table listing top 25 football teams and their records.

NBA

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta 110, Sacramento 100
San Antonio 96, New Jersey 94
New York 84, Milwaukee 80

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Washington at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Miami at Boston, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.

NHL

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Buffalo 2, Washington 2
Calgary 5, N.Y. Islanders 0
San Jose 5, Pittsburgh 2

MEN'S SCORES

EAST
Delaware 65, Colgate 56
Fairfield 97, Iona 81
Massachusetts 70, Boston U 51

WOMEN'S SCORES

EAST
Penn St. 101, St. Francis, Pa. 62
Temple 62, Wagner 51

TOURNEY

Continued from page 1B

extent in the second quarter, scoring just 12 points, they still owned a 34-22 lead at halftime

With the Tigers doing their best to create turnovers in a full court press, Coahoma answered with impressive quickness at the point

The Bulldogs will play tonight at 8 against the winner of this afternoon's 12:30 game between Monahans and Grape Creek.

In other boys' division games Thursday, Grape Creek defeated Snyder's junior varsity, 43-39; Merkel pounded Midland Greenwood, 88-51; Stanton beat defending champion Seminole's junior varsity, 72-39; Abilene Wylie advanced to the winner's bracket even though it lost to Crane, 62-55; and Monahans defeated Borden County, 59-33.

In other girls' division games Thursday, Borden County defeated Crane, 73-38, and Lubbock Cooper beat Grape Creek, 69-20.

Borden County 73, Crane 38
The Lady Coyotes, returning almost their entire lineup from last year's trip to the Class 1A state tournament, got 21 points from 6-foot-1 junior post Valerie Wootan, while Adrianna Baeza added 18 points and Julie Mayes chipped in 13 more.

Lauren Abbot scored 15 for the Lady Cranes, but that simply wasn't enough to knock Borden County from the list of

GIRLS' GAME

COAHOMA 65, ANSON 54
ANSON — Jessica McLaren 6 0 12 13, Casey Watts 4 3 0 0 17, April Franco 0 0 0 0 0, Sabrina Salas 0 1 0 0 2, Brittany Watts 0 0 1 2 1, Ashley Gosty 1 0 0 2, Meredith Caffey 2 0 1 4 5, Tracy White 2 1 0 1 7, Wendy Patterson 3 0 0 6, Totals 18 5 39 59.

COAHOMA — Rachel Williams 0 0 0 0 0, Crystal Atkinson 3 0 0 0 6, Kenni Kay Buchanan 0 1 0 0 3, Brandi Hart 0 0 0 0 0, Kortney Kemper 3 0 6 10 12, Kristin Marshall 0 0 0 0 0, Lauren Nichols 0 0 0 0 0, Joyce Roberts 10 0 0 7, Suzanna Wood 6 0 5 5 17, Totals 22 1 18 24 65.

COAHOMA 60, ANSON 37
ANSON — Lawayne Douglas 0 1 1 3 4, Ann Domiano 2 0 3 4 7, Justin Kirk 1 1 1 4 6, Angel Torres 0 0 0 0 0, Caleb Martin 1 0 0 2 2, T. J. Lewis 0 0 0 1 0, Johnny Martinez 7 0 1 4 15, Sean Strauss 0 0 0 1 0, Dustin Keith 1 0 0 2 2, Chris Lee 1 0 0 2, Andrew Jimenez 0 0 1 2 1, Totals 12 2 18 37.

COAHOMA — Mario Garcia 4 0 0 0 8, Tommy Cruz 1 1 1 1 6, Tyler Marshall 1 0 0 2 2, Kris Harding 4 0 2 4 10, Steven Henry 0 0 1 2 1, Brett Bennett 1 0 0 2 2, Chase Ward 3 2 0 4 12, Brad Long 3 0 0 6 6, Cody Teeter 2 1 0 0 7, Jamey Howard 3 0 0 6 6, Totals 21 4 11 60.

COAHOMA 42
ANSON — Douglass, K.H. Coahoma 4 (Cruz, Ward 2, Teeter), Total fouls: Anson 13, Coahoma 19. Fouled out: None. Technical fouls: Jimenez. Records: Anson 15, Coahoma 4-2.

JAGUARS

Continued from page 1B

tion from quarterback back to back up receiver.

Cowher said the short week leading to the Jaguars game would help the team focus. Now, the team gets 10 days to wallow in its misery.

"I just look forward to keep-

ing on working," receiver Troy Edwards said. "We've said a lot and tried a lot of things, but we're still losing. I wish I knew a solution. I hope we can come up with one quick."

"We're professionals, we'll get motivated, that's our job," running back Jerome Bettis said. "If you have to play for pride, so be it."

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8 lead and by halftime owned a 44-17 lead. From there it was just a matter of coasting to the easy win.

The best Seminole could manage was Rusty Chiles' eight markers.

Monahans 59, Borden County 33
Although the Coyotes got 14 points from 6-foot-4 senior Justin Lawrence, the supporting cast couldn't come up with the support the Lobos provided junior post Jorge Arroyo.

While Arroyo managed just 10 points, Monahans was able to get enough balanced scoring to break open a 22-18 game at the half with a 19-6 run in the third quarter.

Monahans then outscored Borden County 18-9 down the stretch to advance into the winner's bracket.

Crane 62, Abilene Wylie 55
The Golden Cranes, fielding a roster of just seven players, got 32 points from guard Justin Carrasco but bowed out of the winner's bracket to allow players to attend the Cranes' football playoff game Saturday night.

Mitch Workman paced the Bulldogs with 23 points.

GIRLS' GAME
Borden County 73, Crane 38
The Lady Coyotes, returning almost their entire lineup from last year's trip to the Class 1A state tournament, got 21 points from 6-foot-1 junior post Valerie Wootan, while Adrianna Baeza added 18 points and Julie Mayes chipped in 13 more.

Lauren Abbot scored 15 for the Lady Cranes, but that simply wasn't enough to knock Borden County from the list of

unbeaten in the tournament. Lubbock Cooper 69, Grape Creek 20
Senior post Hollie Beard scored 15 points and sophomore guard Shannon Henderson added 13 more, as the Lady Pirates dominated the Lady Eagles in every facet of the game.

Grape Creek's true downfall came in the first and fourth quarters when they managed a combined three points.

Sophomore forward Nicole Nettles added 12 more for the Lady Pirates, while the best Grape Creek could muster was LaTisha Smallwood's eight points.

Overall, Nebraska defeated Texas against the Big 12 cl Saturday, intra-squad Associate team.

Four n Cornhuske players fro offense w mythical a released T

Overall, Nebraska p Texas amoto on b writers wh conference. The sel Cornhuske man Steve Carlos Pc backs Mik Brown. Mil six unanim team.

The p Longhorns back Major AP's Big 1 the year; Cavil, run Mitchell ar Roger Roes

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The AP s Thursday. sports w cover the B throughout states.

The other Nebraska v man Russ l end Tracey Casey Ham defensive h

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Rounding State honc Quincy M standout Da lineman D defensive Chapman.

Colorado in offensi Bedell, li Sykes and Kelly.

Missouri joined by Smith, a c Smith and A defensive a comers of t Oklahoma McDougle, man, and Calmus wer Texas A& Lechler and back Darrer Davis was Six playe their secon ance on the

Cordially Invite You to Attend our Services TRINITY BAPTIST 810 11TH PLACE 267-6344. The pursuit of happiness is a most ridiculous phrase; if you pursue happiness, you'll never find it. Randy Cotton Pastor

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Long Corn fill A team

DALLAS Nebraska against the Big 12 cl Saturday, intra-squad Associate team. Four n Cornhuske players fro offense w mythical a released T Overall, Nebraska p Texas amoto on b writers wh conference. The sel Cornhuske man Steve Carlos Pc backs Mik Brown. Mil six unanim team. The p Longhorns back Major AP's Big 1 the year; Cavil, run Mitchell ar Roger Roes Mitchell, yards and Cavil, with 95 receiving unanimous No. 12 Te son, inclu over Nebra the only Cornhuske As the t rematch Nebraska i whom t week as the year wil all-conferer the Corn losing skid On defens begins with standout, V "He's b inside wha and he's speed and pass rush." Texas co wary of N No. 21 Mik None of the "The thi guys is tha get them o UT coach s give you m The AP s Thursday. sports w cover the B throughout states. The other Nebraska v man Russ l end Tracey Casey Ham defensive h Kansas S whopping last year, with six thi Two Wil Mark Sim Jamie Rhee 41-of-43 P mous choic was the AF player of th Rounding State honc Quincy M standout Da lineman D defensive Chapman. Colorado in offensi Bedell, li Sykes and Kelly. Missouri joined by Smith, a c Smith and A defensive a comers of t Oklahoma McDougle, man, and Calmus wer Texas A& Lechler and back Darrer Davis was Six playe their secon ance on the

FRIDAY DEC. 3

Table with 24 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, USA, SCIFI, LIFE, TLC) and 12 rows (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various TV programs and their channels.

HAGAR



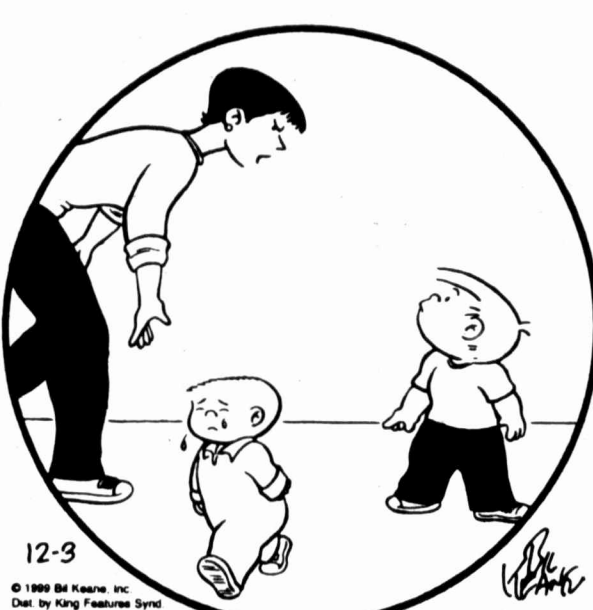
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B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



"He feels bad enough since I scolded him. I don't want to hear 'See? I told you' again!"

"NO! THAT'S NO BEEPER - THAT'S MY FROG!"

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 1999. There are 28 days left in the year. The

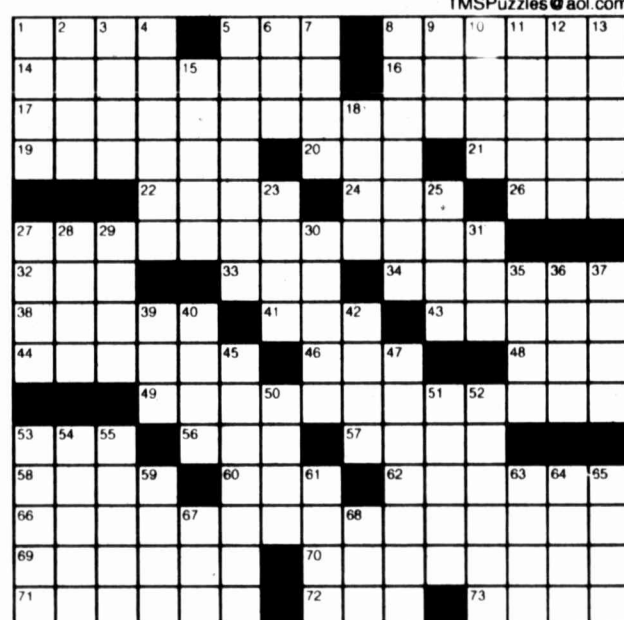
Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins at sunset. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 3, 1967, Dr. Christian Barnard led a team of surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa, in performing the first human heart transplant; the patient, Louis Washkansky,

lived 18 days with the new heart. On this date: In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state. In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States. In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio opened its doors as the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States. In 1925, "Concerto in F," by George Gershwin, had its world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin himself at the piano. In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway. In 1953, the musical "Kismet" opened on Broadway. In 1960, the musical "Camelot" opened on Broadway. In 1967, the "Twentieth Century Limited," the famed luxury passenger train, completed its final run from New York to Chicago. In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Tidal situation 5 Branch of the mil. 8 Sappho's birthplace 14 Ingenuity 16 East 17 Belmont or Preakness, e.g. 19 Discovery 20 Three-letter sandwich 21 Needle case 22 Unless, in law 24 Set sights 26 Bigwig in DC 27 Unassisted 32 Tokyo, once 33 Lon... of Cambodia 34 Chalk wiper 38 Horse controls 41 Org. of Love 43 Adhesive substance 44 Ship bunks 46 Alfonso's queen 48 New Deal org. 49 Bart's dad 53 Ginnie 56 Hair fashions 57 Wrinkle structure 58 "Vogue" rival 60 Bandleader 62 Mickey's mouse 66 Life insurance policy provision 69 Homebound 70 Bosh 71 Players' representatives 72 Ready to go 73 Week units

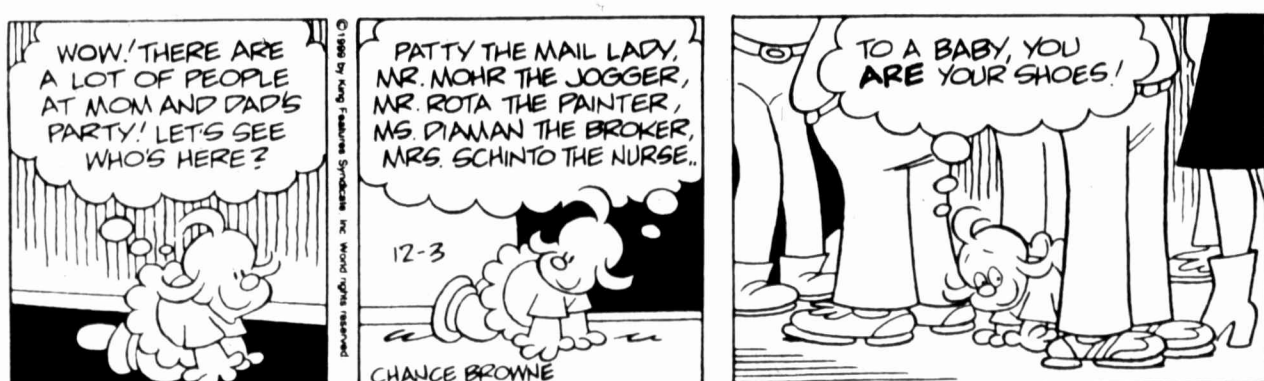


By Patrick McConville Manassas Park, VA 12/3/99

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



- DOWN 1 Archibald or Thurmond 2 Drops the ball 3 Leaning precariously 4 Water works? 5 Leslie of "Mr. McGoo" 6 Coll. sports grp. 7 Action word 8 Shoreline state 9 East ender? 10 Father 11 Pulsations 12 When to enter 13 Pewter mug 15 Thrash about 18 Heroine of "The Good Earth" 23 Acronym of a restaurant chain 25 Nothing more than 27 Croat's neighbor 28 fix (obsession) 29 Roulette bet in Monte Carlo 30 Heroic Horatio 31 Fly-fishing action 35 Scatters seed 36 Montreal ballplayer 37 Nolan or Meg 39 Final degree 40 Like broken horses 42 Latin handle 45 Some inhalers? 47 Malady 50 Morales of "Bad Boys" 51 Disfigures 52 Produced literary work 53 Newspapers, e.g. 54 Beside 55 Circumvent 59 Black in poetry 61 Rustic hotels 63 Singer Simone 64 Minusculs 65 Looks at 67 Fate 68 Female deer

Big Spring Herald logo and contact information: Reflecting a Proud Texas Community, 915-263-7331, 915-263-7335, (Main Switchboard), (Circulation Calls Only), (Fax) 915-264-7205. Publisher: Chuck Williams, Ext. 250. Managing Editor: John H. Walker, Ext. 230. Advertising Sales Manager: Edwin Vela, Ext. 225. Circulation Manager: Mark Sheedy, Ext. 240. Production Manager: Tony Hernandez, Ext. 256. Business Office Manager: Dianne Marquez, Ext. 255. Office Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, Texas Press Association and Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ferlin Husky is 74. Singer Andy Williams is 72. Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 69. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 68. Actress Mary Alice is 58. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 51. Actress Heather Menzies is 50. Actress Daryl Hannah is 39. Actress Julianne Moore is 39. Actor Brendan Fraser is 31. Actor Bruno Campos is 26. Actress Lauren Roman is 24. Actress Anna Chlumsky is 19. Actor Brian Bonsall is 18.