

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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MONDAY

December 6, 1999

## WEATHER

Today:



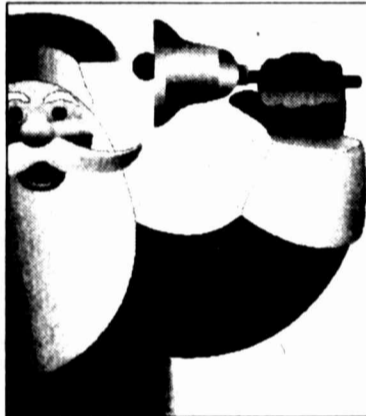
PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 30°-35° TUESDAY 64°-68°

## 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 through Dec. 14.

See **HELPING**, Page 2A

## INSIDE TODAY...

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## Wind, drought prompt county burn ban; Officials urge caution

LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

Strong winds and an ongoing drought have prompted Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart to issue a burn ban for the county. Lockhart signed the order on Friday.

The ban prohibits the burning of any combustible material outside of an enclosure designed to contain all flames and/or sparks. The ban also includes campfires and could affect the sale of New Year's fireworks.

Because of the drought and warm temperatures all year, the county has been like a tinderbox except for about a four-

week period in the spring and a six-week period beginning in mid-June.

Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan said it is important that persons observe the ban, including abstaining from any campfire or open burnings.

"The fire in Silver Heels last year was caused by an open campfire. The fire ran through 10 to 15 acres of land and cost around \$100,000 in damages" Sullivan said. The fire erupted during a burn ban.

"If you have to build a campfire, make sure to have good borders around the campfire," Sullivan said.

Before leaving the campfire, make sure it is completely out.

"If you can put your hand on the campfire, it is not hot enough to ignite the fire ground," Sullivan said.

Cigarettes create another fire hazard. "Cigarettes have special chemicals that will keep them burning longer. Wind can bring the heat up enough in a lit cigarette to ignite the grass around it," he said.

He also recommends that persons who might have been considering burning brush to wait. Normally, he said he suggests persons burning brush call the fire department so they can set up and be prepared.

"It is extremely dangerous right now to burn brush and I would not recom-

mend it," Sullivan said.

Along with low humidity, the lack of rain has caused high grass and bush to be extremely dry. High grass and bush, what firefighter terms flashy fuel, can ignite quickly and spread rapidly. Wind magnifies the situation.

"If wind is moving 10 to 15 miles per hour, the wildfire will be moving at the same rate," said Sullivan.

Hammett Mahlon, Fire Prevention Specialist for the Texas Forest Service in Lufkin, said, "If some one plans to burn brush or trash and plans for wind, winds can switch directions and create a fire

See **BURN BAN**, Page 2

## Grenon puts in full work week for RSVP efforts

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

West Texas native Nena Grenon, who was born in Lamesa 68 years ago, logs as many or more hours as a volunteer than she did when she was a part of the paid work force as a registered nurse.

"I put in more than 40 hours a week, because I like to have something to do and I like to keep busy. And I like giving to the public," said Grenon.

And her list of Retired Senior Volunteer Program stations nearly requires an appointment book to keep them all straight.

"Most of the work I'm doing now is at the Professional Building, where I do clerical work such as typing and filing notes on Medicare sheets," Grenon said.

But along with the the 40 hours or so she works at the Professional Building, she also lends her talents to other locations around Big Spring.

Grenon, a musician and former singer of the Hot Potato Band, plays piano in the geriatric unit and the medical unit of the Big Spring State Hospital two times each week.

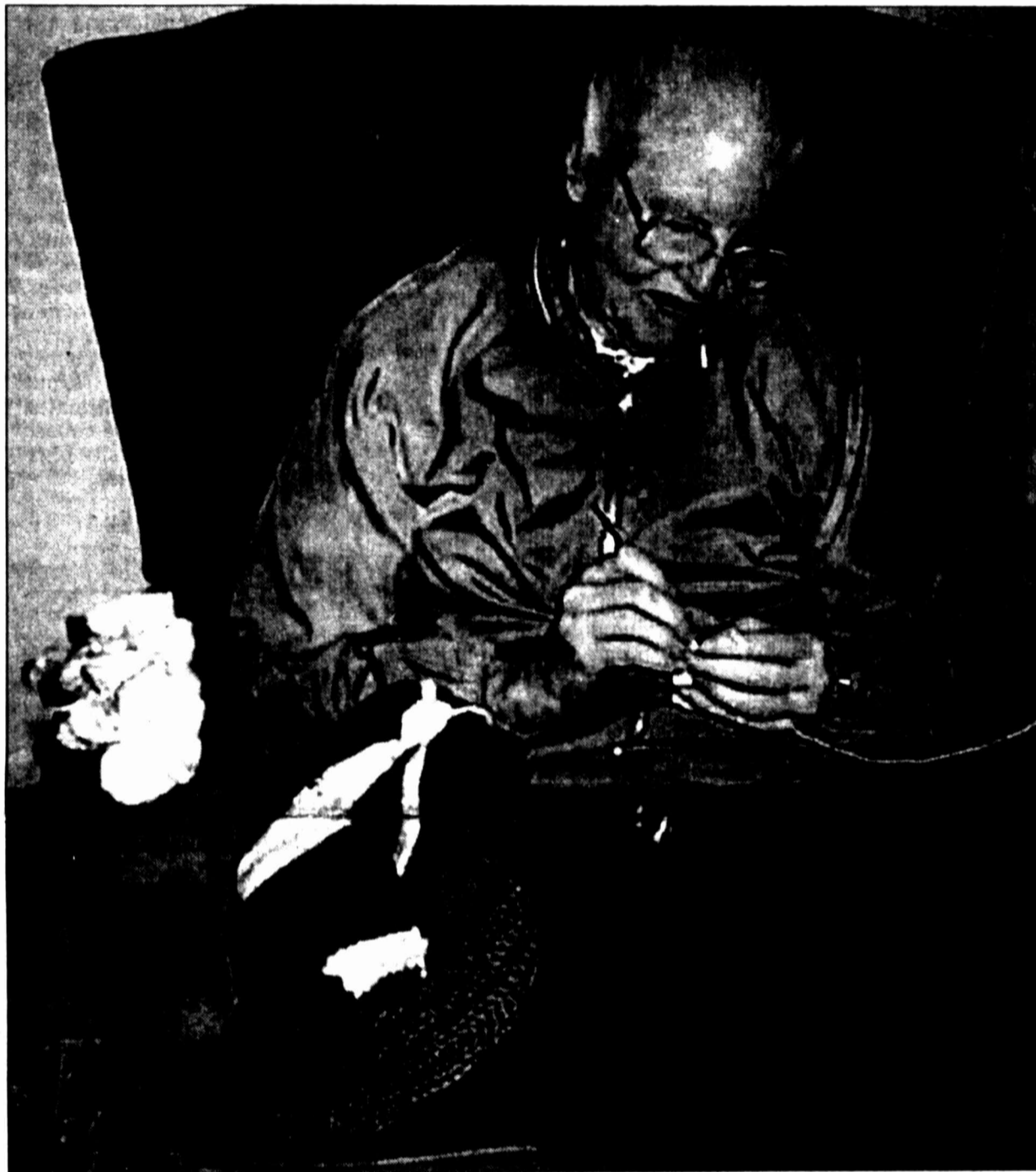
She also plays piano at the Corral, the Senior Citizen Center and even finds time to give her two grandchildren piano lessons. In the past Grenon also played organ for mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

"Every night I find quiet time with the Lord," she said.

In fact, her religious commitments include a daily meditation with a prayer book, and she raised her three children in the church. Today, her only son, Rev. Barry McLean, is a priest with five parishes in southwest Texas.

"I am really glad he became a priest, and I'm proud of the sacrifices he made. Of course, I'll have no grandchildren from him, but his calling has been such a joy and it is wonderful to see him so happy," Grenon said.

And McLean said he acquired his spirit of giving and generosity from his mother.



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Nena Grenon crochets to help less-fortunate persons. So far this year, she has knitted 10 pairs of booties and 75 caps. The booties are given to Birth Right and the caps go to RSVP.

"She has always been a person with a big heart that just pours forth for anyone in need. Her philosophy has always been that whatever she can do to brighten someone's day, she'll do," McLean said from his parish in Big Lake.

McLean said he learned much from his mother as he grew, and she extended that same gentle guidance to his

friends if the need should arise.

"When I was growing up she was the same, taking in my friends if they should get into trouble. I'm really proud of her and everything she does and the way she really helps people. She taught me to walk through tragedy in life because on the other side, there will be those who can use the strength of my experience," McLean said, who

has been a priest for 10 years.

Grenon's husband and McLean's father died when he was 9 years old, he said. That tragedy gave him experience that aids him today. Most of his work is with youth activities in the diocese and he is on the board of the Search for Christian Maturity, a youth

See **GRENON**, Page 2

## RSVP volunteers make a difference in community

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

With more than 45 volunteer stations, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program makes a difference in the Big Spring community.

"We could not run this place if it were not for our RSVP volunteers. I couldn't afford to hire the help we need to do the work they do," said Bobbie Leonard, director of the Spring City Senior Citizens Center.

Leonard said at least nine RSVP volunteers contribute to the daily operations of the center, performing such tasks as serving lunch to clearing tables after the noon

meal, as well as manning the sign-in book at both doors.

"We even have one volunteer who comes here every morning and makes the rolls and then works in the kitchen," Leonard said.

RSVP volunteers at the senior center perform the tasks of hired employees, she said, and their duties also include special occasion tasks.

"I had never volunteered for anything in my life before I came to work here, and I didn't realize how important volunteers are. Now, if I ever retire, I hope to be a volunteer," she said.

Terri Newton, executive vice president for the Big Spring Area Chamber of

Commerce, said RSVP volunteers are an integral part of the chamber program.

"They help us tremendously. They are an important part of our organization. They help with packets when we have a convention in town, and other duties they perform are necessary and timely," Newton said.

Big Spring State Hospital community relations director Billie Russworm said the RSVP volunteers make several projects possible for the patients.

"They operate our resale shop, which is a daily commitment. For our Christmas program, they supply the needs of the

See **VOLUNTEERS**, Page 2

## CASA needs volunteers to serve local children

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN  
Features Editor

An agency committed to making the voices of children heard in the court system is seeking volunteers from the Big Spring area.

Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), also known as Voices for Children, needs eight to 10 volunteers to serve as advocates for local children

involved in the court system due to abuse or neglect. The volunteers gather information about the case, talk with the child and family members, and make a recommendation that goes directly to the judge hearing the matter.

"These people need to be moved to make a difference in a child's life," said CASA director Karen Campbell. She explained

See **CASA**, Page 2



Dalton and Carol Lewis operated a booth at the Party After the Parade in the Settles Building and completely sold out of 15 pounds of chili. All proceeds earned by the booth, which was also sponsored by the Harley Owner's Group, was donated to the Friends of the Settles.

HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

## SMMC

JCAHO rating of 92 places local hospital well above national norm

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

A recent visit by the Joint Commission of Accreditation for Health Care Organizations to Scenic Mountain Medical Center earned the hospital a 92 overall score and bestowed accreditation for the next three years.

"We are very happy that we are above the national and state averages. We scored 92 out of 100 possible points, and our home health scored a 95. The two scores will be averaged,



CHANDLER

which will give us between a 93 and a 94 overall score," said Loren Chandler, administrator of SMMC.

Chandler said the state average for JCAHO reviews is 88 points, while the national average is 85. And out of 13 other hospitals owned by Community Health Systems in Brentwood, Tenn., SMMC is in the top 10 percent of those as well, he said.

"We are very pleased. We had no really significant problems," he said.

The only area JCAHO questioned was the paperwork on contracts between care providers. Otherwise, the hospital received a good bill of health, he said.

"They were pleased with our nursing care redesign, and were well pleased with our delivery of care to our patients. They especially liked that we had integrated our care from the nurses through the therapists, and that all are working as a team," Chandler said.

He said this visit brought three individuals from JCAHO to Big Spring, who then spent three days at the hospital, meeting staff, observing procedures and reviewing records.

These JCAHO members also recommended the hospital be accredited for three years, without reservation, he said.

"And we believe our community needs to know our hospital is up to par, and is one thing they can be proud of. We did such a good job they will not be back for three years," he said.

DECEMBER 6, 1999



## Graves southwest of Ciudad Juarez rekindle memories of 1998 kidnappings

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — The discovery of a mass grave near the U.S. border has stirred speculation that six bodies found there so far could be related to the disappearance of a half-dozen men in 1998.

The FBI and Mexican police are not revealing many details about their investigation at a ranch near Ciudad Juarez, where authorities believe victims of the powerful Juarez cocaine cartel were secretly buried.

But the discovery of the grave at Rancho la Campana, 10 miles southwest of Ciudad Juarez and across from El Paso, Texas, has prompted activists and residents to recall numerous unsolved kidnappings cases.

Six men were kidnapped in 1998 from a downtown Ciudad Juarez restaurant and nearby bar that was allegedly owned by deceased drug lord Rafael

Munoz Talavera — who was battling other drug traffickers for control of the Juarez cocaine cartel.

Jaime Hervella, director of the El Paso, Texas-based Association of Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared, said there could be a link between the grave site and the 1998 kidnappings.

"It could well be them. But we don't know enough about the methods, who was buried first, how they died, to say," said Hervella of El Paso.

All six bodies were found with silver adhesive tape covering their mouths and noses, while one man died from a gunshot wound to the head, according to a government statement.

Mexican investigators told the El Paso Times that the other victims may have been suffocated from having their mouths and noses duct taped shut.

Four of the victims were blindfolded, the statement said. It also said one of the men had had his legs bound with tape, with his hands tied behind his back.

Ranging from about 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, the men were dressed in "mascu-line clothing," including three with cowboy boots, one with short boots, one with tennis shoes and another with mining shoes, according to the statement.

At the time of death, two of the six men appeared to be about 35 years old, while the other four were older than 50, according to Mexico's Attorney General's office.

The body of one of the six men was found with three I.D.s, all with the same name. Officials would not release the name that appeared on them until the identity could be determined

through other means. Another body was found with a white handkerchief stitched with the letter "P."

This week, relatives of "disappeared" Mexican and U.S. citizens expect to be interviewed by the FBI as part of an investigation into scores of missing persons who may be found in mass graves in Juarez.

Family members of U.S. Navy veteran Saul Sanchez Jr. and Mexican army Lt. Victor Hugo Ontiveros — both of whom disappeared in Juarez — are among the first families with missing friends or family members that the FBI asked to meet with this week, according to Hervella.

Ontiveros, 33, was last seen training Mexican state police on the use of firearms, said his father, Ernesto Ontiveros.

"Witnesses said they saw men in federal police uniforms pick

him up, but the police denied any knowledge of him or (the) officers," Ontiveros told the newspaper.

The FBI is expected, according to the report, to bring the Drug Enforcement Administration and possibly the U.S. Marshals Office into the investigation because of possible narcotics connections.

Other mass kidnappings in Ciudad Juarez in 1994 and 1997 could also be related to the remains found at Rancho la Campana.

FBI agents began asking relatives of the estimated 100 people missing since 1994 to supply information such as dental records in hopes of identifying the remains. No new bodies have been found in the past three days of digging at the ranch.

It may be hard to identify the bodies given the habits of

Amado Carrillo Fuentes, the drug lord suspected of ordering kidnappings and killings in Ciudad Juarez, before he himself died in 1997.

Carrillo Fuentes reportedly sought to dispose of the remains by having them buried with "a dose of milk": quick lime or other chemicals that would hasten decomposition.

Carrillo Fuentes, the "Lord of the Skies" who flew passenger jets stuffed with tons of cocaine across the U.S. border, had other bizarre habits, as did those who later used the ranch.

"They had ponies here," said 57-year-old farmer Anastacio Espina, pointing down at the ranch from his shack overlooking the property. "They would bring children in on weekends for pony rides" in a corral just yards from the mass grave, he said.

## Family, colleagues mourn as one firefighter's body is recovered

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — One begged his dad to take him to fires when he was just a boy, listening to fire calls on his own scanner. Another followed a rich family tradition of 200 years of firefighting. And a third was the father of six young sons.

As searchers on Sunday recovered the first of six firefighters who perished in a vacant warehouse fire last week, families of the victims told their tales and shared their grief.

"I have three children ... who want everybody to know their father was not one who ever shied away from anything. Anything he did in his life he did with true dedication, with true spirit," said Kathy Spencer, the wife of Lt. Thomas E. Spencer, who died in the Dec. 3 blaze.

The body of Timothy P. Jackson, a 27-year veteran, was removed from the still smoldering building Sunday morning. Firefighters stood and saluted as Jackson, 51, was carried down a ladder. Some made the sign of the cross. Others covered their hearts with their helmets.

The loss of the six men were believed to be the nation's highest death toll involving firefighters since 1994, when 14 firefighters perished in a forest fire in Colorado.

In the same spirit as the men who gave their lives trying to save others, firefighters refused to halt the search for their fallen comrades and for answers to

what sparked the blaze.

Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said that while the cause of the fire has not been determined, it has been deemed suspicious.

At the scene of the crumbling warehouse, firefighters said Jackson was one of four men who died trying to rescue two firefighters who became disoriented amid thick smoke in the Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. building while searching for homeless people they believed to be inside.

Still buried inside the rubble were Spencer, 42; James F. Lyons III, 34; Joseph T. McGuirk, 38; Paul A. Brotherton, 41; and Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38.

Lyons had been rushing to fires since the time, as a young boy, he got a scanner to monitor fire and police radio transmissions, his father, James F. Lyons Jr., said between sobs.

"He was a hero on the day he was born, but today he's a martyr," the elder Lyons said. "He went into this fire to save people, what he wanted to do."

McGuirk was a third generation firefighter whose family has chalked up more than 200 years of service. A father of two, McGuirk was a carpenter until he became a firefighter three years ago.

Lucey loved camping, riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle and watching the stars with his sons, John Patrick, 8, and Jeremiah Michael, 11.

"My husband used to love to take them out on our patio and look for the Big Dipper, laying

on a lawn chair, with one on each arm," said Lucey's wife, Michelle.

The family of Brotherton, a father to six boys under age 14, took solace in the words of a fireman's prayer hanging in his bedroom: "When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage, give me strength to save some life. And if according to your will I have to lose my life, please bless with your protecting hand my children and my wife."

In sermons delivered at churches around the city, the six were remembered for their bravery.

"Lying at the base of their work is a dedication that all life is precious," the Rev. Rocco Piccolomini said at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. "They are heroes every day."

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## Curious toddler explores her way into danger zone

DEAR ABBY: We all know that toddlers can get into everything, but while I was baby-sitting my grandchildren, the little one did something I never would have imagined.

My son-in-law had taken my suitcase up to my room and placed it on the bed. Shortly after that, I missed my granddaughter and went looking for her. I found her in my room with all my pills strewn around her. She had unzipped the suitcase, unzipped the bag in which I keep my medicine and removed all of the caps! Fortunately, she hadn't put any of my pills in her mouth.

However, I would like to warn others about this and thought your column would be the best way to do it. — CONCERNED GRANDPARENT, WHARTON, N.J.

DEAR CONCERNED: I'm sure your helpful reminder will be appreciated by those who carry medications while traveling, or

in a handbag on a daily basis. Small children are naturally curious. Anything they shouldn't touch should be placed out of reach or in a child-proof cabinet.

DEAR ABBY: This year my husband and I have sent the enclosed poem to all of our children and their numerous offspring — 28 at last count. We know it's difficult to select gifts for us, and frankly, we don't need anything. We want to simplify our lives by having less "stuff."

Perhaps our little verse will help other senior citizens who feel as we do. It is original, but feel free to use it if you think it's something your readers will find useful. — LONGTIME READERS IN MISSOURI

DEAR LONGTIME READERS: Your delightful poem is well worth sharing, and I'm sure its message will be appreciated by countless people of all ages who feel as you do. Read on:

So many of you asked us (since Yuletide's drawing near) "What do you want for Christmas? What can we give this year?"

If we say, "We want nothing!" you buy something anyway. So here's a list of what we'd like; believe now what we say: Pajamas for a little child, food

to feed the poor. Blankets for a shelter, and we ask but little more —

Perform good deeds and let us know.

Or volunteer your time.

These last are worth a fortune. And they needn't cost a dime. We have too many things now, vases, candles, tapes and clocks.

We have our fill of garments, ties, underwear and socks.

Candy is too fattening, crossword books we've more than 20. We don't need trays or plates or cups.

And knickknacks we have plenty.

We've no walls to hang more pictures.

We have books we've not yet read.

So please take what you'd spend on us

And help the poor instead!

Just send a Christmas card to us and tell us what you've done;

We'll open them on Christmas Eve, and read them one by one.

It won't cost as much for postage as a package sent would do.

You'll need no wrapping paper, ribbons, ink or glue.

And we'll thank God you listened to what we had to say.

So we could be the instru-

ments to help someone this way.

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DECEMBER 6 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."  
-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

You can help make the season brighter for less fortunate

Remember when you were 5 or 6 years old, and you crept into the living room on Christmas morning and there was that really special gift? Perhaps it was a doll you had wanted, a bat and ball, or a "big kid's" bike.

Whatever it was, it meant so much to you. Why, you might have rushed outside to show your friends.

Maybe by now, you've had children of your own — maybe even grandchildren — and you have heard the laughter in their voices and the sparkle in their eyes, and remembered your own. It's a really special time, isn't it?

There are kids, though, who won't be smiling this Christmas, who won't rush outside to show their friends what Santa Claus brought. That's because Santa won't be bringing them anything this year. It has nothing to do with whether they were naughty or nice, of course. Maybe Dad lost his job. Maybe he left. Maybe Mom left. Maybe it's just been really tough and there isn't any money for gifts. It happens.

With your assistance though, the less fortunate children of Big Spring can have a better Christmas. How can you help? On the left side of the front page, in each issue of the Herald through Christmas Eve, we list ways you can make the holiday period a little brighter — and not just for children, but for the elderly, who might otherwise be forgotten at this time of year, too.

There are the Salvation Army Angel Trees, which give you a chance to purchase a few gifts for a child, or an elderly person, for Christmas this year. Other ways you can help are through Toys for Tots, canned food drives or just adding a dollar or two to your grocery bill at HEB. The means and methods can be as personal as a warm hug to someone who needs it, or as impersonal as dropping a few dollars in a bucket.

But helping out this holiday season doesn't have to mean opening your wallet or your pantry. It only means opening your heart. You can volunteer time to any number of organizations.

This Christmas, we encourage you to reach out to those who are less fortunate. Whether you adopt an angel, help pick up cans, deliver a meal or donate that old coat you thought about throwing away, your help will be greatly appreciated. Somewhere, someone will have a brighter Christmas, because of you.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Much...too much...has been written and said about throwing out the Aggie bonfire! Aggies without the bonfire is like Thanksgiving without turkey...George Washington without the Spirit of '76...Texas without San Jacinto! Tradition is the spirit of "we're all part of it"...past, present and future...and let it not be said that any of us were part or parcel of that movement that would deny future generations, regardless of which University or side of the line of scrimmage they might choose to line up on, the great privilege of this inspirational experience.

And while the recent monumental tragedy has driven all of us to our knees in a futile attempt to assuage our universal grief, this catastrophe has spawned the most harmonious blend of pom poms and Senior boots, crew cuts and shaggy hair, frat boys and corps cadets and Maroon and Orange in the history of these two great institutions. And the never to be forgotten memories that this event recalls from the deepest recesses of our minds...how the Teasips in 1947 lit the Aggie bonfire two days early with gasoline bombs from an airplane. And how that incident, that was more than rectified this year, two generations later, when the grandson (Matt

Bumgardner) of a Co-captain of the 1947 Sugar Bowl Champion Texas Longhorns caught the winning touchdown to beat the Horns. And the only consolation that old Grandpa Teammate (Max Baumgardner) and I have at this late date is the Aggies never beat either one of us. The fact is that as we stood there before every Turkey Day kickoff and that magnificent Marching Aggie Band and the Corps stood at attention and sang Pinky Wilson's splendiferous "Aggie War Hymn", I always felt was more of an inspiration to me than my opponents although they ultimately got all my front teeth.

What I think about I like a lot and I've thought a lot about this past week. Rest assured the Aggies know who they are! Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, "Every tradition grows more venerable...the reverence due it increases from generation to generation...(until) it finally becomes holy and inspires awe" You can bet your hip boots I'm one of those who's for keeping the traditional Aggie bonfire and preserving that grandiose spirit.

R. E. 'PEPPY' BLOUNT  
Longview

(Editor's Note: Peppy Blount is a Big Spring High School graduate and former state legislator.)

Religion has played a powerful role in history

Listen to George Washington, the United States' first president:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God..."

That's from the text of the very first Thanksgiving proclamation given on Oct. 3, 1789.

Now a question: Would a Congress that wrote the First

Amendment call for a national day of prayer but forbid high-school students from praying at the graduation ceremonies or at their football games?

Not hardly. The present hostility toward religion led by the federal judiciary is an aberration, and it is totally inconsistent with the Constitution and the founding of this country.

Even the 97th Congress passed a resolution requesting the president "to designate 1983 as a national Year of the Bible in recognition of both the formative influence the Bible has been for our Nation, and our national need to study and apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures."

The assault by federal judges against religious expression is a 20th-century phenomenon instigated by anti-Christian factions under the false banner that claims the First Amendment decrees a secular government. How indeed could that conclusion have arisen given the history of the country and the fact that Congress authorized chaplains for its use?

The First Amendment says what it means and means simply what it says, that Congress shall not establish a religion or prohibit the free exercise thereof. At that time of the writing, the word "establish" meant making a state or national institution of a church. That's what the writers were forbidding. There was to be no Church of the United States as there was, and still is, a Church of England.

But to construe the First Amendment to mean that all references to religion and all religious expressions should be banned from all public places is absolute and utter nonsense. I think it is a less a matter of a lack of intelligence on the part of the offending jurists as it is a lack of integrity.

To teach a secular history of the United States is to teach a false history of the United States. Religion has played a powerful role in America from its very beginning, and the historical record is perfectly clear.

Washington, himself a traditional Christian, recognized the importance of religion in his famous argument that a repub-

lican government could not stand without a virtuous public, and no public would be virtuous without religion.

"Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure," Washington remarked, "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles."

Abraham Lincoln voiced similar sentiments in proclaiming a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Tell your children it is their right to pray when and where they choose.

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CHARLEY REESE



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Phone: 202-224-5922.
  - CHARLES STENHOLM  
U.S. Representative  
17th District  
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Washington, 20515  
Phone: 202-225-6605.
  - HON. GEORGE W. BUSH  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701  
Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849.
  - RICK PERRY  
Lt. Governor  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701; Phone: 512-463-0001;  
Fax: 512-463-0326.
  - JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701  
Phone: 512-463-2478; 512-463-3000.
  - ROBERT DUNCAN  
Senator  
Texas 28th District  
Citizens FCU Building  
Big Spring, 79720  
Phone: 268-9909; (800) 322-9538, (512) 463-0128; fax (512) 463-2424.
  - DAVID COUNTS  
Representative  
Texas 70th District  
P.O. Box 338  
Knox City, 79529  
Phone: (940) 658-5012.

The Thanksgiving Philip Marlowe came to dinner

With apologies to Raymond Chandler

Philip Marlowe came to Thanksgiving dinner. He didn't eat much. Not any more than your average fullback at a pre-game meal.

I wasn't quite ready for Thanksgiving Day. Never am. It's one of those holidays that sneak up on you. It's a month away, or several weeks. The calendar wouldn't lie. The next thing you know you're lighting the candles and dicing the cranberry sauce.

I was taking the turkey out of the oven, hoping it wasn't as dry as an El Nina summer, when that famous gumshoe friend of mine sauntered into the kitchen, looking like the next-door neighbor come to borrow a cup of sugar.

"Marlowe!" I said. "This is a

surprise. I thought you'd be holed up in that dingy office of yours, hoping a big case might walk through the door. Never know you to be a man of tradition, anyhow."

"If that's a dinner invitation, I accept," he said, cracking wise.

Something was up. I could feel it the way you feel a fly on your face when you're napping in the hammock. Marlowe didn't presume to crash family dinners unless there was murder involved.

"Business slow?" I asked. We go way back. Before double-knit. I figured what might sound nosy coming from some people would pass for concern coming from me.

Marlowe didn't get in a hurry answering my question. It hung there in the air with the smell of bay leaves and turkey. He pulled up a dinette chair that had come over on the Mayflower, turned it around backward and sat. He sat like people paid him to sit like he was the decoration on the top of a tall cake.

"Is business slow?" He repeated the question, making it sound like something dirty. "Business is slower than a moonshiner's still in a county

with no Baptists. When crime goes down, there is no business."

Now it was my turn to think. I last tried it in 1972. Marlowe wasn't the type to panic, not about silly things, like statistics. Not about anything. I assumed he'd heard the same news we all had. Crime down. Drug use down. Everyone agreed it was down. They just couldn't agree on a reason. Democrats said it was because of the extra cops on the street. Gun opponents said it was tied to new restrictions on handguns. Economists said it was because everyone had a job. Republicans said... I forget what they said.

"But Marlowe," I began, uncertain as a squirrel in the road. "Surely there's something. Blackmail? Kidnapping? Jewel heists? Something to tide you over till the economy sours again?"

Marlowe pushed his fedora past his hairline and raised one bushy eyebrow. I could tell he thought I was an idiot. A friendly, village kind of idiot, but an idiot all the same.

"You telling me my business?" he asked.

His voice was as rough as a cat's tongue. I hoped he would-

n't lick me.

"Even drug use amongst the youngsters is down," he said. "They no longer think it's cool to use drugs. They all teach Sunday school and earn sheep-shearing merit badges in their spare time. How's a body supposed to prepare for that?"

Marlowe wasn't in the mood to feel better. I could tell. Some days I'm perceptive like that. So I didn't waste any more of my energy telling him to watch the horizon for crime waves. A tough guy like Marlowe is going to survive, even if property crime and murder disappear altogether. You can't wipe out a legend with a few lousy statistics.

"Dark meat or white?" I said, determined to change the subject. After all, it was Thanksgiving — real plates, cloth napkins, all the signs.

"Dark," he said. "Something to match my mood."

After dinner we sat and looked at the moon. I've seen it bigger, but only in Montana. Marlowe rubbed his belly and lit an unfiltered Camel. He inhaled, but no deeper than a Jacques Cousteau dive.

He was somewhere else now, shy of the moon, but not by much.



Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

IN MY JAMMIES...  
...BAG OF CHEETOS...  
...WATCHING 'A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS' FOR THE FOUR-MILLIONTH TIME...  
...WITH SOMEBODY WHO'S SEEING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME...  
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ESPN, Ch. 3

### IN BRIEF

#### Steers football banquet set tonight at DRCC

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold its annual Steers Football Banquet at 6:30 tonight in the Dora Roberts Community Center. The banquet's meal will be catered by Al's and Son Barbecue. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at Athletic Supply, Al's and Son Barbecue and at the high school. They will also be available at the door.

#### Lady Bearkats suffer first loss of season

Garden City's Lady Bearkats suffered their first loss of the season Saturday night, as they dropped a 54-45 decision to Trent's Lady Gorillas in the championship game of the Highland Hilltop Classic. Kyndra Batla paced Garden City with 22 points and five assists, while M'Lynn Niehues and Summer Eoff had nine points apiece. Now 6-1 on the season, the Lady Bearkats will play host to San Angelo Cornerstone at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

#### Hawks drop final game at Oklahoma Shoot-Out

Howard College's Hawks saw their record even to 5-5 Saturday with a 54-52 loss to Northeast Oklahoma during the final game of the Region II-Region V Shoot-Out in Tulsa, Okla. "It was a tough, tough loss," Hawks head coach Tommy Collins admitted. "We dominated the game, but didn't dominate the score." Sophomore post Donald "Yogi" Ceasar paced the Hawks with 17 points, while Vasilis Tsiuipiaridis had 13. The Hawks next game is set for 8 p.m. Friday when they take on the host team in the Hagerstown (Md.) Classic.

#### Jackalopes players will meet fans Wednesday

Players from the Odessa Jackalopes hockey team will meet fans and autograph pictures from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the H.E.B. store in Big Spring. The store will also hold a drawing for Jackalopes game tickets and other prizes.

#### Coahoma releases list of all-tournament picks

The list of all-tournament players from the Coahoma Invitational has been released. Those named to the girls' all-tournament team were Valerie Soto of San Elizario, Stephanie Washington of Stanton, Casey Watts of Anson, Nicole Nettles of Cooper, Sharon Ballenger of Sweetwater, Jayci Roberts and Kortney Kemper of Coahoma and the Borden County trio of Julie Mayes, Adrianna Baeza and Valerie Wootan. The boys' team was Johnny Martinez of Anson, Brady Cook of Stanton, Justin Lawrence of Borden County, Derek Gasch of Midland Greenwood, Mitch Workman of Abilene Wylie, Brett Bennett of Coahoma, Brian Morris and Chris Adams of Monahans and Merkel's Justin Gates and Adam Stafford.

#### Boys basketball boosters slate meeting for Tuesday

The Big Spring Steers Basketball Booster Club has scheduled a meeting for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria. All parents of boys' varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams, as well as all others interested in the Steers basketball program are urged to attend.

### ON THE AIR

**Television**  
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
7:30 p.m. — Minnesota Vikings at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, ABC, Ch. 2 and 8.  
**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
7:30 p.m. — Phoenix Coyotes at Dallas Stars, FXS, Ch. 29.  
**FIGURE SKATING**  
8 p.m. — ISU Trophée-Latouche, ESPN, Ch. 30.

## Florida State No. 1 in AP's final poll of regular season

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

No. 1 Florida State is looking at AP poll history. If the Seminoles beat No. 2 Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4, not only would they win the national title but they'd become the first team to be No. 1 wire-to-wire since the AP began a preseason poll in 1950. Before the preseason poll, two teams — Army in 1945; Notre Dame in 1943 — were No. 1 all season. For the third time in the 1990s, Florida State finished first in The Associated Press' final regular-season Top 25 college

football poll. The Seminoles finished the 1993 and '96 regular seasons No. 1, winning the '93 national title with a victory over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl and losing the '96 title to Florida in the Sugar Bowl. Florida State (11-0) received 64 first-place votes and 1,744 points Sunday from the 70 sports writers and broadcasters on the AP panel. Virginia Tech (11-0) had the other six first-place votes and 1,685 points. Nebraska (11-1), a 22-6 winner over Texas in the Big 12 title game, was No. 3, followed by No. 4 Wisconsin, No. 5 Alabama, No. 6 Tennessee, No. 7 Kansas

State, No. 8 Michigan, No. 9 Michigan State and No. 10 Florida. Alabama (10-2) won the Southeastern Conference title with a 34-7 win over Florida on Saturday and moved up two spots, while the Gators (9-3) slipped five places. In the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll, the top five were Florida State, Virginia Tech, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Tennessee. The top three in the final Bowl Championship Series standings, which determine the two teams who play in the national title game, were Florida State, Virginia and Nebraska. Marshall (12-0) remained No. 11 in the

AP poll after its 34-30 win over Western Michigan in the Mid-American Conference title game. The Thundering Herd, who joined Florida State and Virginia Tech as the only unbeaten major college teams, will play BYU in the Motor City Bowl. Minnesota was No. 12, followed by No. 13 Penn State, No. 14 Texas, No. 15 Mississippi State, No. 16 Southern Mississippi, No. 17 Georgia Tech, No. 18 Texas A&M, No. 19 Purdue and No. 20 East Carolina. Georgia was No. 21, followed by No. 22 Stanford, No. 23 Miami, No. 24 Arkansas and No. 25 Boston College.

## Pats leave Dallas 1-6 on road

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — The New England Patriots gave their fans something to look forward to. Now they would like the fans to return the favor. With a 13-6 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night, the Patriots snapped a three-game losing streak and revived their playoff hopes. But a bigger test looms tonight, when the Town of Foxboro votes on whether to approve an access road the team says is a make-or-buy part of its new stadium deal.

"It's great to have the emotion of this win going in," Patriots stadium point man Andy Wasynczuk said. "But this isn't just a decision of the heart for the town. It's a decision that affects their future in a lot of ways, and I think that's how they're going to approach it."

New England (7-5) moved one game behind second-place Miami and Buffalo (8-4) in the AFC East, but the Patriots have a worse division record — the first playoff tiebreaker — than both teams. New England plays at first-place Indianapolis (10-2) next week.

"It looks like we need to win the rest of them" to reach the playoffs, said quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who completed 14 of 25 passes for 176 yards but also threw two interceptions.

Adam Vinatieri kicked two field goals and the Patriots' defense — getting a boost from Ted Johnson's return from two arm injuries — held Dallas to season-lows of 203 yards and 12 first downs.

"It's been a long time since we've had a win, and it feels good," wide receiver Vincent Brisby said. "Now we need to use this as a stepping stone and keep going."

The Cowboys (6-6) failed to score a touchdown for the first time this season, getting only Richie Cunningham's field goals of 20 yards in the first quarter and 34 in the fourth.

Emmitt Smith was the sole Dallas highlight, gaining 75 yards on 19 carries to give him 1,053 on the season. It's Smith's ninth consecutive 1,000-yard season, matching Barry Sanders' record. "No way I'll be satisfied with that after losing," Smith said. "This is not a game that's played individually. It's not golf, it's football."

The Cowboys played for the first time in 10 days after a 20-0 Thanksgiving Day victory over Miami. They remained tied for second in the NFC East, one game behind Washington, which also lost on Sunday.

"We're not a good football team right now, but as bad as we played tonight and as bad as we feel, we're still only one game behind," said coach Chan Gailey, whose team is 5-0 at home and 1-6 on the road. "We still have a chance."

Bledsoe, who threw nine interceptions in his previous three games, threw two in the first half. But he led a critical 65-yard drive that ended with Terry Allen's 3-yard touchdown and a 13-3 lead with 6:39 left in the game.

And Johnson, who missed the first 11 games with a ruptured right biceps tendon, returned one day short of the one-year anniversary of another injury — a ruptured right biceps tendon that ended his 1998 season.

"The introduction was pretty overwhelming for me," Johnson said. "Being there at the end of the game and seeing the score the way it was, was very satisfying to me because it's been a long time since we've had a win."

The game's only touchdown drive began with 12 minutes left with a 10-yard pass from Bledsoe to Terry Glenn that gave New England a first down at its own 46. Completions of 19 yards to Kevin Faulk and 11 yards to Troy Brown produced another first down at the 17.

Then the Cowboys, who lead the NFL in penalty yards, were



Dallas running back Emmitt Smith, pictured here during a 1994 game, gained 75 yards on 19 carries in the Cowboys' 13-6 loss to the New England Patriots on Sunday. That gives him 1,053 yards on the season, the ninth consecutive year in which he's exceeded the 1,000-yard plateau. Allen was stopped for 1 yard from the 8. That gave the Patriots a first down at the 4.

## Carter backs up words in Raptors win over Spurs

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Before the season, Vince Carter guaranteed a playoff spot for the young Toronto Raptors. So far, he's done everything he can to back up his words. Carter scored a career-high 39 points as the Raptors beat the San Antonio Spurs 98-92 on Sunday.

"We defeated the NBA champions and got a chance to see where we stand," said Carter, whose team has also beaten the Lakers, Miami, Charlotte and Utah. "We have a goal that we are trying to reach and these are the kind of games we need."

Carter, the NBA rookie of the year last season, was 15-for-25 from the field, grabbed seven rebounds and made all eight of his free throws.

Tim Duncan had 27 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Spurs, who lost consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 26-28 last season.

"Toronto is a really tough team," Duncan said. "They're an exciting team with a good mixture of young and old, and Carter is really working on his stuff. His jumper makes him extend the floor."

In other NBA games, it was Charlotte 103, Seattle 81; Milwaukee 103, Dallas 97;

Denver 80, New York 78; Portland 92, Phoenix 90; L.A. Lakers 117, Orlando 100.

**Hornets 103, SuperSonics 81**  
Derrick Coleman scored 26 points as Charlotte beat Seattle.

Eddie Robinson had a season-high 18 points for the Hornets, who improved to 3-6 on the road and concluded their four-game trip with a 2-2 record.

Gary Payton led the Sonics with 17 points. **Bucks 103, Mavericks 97**  
Sam Cassell had 16 points and a career-high 18 assists as Milwaukee held off scrappy Dallas at home.

Cassell, who had 23 points and 15 assists at Chicago on Saturday, emphatically put his early season offensive troubles behind him with a marvelous weekend of play.

**Nuggets 80, Knicks 78**  
Bryant Stith blocked Latrell Sprewell's jumper with 6 seconds left and Denver, after trailing for almost the entire night, won their first road game of the season.

Nick Van Exel scored 20 points, including 14 in the third quarter, and Antonio McDyess added 16. Allan Houston led New York with 15.

## After topping Panthers, Rams earn first playoff berth since 1989

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The St. Louis Rams, Detroit Lions and Cincinnati Bengals ended long streaks of futility.

Kurt Warner passed for 351 yards and three touchdowns as the Rams beat Carolina 34-21 Sunday to win the first NFC West title since 1985 and clinch their first playoff berth since 1989.

"I came here thinking we could get it done," said Dick Vermeil, hired by the Rams in 1997 after a 14-year coaching hiatus. The Lions snapped an 18-game losing streak against Washington with a 38-17 victory at the Silverdome.

Desmond Howard scored on a 68-yard punt return. Howard was needed because Terry Fair was unable to play. "That's amazing," said Detroit defensive tackle Luther Elliss, who returned a

fumble 11 yards for a touchdown. "The guy gets off the plane, comes in here and does what he does."

Jeff Blake tied his career high with four TD passes as the Bengals ended an 11-game home losing streak with a 44-30 win over San Francisco.

The Bengals have won two in a row for the first time since 1997.

In other NFL games, it was Indianapolis 37, Miami 34; Green Bay 35, Chicago 19; Atlanta 35, New Orleans 12; New York Giants 41, New York Jets 28; Baltimore 41, Tennessee 14; Oakland 30, Seattle 21; Arizona 21, Philadelphia 17; San Diego 23, Cleveland 10; Kansas City 16, Denver 10; and New England 13, Dallas 6. Minnesota plays at Tampa Bay tonight.

**Colts 37, Dolphins 34**  
Mike Vanderjagt kicked a 53-yard field goal as time ran out to give Indianapolis

the inside track for the AFC East title. Dan Marino threw three TD passes for Miami. But Peyton Manning hit Marvin Harrison with completions of 16 and 18 yards in the final 30 seconds to set up the Colts' winning field goal.

**Rams 34, Panthers 21**  
The Rams improved to 10-2 for the first time since 1978 and Carolina (5-7) missed a chance to reach the .500 mark for the first time in two years.

**Bengals 44, 49ers 30**  
Cincinnati (3-10) snapped a nine-game losing streak to the 49ers (3-8), who lost their eighth in a row and clinched their first losing season since 1982.

**Lions 33, Redskins 17**  
Washington castoff Gus Frerotte passed for 280 yards and one touchdown against his old team as the Lions (8-4)

beat the Redskins (7-5) for the first time since 1965.

**Packers 35, Bears 19**  
Rookie DeMond Parker ran for two fourth-quarter touchdowns and Keith McKenzie returned a fumble on a botched punt 45 yards for another score as Green Bay won its third straight at cold, rainy Soldier Field. Parker gained 113 yards on 19 carries to help the Packers (7-5) overcome the absence of leading receiver and rusher Dorsey Levens, out with cracked ribs.

**Falcons 35, Saints 12**  
Chris Chandler threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as the Falcons snapped a three-game losing streak by routing even-more-hapless New Orleans.

The Falcons (3-9) posted their highest point total of the season.

## UConn's No. 1; Mississippi State gets first ranking

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut remained an overwhelming choice today as the No. 1 team in The Associated Press women's basketball poll, which for the first time included Mississippi State.

Mississippi State, 6-0 with a victory over Louisiana Tech, broke into the poll at No. 25 and was the only newcomer after a week in which 10 ranked teams lost a total of 12 games. All but three of those losses were to other teams in the Top 25.

Connecticut (6-0) received 41 of the 44 first-place votes from a national media panel after solid victories over two ranked teams, Illinois and Penn State. The Huskies, averaging 99.3 points the last four games, have led the poll all season.

No one else in the list remained in the position it held last week. The No. 2 spot changed hands for the third time this season, with Tennessee moving in after coach Pat Summitt collected her 700th victory in Sunday's 85-62 win at Wisconsin.

Tennessee (5-1) ended Purdue's 36-game winning streak earlier in the week and received two first-place votes. Louisiana Tech (5-1) moved up one spot to third and received one first-place vote.

Connecticut had 1,097 points, Tennessee 1,045, Louisiana Tech 1,005 and No. 4 North Carolina State 908. North Carolina State (7-0) moved up two places to its highest ranking since the week of Jan. 21, 1991, when the Wolfpack were third.

Georgia won three times during the past week but lost to LSU and slipped three places to fifth. Auburn climbed two places to sixth, Notre Dame jumped four spots to seventh and UCLA fell three places to eighth after losing to Louisiana Tech.

Iowa State and Oregon completed the Top 10. Both moved up three places.

North Carolina was 11th and Texas Tech 12th. Then it was Rutgers, Kansas, LSU and Penn State, followed by Illinois, Purdue, Arizona and Duke.

Old Dominion, Stanford, UC Santa Barbara, Virginia Tech and Mississippi State held the final five spots.

Mississippi State beat then-No. 2 Louisiana Tech 74-72 only a week after Tech won at Tennessee. Coming off a 17-11 season and its first NCAA tournament appearance, Mississippi State is getting outstanding play from freshman LaToya Thomas, the first Mississippi high school player of the year signed by the Lady Bulldogs.

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MONDAY

DEC. 6

Table with 24 columns (stations) and 7 rows (timeslots 6-12 AM) listing program titles and call letters.

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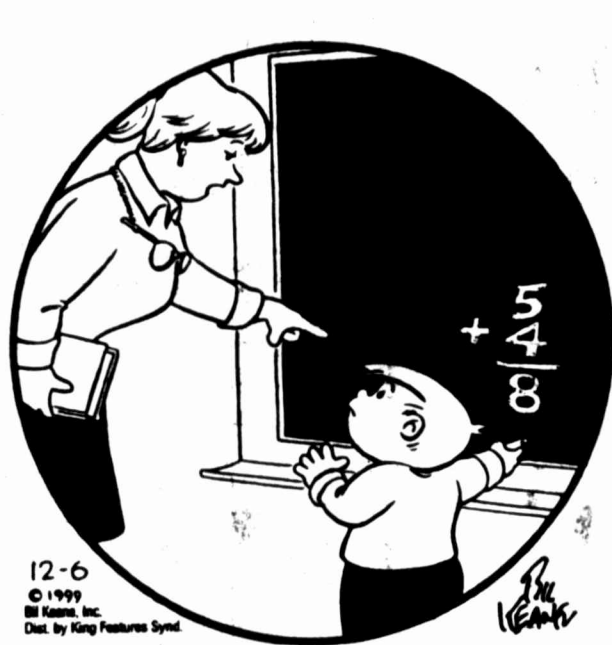
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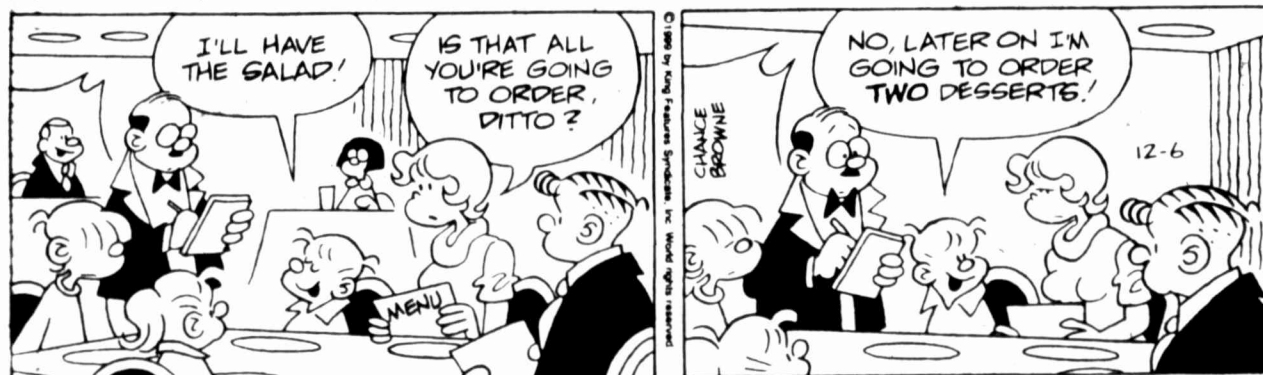
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Dec. 6, the 340th day of 1999. There are 25 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 6, 1889, Jefferson Davis, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans. On this date: In 1790, Congress moved from New York to Philadelphia.

In 1884, Army engineers completed construction of the Washington Monument. In 1923, a presidential address was broadcast on radio for the first time as President Coolidge spoke to a joint session of Congress. In 1939, the Cole Porter musical comedy 'Du Barry Was a Lady' opened on Broadway. In 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Truman. In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit blew up on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla. In 1957, AFL-CIO members voted to expel the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The Teamsters were readmitted in 1987. In 1969, a concert by The Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway in Livermore, Calif., was marred by the deaths of four people, including one who was stabbed by a Hell's Angel. In 1973, House minority leader Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew. In 1988, rock-and-roll pioneer Roy Orbison died near Nashville, Tenn., at age 52. Ten years ago: Fourteen women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life. Egon Krenz resigned as leader of East Germany. Five years ago: Former Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell pleaded guilty to defrauding his former law partners and clients of nearly \$400,000. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen announced his resignation. Orange County, Calif., filed for bankruptcy protection due to investment losses of about \$2 billion. One year ago: In Venezuela, former Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, who staged a bloody coup attempt against the government six years earlier, was elected president. Endeavour's astronauts connected the first two building blocks of the international space station in the shuttle cargo bay. Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Dave Brubeck is 79. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 58. Singer Len Barry is 57. Senator Don Nickles, R-Okla., is 51. Actress JoBeth Williams is 46. Actor Tom Hulce is 46. Actor Kin Shriner is 46. Talk show host Wil Shriner is 46. Actor Miles Chapin is 45. Rock musician Rick Buckler (The Jam) is 44. Comedian Steven Wright is 44. Country singer Bill Lloyd (Foster and Lloyd) is 44. Singer Tish Hinojosa is 44. Rock musician Peter Buck (R.E.M.) is 43.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved with a grid and solutions for Across and Down.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and office hours.