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December 7, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



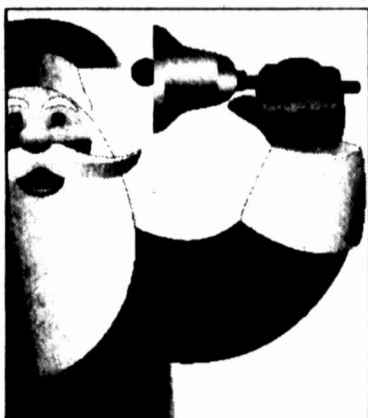
PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT WEDNESDAY
30°-35° 68°-72°

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...

Abby	11
Classified	10-11
Comics	12
Horoscope	11
Nation	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7-9
Texas	3
World	5

GOOD NEWS!
SANTA'S WORKSHOP IS
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Vol. 97, No. 35

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.

Holiday shopping season a prime time for thieves to scurry about

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

"Tis the season for shopping galore and for thieves to scurry from shop to shop praying on unsuspecting Christmas shoppers.

"Thieves want to have Christmas too, but they steal their Christmas presents," said Sgt. Roger Sweatt, public information officer for the Big Spring Police.

Sweatt gives some preventative mea-



SWEAT

sures for shoppers to follow against Christmas shopping thieves.

• Do not leave packages or other valuables out in the open. Shoppers may be tempted to put down a purse or shopping bag for a moment to look at an item but when they turn around, their valuables are gone.

"Thieves wait patiently for a victim to turn her back on her goods," said Sweatt.

• Take time to cover up purchases by putting the merchandise in trunk of the car.

• For a precautionary measure, check all the car doors to make sure they are locked.

"In numerous burglaries we have investigated, the victim can not remember if she locked the car doors," Sweatt said.

• If valuables are stolen from the car, do not touch anything and immediately call the police.

"Unfortunately, many people do not realize they have been burglarized," Sweatt said. "They search their cars thoroughly before calling the police making it more difficult for us to get readable prints. We then need to take time to eliminate the victim's prints."

• "Pay attention to the surroundings and activities," Sweatt said. Many thieves wait for the opportunity to

approach a victim alone in the parking lot.

Sweatt suggest taking the car keys out before arriving at the car. By saving time fumbling for the keys, the shopper can automatically enter the car.

"If you think someone is following you, you are probably right. People's instincts are better than what they think they are," Sweatt said. "People do not trust in their instincts enough."

• "Watch flashing money," Sweatt reminds "you do not know who is watching."

Sweatt warns shoppers to watch for

See SHOPPING, Page 2

Gift store to help families of veterans

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

At least 125 families of veterans hospitalized at the VA Medical Center will receive holiday presents, thanks to the efforts of the American Legion Auxiliary Veteran's Christmas Gift Store.

"The total value that we donate each year is about \$7,000. All these gifts are free to the hospitalized veteran, and we've done this for the veterans for at least the past 20 years," said Evelyn Redman, hospital representative for the VA Medical Center.

Redman, who serves as president of the local auxiliary, said this special event at Christmas is a traditional favorite of the auxiliary members, as well as the veterans.

"I schedule each floor of patients to visit the gift store, which we have set up in a room in the hospital. For any veteran who cannot walk here, we go to their room and bring them here in wheelchairs if necessary," Redman said.

Once at the store, the veteran may select gifts for their spouse, children, parents and grandparents, she said.

And the gift selection is similar to that of a department store, with new goods donated through the auxiliary.

"There are gifts for the whole family. We have bread makers, and all sorts of electrical appliances, clothes and things like that," she said.

Once the veteran selects gifts, the auxiliary volunteers will then wrap and mail those presents to the family members, she said.

"Every bit of this is donated, from the gifts to the gift wrapping to the postage. All this is furnished through the 18 auxiliaries we have in our catchment area," Redman said.

Every veteran's hospital in



Earl Sturdivant looks at the numerous gifts available from the American Legion Auxiliary Veteran's Christmas Gift Store.

the nation will have gift stores similar to this one, she said.

Locally, at least 60 volunteers will work toward making this Christmas brighter for the hospitalized veteran, she said.

"I've been doing this myself for the past nine years," Redman said.

The gift store will be open today and Wednesday at the VA Medical Center.

TEA

Agency: No corrective action necessary from BSISD over bad rating

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

An integrated visit of five representatives from the Texas Education Agency to Big Spring Independent School District indicated no corrective action necessary concerning an academically unacceptable dropout rate rating.

"This is an unofficial opinion that was presented to us at the end of their visit, but in my opinion they did give us a very good report and we have no corrective actions cited," said BSISD superintendent Bill McQueary.

The committee visited BSISD as part of a TEA rule that any school that receives an academically unacceptable rating receive such an integrated visit.

While on campus, the representatives looked at the district improvement plan, at the high school site-based decision making plan, and made some recommendations overall, he said.

"They said it would take no more than 45 days to prepare the written, official report, which will be available as soon as we receive it. But they indicated that it was unlikely that anything would change from their oral exit review," McQueary said.



McQUEARY

Specific recommendations made by the committee targeted site-based decision making plans and committees, he said.

"They gave us a recommendation on what the campus improvement plans should address and how to measure specific objectives within student population groups," he said.

The team found the high school dropout rate at less than 1 percent currently, which is acceptable.

Big Spring High School was rated low performing and the district received the overall academically unacceptable rating one of the nine worst in the state because officials failed to report corrected data concerning the dropout rate.

The window of opportunity to appeal the data was missed, and McQueary said the unacceptable rating will stand for the remainder of the year.

TEA rates public school districts each year on three areas. These are Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test scores, dropout rates and daily attendance. Several campuses within the district earned recognized status this year, but the lowest rating stands due to an inaccurate 6.6 percent dropout rate.

Big Spring High School's actual dropout rate for the 1998-99 school year was 2.4 percent, with a district rate of 1.6 percent.

"We have made changes in

See TEA, Page 2

Coahoma plans holiday kickoff Saturday in park

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

On Saturday, Coahoma will usher in the holiday season with its third annual Christmas in the Park, sponsored by the Lions Club.

The event, slated for the City Park at 7 p.m., will include refreshments, music and a visit by Santa. The jolly old elf will arrive - in keeping with local tradition - not by sleigh, but by firetruck.

"This is our way of saying 'Merry Christmas' to the community," said Irene LeMarr of the Coahoma Lions Club. "It's also a thank-you to the community for the support they have given us throughout the year."

Designed for families and people of all ages, Christmas in the Park will include a time for kids to tell Santa their gift wishes, and will feature a performance by a student chorus under the direction of Sandy Wallace. There will be cookies and hot chocolate for all those who attend.

This year, the Lions have decided to include a special remembrance for all those residents of Coahoma and Sand Springs who have died during 1999. There will be a moment of silence honoring them and their families.

"We thought it would be a

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

WHAT: Third annual Christmas in the Park
WHEN: 7 p.m., Saturday
WHERE: Coahoma City Park
MORE INFO: Call Don Allen at 394-4469

good thing to do for the families," said Don Allen of the club. He said he will obtain a complete list of those who died this year from the local funeral homes.

"We had some Lions members who have lost family this year, and that's how the idea came about," he said.

Coahoma's City Park features a community Christmas tree, actually two of them, that the Lions planted last year. Allen said he hopes the Christmas in the Park event will grow each year, along with the trees.

"We want to get more and more in the way of decorations, and have a bigger celebration each year," he said.

LeMarr said the celebration has had the benefit of good weather for the last two years.

"They have both been beautiful nights, and we hope for another one this year."

For more information about Christmas in the Park, call Allen at 394-4469.



Volunteers Ruth Stephenson and Annetta Arnett check gift bags that have been assembled for patients at Big Spring State Hospital. The gifts are one of the many volunteer projects the group plans to make the holidays brighter for patients. The gift bags will be given to hospital patients at Christmas. Persons wishing to assist the project may do so by contacting the Volunteer Service office at Big Spring State Hospital.

DECEMBER 7 1999

Regular American visitors to Ciudad Juarez insist it's a safe place

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — This border city once was known as a playground for U.S. college students and soldiers, a place to buy cheap prescriptions and liquor, sip a beer and listen to mariachi music.

In recent years, it has gained a reputation for brutal violence with news reports of public shootings, murders of young women, and now, a mass grave. It's a reputation that worries Mexican authorities as the local economy increasingly depends on maquiladoras, assembly plants run largely by U.S. companies, and continues to rely on tourism.

It's also a misperception, say many U.S. citizens who cross the border regularly, noting that American visitors are not targeted.

"You're safer here than in most American cities," says Hadley Robinson, 51, who lives across the border in El Paso, Texas, and crosses a couple of times a week to work on computer networks in maquilado-

ras. "If you're not tied in with drugs and things, you won't be bothered," said Robinson, who sometimes brings his family on weekends to shop. "I've never had anything happen to me here."

Last week, news broke of the discovery of a mass grave on the outskirts of Juarez. The FBI and Mexican police are searching ranches where they believe victims of the ruthless Juarez cartel were secretly buried in the mid-'90s. A former Mexican federal police officer told the FBI there may be 100 or more bodies; so far, eight have been unearthed.

"We're conscious that news like this can have a negative effect on our city," said city spokesman Javier de Anda Martinez.

But he stressed that the people buried at the ranch are believed to have had ties to the drug trade, and the more than 30,000 people who live in El Paso and cross daily are aware that the

problem is not random violence against Americans.

"When you hear about the number of bodies or people who have disappeared, people may be misled to think this happens if you're walking on the street, that people come and grab you, and that's not the case," de Anda said.

Mexican officials say the violence stems in part from the city's explosive growth. Because of the U.S. economic boom, the number of maquiladora jobs has more than doubled this decade, and some 40,000 people stream into the city each year, bringing the population to 1.3 million residents.

"There's violence like there's violence in New York, like there's violence in Mexico City," said Araceli Reveles, head of the Chihuahua state tourism department in Juarez. "Big cities that have industrial and economic development have violence, but they also

have development."

De Anda and Robinson, among others, also blame Americans' drug appetite for causing many of the city's problems. The U.S.-Mexican border is the world's most lucrative drug corridor.

It's been less than 2 years since a drug war engulfed the city in the wake of the death of reputed cartel leader Amado Carrillo Fuentes. Dozens were slain; in one shooting at a restaurant, gunmen brandishing semiautomatic weapons killed six people.

And it's been less than a year since international attention was drawn to Juarez with reports of the sex murders of dozens of young women who were strangled or stabbed and dumped in the desert. Many victims were recent maquiladora hires.

None of that will stop Rachel Newton, 28, of Alamogordo, N.M., from driving an hour and

a half to Juarez every couple of months for prescriptions, liquor and gifts.

Newton, a public defender, said she's not afraid because "I'm not going to be messing with drug dealers" and because she used to live in a gang-infested area of Washington, D.C.

"I was much more nervous there than I ever am here," she said during a recent shopping trip to Juarez's City Market, where vendors hawk everything from blankets and chiles to knockoff watches and pottery.

Some U.S. tourists say while they will continue to visit Juarez, their biggest concern is being stopped by the police, who are known to demand bribes for traffic violations.

Worse yet, relatives of many of the nearly 200 people who disappeared from Juarez between 1993 and 1997 say their loved ones were taken away by men dressed in police or military uniforms.

"It makes you wonder about the police, if you can trust the police," Lucinda Noyes, 44, of El Paso said during a visit to Juarez last weekend. "But we still came. My mother-in-law wanted to go shopping."

Others, like Analisa Sonora of El Paso, said they come less frequently or not at all because they fear getting caught in the crossfire.

Sonora, a 24-year-old college student, said she has no connection to the drug trade, but "it doesn't really matter, because you could be targeted by accident — the kind of car you're driving, the clothes you're wearing."

But de Anda, who insists Juarez is safe for visitors from "el otro lado" — the other side — said the best measure of protection is common sense.

"One thing I've always said is, I'll never get into a dark alley at night, regardless of which country I'm in."

Texas youth still on the lam after escape from jury camp

CEDAR CITY, Utah (AP) — Searchers using bloodhounds and helicopters were expected to resume the hunt early today for two of eight teens still on the lam after allegedly assaulting counselors at a camp for troubled youth.

Five teens were found late Monday — tired, cold and hungry — two days after they allegedly beat a camp counselor with sticks and bound another to a tree before fleeing into the rugged southwest Utah desert.

An eight boy was charged with assault and theft after turning himself in on Saturday when he became ill and was abandoned by the others.

The missing two boys headed into their third night in the frigid desert Monday with some survival gear, wool coats, blankets and a two-way radio. Authorities have grown increasingly concerned about the teens' ability to survive in the bitter cold, as temperatures dropped as low as 3 degrees.

"The boys are not outfitted for extended periods in this type of weather and this type of terrain," said Steve Peterson, co-founder of RedCliff Ascent Inc., which teaches wilderness survival skills to troubled youth and runs the camp the boys were attending.

Iron County Sheriff David "Dude" Benson said the search had been tightened to area of cedar-studded hills and dry washes near a hog farm where one boy had been captured Monday after trudging 30 miles.

Another had turned up in Nevada, 140 miles from the camp, and directed authorities to three others hiding near Beryl, Utah, 15 miles from the Nevada line.

"We're absolutely worried about them," Benson said. "They've done some stupid things, but they're just kids."

At first, authorities said the group only had enough food to last a day. But Kirk Stock — a counselor they allegedly attacked — said they took enough to last a month, from lentils to bouillon cubes, along with medical supplies.

It was at least the third time this year boys had escaped from the program. But never before had an entire group turned on the staff or resorted to violence, officials said.

"We've had kids run before, but they didn't do it this way," Stock said.

Benson said the teens beat Stock, 23, with sticks on Saturday, tried to break his legs and then bound him with duct tape. The boys allegedly threatened 22-year-old counselor Sunshine Fuller, tied her to a tree and fled. They escaped near Cedar City, 220 miles south of Salt Lake City.

The boys, who were sent to the camp by their parents, came from Silverton, Ore.; Plainfield, Ill.; Austin, Texas; Wynnewood, Pa.; Kildeer, Ill.; and Greenwich, Conn., and two unspecified towns in California and New York, according to Utah officials.

Young mom slain at home; police looking for ex-boyfriend

FORT WORTH (AP) — A woman who was murdered in the same apartment where her four children slept was found choked to death, police said.

Keisha Lambert, 28, was found slain Monday morning after her 13-year-old son asked someone to check on his mother. Lambert hadn't come out of her bedroom by the time the teen woke up and left for school that morning, Fort Worth police Lt. Mark Krey said.

Lambert's three other children — all girls between the ages of about 3 and 11 — were still asleep when their mother's body was found, he said.

Police have issued a murder warrant for Lambert's former boyfriend, who is already wanted for an assault against the woman in October.

The 32-year-old Fort Worth man, who wasn't immediately identified, didn't show up at his

job at a local business Monday morning, Krey said.

Lambert and the former boyfriend were also named in a 1998 police report in which he choked her and Lambert stabbed him. It was unclear whether either person tried to have charges filed against the other, Krey said.

He said the suspect's car was seen at Lambert's apartment complex about 11 p.m. Sunday.

The children overheard their mother talking to the man on the telephone about an hour earlier, asking him to get rid of a mouse she had seen in the apartment, Krey said.

Lambert was wearing a night-shirt and showed no obvious signs of sexual assault, officials said. She appeared to have been choked by some type of cord, then tucked into bed with a blanket around her chest and shoulders, according to the newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

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

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

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OUR VIEWS

SMMC's high rating result of hard work, dedicated service

Perhaps it is because we are "only human" as Christy Lane sang a few years back, but things always seem to be greener on the other side of the fence.

Take medical care for example. Over the years, we've all heard about how much better care we could get if we went to this town or that ... but the Joint Commission of Accreditation for Health Care Organizations disagrees.

On a recent three-day visit, a three-member JCAHO team awarded a 92 overall score to Scenic Mountain Medical Center and an overall 95 rating to SMMC's Home Health Service.

For the uninitiated, that's 92 and 95 out of a possible 100. The state average is 88 and the national average is 85.

Our friends and neighbors who work at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, from administrator Loren Chandler and his staff through the medical and nursing staff and the support staff are to be commended.

Their work to get to this point has been a journey and just a destination because for so many years the previous owners of our hospital were interested only in making money.

That attitude has changed, however. Yes, making a profit is still a primary concern — just as it is for us at the Herald or a local auto dealer or the folks at the radio station — but providing the best possible health care in the best possible manner is the route Chandler and his associates are taking to get to the bottom line.

JCAHO inspectors told Chandler they were pleased with the hospital's nursing care redesign, and were pleased with the delivery of care to patients.

Chandler said, "They especially liked that we had integrated our care from the nurses through the therapists, and that all are working as a team."

Overcoming years of bad publicity is a difficult process, but Chandler is steering the SMMC ship on a course that addresses those problems head-on.

The number of services provided have increased and there are plans for the addition of other services previously available only in other communities.

This visit and subsequent rating by JCAHO provides hard, irrefutable facts that the efforts of the folks at Scenic Mountain Medical Center are paying off.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

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 jwalk@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.

Holiday trailblazing ...

The news made my younger sister furious; she's usually the one in our family to do things first. If we were both astronauts, she'd be Neil Armstrong. I'd be Buzz Aldrin.

This time, however, I was first to touch the moon. Naturally, I phoned to gloat. I had my Christmas tree up and running. Bubble lights and all.

"You do not," she said. Then, "It won't have a needle on it by Christmas."

Shows what Neil knows. I once read a sage bit of advice about buying a Christmas tree. It was so obviously true when you thought about it, you felt foolish for having to be told.

The tip was to buy a cut tree early, put it in a bucket of water and then decorate it whenever you find the time. Trees lying on an asphalt lot in the Georgia sun don't get any

fresh, no matter how near to Christmas you buy them.

So two weekends ago I cranked my new red pickup, thinking how swell it would look full of green tree, and headed for the nearest Christmas tree lot. It was 80 degrees. Other eager beavers were there, too, beating the rush, arguing about which tree to buy letting their pet poodles relieve themselves on the ever-green trunks, shedding coats and tying them around waists. It was a scene right out of Furrier and Hives.

I settled on a not-so-tall but voluminous model, the way I always do. I'm not wild about leaning over a bush that's holding precious ornaments while balancing on a wobbly step stool. I prefer stout and squat trees that can be crowned in your stocking feet.

I got the tree home and considered fetching that bucket of water. But it was early, I had the energy, so I wrestled the tree inside. Then I remembered that tragic "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" movie, the one that makes my nephew Ben and me sad every time. Others laugh at us for reacting to intended

comedy the way we do, but Ben and I hate to watch Sparky try so hard to have a great Christmas, only to be foiled at every turn. There's nothing funny about that.

Almost before I knew it, the tree was decorated. It didn't fall over like last year. All but one strand of lights lit. I found the extension cords without emptying the entire pantry. By my standards, it was a smooth landing, and the tree looked great.

That is, if you didn't consider the rest of the room. As usual, I'd decorated right over the clutter.

I don't know where people put their everyday clutter when it's time for the seasonal clutter. There aren't enough closets in my house to hide even one room's mess.

It's not stuff you can easily live without, anyhow. I'm not about to sacrifice my old Lazy Susan that revolves on marbles for a brief fling with a snow dome, for instance. Where would I put my Tabasco, the efficient, combination salt-and-pepper shaker that I calculate will save me three weeks over the course of a lifetime, the dog's arthritis pills, the fresh

bottle of pepper sauce?

My stacks of magazines have to stay. I have National Geographic from 25 years ago; it's a sin to throw one away. I even buy used ones at garage sales to keep their owners from going to perdition.

And all those letters I mean someday to answer. There are piles of those, carefully sorted to distinguish between (1) old letters that need to be answered and (2) older letters that need to be answered.

I can't bear to store my music, either, which loosely includes my new Larry Cordle CD, "Murder on Music Row," stacks of homemade tapes, a catalog from the Ernest Tubbs Record Shop, a guitar and a Cajun accordion. Who knows when you might desperately need to hear John Prine and Melba Montgomery singing together on "Milwaukee Here I Come"?

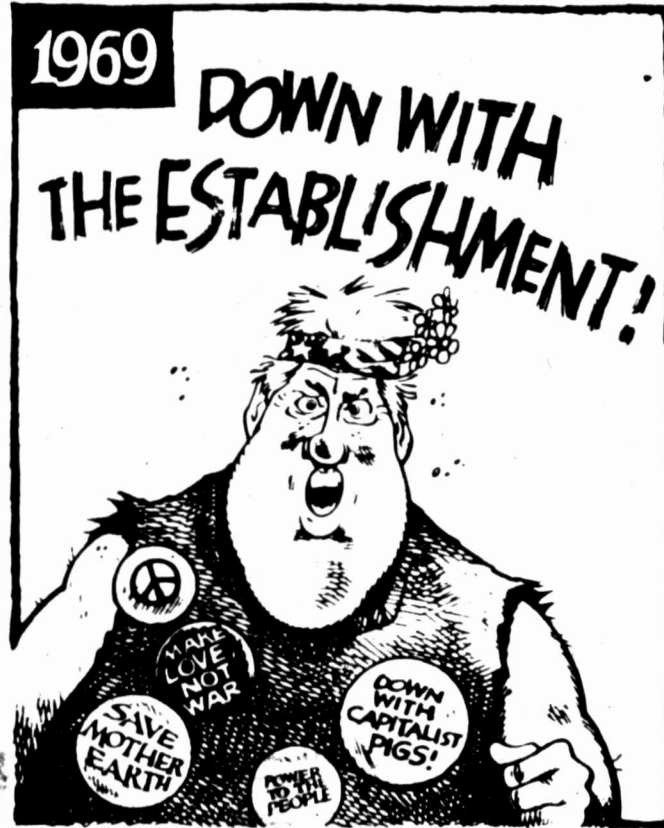
No, in my case it's best to shoehorn Christmas into the existing mix, let reindeer prance on shoeboxes full of bleached Sapelo starfish and Santa sit atop my postcards-from-foreign-lands collection.

I didn't tell my sister that.

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RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



ADDRESSES

- **BILL CLINTON**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
- **PHIL GRAMM**
U.S. Senator
370 Russell Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934
- **RAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
U.S. Representative
17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515
Phone: 202-225-6605
- **HON. GEORGE W. BUSH**
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Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849
- **RICK PERRY**
Lt. Governor
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: 512-463-0326
- **JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY**
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: 800-839-2478, 512-463-3000
- **ROBERT DUNCAN**
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Phone: 268-9909; (800) 322-9538, (512) 463-0128; fax (512) 463-2424
- **DAVID COUNTS**
Representative
Texas 70th District
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Knox City, 79529
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Holidays tough enough without college apps

As if the holidays weren't stressful enough for the average American family, winter break has become prime time in many households for high-school seniors to spend time filling out those dreaded college application forms.

It used to be a fairly simple matter. Colleges wanted to know what courses the applicant took in high school, and how well he or she did in them. Most schools wanted some information about the student's interests, what clubs he or she belonged to, and whether or not he or she volunteered in the community. And many colleges asked the senior to write a brief essay describing some significant event in his or her life, or why he or she had chosen to apply to College XYZ.

But times have changed, and for the next few weeks, millions of 17-year-olds will spend hours at the computer concocting elaborate responses to what have become bizarre inquiries by college admissions' offices into the imagination, intellect and character of prospective college students.

Take the University of Chicago, which a few years ago asked applicants to write an essay explaining "Elvis sightings" as part of "a wider conspiracy involving five of the following: the metric system, the Mall of America, the crash of the Hindenberg, Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, lint, J.D. Salinger and wax fruit."

Now, it might be useful for the admissions office to know whether an applicant possessed broad enough general knowledge to have some familiarity with not only quantum physics and American literature, but aviation history and scientific measurement as well. But asking the applicant to relate his knowledge to recent "sightings" of a dead rock star, a Minnesota shopping mall, and the fuzz off a piece of cloth would be more appropriate for admission to the nearest mental institution than one of the country's most prestigious universities.

According to a recent article in the Washington Post, the trend in weird essay questions began about 10 years ago. The University of Pennsylvania may have been the first offender in the late 1980s when it instructed applicants: "You have just completed your 300-page autobiography. Please submit page 217." One of the oddest entries in the strange essay category, however, may be New York's Hamilton College: "If you were reduced to living on a flat plane, what would be your greatest problems? Opportunities?"

And the fad may be increasing as more and more colleges try new ways to tease out personal information about students and sift from among many similarly qualified applicants. The University of Virginia, for example, offers students a choice from among several topics. A student can choose to write on as amorphous a topic as his or her favorite word, or as specific a subject as what single event or experience has led her to believe that discrimination still exists. The University admits that it included the latter essay topic to signal the "right" messages to minority students in wake of a recent decision to overhaul the university's affirmative-action policies.

Of course, by their very nature, many of the new essay questions have more to do with signaling the universities' values than with eliciting useful information about the applicant. Colleges want to be hip, cool, trendy, especially those schools that can be choosy in whom they admit or reject. The University of Chicago would rather be known as "da bomb" than the birthplace of the Great Books program.

Pity the poor aspiring Ivy Leaguer who has spent his evenings poring over his physics textbook rather than watching the latest episode of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Real World," or some other pop-cultural reference point for his college-application essay question. It isn't enough anymore to study hard and master the facts, now a 17-year-old who wants to get into a top school must be creative, innovative, emotive, chic, not to mention politically correct. So, the next time your teenager tells you he's preparing for college when he heads to the mall or sits glued to the tube, he may just be telling the truth.

To find out more about Linda Chavez, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

THE HOT TOY THIS SEASON... is "POKEMON," A JAPANESE WORD... WHICH, LITERALLY TRANSLATED, MEANS: "IF YOUR PARENTS WON'T BUY ME, THEY DON'T LOVE YOU"

Last

PASADEN. The last real contact the Lander end sign of life spacecraft, a that the \$16 can be saved

Engineers I ed all simple why they ha the probe sir the Martian a Two micropr have lande were lost.

"After four cult days, Lander figh last ace," a Cook, the s tions manag Propulsion after today' attempt.

The Mars F second space the Red Pla three month: Climate Orbi tigators and c

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Last chance to contact Mars Polar Lander passes earlier today

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The last realistic opportunity to contact the silent Mars Polar Lander ended today with no sign of life from the missing spacecraft, all but ending hope that the \$165 million mission can be saved.

Engineers have now eliminated all simple explanations for why they have not heard from the probe since its descent into the Martian atmosphere Friday. Two microprobes that were to have landed separately also were lost.

"After four increasingly difficult days, the Mars Polar Lander flight team played its last ace," a somber Richard Cook, the spacecraft's operations manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said after today's early morning attempt.

The Mars Polar Lander is the second spacecraft to be lost over the Red Planet in less than three months. Like with Mars Climate Orbiter, internal investigators and outside experts will

look at every detail of the mission.

This time, the Mars program as well as the space agency itself are likely to come under scrutiny. The pace of spacecraft development, budgets and launch rates all will be explored, said Dan McCleese, chief scientist of the Mars program at JPL.

"We need to ask ourselves what is the next best step to take from an engineering and science perspective to help us get a fresh look on how that balance can be played out," he said.

Over four days and six contact opportunities, engineers methodically eliminated possibilities that would explain the lander's silence, including a mispointed antenna, an inoperative direct-to-Earth connection and other computer safe-mode scenarios.

Efforts to reach it will continue for about two weeks, but no answer is expected. Any of those scenarios are much more

complicated and even less plausible than those already tried, Cook said.

The exact cause of the failure is likely to be much more difficult to figure out than September's loss of Mars Climate Orbiter. Of 25 previous U.S. and Russian missions to Mars since 1962, 11 have failed and four did not have complete missions.

NASA quickly established why the orbiter vanished: Trajectory data showed that it flew too close to the planet and burned up in the Martian atmosphere. By looking at navigation reports, scientists discovered someone failed to convert measurements into metric units.

Polar Lander's trajectory and condition were excellent until communication was lost as the spacecraft positioned itself for entry.

The scenario is similar to the 1993 loss of the \$1 billion Mars Observer. In that case, a four-month investigation whittled

down 60 possible causes and determined that ruptured fuel lines were the most likely cause of the spacecraft's sudden disappearance just three days before it was to begin circling the Red Planet.

The space agency has only scant information on the final moments of Polar Lander and no hope of recovering any wreckage more than 157 million miles from Earth.

"It may be that everything went right and it simply landed in a terrible spot," said physics professor Robert Park, a University of Maryland expert on the space program. "Who knows if it landed on a big boulder and fell over?"

"We just don't know, and we never will, is my guess," he said.

One critical piece of information could be acquired by the powerful cameras of NASA's orbiting Mars Global Surveyor, a satellite that is mapping the surface of Mars. Cook said NASA will look for evidence of

the lander's parachute.

The satellite's eyes are not strong enough to see the lander itself, he added.

Polar Lander investigators also will scour photographs taken as the spacecraft was being built. They could reveal whether any critical parts were not to specification — a big worry in this era of faster and cheaper space exploration, said John Pike, a space analyst for the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists.

"Those photos are to spacecraft accident investigations what the flight data recorder is to aircraft accident investigations," he said.

If a smoking gun is found in pictures or spacecraft data, the investigation could last only a few weeks. Officials will probably want to have answers before the next Mars orbiter and lander are delivered to the launch pad in 2001.

Pat Dasch, executive director at the National Space Society, a private group in Washington that supports the space program, suggested the result of this "very unhappy situation" could be a "top-to-bottom review of systems management here on planet Earth."

"That will cause a slowdown and a shakeup, I predict," she said.

Friends call Oklahoma shooter 'nice' and 'popular'

FORT GIBSON, Okla. (AP) — The seventh-grader didn't say anything when classmates greeted him before school. The smart and popular 13-year-old just went under a tree, pulled out a handgun and began firing, fellow students say.

He gave no warnings, leaving friends and this rural community baffled as to what could have motivated the churchgoer and honor roll student to shoot his schoolmates.

"He was always nice to everybody. He was real popular, you would never have known him to do anything like this," said eighth-grader Deania Pruitt.

Four students were shot Monday morning when the teen opened fire outside Fort Gibson Middle School before classes started. One student suffered bumps and bruises. None of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening.

Students returned to classes today, many brought by their parents instead of riding school buses. Officers blocked off the middle school, and all students were directed to the back doors of the high school.

Stanley Washington said he was glad his 13-year-old son Tommy would be back among friends. They sat in their pickup in the parking lot trying to figure out which school doors were unlocked.

"It makes you kind of nervous, but it's best to get back today," Washington said. Tommy sat behind the alleged shooter in his technical education class.

"You think about it — it's a little scary," the seventh-grader said. "It'll be nice to see my friends."

Police and the teen's attorney wouldn't release his name because of his age and because charges had not been filed. But schoolmates, including Max Chrisman and Shailla Benjamin, both 13, identified the boy as Seth Trickey.

Authorities said the shooter dropped the emptied, 9 mm semiautomatic handgun as he was approached by science teacher Ronnie Holuby. The teacher grabbed the teen's arms and pinned him against a wall.

Gary Sturm, the chief investigator for the district attorney's office, estimated as many as 14 spent cartridges littered the ground around the small, slender youth with short, dark hair.

Authorities said they were not aware of any previous trouble involving the teen and didn't know who owned the gun. He did not leave any notes, and his parents have refused to let him talk with police, authorities said. Officers searched his home and several school lock-

ers. Prosecutors will not say whether they will try to charge the teen as an adult. They also would not comment if any action would be taken against the parents.

Police Chief Richard Sladen said the teen-ager didn't show any emotion during the drive from the school to the county jail for a closed, 15-minute detention hearing.

"He didn't say anything. It was like he was just in a daze of what was going on around him," Sladen said.

Counselors were on hand today when classes resumed at the 450-student middle school. All of the district's 1,850 students were sent home Monday.

Janie Hammons said she discussed the shooting all day Monday with her children. She was waiting in line to drop off 15-year-old Tyler and 11-year-old Daniel Hackman.

"They should go back to school," Ms. Hammons said. "I don't want them to be scared to come back to school."

Max said one of his friends had said hello to the teen shortly before the shooting.

"He just walked right past him, didn't say anything," Max said. "He set his backpack under a tree and then pulled out a gun and started shooting."

Shailla said he rode the school bus with the teen-ager. "He lived in a very nice, very pretty home. Lots of people liked him," she said.

She was talking with friends outside the middle school's front door when she saw the suspect under the tree, pulling something out. "I heard the shots — they were going over our heads. We just turned and ran inside."

Three students remained hospitalized today. A 12-year-old girl was in fair condition with a cheek wound, a 13-year-old was treated for a wound to his forearm and another 13-year-old underwent surgery for a leg wound.

Richard Schindel's 12-year-old son, Brad, was shot in both arms. He said his son considered the suspect a friend last year but had not spent time with him this year.

"He keeps telling me he doesn't understand why he'd do it, that he's (the shooter) fairly well-liked, a nice kid," he said. "He totally believes it was random."

President Clinton told reporters in Washington that investigators from the FBI and ATF were on the scene in Fort Gibson, a mostly blue-collar town of about 3,500 that is 50 miles southeast of Tulsa.

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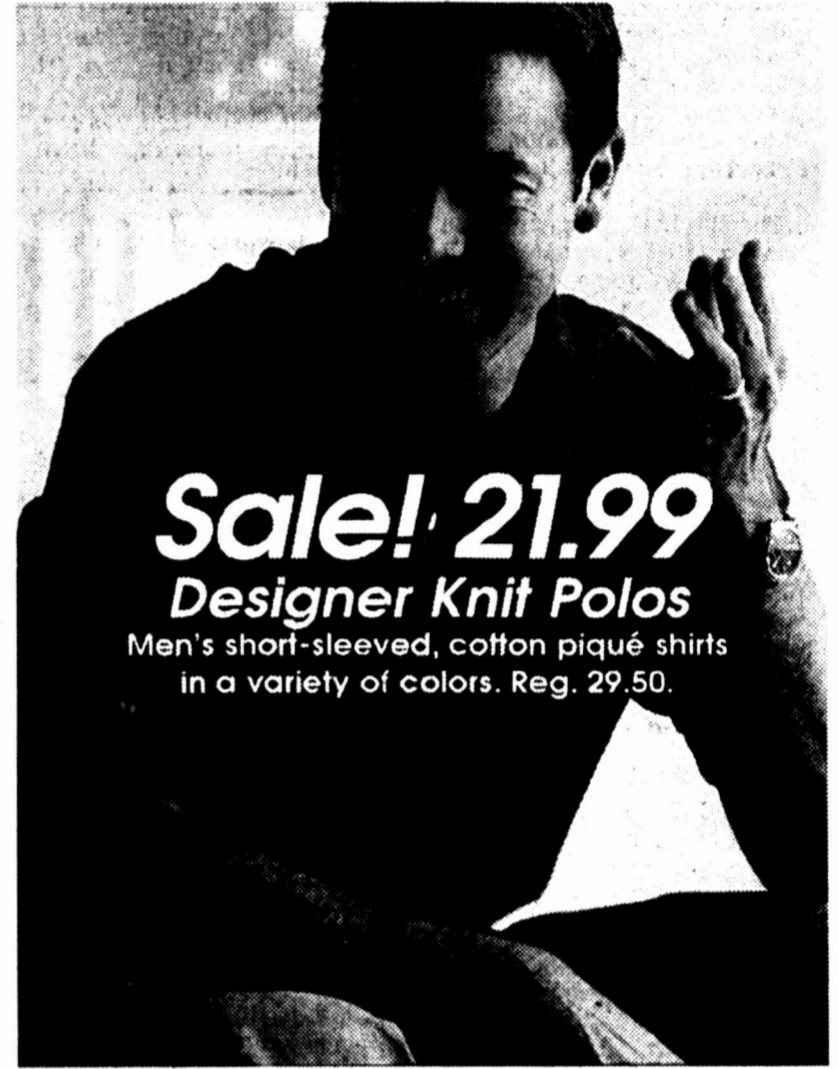
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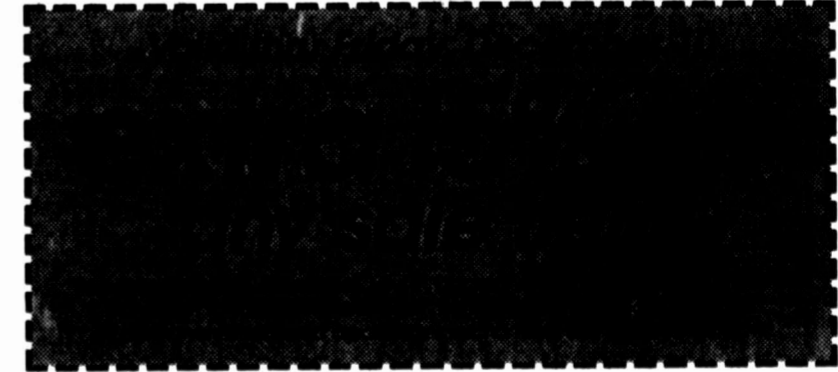
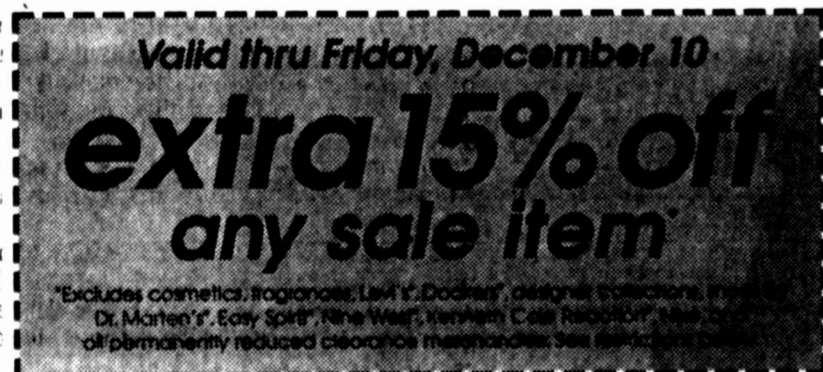
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Garden City girls post
Garden City Lady Bearkats pair of road City's young Monday.
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Vick a finalist for Heisman Award; Warrick not invited to dinner

NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Warrick's out. Michael Vick's in and Ron Dayne remains the favorite to win the Heisman Trophy.

On Monday, the Downtown Athletic Club invited five finalists to New York for Saturday night's Heisman presentation, and there were a few surprises.

Warrick, the Heisman frontrunner who fell out of favor when he missed two games for his part in a shopping mall clothing scam, was not among

the invitees.

Vick, a redshirt freshman whose dazzling passing and running has Virginia Tech (11-0) playing Warrick's top-ranked Florida State team for the national title in the Sugar Bowl, was.

"I really can't believe this is happening," Vick said Monday.

"This whole season has been great, but I never thought this would happen. It means a lot, but I do feel it should be for upperclassmen."

Which brings us to Dayne, Wisconsin's bulldozer of a back who ran for 1,834 yards and 19 touchdowns and broke Ricky Williams' Division I-A career rushing record. He also led the Badgers (9-2) to the Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl berth against Pac-10 champion Stanford.

In addition to Dayne and Vick, three more quarterbacks were asked to spend the weekend in New York: Georgia Tech's Joe Hamilton; Purdue's Drew Brees and Marshall's

Chad Pennington.

The final five were invited based on returns from a majority of the 921 Heisman voters.

"I'm surprised, but I'm honored to be mentioned with those guys," Pennington said. "Ron Dayne's had a great season. He's broken the rushing record. It's going to be tough to beat him."

Vick becomes the first freshman to be invited to the Heisman ceremony since it started being televised in 1981.

No freshman or sophomore has ever won the award, and just 11 juniors have won the Heisman since the first one went to Jay Berwanger in 1935.

Vick finished as the number one passer in the nation's top-rated college football season. He completed 90 percent of his passes for 1,840 yards and 17 TDs and also ran for 30 yards and eight TDs.

"I don't know if I've ever seen a guy that's caught the national attention as fast as Michael Vick," Hokies coach Frank Roster said. "Does he deserve it? Yes. The way he's performed all season, he does. This is phenomenal."

Warrick, who caught 71 passes for 931 yards and totaled 12 touchdowns, likely lost his chance to win college football's top individual prize after his "scam" with the law. Last week, the wide receiver admitted he probably had no chance to win the Heisman, but hoped to be invited to New York.

COWBOYS

Continued from page 7

"I know I'm dreaming," said Jones, who has made no secret of his affection for Sanders' all-around talent, "but I think he could help us in some of the offensive packages."

Dallas is in a three-way tie for second in the NFC East, a game behind Washington. The Cowboys haven't won consecutive games since starting 3-0 and they've lost six straight on the road.

Little of the blame can be pinned on the defense. Dallas has allowed 13 points in four of its losses.

ALL-DISTRICT

Continued from page 7

Jason Vaquera of Wall, Kary Gibson of Eldorado and Sonora's Andy Sanchez and Caleb Taylor; Sonora tight end Riley Crain; wide receivers Will Doyle of Wall, Dustin Faught of Ozona and James Elliott of Sonora; running backs Tom Jacoby of Sonora and Lance Mitchel of Eldorado; and kicker Alfredo Munoz of Eldorado.

Others earning first-team defensive spots were linemen Gary Gibson of Eldorado, Chris Green of Sonora and Ozona's Dustin Shelby and Ray Ramos; end Juan Garcia of Ozona; linebackers Cory Lloyd of Eldorado, Crispin Lira of Sonora and Ty Mitchell of Ozona; defensive backs Mitchel of Eldorado, Doyle of Wall, Ozona's Clay Richardson and Sonora's Graham Bloodworth and Jason Surber; and Ozona's Crawford who shared punting duties with Forsan's Subia.

Forsan's academic all-district honorees included Baker, Brandon Bingham, Drummond, Matt Mims, Morgan, Neel, Kyle Newton, J.D. Newton, Rios, Angel Serrano, Chris Spence and Wash.

J.D. Newton was also named to the district's academic all-district team in cross-country along with boys' teammates Ross Rhoton and Logan Stanley. Forsan's Queens also earned three spots on the academic all-district team in cross-country — Candace Gamble, Tonnie Loera and Ashley Pierce claiming those honors.

DISTRICT 2-2A ALL-DISTRICT FOOTBALL TEAM

Superlatives
Most Valuable Player: Ross Crawford, Sr., Ozona
Offensive Player of the Year: Bryce Williams, Jr., Sonora
Defensive Player of the Year: Jared Percifull, Sr., Sonora

First Team

Offense:
Center: Brady Lock, Sr., Sonora
Linemen: Lance Unger, Sr., Ozona; Jason Vaquera, Jr., Wall; Kary Gibson, Sr., Eldorado; Andy Sanchez, Sr., Sonora; Caleb Taylor, Sr., Sonora

Tight end: Riley Crain, Jr., Sonora
Wide receivers: James Elliott, Soph., Sonora; Will Doyle, Soph., Wall; Dustin Faught, Jr., Ozona

Quarterback: Joey Bullard, Jr., Eldorado
Running backs: Tom Jacoby, Jr., Sonora; **Brian Mims, Sr., Forsan;** Lance Mitchel, Sr., Eldorado

Kicker: Alfredo Munoz, Jr., Eldorado
Defense:
Linemen: Gary Gibson, Sr., Eldorado; Chris Green, Jr., Sonora; Dustin Shaffer, Sr., Ozona; Ray Ramos, Jr., Ozona

Ends: Juan Garcia, Jr., Ozona; **Brian Mims, Sr., Forsan**
Linebackers: Cory Lloyd, Sr., Eldorado; Crispin Lira, Jr., Sonora; Ty Mitchell, Sr., Ozona

Secondary: Lance Mitchel, Sr., Eldorado; Will Doyle, Soph., Wall; Graham Bloodworth, Sr., Sonora; Jason Surber, Sr., Sonora; Clay Richardson, Sr., Ozona; **Chris Rios, Sr., Forsan**

Punters: Ross Crawford, Sr., Ozona; **Furillo Subia, Jr., Forsan**

Second Team

Offense:
Center: Ty Mitchell, Sr., Ozona
Linemen: Dustin Shaffer, Sr., Ozona; Adam Cook, Soph., Wall; Javier Gaytan, Jr., Sonora; Stephen Beas, Sr., Junction; Mario Barera, Sr., Ozona; **Kyle Newton, Sr., Forsan**

Tight ends: Cory Lloyd, Sr., Eldorado; Cade Clark, Sr., Ozona
Wide receivers: Casey Poyner, Sr., Eldorado; Colby Brooks, Jr., Junction

Running backs: Kenny Vargas, Sr., Ozona; Dustin Dierschke, Jr., Wall; William Renfro, Soph., Sonora
Kicker: Javier Gaytan, Jr., Sonora

Defense:
Linemen: Adam Cook, Soph., Wall; Anthony Sanchez, Jr., Sonora; Ty Allen, Jr., Ozona
Ends: Stephen Valero, Sr., Eldorado; Dustin Dierschke, Jr., Wall

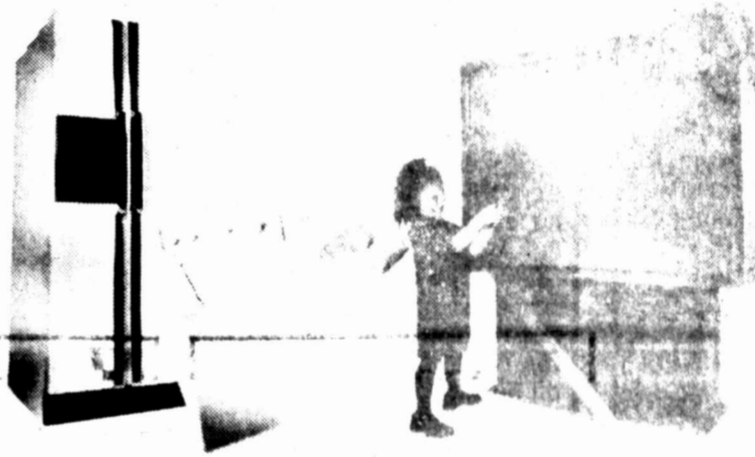
Linebackers: Colby Brooks, Jr., Junction; **Derek Wash, Sr., Forsan;** Casey Poyner, Sr., Eldorado; Tim Maldonado, Sr., Ozona

Secondary: Seth Webster, Sr., Ozona; **Stephen Beas, Sr., Junction;** Furillo Subia, Jr., Pagan; Dustin Baker, Jr., Forsan; Kenny Garzarubiaz, Jr., Eldorado
Punter: Bryce Williams, Jr., Sonora

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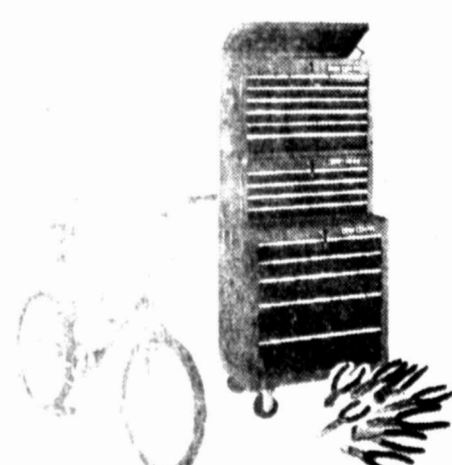
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all blowers

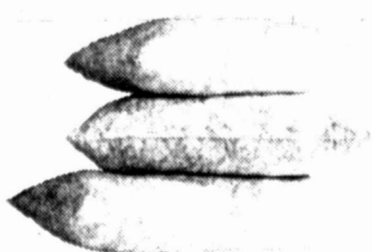


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Reg. 14.99 Larger sizes also on sale
all bed-in-a-bag on sale
all kids' sheets and comforters on sale
(in the Home Fashions department)

Sale in effect through Wed., Thursday, Friday, Dec. 8, 9, 10. All on sale excludes Exceptional Values and Special purchases. Savings apply to merchandise only. Not valid on outlet stores, furniture, furniture stores, catalog orders, Exceptional Values, maintenance agreements, Bose, Krups, Maytag Neptune, Maytag Gemini, hearing aids, cosmetics, fragrances or installed home improvements. *10% cash back is available through Dec. 10, 1999. See store for details. Excludes Maytag Neptune and Gemini products, Bose electronics, computers, Exceptional Values and water treatment products. Excludes outlet stores. **0% FINANCING UNTIL DECEMBER 2000 ON PURCHASE OF HOME APPLIANCES OVER \$399 AND HOME AUDIO AND VIDEO OVER \$499 WHEN YOU USE YOUR SEARS CARD. No finance charges, no billing and no payments due during 0% period. Regular credit will apply after 0% period. APR on Sears Card™/Sears Premier Card™ is 14.99%-25.99% APR on Sears Home Improvement Account™ is 15.9%-18.9%. Other APRs may be offered for promotional periods. APR on Sears Home Improvement Account™ may be lower. Minimum monthly finance charge of \$.50 is payable if any finance charge is due. Finance charges will continue on any existing balance from previous purchases. Sears Card, Sears Premier Card, Sears Home Improvement Account are issued by Sears National Bank. Offer ends December 11, 1999. ©1999 Sears, Roebuck and Co.

SPORTS

NFL GAMES

Thursday's Game
Jacksonville 20, Pittsburgh 17
Sunday's Games
Green Bay 35, Chicago 17
Indianapolis 37, Miami 17
Atlanta 35, New York Giants 41, NY Jets 17
St. Louis 34, Carolina 17
Cincinnati 44, San Francisco 17
Baltimore 41, Tennessee 17
Detroit 33, Washington 17
Oakland 30, Seattle 17
Arizona 21, Philadelphia 17
San Diego 23, Cleveland 17
Kansas City 13, Denver 17
New England 13, Oakland 17
OPEN: Buffalo Bills vs. Tampa Bay 24, Miami Dolphins vs. Oakland at Tennessee 24
Thursday, Dec. 9
Oakland at Tennessee
Sunday, Dec. 12
Arizona at Washington
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Green Bay
Cleveland at Cincinnati
New England at Indianapolis
New York Giants at Philadelphia at Dallas
St. Louis at New Orleans
San Diego at Seattle
Miami at New York
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Atlanta at San Francisco
Minnesota at Kansas City
OPEN: Chicago Bears vs. Denver at Jacksonville 12

SCHOOLBOY

Pairings for this week's football playoff games
CLASS 5A
DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP
Midland Lee (1-1) vs. Eisenhower (13-1)
Saturday, Memorial Day
DIVISION II SEMIFINALS
South Grand Prairie vs. ...

BOWL

College Bowl Games (Subject to change)
Saturday, Dec. 18
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payout: \$1.2 million
Utah (8-3) vs. Fresno State (10-1)
Heritage Bowl
At Atlanta
Hampton (7-4) vs. ... (NFC)

Wednesday, Dec. 22
Mobile Alabama Bowl
Payout: \$750,000
Texas Christian (7-4) vs. ... (ESPN2)

Saturday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Grey vs. Blue: 11 a.m.
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$800,000
Arizona State (6-5) vs. ... (ABC)

Oahu Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$800,000
Oregon State (7-4) vs. ... (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payout: \$750,000
Marshall (12-0) vs. ... (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$1.2 million
Texas A&M (8-3) vs. ... (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: \$750,000
Kentucky (6-5) vs. ... (ESPN2)

Thursday, Dec. 30
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: \$750,000
Boise State (9-3) vs. ... (ESPN2)

Microcosm.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$750,000
Virginia (7-4) vs. ... (ESPN2)

Peacock Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: \$1.6 million
Mississippi State vs. ... (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 31
Insight.com Bowl
At Tucson, Ariz.
Payout: \$750,000
Boston College (8-3) vs. ... (ESPN)

Circle K
Your Choice

26
2601

SPORTS EXTRA

NFL GAMES

Thursday's Game
Jacksonville 20, Pittsburgh 6
Sunday's Games
Green Bay 35, Chicago 19
Indianapolis 37, Miami 34
Atlanta 35, New Orleans 12
NY Giants 41, NY Jets 28
St. Louis 34, Carolina 21
Cincinnati 44, San Francisco 30
Baltimore 41, Tennessee 14
Detroit 33, Washington 17
Oakland 30, Seattle 21
Arizona 21, Philadelphia 17
San Diego 23, Cleveland 10
Kansas City 13, Denver 10
New England 13, Dallas 6
Monday's Game
Buffalo
Thursday, Dec. 9
Oakland at Tennessee, 7:20 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12
Arizona at Washington, Noon
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, Noon
Carolina at Green Bay, Noon
Cleveland at Cincinnati, Noon
New England at Indianapolis, Noon
New York Giants at Buffalo, Noon
Philadelphia at Dallas, Noon
St. Louis at New Orleans, Noon
San Diego at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.
Miami at New York Jets, 3:05 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at San Francisco, 3:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 13
Denver at Jacksonville, 8 p.m.

NFL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pct., PF, PA. Includes American and National Conferences.

CLASS 3A

CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
Championship
Liberty Elyau (13-1) vs. Mathis (12-2), 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston.
Semifinals
Crane (14-0) vs. Commerce (14-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Shotwell Stadium, Houston.
Robinson (11-3) vs. Seely (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Kyle Field, College Station.
CLASS 2A
DIVISION I
Championship
Boyd (14-0) vs. Mart (14-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Pennington Field, Bedford.
Semifinals
Stratford (12-2) vs. Celina (14-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Vernon.
Elyvan Fields (13-1) vs. Refugio (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston.
CLASS 1A
SEMIFINALS
Wheeler (13-0) vs. Aspermont (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wylie Stadium, Abilene.
Detroit (13-0) vs. Bartlett (13-1), 7 p.m. Saturday, Pennington Field, Bedford.
SIX-MAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Groom (13-1) vs. Gordon (13-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Sweetwater.

CLASS 1A

CLASS 1A
SEMIFINALS
Wheeler (13-0) vs. Aspermont (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wylie Stadium, Abilene.
Detroit (13-0) vs. Bartlett (13-1), 7 p.m. Saturday, Pennington Field, Bedford.
SIX-MAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Groom (13-1) vs. Gordon (13-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Sweetwater.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
NEW YORK YANKEES—Re-signed RHP David Cone to a one-year contract.
SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms with OF Jay Buhner on a one-year contract. Exercised 2002 option on LHP Jamie Moyer.
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Named Scott Colbaugh manager of High Desert of the California League.
ATLANTA BRAVES—Claimed RHP Rafael Medina off waivers from Florida. Designated C Fernando Lumar for assignment.
FLORIDA MARLINS—Promoted Ron Colangelo to vice president of communications and broadcasting. Named Eric Carrington director of media relations.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Signed F Bill Curley.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Agreed to terms with F Glenn Robinson on a one-year contract extension through the 2004-2005 season.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Injured WR Leslie Shepherd on the injured reserve list.
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Waived DT Antonio Dingle and WR Keith Crawford.

NBA

Monday's Games
Denver 94, Philadelphia 77
New Jersey 109, Sacramento 95
Houston 102, Vancouver 99
Utah 102, Washington 96
Miami 99, L.A. Clippers 91
Today's Games
Cleveland at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Golden State at New York, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Houston at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Denver at Boston, 6 p.m.
Golden State at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix 3, Dallas 2
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 9 p.m.

NCAA - MEN

Monday's Games
Georgetown 78, Howard 37
Long Island U. 62, Colgate 58
Maine 81, Troy St. 80
New York 72, Denver 57
Towson 59, Lafayette 57
UMass 52, Villanova 51
Yale 48, Army 42
Today's Games
Cincinnati at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Golden State at New York, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Houston at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Denver at Boston, 6 p.m.
Golden State at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix 3, Dallas 2
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 9 p.m.

TOP 25 - WOMEN

Table with columns: Rank, Team, Record. Lists top 25 women's college basketball teams.

SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFFS

Pairings for this week's high school football playoff games:
CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
CHAMPIONSHIP
Midland Lee (14-0) vs. Aldine Eisenhower (13-1), 12:07 p.m. Saturday, Memorial Stadium, Austin.
DIVISION II
SEMIFINALS
South Grand Prairie (13-1) vs. Garland (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving.
7 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving.
SEMIFINALS
Stephenville (14-0) vs. Ennis (13-1), 1 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving.
Port Neches Groves vs. Schertz Clemens (14-0), 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Kyle Field, College Station.
CLASS 4A
DIVISION I
CHAMPIONSHIP
Hereford (13-1) vs. Texas City (13-0), 7 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving.

BOWL SCHEDULE

College Bowl Games
(Subject to change)
Saturday, Dec. 18
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payout: \$1.2 million
Utah (8-3) vs. Fresno State (8-4), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Heritage Bowl
At Atlanta
Hampton (7-4) vs. SWAC champion, 11:30 a.m. (NBC)
Wednesday, Dec. 22
Mobile Alabama Bowl
Payout: \$750,000
Texas Christian (7-4) vs. East Carolina (9-2), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Saturday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Gray vs. Blue, 11 a.m. (ABC)
Alpha Bowl
At Honolulu
Arizona State (6-5) vs. Wake Forest (6-5), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Ohio Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$800,000
Oregon State (7-4) vs. Hawaii (8-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payout: \$750,000
Marshall (12-0) vs. Brigham Young (8-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$1.2 million
Texas A&M (8-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: \$750,000
Kentucky (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$1.8 million
Kansas State (10-1) vs. Washington (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 30
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: \$750,000
Borise State (9-3) vs. Louisville (7-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN2)
Micropac.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$750,000
Virginia (7-4) vs. Illinois (7-4), 6 p.m. (TBS)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: \$1.8 million
Mississippi State (9-2) vs. Clemson (6-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 31
Insight.com Bowl
At Tucson, Ariz.
Payout: \$750,000
Boston College (8-3) vs. Colorado (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

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

HOW TO PLAY
Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter. To enter, clip along dotted line, then place game entry in POWER POINTS container at co-sponsor's retail outlet(s). Entrants must list name, address and phone number below.
LIMIT: You may enter only once weekly
DEADLINE: 2 P.M. FRIDAY
TIEBREAKER 1 Total points scored (both teams) in COWBOYS game
TIEBREAKER 2 Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game
THIS WEEK'S GAMES
Arizona at Washington NY Giants at Buffalo
Atlanta at San Francisco Philadelphia at Dallas
Baltimore at Pittsburgh St. Louis at New Orleans
Carolina at Green Bay San Diego at Seattle
Cleveland at Cincinnati Minnesota at Kansas City
Detroit at Tampa Bay Denver at Jacksonville
Miami at NY Jets
New England at Indianapolis

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

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DECEMBER 7 1999

TUESDAY

DEC. 7

Table with 20 columns (KMID 2, KPEJ 3, KERA 5, FAM 6, KOSA 7, WFAA 8, KWES 9, WTBS 11, UNI 13, DISN 14, NASH 15, TMC 16, SHOW 20, HBO 22, KMLM 24, A&E 25, DISC 26, TNT 28, USA 38, SCIFI 39, LIFE 40, TLC 41) and 12 rows of program listings.

HAGAR



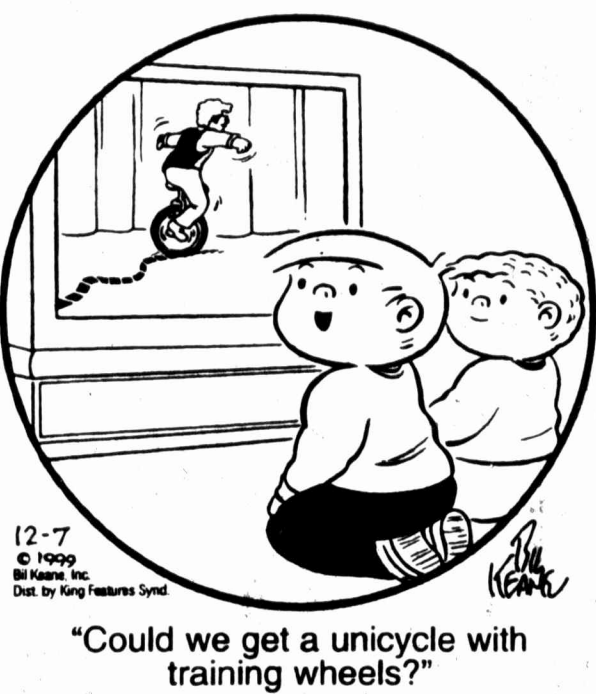
BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



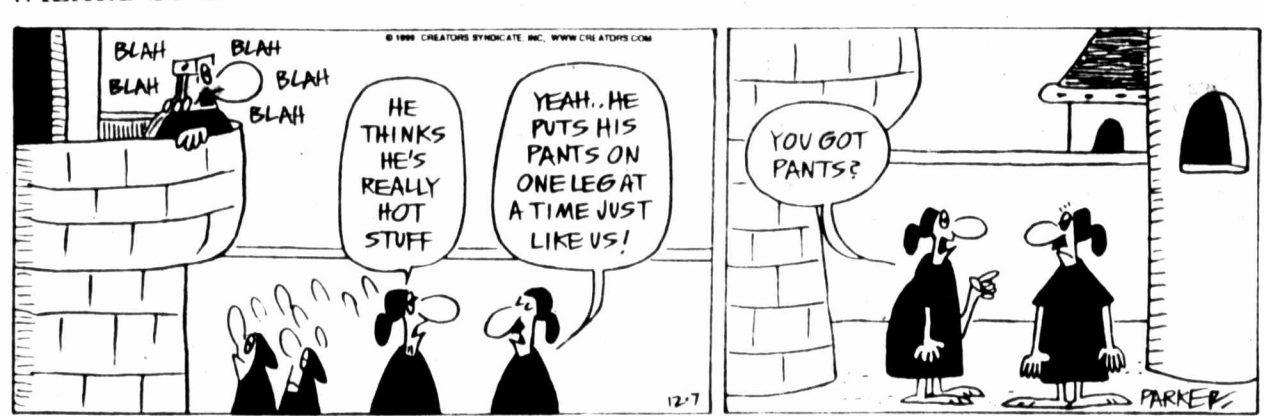
GEECH



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 1999. There are 24 days left in the year.

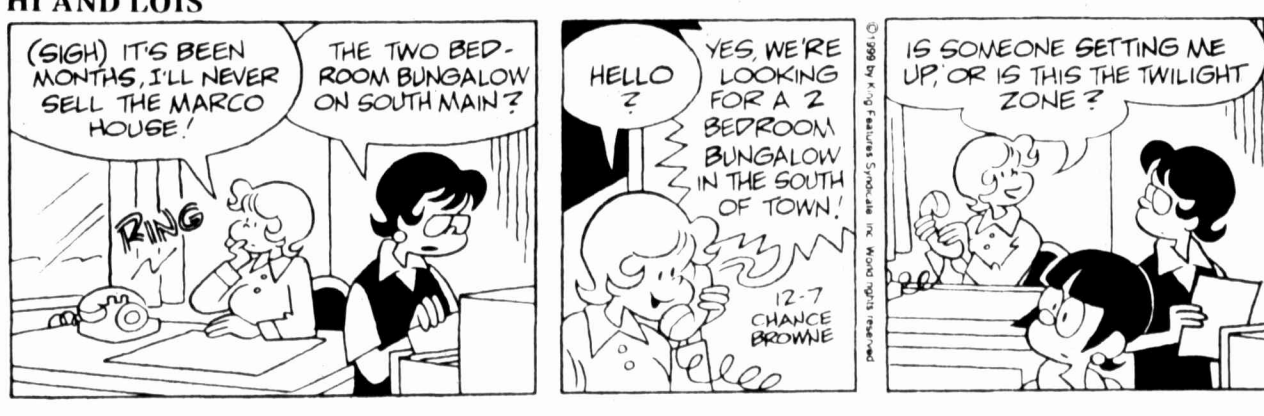
WIZARD OF ID



THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

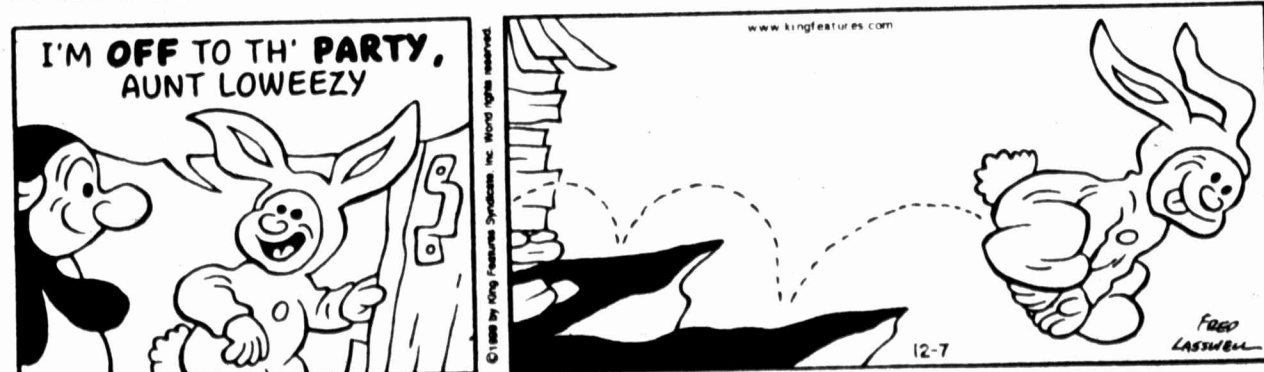
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



Monday's Puzzle Solved grid with solutions for the crossword puzzle.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and staff list.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On this date: In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States. In 1836, Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the United States. In 1842, the New York Philharmonic gave its first concert. In 1946, fire broke out at the Winecoff Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Winecoff. In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral. In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Junior became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas. In 1985, retired Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart died in Hanover, N.H., at age 70. In 1987, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Reagan. In 1988, a major earthquake in the Soviet Union devastated northern Armenia; official estimates put the death toll at 25,000. Ten years ago: East Germany's Communist Party agreed to cooperate with the opposition in paving the way for free elections and a revised constitution. Five years ago: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Gaza City, pledged to protect Israelis from militant extremists. One year ago: On the eve of historic hearings, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde said there was a "compelling case" for impeaching President Clinton. Attorney General Janet Reno declined to seek an independent counsel investigation of President Clinton over 1996 campaign financing. Today's Birthdays: Actor Eli Wallach is 84. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 68. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 67. Senator Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 62. ABC News anchorwoman Carole Simpson is 59. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Johnny Bench is 52. Country singer Gary Morris is 51. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 50. Actress Priscilla Barnes is 44. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Larry Bird is 43. "Tonight Show" announcer Edd (cq) Hall is 41. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 41. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 33. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 24.