

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

THURSDAY

December 9, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

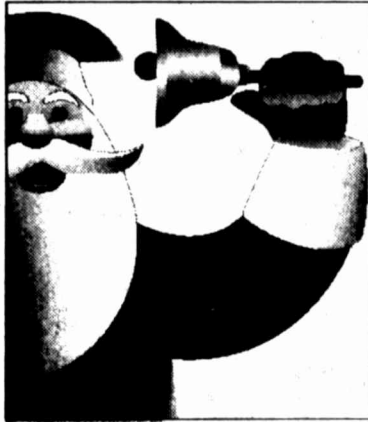
TONIGHT
23°-25°

FRIDAY
58°-62°

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.

INSIDE TODAY...

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A REAL WRITER WOULD BULLET POINT HIS LIST.



shopping days 'til Christmas
Sponsored by
BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 97, No. 37

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.

More than 16,000 yellow voter registration cards in the mail

By JOHN H. WALKER
Editor

The first of more than 16,000 bright yellow voter registration cards started being received by Howard County residents on Wednesday, according to tax assessor/collector Kathy Sayles.



SAYLES

"We have 18,751 persons on the voter registrations rolls, but 2,027 are in the suspense category," she said.

The suspense category is for voters whose registration cards have been returned to the registrar or for those persons who might have moved, but not made a change in their registration.

"After a registration card is returned to us, or if we know a person has moved away or is no longer here, they are placed in the suspense file," she explained. "Once they are in the suspense file, if the registration

is not updated, we can remove them from the voter rolls on Nov. 30 after two federal elections have passed."

Sayles said persons on the suspense roll may still vote, but must update their registration at that time.

The new card replaces the light blue cards voters have been using. On the card, the voter's card number, gender, date of birth and precinct are identified.

The first time voters will be required to use the bright yellow card will be on Saturday, March 17 in the Republican and

Democratic primaries.

County Clerk Donna Wright has said officials in the Secretary of State's office have told county election officials to expect a large voter turnout, primarily because of the presidential candidacy of Gov. George W. Bush.

"They (secretary of state's office) are predicting March 2000 elections to be a big one. They told us to be sure and order plenty of ballots. I hope they're right," county clerk Donna Wright said in an earlier story.

Local offices up for election

include the county sheriff's seat, held by Bill Jennings; the district attorney's seat, held by Hardy Wilkerson; county tax assessor-collector, held by Sayles; county attorney, held by Mike Thomas; and the unexpired term of county treasurer, currently held by Teresa Thomas.

Two commissioner's seats are up: Precinct 1, occupied by Emma Brown, and Precinct 3, held by Bill Crooker. Also up for election is Bennie Green's justice of the peace seat. All constables are on the ballot as well.

Local resident pushing Senior Angel Tree adoptions

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

More than 100 senior citizens on the Salvation Army Senior Angel Tree have yet to be adopted, and Mary Frances Malone, a local resident, began burning up her telephone lines when she learned of their plight.

"We've got to take care of these senior angels. I'm calling all Big Springers to come forth and adopt these seniors, who are so vital to our community and so very important to our lives," Malone said.



MALONE

The Salvation Army Senior Angel Tree is located at the Big Spring Herald. The newspaper always requests the senior tree, as a service to the community and to help honor special senior citizens in life.

"People always think about kids at Christmas, but we were all kids at one time. Just because someone has been a member of this community and served this community and they find themselves older and in need of help doesn't mean they should be overlooked because of bright eyes and giggles," said Herald managing editor John Walker, who requests the senior angel tree be located at the newspaper each year.

Walker said the idea to position the senior tree at the newspaper came from Lifestyles editor Debbie Jensen.

"She went out to cover a story about two years ago, and came back telling me about a senior tree she had seen that was filled with cards that had not been adopted. She thought this was a good project for us, and I agreed," said Walker.

Malone said when she visited the Herald Tuesday and found the Christmas tree, which sits right inside the front door, still laden with senior angel cards, she knew she wanted to take action.

She immediately went home and began calling her friends.



Margy Bradberry Thompson, chief juvenile probation officer, selects an angel from the Salvation Army Senior Angel Tree. The tree, laden with cards containing the names of seniors yet to be adopted, is located at the front of the Big Spring Herald.

"This is near and dear to my heart because of my memories of my own mother and father, especially at this time of year. Our senior angels are so important to our lives, and if it were not for our seniors, we would

not be here today," she said. Malone said if anyone is hesitant about adopting a senior angel because they cannot do the necessary shopping, a donation to the Salvation Army specifically mentioning the

senior angel tree project will also contribute, she said.

"This is not so much about giving a gift as it is about letting our seniors know how

See ANGELS, Page 2A

Hangar 25 gets \$115k TxDOT grant

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Hangar-25 received approval from the Texas Department of Transportation for a \$115,000 enhancement grant that will be used to landscape the museum and build display cabinets.

"We are so excited. And we'll do what we are required to do with the grant, that is landscaping and sidewalks, and build interior display cases," said McMahon-Wrinkle. Airport Manager Nelda Reagan.

The grant calls for a 20 percent match by Hangar-25, funds which have been raised. The grant will cover 80 percent of the cost of the landscaping process.

"This was our last shot at this enhancement grant, because the focus of TxDOT now will be hike and bike trails and transportation grants," she said.

This grant is really a culmination of efforts by the museum committee. Grants help fund the restoration of the hangar, as well as several other projects. Reagan said the landscaping

work and sidewalks will begin after the new year.

"This is really icing on the cake. We did not ask for funds for landscaping in our first grant, and this will help us a great deal. We will place handicapped-accessible ramps in as well," Reagan said.

Hangar-25 competed with other facilities across the state to receive this grant. The museum has become a tourist attraction, and visitors tour the facility every day, she said.

"We had seven visitors yesterday. And we had more than 150 people register for our Open House after the Herald Christmas parade Saturday," she said.

The museum has expanded their aircraft displays as well. Reagan said the AT-11, T-33, T-37 and nose of a B-52 have all become popular exhibits for the museum.

"The AT-11 is a bombardier plane, one we really wanted. It was the plane in World War II," Reagan said.

In addition to the grant and the expected landscaping and

other improvements, Reagan said the museum board members are talking with city officials about placing signs indicating the location of the museum.

"Of course, we can't get a grant for the signs, because the requirement for state signs is 20,000 visitors a year. Our board president drove around with city officials yesterday to see where we want signs indicating our location," Reagan said.

At least one other grant application was initially denied. The Pioneer Plaza project, scheduled to be built on the half block now containing the Permian Building, had also applied for funding.

"We received word late Tuesday," said city manager Gary Fuqua.

Still, there is a chance for funding.

Officials will appear before the three-member Transportation Commission next Wednesday as part of a process to determine where the last \$43 million of the initial \$128 million will be awarded.

BSISD

Attorney brought in on BSJH's sinking

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees met with the district's attorney today at noon in an executive session of a regular board meeting to discuss possible litigation concerning Big Spring Junior High.

"This is the first meeting of the trustees with their attorney, and the possibilities are numerous. They will be talking about the different alternatives we have as we complete the cosmetic work at the new junior high," said BSISD Superintendent William McQueary.

The \$10 million structure began to suffer noticeable foundation failure shortly after school began in August this year. The failure involved some four inches of foundation movement.

A compaction grouting company pumped material underneath the foundation of the junior high, stabilizing the shifting, and today all reports indicate the building is secure.

"The attorney will also be talking to the board about employing a forensic engineering firm, to help us be more precise into the cause of the foundation failure. This is needed in case we have to have legal witnesses in court, we need people to testify who have expertise in these areas," McQueary said.

Determining who is ultimately responsible for the founda



McQUEARY

See BSISD, Page 2A

Next Generation Day expected to draw 650 to HC, Big Spring

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

About 650 Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton, Garden City, Grady, Sands and Sterling City eighth graders

peek into their future Friday when they attend Howard College's Next Generation Day.

"This is designed to guide them through high school,

because the choices they make now will help determine their high school and adult careers," said Javier Flores, assistant dean of

student services at Howard College.

Next Generation Day, now in its fourth year at Howard College, is presented by the college, along with the help of the both Big Spring Rotary Clubs, and Moore Development for Big Spring.

"Eighth grade is the prime age to allow students an opportunity to stop and think about what they would do for a profession, because upon entering high school, students must decide on the educational tract that best prepares them for their future," said Jan Foresyth, Tuesday Rotary member.

A special presentation by Jason Dorsey, author of "Graduate To Your Perfect

See DAY, Page 2A

DECEMBER 9 1999

OBITUARIES

Mary Stamps
Shaw Little

Funeral service for Mary Stamps Shaw Little, 101, Tarboro, N.C., will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 1999, at the Red Springs Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Michael L. McGehee officiating. Burial will be in the Alloway Cemetery.

Mrs. Little died Tuesday, Dec. 7.

She was the widow of the late Rev. William F.F. Little.

Survivors include: a daughter, Mary Hagood Alston of Scotland Neck, N.C.; two sons, W.F.F. Little Jr. of Fayetteville, and Col. James Little of Big Spring; six grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Red Springs Presbyterian Church; Rex Presbyterian Church, Rex, N.C.; or Barium Spring Children Home, P.O. Box 1, Barium Springs, N.C.

Arrangements under the direction of Carlisle Funeral Home, Inc., Tarboro, N.C.

Corina Villa

Funeral service for Corina Villa, 60, Stanton, will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 1999, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father Arturo Pestin officiating and Deacon Ernie Sanchez assisting. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Mrs. Villa died Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Midland Memorial Hospital.

She was born on Dec. 23, 1938, in Fort Davis. She married Manuel M. Villa in 1957, in Stanton. She was a cook for the Stanton ISD for many years and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where she was a Guadalupana, a Cursillista and active in the Legion of Mary and the Alter Society.

Survivors include: her husband, Manuel M. Villa of Stanton; seven sons, Manuel Aguirre of Grandbury, Jimmy Villa of Grandbury, Fabian Villa, Freddy Villa, Tommy Villa, all of Stanton, Adam Villa of Grandbury, and Michael Villa of San Marcos; two daughters, JoAnn Garza and Senaida Garza, both of Stanton; one sister, Micaela Oporto of Lenora; 22 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Stanton Memorial Funeral Home & Chapel.

Gilbert I. "Gib"
Madison Sr.

Gilbert I. (Gib) Madison Sr., 94, Lenora, died on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1999, in a Stanton hospital. Service will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, 1999, at the First Baptist

Church in Stanton with the Rev. David Harp and Leandro Gonzales officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home.

He was born on Sept. 15, 1905, in Rising Star.

He moved to Lenora in the early 1930s and farmed until he retired. He also owned and operated grocery stores in Stanton, Lenora and other West Texas areas.

He was a lifetime member of the Lenora Baptist Church.

Survivors include: three sons, Jack Madison and wife Mollie of Stanton, Jay Madison and wife Christie of Lenora, and Dr. G.I. Madison Jr. and wife Doris of Grand Junction, Colo.; two daughters, Patsy Faust and husband David of Altus, Okla., and Nancy Curry and husband Butch of Edmond, Okla.; a stepson, Gary Callaway of Paris, Texas; a stepdaughter, Mary Jane Pierce of Paris; a brother, Louie Madison of Andrews; a sister, Opal Dean of Big Spring; a beloved brother-in-law and sister-in-law and lifelong friends, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Riley of Midland; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Florine Riley Madison in 1943 and two sons, John Daniel Madison in 1983 and Dick Ross Madison in 1995.

Memorials may be made to a church of your choice.

Noble N. White

Service for Noble N. White, 78, Big Spring, will be 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 1999, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dwayne Wheat, pastor of Berea Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mr. White died Wednesday, Dec. 8, in a Lubbock hospital.

He was born on July 14, 1921, in Alamogordo, N.M., and married June L. Reeves on July 17, 1947. He came to Big Spring in 1951. He had worked in civil service at Pyote Air Force Base in Pyote and Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring as an aircraft mechanic for 33 years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening. Mr. White was a member of the Berea Baptist Church and served in the United States Army during World War II.

Survivors include: a son, Jayland White of Big Spring; a daughter, Debra R. Vance of Irving; a sister, Wanda McGee of Lamesa; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; 306 W. Third; Big Spring, or Berea Baptist Church; 4204 Wason; Big Spring.

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

Travis Tolson

Graveside service for Travis Tolson, 24, Hitchcock, will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, 1999, in the Colorado City Cemetery.

Mr. Tolson died Wednesday.

Nov. 24, in Ehrenburg, Ariz., from injuries in a car-pedestrian accident.

He was born on Sept. 26, 1975, in Fort Worth. He was a hotel manager.

He is survived by three sons, Patrick Tolson, Corey Tolson, both of Weatherford, and Travis Tolson Jr. of Salt Lake City, Utah; his mother and stepfather, Vicki and William Gates of Hitchcock; his father and stepmother, Mike and Nora Tolson of Houston; one sister, Cheri Williamson of El Paso; one brother, Doyle Tolson of Hitchcock; his maternal grandmother, Ruby Coleman of Aledo; and his paternal grandmother, Venice Cawthron of Big Spring.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Harriett N. Talbott

Service for Harriett N. Talbott, 74, Big Spring, will be 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, 1999, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity



TALBOTT

Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mrs. Talbott died Thursday, Dec. 9, in a local hospital.

She was born on Feb. 18, 1925, in Blairstown, Iowa, and married William Soldan Talbott on Nov. 14, 1942, in Tempe, Ariz. He preceded her in death on March 7, 1998. She came to Big Spring in 1942, and worked for J.C. Penney and also had worked in civil service. Mrs. Talbott was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include: three sons, William Blakely Talbott of Lordsburg, N.C., Rex Charles Talbott of Amarillo, and David Soldan Talbott of Big Spring; one daughter, Kay Lavonne Newsom of Amarillo; two brothers, Carl Hettinger of Aurora, Colo., and Bud Hettinger of Elkhart, Neb.; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the National A.L.S. Foundation; 185 Madison Ave.; New York City, N.Y.; 10016.

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

BIG SPRING
AROUND THE TOWN

ANGELS

Continued from Page 1A

important they are and how much we care about them," Malone said.

She said along with making telephone calls to her friends, she is urging classes of students as well as student organizations to become involved and adopt a senior angel.

"This is a great project for children, and a way to acknowledge their elders and show how much they care," she said.

And while Malone said she does not wish to take away from the Salvation Army Angel tree program that provides gifts for needy children, the senior citizens who qualify for this program are in just as great a need.

"Seniors sometimes live on a small, fixed income, and there is not enough left over to purchase basic necessities such as soap or house shoes or such extras as bath powder," she said.

Malone said when she read the wish lists on the senior angel cards, her throat swelled with emotion and her heart filled with compassion.

"They are asking for things like a warm coat, or a good pair of walking shoes. And socks is a really frequent request. These simple wishes for things we take so for granted just broke my heart," Malone said.

When it comes right down to it, she said, everyone alive today had a senior citizen responsible for their very life.

"Big Spring is such a caring community, and I just know with help we will get these senior angels adopted," she said.

DAY

Continued from Page 1A

Job," begins at 10:40 a.m. Dorsey, an inspiration speaker who has motivated more than 65,000 teenagers a year, will talk to the students about achieving their dreams, Flores said.

All eighth grade students attending Next Generation Day will be grouped into seminars that provide information about

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 3,9,6

Lotto: 2,5,28,32,42,45

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

various occupations. Speakers from Howard College, Angelo State University and various occupations throughout the West Texas area will present to students the diversity and highlights of a career in agriculture, industry and law enforcement.

Cindy Stokes, dean of the nursing program at Howard College, will present a seminar on medical profession careers. Representatives from Freecom, Western Container, A&M Composites and Fina Refinery will present seminars on manufacturing and industry.

Sue Turney from Angelo State University and Eddie Spurgin from the agricultural research station will present seminars on careers in agriculture and ranching.

Three representatives from the Texas Tech Agricultural College will also present seminars.

"There will be five seminars on each subject," Flores said.

The students will first register at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at 9 a.m. Friday, and these seminars, which will be conducted in buildings throughout the Howard College campus, will begin at 10:05 a.m.

Lunch will be catered by Big Spring Independent School District's food service department, under the direction of Joann Smoot, following Dorsey's presentation.

Each student will also receive a copy of a magazine, "On Your Mark," a special publication by the Texas State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee.

"You would think this tabloid had been written for Howard College and Next Generation Day," Flores said.

The magazine offers career options and information, written for junior high school students. The format is color, with photographs of such well-known individuals as Sammy Sousa, Mark McGuire and Nancy Kwan.

Flores said the magazine covers such careers as business and marketing, human resources and development, and arts, communication and media, along with the topics presented in seminar to the students.

"This has been a collective effort of various departments and people throughout campus. We are very excited about the students coming and know this will be great experience," Flores said.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

tion failure may lead to a lawsuit, or it may be settled out of court, he said.

While statements following the executive session are not anticipated, McQueary said the cost of the cosmetic work may be disclosed, following the meeting and pending approval from the attorney.

"I don't know if we will have a formal statement after this meeting. This is our first formal meeting, and I anticipate we will have others after the first of the year," he said.

In other business, trustees are expected to hear and attendance report and receive a copy of Update 62, a legislative handbook outlining legal changes with state policies.

BRIEFS

BIG SPRING JUNIOR HIGH and high school bands will perform their Christmas concert Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium. There is no charge for the concert, which will feature a variety of holiday music.

CORRECTION NOTICE

In our December 9 insert, we advertised Vigilante 2nd Offense for Dreamcast as available. Due to a manufacturing delay, this title will not be available. However, we will be offering rainchecks on this title.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.



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BIG SPRING HERALD *12 LB. LIMIT

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8238
Travis Tolson, 24, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be 11:00 AM Saturday at Colorado City Cemetery.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331
Noble N. White, 78, died Wednesday. Services will be 4:00 PM Friday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.
Henrietta Talbott, 74, died Thursday. Services will be 4:00 PM Saturday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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in a variety of solid colors. Reg. 29.50.

Sale! 31.99
Men's Dockers® Khakis
Two-pleat, classic-fit twill pants. Reg. 42.00.

CHILDREN'S

Sale! 18.99
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Use the bonus coupons below for greater savings storewide!

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*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levi's®, Dockers®, designer selections, shoes by Dr. Marten's®, Easy Spirit®, Nine West®, Kenneth Cole Reaction®, Nike®, and all permanently-reduced clearance merchandise. See restrictions below.

Valid Friday, December 10 only
extra 15% off any sale item
*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levi's®, Dockers®, designer selections, shoes by Dr. Marten's®, Easy Spirit®, Nine West®, Kenneth Cole Reaction®, Nike®, and all permanently-reduced clearance merchandise. See restrictions below.

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*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levi's®, Dockers®, designer selections, shoes by Dr. Marten's®, Easy Spirit®, Nine West®, Kenneth Cole Reaction®, Nike®, and all permanently-reduced clearance merchandise. See restrictions below.

Just a sample of the savings you'll find. Interim reductions may have been taken. Styles, sizes and colors may vary by store. Coupons valid December 10, 1999 only. Redeem only at point of sale. Must be relinquished at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or private savings offer. Coupons not valid on gift certificates or payments on credit accounts.

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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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Editor
Debbie Jensen
Features Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Smiles on faces make event work a labor of love

There are those who might find it hard to believe, but planning has already begun for the *Herald's* Community Christmas Parade scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2, 2000.

But we're not alone in spending the vast portion of a year working on a project for the community.

Take our friends at First United Methodist Church, who have given this community the Living Christmas Tree for 21 years now ... or our neighbors at First Church of the Nazarene, who not only produce the largest drive-thru nativity of its type in the Southwest, but also help the Salvation Army as well.

And then there are the lights in Comanche Trail Park. Surely you don't think they just happen?

Yes, we know the lights go up only at the last moment, but the planning for this year's festival began in the late stages of spring and went through the hottest days of summer.

At the *Herald*, we view the Christmas Parade as a labor of love ... as something we can give back to the community in return for its support — both throughout the year and over the years.

And we know the other organizations feel the same way.

Yes, we all get a thrill when someone comes up to us and says "Great parade!" or "What a wonderful presentation!" after the Living Christmas Tree or Drive-Thru Nativity, but the real thrill is seeing the enjoyment on the faces of participants and spectators alike.

On behalf of those who work long hours — both in front of the crowd and behind the scenes — we thank those of you who attend, participate — and obviously enjoy the fruits of our labors.

Because there is a smile on your face, there also is a smile on ours.

OTHER VIEWS

It can't happen here. That was the reaction many Americans far removed from the nation's principal centers of commerce and government felt when they heard about the Feb. 26, 1993, terrorist bombing of New York's World Trade Center.

Then came April 19, 1995. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols brought terrorism home to the nation's heartland when they bombed Oklahoma City's Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 children, women and men.

It can happen here. It does happen here.

When Americans heard about the April 20 shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., that claimed 15 lives, some reacted complacently. Our schools are safe, they thought. We raised our kids right. They wouldn't do anything like that. Never. It can't happen here.

Monday's shooting at Fort Gibson Middle School should permanently dispel that complacency here in the heartland.

It can happen here. It does happen here.

PHOENIX & TIMES-DEMOCRAT, Muskogee (Okla.)

Maybe it will take something as horrific as a mass grave outside of Ciudad Juárez to breach the wall of distrust and nationalism that stymies full cooperation between the United States and Mexico on the problem of drug trafficking.

Last week, as dozens of FBI and Mexican anti-drug agents worked side by side digging

for graves, FBI director Louis Freeh and Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo held a press conference on the joint effort on Mexican soil.

From the start, however, Madrazo found himself the object of questions and accusations from some Mexicans who believe he is selling out Mexico's sovereignty by allowing American law enforcement personnel to help investigate the Juárez killing fields.

These questions didn't come only from the Mexican press, which often exploits anti-American sentiments, but also from presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cardenas, who said last week: "We don't require any direct intervention from any police force anywhere."

Require? No. Mexico could continue sinking under a wave of drug-fueled violence, becoming every day more like Colombia, even though Bogota finally has realized that working with the United States is far better than allowing the drug traffickers to take over.

Madrazo apparently sees Mexico facing the same danger. At the press conference, he loudly defended working with the FBI: "Cooperation does not harm sovereignty. What hurts it is drug trafficking."

It's time for all Mexicans to acknowledge that their nation stands at the edge of an abyss of violence and corruption spawned by savage drug traffickers.

UNION-TRIBUNE, San Diego

Hush! It came from the BBE!

Three years ago, young Zachary Hood was in the first grade at Haines Elementary School in Medford, N.J. One day his teacher made a pleasant announcement. As a reward for special achievement in reading, her best pupils could bring a book from home and read a favorite story to the class. This was how the lunacy began.

The teacher, Grace Oliva, stipulated only that the content be "appropriate" for first-graders. Zachary qualified for the honor. The great day arrived, and Zachary showed up, book in hand.

Horrors! Gasp! Aaargh! The book was titled - it was actually titled - "The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories."

We may imagine the consternation evoked by this horrid discovery. Ms. Oliva fled at once to her principal, Gail Pratt, to report the devilry afoot. A Great Idea evolved: Zachary could read his inap-

propriate story privately to Ms. Oliva. He could not read it to his first-grade classmates, because the story came from the Bbe and it might possibly influence other students.

This was the forbidden story, in its entirety:

"Jacob traveled far away to his uncle's house. He worked for his uncle taking care of sheep. While he was there, Jacob got married. He had 12 sons. Jacob's big family lived on his uncle's land for many years. But Jacob wanted to go back home. One day, Jacob packed up all his animals and his family and everything he had.

"They traveled all the way back home to where Esau lived. Now Jacob was afraid that Esau might still be angry with him. So he sent presents to Esau. He sent servants who said, 'Please don't be angry anymore.' But Esau wasn't angry. He ran to Jacob. He hugged and kissed him. He was happy to see his brother again."

There you have the whole of it. As a literary work the short story leaves much to be desired. We are not told why Esau had good reason to hate his swindling younger brother. Nothing is said in "The Beginner's Bbe" of the trickery by which Jacob and his mother deceived poor blind Isaac. We never meet Rachel the beauti-

ful or Leah the tender-eyed. In this story there is not a word about God, or angels, or visions of a ladder from Earth to heaven. If any moral could be weaved from this skimpy yarn, it would be a moral of brotherly love and forgiveness. Suppose Zachary had been permitted to read this expurgated version to the class. His fellow pupils would not have been proselytized. They would have been mystified.

In any event, Zach was shuffled off to a private corner, and there he read the offending tale to Ms. Oliva alone. Humiliated by the ostracism imposed upon him, he came home red-eyed from crying. His mother complained to school authorities but got nowhere. Ms. Pratt told her that reading the story was the equivalent of praying, that Muslim, Hindu and Jewish students might be offended, and that there was "no place in a public school for reading of the Bible." Finally Mrs. Hood sued for violation of her son's civil rights, and the case wound up in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit.

There Circuit Judge Walter King Stapleton delivered an opinion remarkable for its stupidity. He framed the constitutional question: It is "whether public school students in the first grade have a First Amendment right to present religious material in class

where that material is responsive to a teacher's assignment."

Given the facts of this case, the court should have answered, of course the child had a right to read the story to his class. The case had nothing to do with official prayers read over a school's loudspeaker system. It was not Ms. Oliva, the authority figure, who was summarizing Genesis 29-33. It was a 6-year-old child - a child who was denied an earned reward because of the religious source of his reading.

Such hostility to religion, I submit, is a perversion of the constitutional command that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion. Stapleton's opinion relied heavily on an irrelevant case in 1988 involving a high school principal's power to control the content of a student newspaper. What rubbish! The Hazelwood case, as it is known, had nothing whatever to do with the complex questions of church and state.

At the urging of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the 3rd Circuit last month agreed to hear Zachary's case reargued before the entire court. Surely other judges will reject Stapleton's benighted reasoning that one diluted ounce from the Bbe is enough to contaminate a whole class of children.



JAMES J. KILPATRICK



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Long-term reparations are another form of greed

Reparations seem to be the hot topic these days. There is a move afoot to pay reparations to American blacks for the alleged injury of slavery, which, of course, no living American has experienced.

I'm against reparations in principle, especially those that are sought 50 to 100 years after the fact. I don't believe in making great-grandsons pay for someone else's sins.

American blacks should step back and quit listening to all the people who are telling them to feel sorry for themselves. As a group, American blacks are, without a doubt, the most fortunate group of black people on the planet. You don't see any long lines of people trying to immigrate to such African par-

adises as Angola, Rwanda, the Congo, southern Sudan, Liberia or even to such places as Haiti, where nearly 200 years of independence have resulted in the ruin of the land and misery for the people.

If I were black, I would be grateful to my slave ancestors, not ashamed of them. Keep in mind, however, not all American blacks are descendants of slaves — some are descendants of slave owners. Some are descendants of people who were never either. And keep in mind that the people who enslaved Africans were other Africans, not Europeans. Europeans eventually ended slavery. Africans still have it.

No human is affected by the history of his ancestors. Our history starts the day of our birth. What happens to us in our time affects us; what happened before we were born to other people we don't even know does not. No black person today can blame his or her failures on his or her ancestors, and it is frankly unseemly to do so.

This is carrying the blame game too far, and naturally, in

lawsuit-happy, anything-for-a-buck America, it all boils down to gimme something. And it isn't just a few blacks who play that game. Some Americans who were prisoners of war 54 years ago have decided to sue Japan. And practically everybody seems to think that it is open season on Swiss banks and the German treasury.

If I were German, I would say to the whole world: 54 years and \$60 billion in reparations are enough. The bank is closed. If you were hurt by somebody long since dead in the name of a government destroyed 54 years ago, well, tough luck. You should have sued sooner. The current generation of Germans is innocent and does not owe anyone in the world one thin mark. Ditto for the current generation of Japanese.

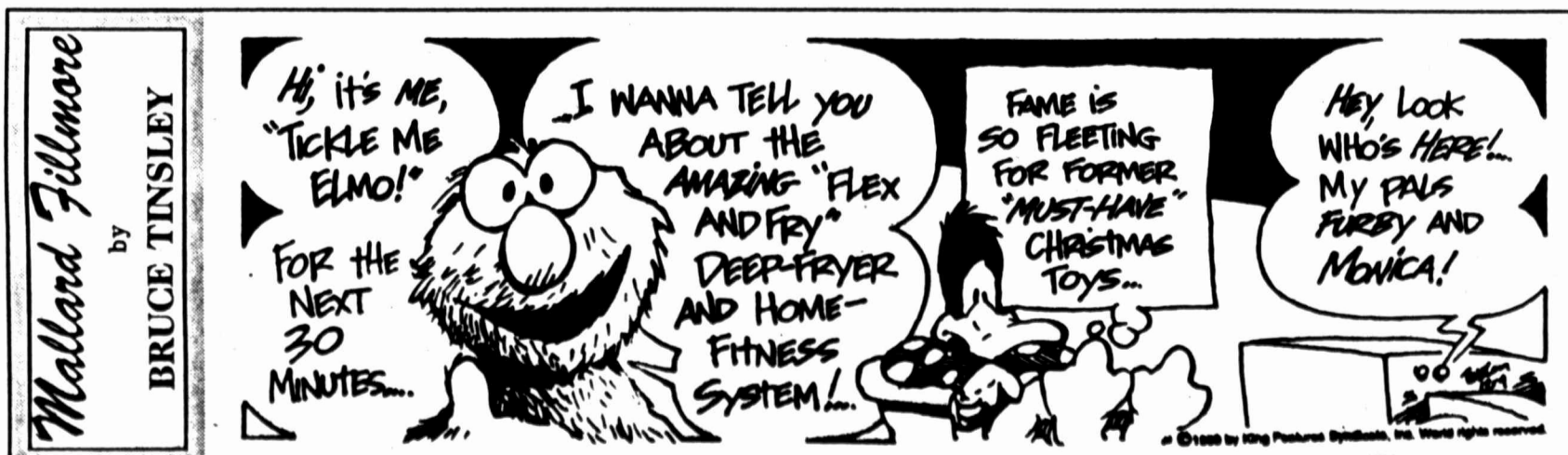
Unless there is a practical statute of limitations, then the number of wrongs done to various people by various people, often taking turns, stretches back into the mists of time. Any man who lives in the past has committed a peculiar form of suicide.

Greed, in my book, is one of the more disgusting vices. It causes people to put a dollar price on the lives of their loved ones and even to negotiate that price. How low can you go? I know a man who quit litigating because he got so turned off by the mac abre business of negotiating with insurance adjustors over how many dollars to pay out for a dead child.

There are some wrongs that cannot be paid for in dollars. They must either be paid in blood or not at all. In our effeminate country, people love the lawsuit as much as they love the lottery and the slot machine, and they abhor and fear the idea of real justice. Money has become the ultimate corrupter of Americans, more powerful than sex or drugs.

Nevertheless, the past should not be used as a money-making or, I should say, money-extorting opportunity. If that's all we learned — that the past can be exploited for present gain — then we are hardly worthy of the present and no doubt have a bleak future.

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Ca
By DEBB
Features

'Tis the perfect find the g your holi proper ca "With t of like bu in the su Charles I ning the Christmas the week, climbed t shoppers trees. Twice a sprayed v them fres Optimi: noble fir, branches with a "p its brancl fir, which tradition: which co the other popular. proceeds programs At Joha Nursery, some loca ing a livi pot, whic the holidi "A lot o want som said. "Th tradition year." Johans also choo because t gies less,

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QUICK TRIVIA

◆Serenade means "evening music." Singing to someone in the morning is known as "aubade."

◆The first dog to ever receive star billing in a movie was a German Shepard named Strongheart. The movie, made in 1921, was "The Silent Call."

Got an item?

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

Care essential to keep your holiday tree in top shape

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

'Tis the season to seek out the perfect tree. And once you find the green centerpiece for your holiday celebrations, proper care is a must.

"With this weather, it's kind of like buying a Christmas tree in the summertime," said Charles Lusk, who was manning the Optimist Club Christmas tree lot earlier in the week. Temperatures climbed to just above 70 as shoppers scouted among the fir trees.

Twice a day, those trees are sprayed with water to keep them fresh.

Optimists are selling the noble fir, with the layered branches, the plantation fir, with a "packed" appearance to its branches, and the Douglas fir, which many consider the traditional tree. The noble, which costs a bit more than the others, is also the most popular. At the Optimist lot, all proceeds go to the club's youth programs for the community.

At Johansen Landscape and Nursery, Terri Johansen said some local residents are choosing a living tree, still in the pot, which can be planted after the holidays.

"A lot of people say they want something truly live," she said. "They make it a family tradition, planting them every year."

Johansen said people may also choose living trees because they aggravate allergies less, but still offer the

TREE CARE BASICS

- On a cut tree, start by sawing off a half-inch from the trunk.
- Water your living tree three times a day, several days a week, by packing ice in the top of the pot. Remember to keep a saucer underneath to protect your floors in case of leaks.
- Some sugar in the water will keep your cut tree looking fresher.
- Avoid heat around either type of tree. That includes your fireplace, heater vents and even leaving the tree lights on for extended periods of time.

fresh aroma.

Two choices are the Eldarica pine, also known as the Afghan; and the piñon, from New Mexico. The Afghan, which can be seen at Howard College, grows to a height of 30 feet by 50 feet, adding 5-6 feet a year, while the piñon is not as large or fast-growing.

With a cut tree, be sure to keep plenty of water in the tree stand. Start by cutting a half-inch off the trunk as soon as you get it home, so it can soak up the water better. A dry tree loses needles more quickly.

Optimist trees come with care instructions that warn: Do not cut or shave bark from the sides of the trunk. This is said to reduce the tree's ability to take up water.

Johansen said she recommends also putting some sugar mixture in the water to feed the tree and keep it green. Some people use Karo syrup, or something similar. Others swear by aspirin, or buy special mixtures created to keep a cut tree fresh.

"Avoid heat around either

type of tree, which can dry it out," Johansen said. That includes your fireplace and heater vents. But remember, the lights on the tree also generate heat, so don't leave them on all day.

With the potted, living tree, don't expect to lose as many needles. To water your living tree, Johansen recommends packing it with ice three times a day, several days a week. The melting ice will soak slowly into the soil.

Always keep a saucer or other container under the pot to collect any water that leaks out.

While there are several options in holiday trees, top choices usually follow trends that go in cycles.

"Cut trees will always be with us," Johansen said. "Especially now that the trend is for a lot of people to go back to the real tree, as opposed to an artificial one."

High demand has created a shortage in some of the more popular fir trees, which experts said may worsen next year.



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Charles Lusk cuts the bottom half inch from the trunk of a noble fir tree at the Optimist Club Christmas tree lot earlier this week.

Knowing the meaning of certain words can make your family tree research easier

How many times have you wondered what a certain word meant when reading old documents? Here are just a few I have found and posted to my WebPages.

Abode — A dwelling, place, domicile or residence.

Abstract — Summary of important points of a given text, especially deeds and wills.

Acknowledgement — A declaration or certificate taken before a notary or other attesting officer, stating the maker of an instrument had appeared before him and subscribed it as a volunteer act and without duress. For example, a formal statement by a grantor to a notary or other duly authorized official establishing that the execution of a deed was voluntary. State statutes vary with respect to whether an acknowledgement is indispensable to the validity of a deed to real property.

Acres — Measurements equal to 43,560 square feet or 160 square rods or 210 ft. by 207 ft.

Administration (of estate) — A person appointed by the probate or surrogate court, or by the register of wills, to settle the estate of an intestate (one who has died without leaving a will) see also **Succession**.

Administratrix — A female administrator.

Affidavit — Latin for "has pledged his faith", a written statement subscribed and sworn to before a notary public, commissioner, consul, or other officer empowered to administer oaths; must contain the affiant's (deponent's) name and address and signature of the attesting officer.

Alien — Foreigner
All and singular — Term employed in documents such as conveyances and will to designate the whole, as well as each of the components.

American Revolution — U. S. war for independence from Great Britain 1775-1783.

Ancestor — A person from whom you are descended, a forefather.

Ante — Latin prefix meaning before, such as Antebellum south. "The south before the war."

Apprentice — One who is bound by indentures Q. V. or by legal agreement or by any means to serve another person for a certain time, with a view of learning an art or trade.

Appurtenance — That which belongs to something else such as a building, orchard, right of way, etc.

Archives — Records of a government, organization, institution; the place where records are stored.

Assign — To transfer (property or rights) to another.

Assigns — Assignees; transferees of property. In deeds or conveyances which refer to "heirs, administrators and See **RAWLS**, Page 6A



BOBBY RAWLS

Let television advertisers know what you think of programs

QUESTION: I am very irritated by all the sex and violence on television night after night. The movies are bad enough, but now the sitcoms are just as bad. Is there any way we can influence the networks to be more responsible in their programming?

DR. DOBSON: We have more power to influence television programming than we think. I'm told that every letter received is estimated to represent 40,000 viewers who didn't take the time to write. It's important to know, however, where those letters should be sent. In earlier days, I wrote directors, producers and other executives at the television networks. My complaints either received rude replies or were largely ignored. I've since learned it's more beneficial to write the sponsors - the people

who pay the bills. They have better reason to care what I think.

Witness the success of Fort Worth dentist Dr. Richard Neill, who became upset with the kind of filthy programming aired regularly on the Phil Donahue show during hours when children could have been watching. He began writing the commercial sponsors and informing them of what their money was supporting. One after another, more than 100 of these advertisers began dropping the show.



DR. JAMES DOBSON

By 1996, the Donahue program was no longer viable, and it went off the air. Almost single-handedly, Dr. Neill took on a media giant - an icon - and put an end to the junk he was producing.

"This kind of effort can and should be duplicated all over the country. It is the only way we will clean up the tube. Advertisers are very responsive to the opinions of viewers because they are spending millions of dollars to promote their products. We can bring pressure on them by letting them know how we feel - positively and negatively. And indeed, we must do this."

QUESTION: I have a great fear that I will someday be divorced. I've been through it with my parents and watched several of my uncles and aunts. It is very hard on everybody.

I'd rather not get married than run that risk. Is it possible to protect yourself from a divorce today?

DR. DOBSON: You're not the only member of your generation who worries about the odds against successful marriages. That concern showed up in a song popularized years ago by Carly Simon. The lyrics are devastating. They say, in effect, "It is impossible to achieve intimacy in marriage, and our life together will be lonely, meaningless and sterile. But if that's what you want ... we'll marry."

While I understand the pessimism expressed in this song, I disagree emphatically with its message. The family is still a wonderful institution.

Furthermore, it is a myth that marriages are destined to fail. Sixty-one percent of people

living in the United States are married. 23 percent have never been married, 8 percent are widowed, and only 8 percent are divorced. Seventy-five percent of families with children are headed by two married parents. Despite what you hear about disintegrating families, most of us live within them and are happy about that fact.

We do have to acknowledge, however, that marriages are fragile. They must be nurtured and protected if they are to survive for a lifetime. If ignored, they will wither and die.

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

Nintendo nixes card with mirror image of swastika

CORTLANDT, N.Y. (AP) — Nintendo will stop making a Pokemon card that bears a mirror image of a swastika — a symbol with a benign meaning in Japan — after getting complaints from the Anti-Defamation League.

"What is appropriate for one culture may not be for another," Nintendo of America said in a statement Thursday.

The red mark alongside the Pokemon characters Golbat and Ditto was a "manji," a reverse image of the Nazi swastika. In Japan, where the symbol predated the Nazis by centuries, it means good fortune and can also represent a Buddhist temple. On street maps, the symbol

locates a temple just as a cross stands for a church on an American map.

But to American eyes, it was a Nazi swastika and didn't belong in the enormously popular game.

"Kids shouldn't be finding this in their cards," said 11-year-old Stephen Langsam of Cortlandt, who came across the card in a \$6 pack. "This means hate and everybody knows it."

The Japanese-language cards with the manji were not meant for sale in the United States, where a licensed vendor manufactures Pokemon cards in English and planned to issue

See **NINTENDO**, Page 6A

SCHOOL NEWS

Kentwood Elementary School will send 17 student artists' work to next week's district-wide competition in the 1999 National PTA Reflections Program.

Students created works in literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts in response to the theme "Anything is Possible."

Kentwood students took photographs, created paintings and drawings, wrote songs, poems or short stories, or composed a concerto.

This year's winners are listed as follows:

Musical Competition (Intermediate grades 3-5)
First Place: Megan Smith for

her composition "Anything is Possible When You Lope Over a Rainbow."

Literature (Intermediate Grades 3-5)
First Place: Jessica Stone for her story "Frosty Penguin"

Second Place: Megan Smith for her story "Rainbow Chaser"

Third Place: Christopher Freeman for his story "My Time Machine"

Photography (Intermediate Grades 3-5)
First Place: Lanny Hall for "My Mom said Yes"

Second Place: Crystal Ward for "If I can Make it to the Top"

Third Place: Lanny Hall for "The World's Nature"

Fourth Place: Crystal Ward for "In a Kitten's Christmas Wish"

Fifth Place: Crystal Ward for "White Christmas Kittens"

Visual Arts (Primary Grades

K-2)
First Place: Alexandra Ortega for "CandyLand"

Second Place: Ben Avery for "Super MarioLand"

Third Place: Berklie Pierce for "Don't Shoot Me"

Fourth Place: Ben Avery for "The Giant Shark Attack"

Fifth Place: Ben Avery for "The Great American War"

Visual Arts (Intermediate Grades 3-5)
First Place: Jace Avery for "Weird"

Second Place: Mallory Smith for "The Diamond of Life"

Third Place: Breanna Conner for "We Still Care"

The top 10 finishers in each age group/category will advance to regional competition early next year.

The National PTA Reflections Program is more than 25 years old.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY of the death of George Washington will be commemorated nationally on Tuesday. Locally, members of the Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution are urging the community to honor the occasion.

Federal legislation authorizes the flag to be flown at half mast that day, and encouraged bells to be tolled for one minute starting at noon. DAR also suggests schoolchildren have opportunities to participate in activities to help them understand the influence of Washington's life.

Throughout the country, exhibits, conferences, ceremonies and publications are planned to commemorate the anniversary. A proclamation from Texas Gov. George W. Bush urges all Texans to take part.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE BIG SPRING EVENING Lions Club will have free eyeglasses for all adults Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Evening Lions Club bingo building, 1607 East Third.

The Lions group offers the eyeglasses the second Saturday of each month. For more information call Donna Groenke at 393-5298.

...

BIG SPRING JUNIOR HIGH and high school bands will perform their Christmas concert Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium. There is no charge for the concert, which will feature a variety of holiday music.

THE LAST WORD

Say not you know another entirely until you have divided an inheritance with him.

Johann Kasper Lavater

No legacy is as rich as honesty.

Shakespeare

When people cease to complain, they cease to think.

Napoleon

IN BRIEF

Youth basketball program now registering players

Registration for youngsters interested in playing on a Big Spring Youth Basketball Association team will continue through Dec. 17.

Tryouts are slated for Dec. 18 and the participation fee will be \$20 per youngster.

The league is divided into three divisions for first-through sixth-grade players.

Registration will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

After this weekend, however, youngsters will register from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Sunday at All-Star Sports through Dec. 17.

For more information, call Charlie Hall at 263-0159.

YMCA registering players for its basketball program

The Big Spring YMCA is now registering girls and boys in kindergarten through the sixth grade for its youth basketball program.

The program fee includes a T-shirt, individual player award and a full service YMCA youth membership for January and February.

YMCA full members may register for the program for \$15. Basic program members will pay \$25 and non-members will pay \$32.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Jackalopes set Saturday as 'Howard County Night'

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

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

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

Cancer Society offering Texas Golf Pass again

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

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

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

AREA GAMES

TODAY

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Spring City Crossroads Classic at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

Tahoka Bulldogs vs. Lubbock Estacado Matadors, 2:15 p.m.

Merkel Badgers vs. Amarillo Caprock Longhorns, 4 p.m.

Lubbock Coronado Mustangs vs. Clyde Pirates, 5:45 p.m.

Brownfield Cubs vs. Big Spring Steers, 7:30 p.m.

Ninth Annual Hoottown Classic in Stanton

Boys Division:

1:30 p.m.

Robert Lee vs. Kermit.

4:30 p.m.

Midland Greenwood vs. Reagan County.

7:30 p.m.

Stanton vs. Grape Creek.

Sands vs. Colorado City.

Girls Division:

3 p.m.

Robert Lee vs. Midland Greenwood.

6 p.m.

Stanton vs. Grape Creek.

Midland Trinity vs. Ira.

ON THE AIR

Television

NBA

7:30 p.m. — Vancouver Grizzlies at San Antonio Spurs, FXS, Ch. 29.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

7:15 p.m. — Oakland Raiders at Tennessee Titans, ESPN, Ch. 30.

OU offensive coordinator takes job as Texas Tech's new coach

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech officials will announce today that Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mike Leach is the university's next football coach, the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* reported today.

The newspaper quoted sources close to the situation who asked not to be identified as saying Leach is set to sign a five-year contract with a buy-out clause that will make it difficult for him to leave Texas Tech in the interim.

Leach could not be reached for comment after he made his final decision sometime after 8 p.m. Wednesday, the newspaper reported.

Leach called Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers from his cell phone around 9 p.m. Wednesday. An hour later, a jovial Myers all but directly said Leach

would be Texas Tech's next coach. "It was good visit," Myers said about the phone call, explaining that that should be enough to figure out what was said.

Texas Tech officials called a news conference for 10 a.m. today to announce they'd found a replacement for Spike Dykes, who retired after 13 years. Myers said it would be unfair to comment before then.

During football practice Wednesday, a teary-eyed Leach told his team he had been offered the top coaching job at Texas Tech when he visited the school Tuesday.

"They talked to me about the job, they offered me the job and I've got to make a decision and don't have too long to do it, so I'll decide sometime here shortly,"

Leach said Wednesday afternoon. "Right now it's a great situation and it's definitely one that I'm serious about."

Mike Prusinski, Oklahoma's director of athletic media relations, said Leach met with Sooners' quarterback Josh Heupel before announcing he'd received the offer. Both emerged with tears in their eyes.

"I would be lying if I didn't say it wasn't emotional," Prusinski said. "He said the toughest thing about leaving Oklahoma is the people. He said it is not going to be an easy decision."

Leach said he needed time away from all the attention to figure out what to do. He said he liked the vision Tech has for its team and "how enthusiastic they are down there and how important it is to them."

"It's hard to leave," he said. "I really feel like Oklahoma is really going to be a good team next year, no matter what happens."

Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops said the Sooners will continue to support Leach.

"If that's the best situation for Mike and that's what he chooses to do, then we're all for him and proud of him and happy and appreciative of what he did for us here," Stoops said.

After meeting Tuesday with Tech Chancellor John T. Montford in Dallas, Leach flew to Lubbock for meetings, dinner and a campus tour.

He became the leading candidate after Clemson offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez said he no longer would pursue the job.

Tournaments boast strong fields

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor

A busy weekend of Crossroads Area basketball gets under way today as tournaments begin in Big Spring and Stanton.

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Sports Committee stages its first ever Spring City Crossroads Classic at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum beginning with four games today.

A total of nine games are slated today in Stanton, as the ninth annual Hoottown Classic tournament begins in gyms at Stanton High School.

The Big Spring tournament features an eight-team field composed of strong school-boy programs from schools ranging in size from Class 2A to Class 5A.

In addition to Big Spring, the Spring City Crossroads Classic field includes Class 4A teams Lubbock Estacado and Amarillo Caprock; Class 5A Lubbock Coronado; three Class 3A teams in Merkel, Clyde and Brownfield; and District 3-2A powerhouse Tahoka.

Play began at 2:15 p.m. when Tahoka's Bulldogs took on Estacado's Matadors. That game was followed by Merkel's unbeaten Badgers taking on Caprock's Longhorns at 4 p.m.

Coronado's Mustangs will take on Clyde's Bulldogs at 5:45 p.m., while the Steers will face Brownfield's Cubs in the nightcap at 7:30.

Tournament play continues at 2:15 p.m. Friday and a four-game schedule will conclude Saturday with the championship game at 7:30 that evening.

Stanton's Hoottown Classic seems to be an even more ambitious undertaking, with 12 boys teams and 10 girls teams competing in two divisions.

In addition to Stanton's host team, the boys' field includes Brady's Bulldogs, Coahoma's Bulldogs, Colorado City's Wolves, Grape Creek's Eagles, Midland Greenwood's Rangers, Kermit Yellowjackets, Midland Trinity's Chargers, Reagan County's Owls, Robert Lee's Steers, Sands' Mustangs and San Angelo Central's junior varsity Bobcats.

The Lady Buffs will host a girls' field that also includes Alpine's Lady Bucks, Brady's Lady Bulldogs, Denver City's Lady Mustangs, Grape Creek's Lady Eagles, Midland Greenwood's Rangerettes, Ira's Lady Bulldogs, Midland Trinity's Lady Chargers, Robert Lee's Lady Steers and Sands' Lady Mustangs.

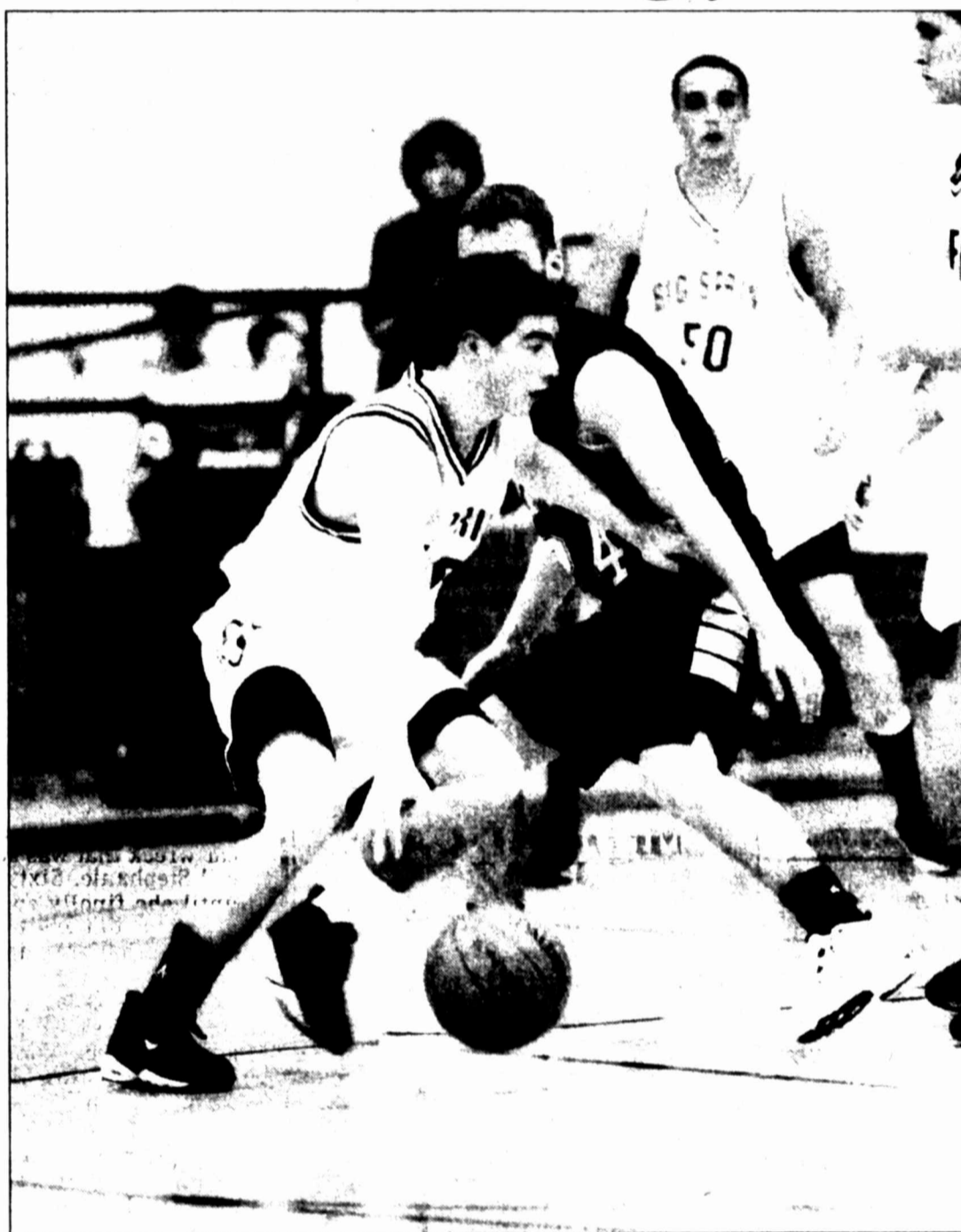
The nine games scheduled for today included a 1:30 p.m. boys' opener between Robert Lee and Kermit.

Other first-round Hoottown Classic games scheduled for today saw 3 p.m. girls games pitting Robert Lee and Greenwood in Buffalo Gym, while Denver City took on Sands in the high school gym.

At 4:30 p.m. Greenwood's Rangers and Reagan County's Owls were slated to square off in Buffalo Gym, while Coahoma's Bulldogs faced Midland Trinity.

Tonight's games at Buffalo Gym see the Lady Buffs and Buffs taking on teams from Grape Creek. The girls take the floor at 6, while the boys play the nightcap at 7:30.

While those games are being played,



HERALD photo/Jim Fiero

Big Spring point guard John Purcell (30) prepares to drive the lane as Lamesa's Stephen Brown (14) tries to cut off his lane to the basket during Tuesday's game in the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium. The Steers, now 4-5 on the season following their 54-49 loss to Lamesa, will play Brownfield's Cubs tonight at 7:30 in the opening round of the Spring City Crossroads Classic at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Midland Trinity's girls will take on Ira at 6, while Sands' Mustangs square off with Colorado City at 7:30 in the high school gym.

Buff's head coach Doug Gordon, who the Hoottown Classic moved to Midland Greenwood for the past two years while Stanton made extended runs in the Class 2A football playoffs, said he expects the tournament to be extremely competitive.

"We always try to make this one of the finest small school tournaments in the area and we feel it promises to be better than ever this year," Gordon said.

"Not only do we have a lot of teams coming in to play, but a lot of really good basketball programs," he added. "You don't put together a 12-team boys' field and a 10-team girls' field without getting a few surprises. It's going to be extremely competitive."

As he looked ahead to the start of the

SMU accepts self-imposed grid sanctions

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist University, the only major college football program ever given the NCAA's "death penalty" for rules violations, has announced that it has taken action after discovering an assistant football coach had violated NCAA recruiting rules.

The university announced Wednesday that defensive line coach Steve Malin, who had been suspended with pay in August after SMU said it had discovered possible violations, was fired.

School officials also imposed sanctions on the football program, including cutting eight scholarships over the next two years.

"We do not have an affirmation from the NCAA that they will accept these and impose no others," SMU President R. Gerald Turner said, referring to the internal sanctions at a news conference.

On Feb. 25, 1987, the NCAA hit SMU with its harshest punishment, the "death penalty," after discovering that a banned booster paid 13 players thousands of dollars.

The once-proud program that produced Doak Walker, Don Meredith and Eric Dickerson was forced to disband for one year, but the school opted to also sit out 1988. The Mustangs returned in 1989 and didn't have a winning season until 1998.

University officials said their internal investigation of the latest allegations found Malin had encouraged a student to have someone else take a college entrance exam in his place, had improper contact with other student athletes and offered improper inducements to them totaling \$650 over four years. The violations did not involve any other coaches or boosters, athletic director Jim Copeland said.

Malin has denied any wrongdoing, the university said.

The officials said they forwarded their findings Wednesday to the NCAA, whose representatives also participated in SMU's investigation.

SMU officials said they found Malin had encouraged the student who submitted a false American College Testing exam score to lie about it to university investigators.

Improper payments to various students ranged from \$10 to \$60, the investigation found.

See SMU, page 2B

Knee injury ends Barkley's career; Kings still unbeaten at home

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

On a night when Charles Barkley's spectacular career ended with a knee injury in Philadelphia, the NBA's future was on display in Sacramento.

Chris Webber had 20 points and 12 rebounds as the Kings defeated the Lakers 103-91 Wednesday night, ending Los Angeles' seven-game winning streak and remaining undefeated at home.

"We played great defense, and we played great offense, too," said Predrag Stojakovic, who had 19 points for the Kings.

Jason Williams also scored 19 for Sacramento, which improved to 7-0 at Arco Arena this season.

"I thought they did a real good job collapsing in the middle," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "I thought their defense created a lot of opportunities."

Kobe Bryant, making his first start of the season, and Shaquille O'Neal each scored 27 points for Los Angeles. Bryant

missed the Lakers' first 15 games with a broken right hand, and was a reserve in his previous four games.

At Philadelphia, Barkley's career ended where it started.

Barkley, who was going to retire at the end of the season, ruptured a tendon in his left knee in the first quarter of Houston's 83-73 loss to the 76ers.

"I guess the big fella in the sky wanted me to finish right where I started," said the Rockets forward, who started his 16-year career with the 76ers. "There were a lot of people here tonight who saw me play my first game and saw me play my last game."

Barkley, 36, hurt his knee when he went up to block a shot by Tyrone Hill. The injury requires surgery and at least six months of rehabilitation.

"I do think it was supposed to happen like this," said Barkley, who broke down crying in the locker room. "It was supposed to end in Philadelphia."

Barkley led the NBA in rebounding in 1987, helped the United States win two

Olympic gold medals, was the NBA's MVP in 1993 and was selected one of the league's 50 greatest players.

In other NBA games, it was Boston 115, Denver 90; Atlanta 99, Los Angeles Clippers 81; New Jersey 107, Milwaukee 90; Cleveland 107, Chicago 93; Charlotte 113, Golden State 106; Utah 85, Dallas 79; and Seattle 110, Minnesota 94.

Celtics 115, Nuggets 90

Tony Battie had 15 points and 12 rebounds as the Celtics spoiled Ron Mercer's return to Boston with their most lopsided win of the season.

Mercer, a former first-round draft pick who was traded to Denver in the offseason, missed five of six shots from the field and finished with two points. He missed the Nuggets' previous two games with a sinus infection.

Nets 107, Bucks 90

Stephon Marbury had 25 points and 14 assists as New Jersey won its second straight for the first time this season.

Marbury outplayed Sam Cassell, who leads the NBA in assists with 9.2 per game. Cassell finished with 10 points, five assists and six turnovers.

Hawks 99, Clippers 81

Isaiah Rider had a season-high 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists as the Hawks won their fifth straight.

The Hawks (9-9) reached the .500 mark for the first time this season. The Clippers, who lost their seventh straight overall and 10th in a row to Atlanta, got 17 points and a career-high 20 rebounds from Michael Olowokandi.

Cavaliers 107, Bulls 93

Bob Sura scored 24 of his 29 points in the first half as the Cavaliers handed Chicago its 10th straight loss.

Chicago, playing without leading scorer Elton Brand, dropped to 1-15 and matched the worst start in franchise history. The losing streak is their longest since dropping a franchise-record 13 in a row during the 1976-77 season.

Virginia Tech's Moore adds Lombardi Award to his list of accolades

HOUSTON (AP) — Virginia Tech defensive line coach Charley Wiles doesn't expect to see a player like Hokies defensive end Corey Moore again.

Moore, a blend of speed and strength, was once labeled too small to play big-time college football, but he emerged Wednesday night with the 30th Lombardi Award as the nation's top collegiate lineman.

"Combined with his physical attributes, he has the overwhelming will to win, and he's such a leader," Wiles said. "You may go through your entire coaching life and not coach a player like Corey."

Moore won the Mike Fox-Bronko Nagurski Trophy as the nation's top defender on Monday. For the Lombardi, he beat out Florida State nose guard Corey Simon, and defensive end Courtney Brown and linebacker LaVar Arrington of Penn State.

"A lot of schools recruited me out of high school, but a lot of them thought I was too small to compete in Division I-A football," Moore said. "To have been able to come to Virginia Tech and have a career here, I've been blessed with that opportunity."

Moore made the Hokies glad they took him. He led the Big East with 17 sacks for 132 yards and dropped 11 runners for 47 yards in losses.

"I want to thank the Virginia

Tech program for giving me the opportunity to play and develop as the football player I am today," Moore said. "Coach (Frank) Beamer took a chance bringing me to Tech. I'd like to thank him for that."

"I'm always motivated when people tell me I can't do something. Size doesn't matter. You can't measure the size of a person's heart. In life, I don't think anybody has a bigger heart than me. I can't wait to show my heart on a football field."

At 6-foot, 225 pounds, Moore isn't the prototype defensive end, but he fit well in the Hokies' scheme. He came to Virginia Tech at 200 pounds.

"In our defensive scheme, we don't ask Corey to line up over the offensive tackle," Wiles said. "We put Corey outside so he can use his speed and strength. He makes the offensive tackle operate in space."

Moore has been clocked at 4.3 in the 40 and bench presses 400 pounds.

"I got into coaching because of the relationships my coaches had with me made me want to have the opportunity to make a difference in a young man's life," Wiles said. "Then, here comes Corey and he's the guy who touched me."

Moore will lead the second-ranked Hokies into the Sugar Bowl Jan. 4 against No. 1 ranked Florida State for the national championship.

Cincinnati better than ever after topping Tar Heels?

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is Cincinnati good or what? The Bearcats have an outside game to go with their typically grabby defense, their ability to run the floor, their trademark rough play on the inside and their hard-to-please coach.

"That's the difference," forward Pete Miceal said. "Last year, we were like, 'We're gonna beat you up.' Now we can shoot, too. We just go out and do what we have to do."

Cincinnati put all its talents on display Wednesday night, showing why it's No. 1 while beating No. 7 North Carolina 77-68 in the Great Eight.

"The thing is, we can get so much better," said coach Bob Huggins, showing his usual sideline antics — pacing, grumbling, berating and complaining — throughout the game.

Satisfying Huggins, it seems, is as difficult as beating other ranked teams. Perhaps it also

explains why the Bearcats are so good.

"You can win by 40 and other coaches will tell you how well you did," Miceal said.

"When the man (Huggins) comes in, it's another story. 'You got to love a guy that won't let you think you're good, that he just wants the best for you. When he recruited me, the first thing he told me is that I can't wait to yell at you.'

Kenyon Martin cleaned up inside with nine rebounds, four blocks and 16 points. Miceal scored 21 points, and 6-foot-9 freshman DeMarr Johnson had 14. And when Carolina closed within two in the second half after the Bearcats led by 12 at the half, Cincinnati didn't falter.

Even though they had only one field goal in the final five minutes — a three-point play by Miceal with 1:26 left — the Bearcats were 11-of-15 from foul line to finally beat Carolina for

the first time.

Cincinnati (6-0) had lost all seven previous meetings with North Carolina, three in the 1990s, including an overtime game in the 1993 NCAA regional finals.

"I thought before the game that Cincinnati was one of the best teams I've seen in the last several years, and nothing in the course of the game changed my mind," Carolina coach Bill Guthridge said.

"They've got a lot of guys who can run up and down the floor and guards who can find them," North Carolina guard Ed Cota said.

"And they've got guys who really go after it on the boards and on the defensive end."

Martin, at 6-foot-9 and 230 pounds, gave away three inches and 35 pounds to North Carolina center Brendan Haywood, who had 14 points and just two rebounds.

"He's a great shot blocker. He

had some really impressive blocks," Haywood said of Martin. "He didn't want to post me up. He wanted to face me and use his quickness and he's a very quick player."

Max Owens led North Carolina (6-2) with 18 points, and Joe Forte had 17.

In the first game Wednesday night, No. 19 Temple benefited from Gonzaga's cold shooting and beat the 24th-ranked Bulldogs 64-48.

In other Top 25 games, it was No. 16 Tennessee 94, West Virginia 54; and No. 22 Illinois 98, Texas-Pan American 61.

Gonzaga's shooting was simply horrendous — 6-of-37 on 3-pointers, 19-of-62 on all field-goal attempts and just 4-of-13 from the free-throw line.

"We got good shots. It's not like they were rushed. We had good looks. They just didn't go in," said Gonzaga's Matt Santangelo, who was 5-of-13 and missed eight of nine 3-pointers.

SMU

Continued from page 1B

One prospect was allowed to accept Dallas Cowboys hats and T-shirts and enough money to buy used CDs and a used sweat-suit. Those inducements were worth a total of \$160, SMU officials said.

Besides the football scholarship cuts, the self-imposed sanctions included:

- Allowing eight fewer official campus visits by high school recruits in each of the next two years.
- Operating during 1999 football season without replacing Malin, who was on suspension.
- Allowing one less coach to be involved in football recruiting in next spring.

"We can live with this and we'll go forward. We're committed to doing things the right way," head football coach Mike Cavan said.

Malin, who joined the program in 1994 as a graduate assistant under then-coach Tom Rossley, was the longest-tenured member of the SMU football staff. He has coached the defensive line since 1997.

The school said in August that it suspended Malin with

pay and hired the Kansas City, Mo., law firm of Bond, Schoenck & King to investigate a possible recruiting violation by an assistant coach.

University officials credited the school's 1999 student athlete exit interviews — a part of its own internal compliance system — with uncovering the allegations.

It was during these interviews, that two students came forward with reports of possible violations. Officials would not identify any of the students involved, citing federal privacy laws.

One of the possible violations was brought to light in November, when The Dallas Morning News reported details of a former player's accusations against Malin.

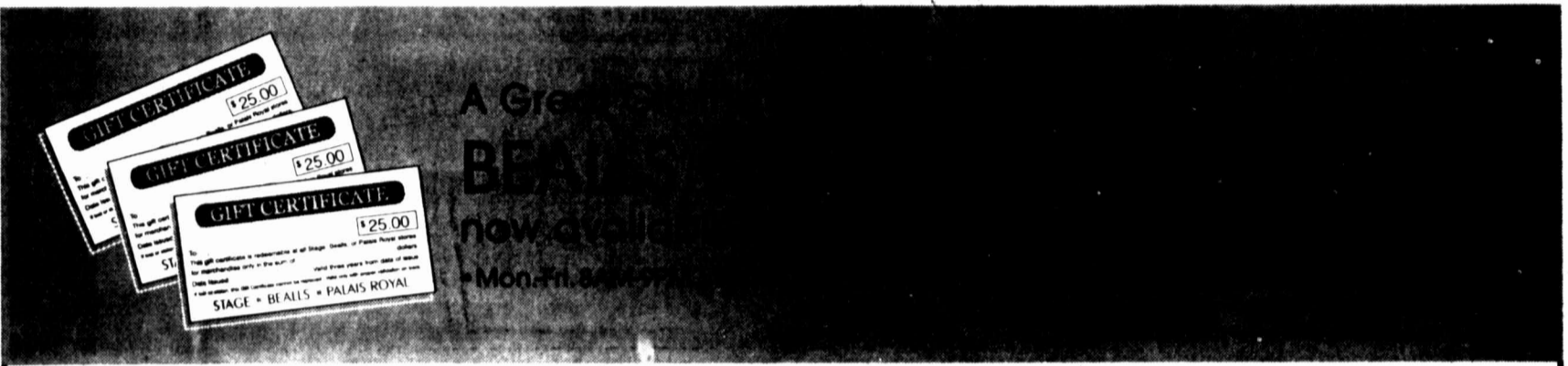
According to the newspaper, Corlin Donaldson told school investigators that Malin had encouraged him to have someone else take the ACT test for him in 1998 to gain admission to SMU. Donaldson said Malin suggested the idea, helped him with the plan, and agreed to pay a friend of Donaldson's \$100 for receiving a qualifying score on the test.

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FISHING

Here is the weekly fish report also available at www.tdsherald.com.

CENTRAL: Water clear. Black bass are good on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Report also available at www.tdsherald.com.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear. Black bass are good on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Report also available at www.tdsherald.com.

BUCHANAN: Water clear. Black bass to 4.5 pounds are good on slabs. Channel catfish are slow on minnow and scattered trolling shad. Yellow perch are good on Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow live perch are in very deep water.

SOUTH: AMISTAD: Water murky; are good on slabs. Channel catfish are slow on cut and prepared Yellow catfish are fair on slabs.

WEST: ALBANY: Water clear. Report available.

ARROWHEAD: Water clear. Black bass are fair on fire, the west end of the dam. Channels in the state park, small minnows and white jigs near the docks and docks. Bass are poor on minnows. Blue catfish are good on jugs and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are good on Channel and blue catfish are good on slabs. Yellow catfish are good on slabs.

BRADY: Water stained. Black bass are good on slabs. Channel catfish are good on slabs. Crappie are fair on the river channel. Blue and yellow catfish are good on slabs. Yellow catfish are good on cut shad.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear. No fishing report available.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear. Black bass are fair on minnows and jigs. Crappie are good on small minnows and jigs. Yellow perch are good on minnows. Blue catfish are fair on slabs. Yellow catfish are fair on slabs.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are good on french fries and wiggle warts. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on Channel and blue catfish are good on slabs. Yellow catfish are fair on slabs.

KEMP: Water slightly stained. No fishing report available.

NASWORTHY: Water stained. Black bass are fair on white and blue cranks. Crappie are fair on jugs and crappie houses at night under fair on small chrome and blue windy points and under lights. Crappie are fair on jugs and crappie houses at night under fair on chicken livers in the night. Yellow catfish are fair on slabs.

NOCONA: Water stained. Fishing report available.

OAK CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are good on minnow jugs. Minnows and jigs fished in 3 to 4 feet. Channel catfish are fair on slabs. Yellow catfish are good on slabs. Yellow catfish are good on slabs.

O.H. LIVE: Water clear. Black bass are poor on Rat-L-Draw and slabs fished at night. Channel catfish are fair on slabs. White bass are good on slabs. White bass are good on slabs.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear. Black bass are fair on slabs. White bass are fair on slabs. White bass are fair on slabs.

SPENCE: Water slightly stained. Black bass are good on top cranks. Crappie are good on slabs. Crappie are good on slabs.

STAMFORD: Water slightly stained. Black bass are fair on slabs. White bass are fair on slabs. White bass are fair on slabs.

SWEETWATER: Water clear. Black bass are good on punch. Blue catfish are good on punch. Blue catfish are good on punch.

TWIN BUTTES: Water stained. No fishing report available. Boats can be launched with caution is advised on entire lake.

WHITE RIVER: No report.

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FISHING REPORT

Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Dec. 8. (Report also available on Web as www.tdfr.com.)

CENTRAL
BROWNWOOD: Water clear; 58-65 degrees; Black bass are good on charrtrouse spinnerbaits and flouresce baits fished in the mornings and noon time in 2 to 10 feet around the boat houses on McCartney Island. Crappie are good on minnows fished around lighted docks in the mornings and at night in 5 to 10 feet. White bass and hybrid stripers are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 64 degrees; 1008.09; Black bass to 4.5 pounds are fair on ice tea worms, and with matching crew trailers and crankbaits. Crappie are slow on minnows. White bass are slow and scattered trolling shad-type crankbaits and vertically-jugging Horizon Perch Minnows. Striped bass are slow to fair drifting live bait and 4" Li Fishies. Channel and blue catfish are slow on cut and live bait. Yellow catfish are slow on trotlines baited with live perch set in very deep holes.

SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water murky; 60 degrees; Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White and striped bass are good on slabs. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut and prepared baits fished in 60 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on slabs.

WEST
ALAN HENRY: Water clear; 67 degrees; No fishing report available.

ARROWHEAD: Water clear; 67 degrees; 10' low; Black bass are fair on freetiger crankbaits fished on the west end of the dam and on points and creek channels in the state park. Crappie are good on small minnows and white jigs fished in 12 to 14 feet near the dericks and docks in the state park. White bass are poor on minnows and jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on jugs/baits baited with perch and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and jugs/baits baited with gold fish and perch on the south end of the lake. The only accessible boat ramp is in the state park.

BRADY: Water stained; 66 degrees; 17' low; Black bass are good on small charrtrouse crankbaits fished on shallow flats near the edge of the river channel. Crappie are fair on minnows fished at night under lights around the marina in 10 to 12 feet. White bass are good on small shad patterned crankbaits fished on shallow flats near the edge of the river channel. Blue and channel catfish are excellent on cut shad fished on the channel drop in 8 to 10 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with cut shad.

COLORADO CITY: Water slightly stained; 68 degrees; 13.5' low; No fishing report available.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water stained; 68 degrees; 16.5' low; Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and minnows fished in 4 to 5 feet near the dam. Crappie are good on small minnows and white jigs fished in 10 feet on the east side of the dam. Sand bass are good on minnows and charrtrouse jigs fished in 7 to 10 feet. Hybrid stripers are good on shad, perch and chicken liver fished in 3 to 6 feet. Blue catfish are fair on shad and perch fished in 3 to 5 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with perch, catfish and shad.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water stained; 68 degrees; 8.75' low; Black bass are good on Carolina rigged french fries and wiggie warts fished on rocky points in 6 to 8 feet. Crappie are good on small minnows and jigs fished around brush piles in the creek channel. White bass are good on small chrome crankbaits and minnows. No reports on hybrid stripers. Channel catfish are good fished up Lost Creek on cut shad and dead minnows. No report on yellow catfish.

KEMP: Water slightly stained; 68 degrees; 9.5' low; No fishing report available.

NASWORTHY: Water stained; 65 degrees; Black bass are fair on white and charrtrouse spinnerbaits and white crankbaits fished around structure. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows fished from crappie houses at night under lights. White bass are fair on small chrome and blue Rat-L-Trap fished on windy points and under lights at night. No report on redfish or hybrid stripers. Channel and blue catfish are fair on chicken livers in the hot water slow fished at night. Yellow catfish are fair on dropbaits baited with perch.

NOCONA: Water stained; 70 degrees; 6' low; No fishing report available.

OAK CREEK: Water clear; 60 degrees; 15' low; Black bass are good on minnows, spinnerbaits and jerk baits fished 3 to 15 feet. White bass are fair on minnows and jigs fished in 3 to 7 feet. Crappie are poor on minnows and jigs fished in 5 to 15 feet. Blue and channel catfish are fair on stink bait, gold fish, liver and shad fished in 5 to 12 feet. Yellow catfish are good on goldfish, liver, stink bait and shrimp fished in 7 to 14 feet.

OH. RIVER: Water clear; 62 degrees; 13.5' low; Black bass are poor on Rat-L-Traps fished around the grass in 3 to 5 feet. Crappie are poor on minnow and slabs fished at night under lights along the river channel in 25 feet. White bass are fair on minnows and slabs at night under lights fished along river channels in 25 to 30 feet. Catfish are fair on stink bait and worms fished in 10 to 20 feet on points.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 64 degrees; 7.6' low; Black bass are fair on spinners and Pop R's early and on Power worms fished in 5 to 10 feet later in the day. White bass are poor on minnows fished in 10 to 25 feet. Striped bass to 18 pounds are excellent on live shad fished in 20 to 40 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs fished in 5 to 20 feet. Blue catfish are good on cut shad fished in 10 to 30 feet. Yellow catfish are poor on perch fished in 20 to 30 feet.

SPENCE: Water slightly stained; 68 degrees; Black bass are good on topwaters, minnows and crankbaits fished on flats near structure. White bass are good on small crankbaits and minnows fished on sand bars. Crappie are good on minnows and white jigs fished near rock bluffs and rock points with trees. Striped bass to 22 pounds are good on cut shad fished in 20 to 22 feet near the gravel pit. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and liver fished in Cedar cove in 10 feet. No report on yellow catfish.

STAMFORD: Water slightly stained; 69 degrees; 13' low; Black bass are good on minnows fished shallow. Crappie are poor on minnows and jigs fishing the shoreline near structure in 4 to 8 feet. No report on white bass. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with perch, minnows and shad. Channel catfish are good on punch bait and cheese bait fished in 5 to 6 feet. Blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with cut shad fished in 3 to 4 feet.

SWEETWATER: Water slightly stained; 68 degrees; 11' low; Black bass to 8 pounds are good on Rat-L-Traps and jigs fished in 3 to 5 feet. No report on crappie. White bass are fair on Little Georges trolling in 20 feet. Blue and channel catfish to 15 pounds are excellent on minnows and worms fished in 5 to 6 feet. No reports of yellow catfish.

TWIN BUTTES: Water stained; 64 degrees; 40 feet low; No fishing report due to extreme low lake level. Boats can be launched from Sailboat point but caution is advised on entire lake.

WHITE RIVER: No report available.

Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

Buried Treasures From the Past
Fine Chinese Finds!

We have given you the Chinese characters for some of the words.



WHAT A FINE FIND I FOUND!



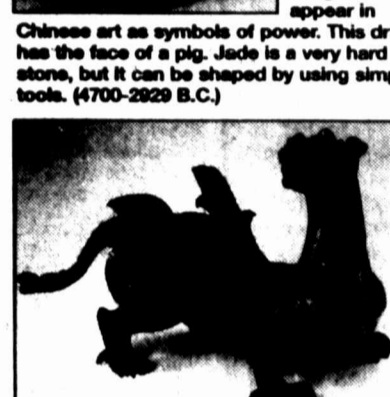
龍
dragon

This coiled dragon made of jade might have been some kind of ornament. Dragons often appear in Chinese art as symbols of power. This dragon has the face of a pig. Jade is a very hard stone, but it can be shaped by using simple tools. (4700-2829 B.C.)



鼎
ding

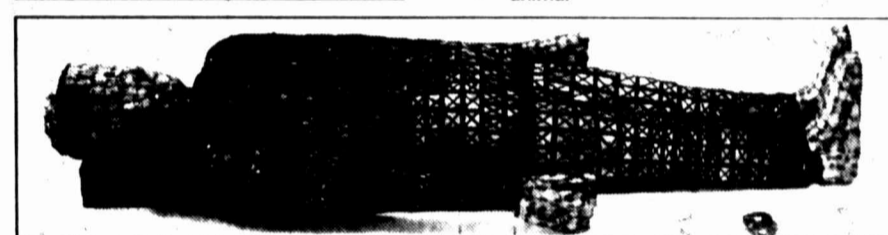
The Chinese called this type of vessel a ding. Dings were used for ceremonies and cooking and serving food. Dings were symbols of wealth and power. The bigger the dings and the more a person had, the more power he had. There were strict rules as to how many dings were allowed. Kings might have as many as nine. (1400-1200 B.C.)



神兽
animal

This bronze mythical beast has wings, a long tail and a dragon's head. It has the features of tigers, birds and reptiles. It seems about to spring into action. (4th century B.C.)

The Chinese have been using characters, or symbols, in writing for thousands of years. For everyday living, they must learn about 3,000 of them.



This jade body suit was made for a king to protect him in his afterlife. Jade was thought to have everlasting powers. Those who wore it after death would live forever. The suit is made up of 2,291 individual pieces of jade, mostly held together by red ribbons. (2nd century B.C.)

Careful digging, measuring, handling and recording can be very hard work. Archaeologists often work outdoors in hot weather. They call where they dig a "site." They also might call the site a "dig."

What was life like in ancient times, thousands of years before the year 2000? To find out, scientists called archaeologists (AR-kee-OL-uh-gists) dig into the ground to try to find artifacts (human-made objects) that will give us clues to the past. The artifacts they discover are called finds.

Archaeologists might be called down-under detectives. By studying what was left behind, they hope to solve the mysteries of the past.

China is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. Buried in its soil are many amazing artifacts.

Archaeologists can tell how old things are by the layers, or strata, of earth in which they are discovered.

They also can estimate the age of an artifact by measuring the amount of a special chemical (carbon).

This issue is based on the exhibit "The Golden Age of Chinese Archaeology" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., through Jan. 2, 2000. It will be on view at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston from Feb. 13 through May 7, 2000, and the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, June 17 through Sept. 11, 2000.

The Mini Page Discoveries From A to Z Poster-Plus is ideal for classrooms or kids' bedrooms at 21 1/4" by 32" with information on both sides. To order, send check or money order only, for \$3.00 plus 75¢ postage and handling per copy to: Discoveries From A to Z Poster-Plus, P.O. Box 419024, Kansas City, Mo. 64141. Make checks payable to Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Go dot to dot and color.

This dot-to-dot is of one of the soldiers in the terra cotta army. We can tell he is an officer because of his armor. His left hand might have held a sword.

Help Alpha Mouse find her ancient relic. She's been on a dig.

MAZE

Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Chinese Vegetable Soup
You'll need:
• 1 can chicken broth
• 1 soup can water
• 1/2 cup mushrooms, sliced
• 1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
What to do:
1. Combine soup and water in a medium pot. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Mix well.
2. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, stirring often. Cook 2 minutes.
Serves 6.

ARCHAEOLOGY
TRY 'N FIND
Words that remind us of archaeology are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: PAST, ARCHAEOLOGY, PEOPLE, OBJECTS, BUILDINGS, BONES, ANIMALS, FOOD, LIVES, POTTERY, TREASURES, STRATA, TOOLS, UTENSILS, SCIENCE, DIG.

THE PAST IS SO INTERESTING!

A I Y G O L O E A H C R A A A
B J B B O N E S Y R E T T O P
T L C P K C S L A M I N A C C
D O I M E D S R U S A E R T
E N O V E O S C I E N C E D N
F O L L E P Q R S F O O D T
P A S T S S G L S T C E J B O
S L I S N E T U E S T R A T A
M S G N I D L I U B H D I G O

Mini Spy ...
Mini Spy and her friends are visiting an exhibit of ancient Chinese art. See if you can find:

- pea pod
- number 3
- candle
- bug
- sailboat
- peanut
- letter A
- ladder
- umbrella
- heart
- acorn
- letter H
- word MINI
- letter Z
- number 7

Wow! What a Dig!
The Terra Cotta Army

More than 25 years ago, in 1974, Chinese farmers were digging a well in central China, near the city of Xi'an. They happened across what was to become one of the most important archaeological sites ever seen.

What they discovered were fragments from the burial grounds of China's all-powerful first emperor, Shihuangdi (shee-hwang-dee).

The first emperor
Qin was the name of the part of China he ruled, before his army of more than 1 million soldiers conquered the entire country in 221 B.C. He united all of the other little kingdoms.

China gets its name from Qin (pronounced "Chin.") He set up uniform systems of writing, measurements and roads. It was his idea to build the Great Wall of China.

Life after death
Like most ancient Chinese, he believed in taking the real world with him when he died. He certainly would need an army to protect him. He took his life-size terra cotta army of 7,000 soldiers.

Terra cotta
Terra cotta is a kind of pottery we often see in the flowerpots of today. It is made from mud that is mixed, then is poured into molds and baked in very hot ovens. It breaks easily.

Most of the soldiers are in bits and pieces. Archaeologists carefully sift through the dirt inch by inch to find the tiniest parts.

Look through your newspaper for pictures of items that you might bury to tell people hundreds of years from now what life was like in 1999.

Next week: The Mini Page celebrates the holiday season with a story about the animals of the holidays.

As many as 700,000 people worked for more than 30 years to make the 7,000 soldiers. About 1,000 have been put back into their original shape. They are lined up in trenches as if they were going into battle. They are near the emperor's tomb. Archaeologists have not started digging there yet.

When they were first made more than 2,000 years ago, the soldiers were brightly painted and held real weapons. While models were used to make the bodies, no two are alike. They have different hair styles, shoes, expressions and uniforms.

The paint has faded. Vandals have taken the weapons. Most of the bodies are smashed because the wooden ceiling that was above them fell.

The archer above still has traces of red on his armor. At one time he held a bow and arrow. The soldier models are hollow on the inside.

The terra cotta army is buried in three pits. They are arranged in trenches. Today, the pits are covered by huge buildings that look like hangars for airplanes. Hundreds of people are working to restore the soldiers. Thousands of tourists from around the world come to see them.

The Mini Page thanks the Department of Asian Art, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., for help with this issue.

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DECEMBER 1999

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<p>UNFURNISHED APTS. \$99 MOVE IN plus deposit. 1,2,3 bdr. Partially furn. 263-7811 a.m. 393-5240 evenings</p> <p>Free Rent For Christmas Half of Dec. Free w/ \$99 Dep. 2 bdr. \$275 Eff. \$3210 Call 915-267-4217</p> <p>UNFURNISHED HOUSES 1 br. 1 bath, 1102 Sycamore. No Pets !! Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.</p> <p>2 bdr. trailer North of town, storage bldg., water furnished, fenced yard \$250/mn \$50/dep. Call 263-0260.</p> <p>2 bedroom, 11/2 bath, 304 E. 5th. No pets. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.</p> <p>2/1 \$350/mo + dep. 3/1 \$450/mo + dep. 3/2 \$550/mo + dep. 3/2 \$600/mo + dep. Call 264-9907.</p> <p>2405 Alabama Nice 3 bdr 1 3/4 bath, 2 living areas or 4 bdr. \$475/mn. \$200/dep. Call 557-5705.</p> <p>1313 Settles Like new inside w/hw C/H/A, for this 3 bdr. 2 bdr. double car garage w/ electric door opener and fenced back yard, ceiling fans, near all schools. \$500/mn. \$500/dep. Call 267-8569, 267-4090 & 267-2358. No Pets.</p> <p>1409 E. 18th. 3 Br. 2bth. carpet, fenced yard, cellar. \$535/mo water paid. \$295/dep. References required. Call 263-3689.</p> <p>1619 Harding 4 bdr. 2 bth. \$350/mn. \$200/dep. Sorry No Pets. 263-4922</p>	<p>UNFURNISHED HOUSES 2510 Carlton. Good neighborhood. Nice, clean 3BR, 2bth, C/H/A, 2 living areas, fenced backyard, double carport. \$550/mo, \$250/dep, 267-1543.</p> <p>3210 Drexel: 3br. 2 bth. C/H/A, Clean, Single garage Fenced yard. Also: 3617 Hamilton clean, 3 bdr. C/H/A, fenced yard. Call 263-3350</p> <p>603 W. 16th 2 Br - 1bth C/H/A \$425/mo - \$200/dep 263-1792 or 264-6006</p> <p>Extra clean 2Br on nice landscaped half acre. Water well, good location. 263-5272.</p> <p>FOR RENT 207 Jefferson 3 bdr. 2 bth. fireplace, totally remodeled, new plumbing & electric, C/H/A, wood & tile floors, new carpet. \$650 + dep. with good references. 267-2296</p> <p>FOR RENT 2111 Runnels 3 bdr. 1 bth. HUD ok! 205 E. 22nd (upstairs) utilities pd. \$150/dep. \$300/mn. 915-363-8243.</p> <p>For rent 3 bdr. 104 Circle & 2521 Dow, and a 2 bdr. 2009 Johnson. For more info. 264-0793 or 270-2405 after 4 pm.</p> <p>2 bd, 1 bath \$300.00 mo. 1 bd 1 bath \$275.00 water & appl. furn., Coahoma School district. 267-6347.</p> <p>2 bdr mobile home 1407 B Mesquite \$265/mn. \$150/dep. Also: 2 bdr. mobile 1410 rear Harding \$265/mn. \$150/dep. water paid. Call 267-6667.</p> <p>Unique and nice ranch style 2 bdr. 1 bth. central air, carport, detached workshop, Hillside view over city park/golf course. \$350 No Pets Please. References/ground maintenance required. McDonald Realty 263-7616</p>
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HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 10:
Be careful when dealing with co-workers and those in your day-to-day life. Heated words could be exchanged, causing a long-term problem. Not everyone has the bounce that you have. Be more sensitive to those around you. If you are single, popularity skyrockets this year, making anything possible. Knowing what kind of relationship you want will help. If attached, the two of you could easily come to an impasse. Learn better methods of resolving differences. Remember the intrinsic caring between you. Your relationship will blossom this summer. CAPRICORN helps you capitalize on your moneymaking ideas.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** You hit a roadblock just when you thought everything was a piece of cake. You might not know the words to express your frustration. Listen to a friend who encourages you to take the high road. However, make sure another isn't taking legal advantage of you. Tonight: A must show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** You might think another is deliberately tripping you up. Frustration builds. Check out alternative avenues of self-expression. You might simply opt for another route. One-on-one relating flourishes. You make a big difference where it counts. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** News might force a change of plans, but you can deal with it. You might, however, need to go back to the drawing board and begin all over again. Your sense of humor comes through, despite it all. Your appeal grows. Make an effort toward a special friend. Tonight: Ever popular.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** Let others make the call. You could feel down about a friend who disappoints you. Partner words throw you off. A partner will defend you to the end. Follow through on what you know will work. Don't get caught up in politics. Tonight: Where your friend's are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Work is very important. Think about a boss who keeps tossing obstacles in your lap. Your frustration comes out despite your best attempts. Loosen up. Make an overture toward a loved one or child. You guarantee yourself a good weekend. Tonight: Work on holiday stuff.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Your inner voice directs you when you hit an obstacle. News from a distance could be disappointing, but you can deal with it. You might have to cover more ground or do additional work as a result. Listen to a family member. Tonight: Share in some Christmas cheer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Family is always a high priority, even though you find them unusually demanding right now. A child acts out, putting a lot of pressure on you. Re-establish limits. A difficult partner triggers your frustration. Clearly, you don't see eye to eye. Tonight: Happy at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** You are clear about what you want and choose. Others may balk, especially family and your significant other. You might want to toss your hands in the air! Stay level-headed. Continue to operate from a point of security. Tonight: Visit with friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
*** Keep your mind active by mulling over a challenging situation. A work or day-to-day matter impels you to break past others' resistance. You could easily get angry at another's ineptitude. Seek to solve problems. Tonight: Shop, and treat yourself to a present as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Your charisma might be sorely needed when you're challenged by a financial question. Another clearly wants you to take a risk. Back off and do some solid thinking. A child or new friend could really push to have things his way. Tonight: Go out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** Your temper causes another to recoil. Do you really want this? Be lighter with a family member who can't take your brusque and sometimes unpredictable manner. Take some time to reflect, or take a walk to relieve stress. Figure out what is really bothering you. Tonight: Take the night off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** It might be difficult to see that everything is landing where you want it to land. Instead, you are seeing the immediate and feeling your own temper rise. You are eliminating certain elements of your life that aren't working. Trust that you are on the right path. Tonight: Start the party circuit.

BORN TODAY
Actress Susan Dey (1952), former basketball player Mark Aguirre (1959), singer/actress Gloria Loring (1946)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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 - 1998 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR - White w/leather, all power, local one owner w/36,000 miles. **\$20,995**
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 - 1996 Toyota Camry LE - Platinum metallic, cloth, CD, all power, locally owned. **\$12,995**
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 - 1995 Mercury Cougar XR7 - Green w/green top, V-8, all power, local one owner w/only 23,000 miles. **\$10,995**
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 - 1996 Mercury Mystique GS - Iris w/cloth, all power, one owner w/39,000 miles. **\$8,995**
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Noticing our friendship, church members began to approach me and advise me to back off and not get hurt. I was told he had been involved with another woman at the church for a long time before he met me, and that they had broken up for unknown reasons. The reason for this occurred to me - that she didn't want to be caught in a dead-end relationship, either.

Abby, this man won't tell me straight, but I have this strong feeling that he cheated on his wife during their marriage, and she simply moved far away. He keeps my calendar full of dates and commitments extending far into the future, and I've always had a wonderful time with him. This is apparently the kind of life he wants, but it's not for me.

I am embarrassed and hurt. Do I just say to him, "I want marriage or nothing"? I am so emotionally entangled that an abrupt severing seems beyond my ability. Fragile as it is, I feel that we have something of great value together, but I only visualize an empty future together. Your thoughts, please.

IN LIMBO IN WASHINGTON

DEAR IN LIMBO: Politely put, your charming escort is a cad and a liar, and I'm sorry your heart is hurting because of his dishonesty. You deserve better.

Ask him to come clean and tell you if he and his wife are really washed up or not. You seem like a lovely woman with terrific instincts, and you already know what you have to do.

Widow's charming escort appears to be a cheat

DEAR ABBY: I'm a widow in my 60s, and I'm beginning to think I'm the biggest fool in the world.

After my dear husband died two years ago, I convinced myself I would never get involved with another man. I needed peace after nursing my mate through five traumatic years of cancer and a painful death.

A year ago, I met a charming man my age at church with whom I had many interests in common. He asked me out right after we met, and we have been a happy twosome ever since. He owns his own home a short distance from mine, and we've had a marvelous relationship in all ways. He told me he was divorced and that his ex-wife lived 3,000 miles away in another state.

However, after he told me that he had four unmarried, grown children but didn't feel comfortable telling them about me, I became suspicious. When he visits them in another state, he asks me not to write or call him because they "wouldn't understand." My children and grandchildren like him very much, as do all my friends.

Finally, I asked him outright if he were, indeed, divorced. After a long pause he replied, "Not yet." (After a eight-year separation)



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DECEMBER 9 1999

THURSDAY

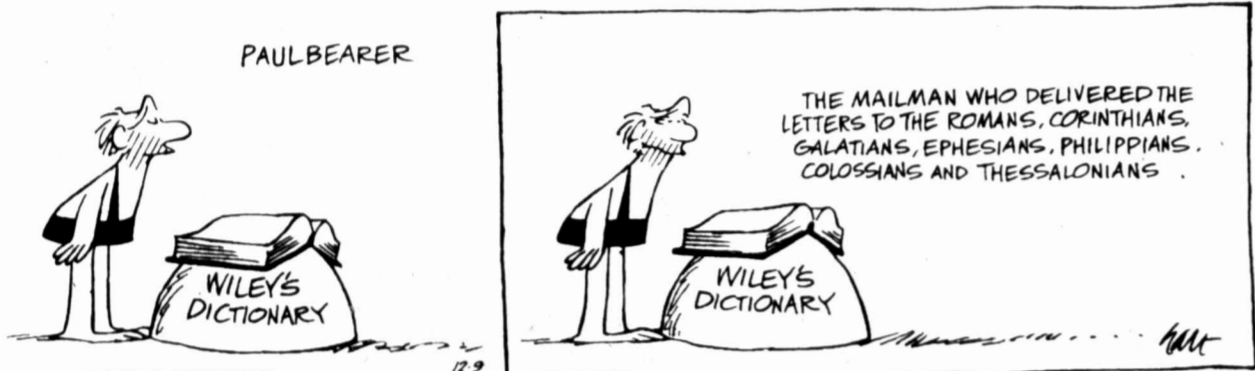
DEC. 9

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows for time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM, listing various news, entertainment, and sports programs.

HAGAR



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 1999. There are 22 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for across and down words.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved section showing the completed crossword puzzle.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and office hours.

Today's Highlight in History: In 1854, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's famous poem, 'The Charge of the Light Brigade,' was published in England. In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II. In 1941, China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy. In 1942, the Aram Khachaturian ballet 'Gayane,' featuring the surging 'Saber Dance,' was first performed by the Kirov Ballet. In 1958, the anti-Communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis. In 1965, Nikolai V. Podgorny replaced Anastas I. Mikoyan as president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. In 1979, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, the religious broadcaster, died in New York City at age 84. In 1992, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation. The couple's divorce became final in 1996. In 1995, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., was chosen to become the new head of the NAACP. Ten years ago: President Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger began a surprise visit to Beijing, six months after China's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators. Five years ago: Representatives of the Irish Republican Army and the British government opened peace talks in Northern Ireland. President Clinton fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders after learning she'd told a conference that masturbation should be discussed in school as a part of human sexuality. One year ago: Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee drew up four articles of impeachment against President Clinton, all stemming from his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky and long campaign to cover it up. Today's Birthdays: Actor Douglas Fairbanks Junior is 90. Actor Kirk Douglas is 83. Actress Dina Merrill is 74. Actor Dick Van Patten is 71. Talk show host Morton Downey Junior is 66. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 65. Actor Beau Bridges is 58. Football Hall-of-Famer Dick Butkus is 57. Rock singer-musician Rick Danko (The Band) is 56. Actor Michael Nouri is 54. Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., is 52. Singer Joan Armatrading is 49. Actor Michael Dorn is 47. Actor John Malkovich is 46. Country singer Sylvia is 43. Singer Donny Osmond is 42.