

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

DECEMBER 10 1999

FRIDAY

December 10, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



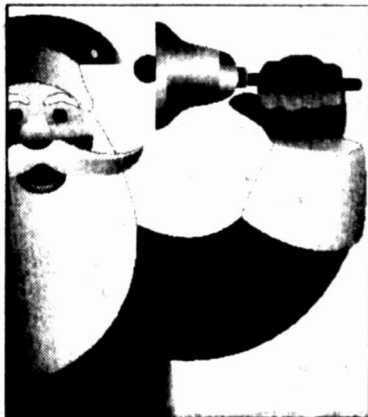
PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 36°-40° SATURDAY 47°-52°

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

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IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE, SO I'LL LET YOU GIVE ME ALL YOUR PRESENTS. YOU'RE SO GOOD TO ME.



15 shopping days 'til Christmas Sponsored by BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Vol. 97, No. 38

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.

Big Spring man caught in Midland, Odessa, New Mexico drug bust

From Staff and Wire Reports

MIDLAND — Steven Lopez, 22, of Big Spring, was among 23 of 31 persons named in state and federal drug warrants who were arrested Thursday.

Law enforcement officers from 20 local, state and federal agencies moved through Midland, Odessa and other cities in Texas and New Mexico armed with arrest warrants for 31 suspects on federal and state drug-related charges.

By Thursday evening 23 of those named in the warrants

were in custody, Lt. Robert Ralls of the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Division said.

Ralls said 22 of the suspects were being held in the Federal Detention Center in Odessa on federal charges of conspiracy to import controlled substances, primarily marijuana and cocaine.

One person was arrested on a state marijuana possession charge, he said.

Those arrested Thursday were to be arraigned today before U.S. Magistrate L. Stuart Platt

in Midland.

Eight of the 23 also were charged on federal counts of conspiracy to import a controlled substance.

Elizardo Aranda, the alleged leader of one of the drug network cells, was arrested on the charge of engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, Ralls said.

A second cell leader is still at large, he added. Ralls declined to identify that person, saying he might flee the area.

A semi-automatic AK-47 assault rifle, a Tec969 machine

pistol and several handguns were confiscated in two homes during the sweep, Ralls said.

Arrested were: Elizardo Aranda, 32; Sara Aranda, 34; Pedro Baeza, 25; Richard Marcias, 21; Felipe Zamora, 25; Sergio Juarez, 51; Jesus Lucero, 35; Dulces Nieto, 51; Guillermo Rodriguez, 38; Rafael Ronquillo, 29; Mario Sanchez, 41; and Auden Minjarez, 28; all of Odessa.

Also arrested were Jose Falcon, 25; Elizabeth Falcon, 26; Aaron Herrera, 37; and Sandra Herrera, 36; all of Midland.

Octavio Herrera, 37, of Ruidoso, N.M., and brother of a Midland attorney, is a former Midland resident.

Arrested from other cities were: Patricio Martinez III, 24, of Beaumont; Steven Lopez, 22, of Big Spring; Reta Baldeo Pfolsgroff, 44, of Dallas; Ricky Jones, 49, and Richard Aranda, 32, both of Hobbs, N.M.; and Efrain Pando, 31, of Presidio.

The organization, which had direct ties to Mexican drug rings, used the Midland Odessa

See **BUST**, Page 2A

Thumbprint program reducing hot checks

LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The next time you make purchases at a local retailer, the salesclerk just might ask you for your thumb print.

"Big Spring loses massive amounts of money to forgeries every year," according to Sgt. Roger Sweatt, public information officer for the Big Spring Police. "I estimate around \$100,000 is lost in Big Spring due to forgeries."

Over the past two years, the Big Spring Police Department has encouraged local business to help police combat check forgeries by participating in the Thumb Print program.

Participating business require customers using checks to leave a thumb print on their check. The store clerk has the customer lightly press his right thumb on an inkless fingerprint pad.

The ink contains a chemical that reacts with the thumb to leave a print on the check, but the ink dries almost immediately. Customers are able to brush the ink off, so the ink does not leave a stain on the thumb.

Several small convenience stores such as 7-Eleven's and Texas Star Stops are participating in the program. "I feel like I am helping to protect our customers," said Vicky Ledesma, manager for Star Stop No. 14, located across from McMahon Wrinkle Airpark on Business 20.

According to Ledesma, some customers believe requiring them to put a thumb print on their check is another attempt



Vicky Ledesma, manager of Texaco Star Stop No. 14, takes Freddy Garcia's thumbprint on a check. The program, which has been touted by the Big Spring Police Department for several years, is finally gaining acceptance by local retailers. Police say the program is reducing hot check and stolen check usage.

at government control. They feel "big brother" is interfering with their rights.

"What most people do not realize is checks contain everything on it, names, addresses, and driver's license numbers. I have even seen checks that contain social security numbers and military I.D.'s," she said.

"Thieves can memorize check information, but they can not fake a thumbprint."

According to the Big Spring Police, a thumb print on a check will be recorded or examined only when a check is returned by the bank or when a criminal offense occurs.

Ledesma personally related to

being taken advantage of by forgers when she received a letter from the county attorney addressed to her mother for hot checks.

Her mother had died in 1991, yet checks were still being written on her mother's account as

See **CHECKS**, Page 2A

BBB: Holiday season a top time for scams, rip-offs

LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

From now until Christmas, the Better Business Bureau of the Permian Basin expects an estimated 1,000 phone calls from concerned people inquiring about business that they have not done business with before.

"Many calls we will receive during this Christmas season are concerned citizens asking for information on organizations that have contact them for donations," said Dick Rowland, president of the Better Business Bureau of the Permian Basin.

"There are a tremendous amount of good organizations doing charitable work, but do not donate any money until you are convinced the organization is legitimate," Rowland said.

Rowland advises the consumer to ask several questions from anyone who is soliciting for donations.

BBB HOLIDAY SUGGESTIONS

The Better Business Bureau suggests to always check a solicitor out before writing them a check.

- Never give out a blank check
- Never provide an account or credit card number over the telephone
- When deciding to donate over the phone, make sure you know who you are dealing with
- Watch out for sound-alike names

If dealing with a local organization, volunteer to personally bring the donation to the local office. A legitimate solicitor will be glad to agree to the plan.

If the solicitor tries to convince a potential donor to let someone from the organization personally pick up the donation, most likely this is an organization set up to quickly move in and out of towns.

The Better Business Bureau's motto is "check them out before

you write the check," according to Rowland.

Never give anyone a bank account, checking account, savings account, social security, or credit card number over the telephone. Giving these numbers implies understood permission to draft the account.

Solicitors can draft accounts with donor's account numbers even if the donor has not given official permission. If a person challenges a draft after

giving these numbers to a solicitor over the phone, the solicitor can raise the defense, if he did not want to donate why did he give me the account number.

When deciding to donate money over the phone or in any phone purchases, make sure you know with whom you are talking. Rowland advises to give out personal account numbers only when consumer has called the solicitor.

Rowland also advises not to give the mother's maiden name over the phone. The password for many accounts is the mother's maiden name.

Watch out for sound alike names. Rowland gives many speeches where he uses the National Cancer Society as an example. Rowland then reveals to the audience that the National Cancer Society is a fictitious organization created by

See **BBB**, Page 2A

Convicted rapist's death ruled suicide after 6-month probe

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Staff Writer

Justice of the Peace Marilyn Carson ruled Kendall Ruffin's death a suicide, following a six-month investigation by Sgt. Bob Bullock of the Texas Rangers.

"I have ruled his death a suicide, after several months of an inquiry and investigation that is now complete, and after speaking with the pathologist," said JP Marilyn Carson.

In August, Ruffin, 40, was found near death in his cell in

the Howard County jail following a conviction for aggravated sexual assault and a sentence of 99 years in prison for the crime.

At first glance, officials could detect no sign of how Ruffin might have taken his own life. Foul play was immediately ruled out by the preliminary report from the pathologist and from the Texas Rangers investigation. A final ruling depended on the toxicology and final autopsy results.

Carson said what prompted

See **SUICIDE**, Page 2A



Illiana Lujan (left) and Lacey Lawrence, Kentwood students, make placemats Thursday for the dining room at Comanche Trail Nursing Home. The students chose to spend the \$2 they normally give to a gift exchange to make gift bags for area nursing homes instead. On Monday, they will distribute gift bags they have made.

HERALD photo/Valerie Avery

See **BSISD**, Page 2A

OBITUARIES

Andrew "Andy" Hancock

Funeral service for Andrew "Andy" Hancock of Midland was 2 p.m. today at Bellview Baptist Church, Midland, with the Rev. Myron Unruh officiating. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

He died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1999.

Mr. Hancock was born June 5, 1926, in Ovalo. He attended school in Stanton and served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He married Lavon Conway in Midland April 8, 1948, and worked as an independent petroleum operator.

Survivors include: his wife, Lavon Hancock, two sons, Gerald Andrew "Jerry" Hancock and Phillip Hancock, and a daughter, Linda Hancock Schmalz, all of Midland; a brother, Curtis Hancock of Denver, Colo.; a sister, Annie Merrill of Granbury; and 12 grandchildren.

The family requests memorials to a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, Midland.

Ehemorio Chapa

Funeral service for Ehemorio Chapa, 74, of Stanton, is pending with Stanton Memorial Funeral Home & Chapel. He died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1999, at his 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 Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.



TALBOTT

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 Hettlinger of Aurora, Colo., and Bud Hettlinger of Elkhorn, Neb.; 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-3238 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

Harriett N. 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.

Big Spring Herald ISSN 0746-6811 USPS 0055-940 Daily except Saturday. BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere. The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, American Newspaper Association and West Texas Press. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas, 79720-9998. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to: Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

her parents and one brother. Pallbearers will be Barney Newsom, Joey Newsom, Jeremy Talbott, Friend Talbott, Craig Talbott, Nathaniel Talbott and Don Newsom.

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

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

Paid obituary

BUST

Continued from Page 1A

region as a staging area to distribute the drugs to other states, Ralls said.

The drug network operated out of several homes and businesses in the area, including construction companies and a detailing business, he said.

Thursday's sweep is only phase one of a multi-phase operation, Ralls said.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

grade Marcy Elementary teacher and Nadine Smith as a Goliad Elementary sixth grade special education teacher.

"All three of these teachers did their student teaching for Angelo State University and taught with us this fall. They have done well enough in their studies that they can now seek employment," Murphy said. Trustees also approved hiring Brenda Dunlap as a physical education and music teacher for Kentwood Elementary.

"She comes to us with 18 years experience and is certified in both areas, music and p.e., which is very fortunate for us," he said.

Watson will replace Linda Miracle, who has resigned from her position after more than 15 years with BSISD to take a teaching position at Howard College.

Evans replaces Karen Gallager, who is moving from the area after 14 years with the district at Marcy Elementary.

And Smith replaces Judy Hammock, who is moving to Dallas where her husband Mike Hammock was transferred.

"These are all good teachers," Murphy said. McQueary's attendance report indicates Big Spring received five new students this past week, brining the total enrollment for BSISD to 4,178.

"This means we are 165 students down from last year, but we are doing a little bit better than we were when school began. It will be really interesting to see if this trend continue after the semester break," McQueary said.

Trustee Irene Bustamante also gave a report concerning her participation in the Texas Association of School Board conferences.

Rowland encourages citizens to visit the Permian Basin Better Business Bureau website at www.permianbasinbbb.org

Business owners should remember to watch for charitable solicitation. "Charitable organization solicit business the same way as with people except they asked for larger donations," Rowland said.

Rowland encourages citizens to visit the Permian Basin Better Business Bureau website at www.permianbasinbbb.org

Something For Everyone On Your List! Lava Lamps, Gag Gifts, Adult Gag Gifts, Stocking Stuffers, T-Shirts, Wizards - Dragons, Texas Gift - Souvenirs, Supreme Energy - Toys, Betty Boop - Unusual Novelties - Pewter Fantasy, STAGECOACH GIFTS, 393-5344

SUICIDE

Continued from Page 1A

her to conclude his death a suicide by poisoning came from the toxicology reports that indicate amounts of chloride and sodium in the blood stream.

"I ruled his suicide was caused from ingesting and inhaling sodium hypochloride, an industrial cleaning agent. The manner in which he procured this cleaning chemical is unusual, and all I will say is that he was able to capture it," Carson said.

She said there is absolutely no doubt that the death was suicide, and that all points of the investigation were covered and the findings were very conclusive.

"This has been very tough, and I am glad it's over," she said.

Ruffin was convicted by a seven woman-five man jury in 118th District Court Aug. 24, and was found in his cell six hours later, unconscious.

HELPING

Continued from Page 1A

College Park Shopping Center • Pollard Chevrolet, through Dec. 14.

Other efforts:

• H-E-B Food Stores "Ring In A Miracle" to benefit the Salvation Army. Tell your cashier what you want to give and either \$1 or \$2 will be added to your grocery total.

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

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

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

• Parks Convenience Center, 311 Gregg, is having a canned food drive for the Salvation Army. For four cans of food you get "The Works" car wash, a \$6 value, free through Dec. 10.

• Isaiha 58, Christian assistance agency, is accepting food and toy donations to be given to needy families in time for Christmas. Hours for donating are Monday and Tuesday, 9:30-11 a.m. or 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 107-109 Rannels, or anytime at First Christian Church.

CHECKS

Continued from Page 1A

late as 1993 and 1994.

"I did not know that my mother's checks were stolen until I received the letter," she said. "I had to take a copy of my mother's death certificate to some of these stores to prove my mother was dead."

The perpetrator was never found.

Police have made several cases against forgers through the program, Sweatt said, including four earlier this year.

One of the major problems with fraudulent checks is the lack of solid evidence to make a case. Visual identification of the fraudulent check writer is very difficult are rare in most cases.

According to Sweatt, fraudulent checks may take up to six months from the time the check is written until the case is reported to the police. For sales clerks, some who service up to 300 people a day, making a visual identification is very difficult.

"I dealt with one customer who refused to be thumb print-

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

ed and was going to pay by credit card," Ledesma said. "He complained about having the blank ink on his thumb all day."

"I placed my thumb on the pad and then immediately rubbed the ink away," she said. "Once the customer saw my demonstration, he decided to use his check."

The FBI estimates financial institutions can cut check fraud losses by 50 percent just by fingerprinting non-customers.

Norwest Bank has been thumb printing non-customers for several years, according to teller supervisor Sandy Henderson.

Thumb printing helped Norwest apprehend a person for forgery a few years ago.

"People were a little apprehensive at first, but now it does not bother them," Henderson said.

Economics is the reason most companies decide to participate in the program.

"The company started the thumb print program as another way to collect money off of returned checks," said Dan Baker, operations manager for Regal Oil, the company that owns Star Stop. "Any way we can help the legal system to collect money, helps us."

"The cost of crime affects you, me, and everyone. If a store loses money, the store will not take the loss, but have to make up the money," Sweatt said. "Stores will increase the prices of their merchandise. In the long run, we are the one that have to pay."

For more information on the program, contact Sweatt at 264-2548 or officer Lance Telchik at 264-0264.

SUPPORT GROUPS

FRIDAY

• Turning Point A.A., 8-9:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. Big Book Study.

• Al-Anon support group, noon, 615 Settles.

SATURDAY

• Alzheimer's Association Support Group, second Saturday of the month, Carriage Inn Retirement Center, 501 W. 17th, 10 a.m.

• Family support group for current and former patients and their families, 1 p.m. weekly, Reflections Unit of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Call Beverly Grant, 263-0074.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon, 8 p.m., 10 p.m. open meetings, 615 Settles.

• "So I Forget," Attention Deficit Disorder support group for individuals and couples, first Saturday of the month from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas, Inc., Midland. Call the center at (915) 563-4144 or 1-800-329-4144. Cost is \$15.

• West Texans Living with Chronic Fatigue & Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Fibromyalgia, 1-3 p.m., on different Saturdays of the month, HealthSouth facility at Hwy. 191 and Loop 250, Midland. Call Joann Carney, (915) 686-7977, or Marsha Brunet, (915) 337-4829 to get the correct meeting date.

• NA 10 p.m. candlelight meeting, St. Mary's Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager)

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 0,6,1

Cash \$: 1,7,19,32,33

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

no.). •Open birthday night meets the last Saturday of the month with a covered dish at 7 p.m. and birthday meeting at 8 p.m., 615 Settles.

Europacific 41.08-43.59 Prime Rate 8.50% Gold 280.10-281.10 Silver 5.08-5.16

BRIEFS

THE COAHOMA POST OFFICE will be open Saturday, as well as Saturday, Dec. 18. Office hours both days will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dec. 18 will be "Customer Appreciation Day."

It is also the time for children to mail their Santa Claus letters! We will have a special letter drop just for Santa.

Refreshments will be served. Come join us for great service, refreshments and fun.

SANTA CLAUS WILL BE at the new pavilion behind Dora Roberts Community Center both tonight and Saturday night.

Sponsored by the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, the event will include a time for all children to visit with Saint Nick, and parents can take pictures. There is no charge.

Santa will arrive about 7 p.m. and stay until 8:30 p.m., or until all children are gone.

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.

FORSAN HIGH SCHOOL AND junior high bands will present their Christmas concert Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. There is no admission and everyone is invited to attend this concert of holiday music.

MARKETS

March cotton 50.02, up 12 points; Jan. crude 25.73, down 42 points; cash hogs steady at 35; cash steers steady at 70 even; Dec. lean hog futures 51.10, down 25 points; Dec. live cattle futures 69.73, down 7 points.

courtesy Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

Table with market prices for various commodities like ATT, Atlantic Richfield, Atmos Energy, BP Amoco, Chevron, Cifra, Compaq Computer, Cornell Correc, Dell, DuPont, Exxon, Halliburton, IMB, Intel Corp, Mid Amer Energy, NUV, Palex Inc., Patterson Ener, Pepsi Cola, Phillips Petroleum, SBC Com, Sears, Texaco, Texas Instruments, Texas Utils. Co, Total Fina SA, Unocal Corp, Wal-Mart, Amcap.

RECORDS

Thursday's high 52 Thursday's low 23 Average high 57 Average low 30 Record high 79 in 1939 Record low 10 in 1917 Precip. Thursday 0.00 Month to date 0.00 Month's normal 0.23 Year to date 11.84 Normal for the year 17.87 Sunrise Saturday 7:37 a.m. Sunset Saturday 5:41 p.m. Sunrise Sunday 7:37 p.m. Sunset Sunday 5:42

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity through 7 a.m. today:

• VERONICA NUNEZ, 20 arrested for no driver's license.

• ROBERT EVANS, 29, arrested for driving with suspended license.

• WILLIAM DAVIS, 44, arrested for driving with suspended license.

• NOE HERNANDEZ, 28, arrested for no insurance.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE reported in the 200 block of Circle and 1700 Alabama.

• INVESTIGATION OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES reported in the 1200 block of West Third, First and Austin, 500 Main, Second and Nolan and 200 Main.

• THEFT reported in the 600 block of Highland and 200 block of Marcy (two instances).

• CLASS C ASSAULT reported in the 1300 block of Wood and 4100 Dixon.

• LOUD PARTY/NOISE reported in the 3600 block of Calvin and 1900 E. 25th.

FIRE/EMS

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

10:06 a.m. — 2300 block Gregg, medical call, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

1:22 p.m. — Courtney Place, medical call, patient transported to SMCC.

2:00 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMCC.

2:52 p.m. — 1900 block Gregg, trauma call, patient transported to SMCC.

6:27 p.m. — 100 block E. 13th, medical call, patient transported to VA Medical Center.

7:16 p.m. — 900 block Goliad, medical call, patient transported to SMCC.

11:16 p.m. — 4100 block Dixon, trauma call, service refused.

RITZ 401 S. Main CHILD \$2.00 263-7480 ADULT \$2.00 THE RITZ Theatre has returned to sub-run Admission will be \$2.00 per person Tuesdays only \$1.00 per person

STAR College Park Shopping Ctr. *END OF DAYS (R) Daily 4:30-7:00 & 9:30 Sat. & Sun. 2-00 *THE GREEN MILE (R) Daily 5:15 & 8:45 Sat. & Sun. 1-45

CINEMA 4 THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13) Daily 4:30 & 7:00 Fri. & Sat. 2:45 Sat. & Sun. 1:40 TOY STORY 2 (G) Daily 4:50 & 7:00 Fri. & Sat. 10:00 Sat. & Sun. 1:30 BONE COLLECTOR (R) Daily 7:20 P.M. & Sat. 9:50 *SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) Daily 4:50 & 7:00 Fri. & Sat. 10:00 Sat. & Sun. 2:00 POKEMON, THE MOVIE (G) Daily 4:40 & Sat. & Sun. 1:50 ADULTS: \$5.50 \$3.25 ALL MATINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS *PASS RESTRICTED

ALLAN'S FURNITURE 12 Months No Interest 202 Scurry PH. 267-6278 Big Spring, Texas

DUNLAPS Your One Stop Christmas Shopping Headquarters 111 E. Marcy 267-8283

Compare Our CD Rates Bank-issued, FDIC-insured to \$100,000 1-year 6.15% APY* Minimum deposit \$5,000 3-year 6.50% APY* Minimum deposit \$5,000 5-year 6.65% APY* Minimum deposit \$5,000 *Annual Percentage Yield (APY) Interest cannot remain on deposit; period of payout of interest is required. Effective 12/9/99. Call or stop by today. Serving individual investors from more than 4,200 offices nationwide 219 Main St. Big Spring, TX (915) 267-2501 www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC Dan Wilkins Barbara Brumley Edward Jones Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

Hmm...Is it 50? Happy Birthday! Love, Ellice

Exec

HUNTSVILLE row inmate J criticized the g of the death denounced the worked to convi murder for a 19t page that left t an East Texas f Then, on Thu became the sec row inmate e many days.

"The United to a point now zero respect fo Beathard, 42, night in a leng ment before he injection. "My symptom of a bi The former p nician and s counselor at t Hospital was t inmate to be p year. Two more set for next we

Profes notice

COLLEGE ST Less than three the fatal Texas / bonfire collapse student who onc vise constructi ure expressed the stack's stabi Kelly DeWitt s "core" logs wer the early const the thousands o according to t College Station Dallas Morning DeWitt, a 1977 the statements Pots — those i building the bon reunion Oct. 29; "We discussed current Red Po they do not use logs to the ex DeWitt wrote i mail to Malon S president of stu A&M.

A task force is ing what cause bonfire acciden 12 people and in DeWitt said in months ago he a Bonfire Endowr his concern that so quickly after DeWitt said h "go out pretty logs) on every s very top ones. would allow us centerpole and v necessary for th til midnight," v goal in the '70s.

"Unfortunately, ize that the sam falling after be

LET TO S DEALI MON DEC LET WIL PUBL ON D

Sc M 16 Holiday Sat Dear Prices 20% The Antiques & 212 N. St. Sta

Executed murderer says U.S. has 'zero respect for human life'

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Death row inmate James Beathard criticized the government's use of the death penalty. He denounced the prosecutor who worked to convict him of capital murder for a 1984 shooting rampage that left three members of an East Texas family dead.

Then, on Thursday night, he became the second Texas death row inmate executed in as many days.

"The United States has gotten to a point now where they have zero respect for human life," Beathard, 42, said Thursday night in a lengthy final statement before he received a lethal injection. "My death is just a symptom of a bigger illness."

The former psychiatric technician and substance-abuse counselor at the Rusk State Hospital was the 33rd Texas inmate to be put to death this year. Two more executions are set for next week, and at least

seven already are scheduled for January.

"I'm dying tonight based on testimony that all parties knew was a lie," Beathard said. "It's bad enough that a prosecutor can take truth and spin on it and try to re-doctor it. But when they actually make facts up and present it to the public as trial evidence, that goes beyond fail, that's completely unforgivable..."

Court repeatedly rejected Beathard's appeals, which focused allegations of false evidence.

"Everything raised now has been raised for years and has been spoken for in the state and federal courts," said Trinity County District Attorney Joe Price, who prosecuted Beathard.

Beathard was convicted in the death of 14-year-old Marcus Hathorn in an Oct. 9, 1984 rampage that also left the boy's par-

ents, Gene and Linda Hathorn, dead.

Another son, Gene Hathorn Jr., also was convicted of the Trinity County killings and sentenced to death. His case remains on appeal and no execution date for him has been set.

The younger Hathorn and Beathard worked together at Rusk State Hospital until Beathard went to college in Nacogdoches, where he earned more than 100 credit hours at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Court records indicated Hathorn supplied Beathard with illegal drugs for him to sell on commission. They also show that, during their friendship, Hathorn talked of his desire to kill his father, stepmother and half-brother.

Hathorn hoped to collect an inheritance from his father and offered to share it with

Beathard, court documents showed.

Beathard acknowledged he was at the family's mobile home in a remote area outside Groveton that night. But he said he was tricked into accompanying his friend and denied participating in the shootings.

He also said when he learned of the Hathorn family deaths, he initially lied to investigators who questioned him because he feared for the safety of his own family.

Hathorn testified against Beathard and identified his companion as shooting the victims in the house, stealing property, and planting false clues in an attempt to deceive police.

After Hathorn was convicted and condemned at his own trial, he recanted his testimony a year later to support Beathard's version of his role in the killings.

On Tuesday, convicted killer David Long was executed for the murders of three women at

a home in Dallas County.

Next week, Robert Atworth is set to die Tuesday for the 1995 robbery and shooting death of a Dallas-area man. Atworth has ordered all appeals dropped and is volunteering to die.

The following night, Sammie Felder is scheduled to be executed for fatally stabbing and robbing a paralyzed Korean War veteran at a Houston nursing home where Felder worked and the victim lived.

Professors, former students reportedly noticed bonfire's flaws, warned officials

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Less than three weeks before the fatal Texas A&M University bonfire collapse, a former A&M student who once helped supervise construction of the structure expressed concern about the stack's stability.

Kelly DeWitt said not enough "core" logs were being used in the early construction to give the thousands of logs stability, according to today's Bryan-College Station Eagle and The Dallas Morning News.

DeWitt, a 1977 graduate, made the statements to fellow Red Pits — those responsible for building the bonfire — during a reunion Oct. 29-30.

"We discussed this with some current Red Pits and learned they do not use these types of logs to the extent we did," DeWitt wrote in a Nov. 22 e-mail to Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs at A&M.

A task force is now investigating what caused the Nov. 18 bonfire accident, which killed 12 people and injured 27.

DeWitt said in his memo that months ago he also notified the Bonfire Endowment Fund about his concern that the stack falls so quickly after being ignited.

DeWitt said his crew would "go out pretty far with (core logs) on every stack except the very top ones. This is what would allow us to support the centerpole and what we felt was necessary for the stack to 'burn til midnight,' which was our goal in the '70s."

"Unfortunately I did not realize that the same reasons for it falling after being lit perhaps

make it unsafe during construction," he wrote.

Another e-mail sent by an A&M civil engineering professor to school president Ray Bowen directed officials to warnings made by a colleague, T.J. "Teddy" Hirsch. Loren D. Lutes, the civil engineering professor, said Hirsch, former head of the department's structural engineering section, told university officials that several former and current faculty members have believed for years the design of the stack was flawed.

"I have found general agreement on the issue that the stack has been built in an unstable way in recent years," Lutes wrote. "There is a broad-based view that there is something wrong with the fundamental arrangement of the stack."

The e-mails are among about 2,000 documents released recently by the university

under the Texas Open Records Act.

Leo E. Linbeck, the Houston construction company executive who is leading the bonfire investigation, told the Morning News Thursday that he was unaware of Hirsch's warnings.

"That will be a factor that we'll have to evaluate as we get more information," he said.

Bowen and Lutes could not be reached for comment Thursday. Hirsh, now retired, said Thursday he cannot discuss any warnings he made before the accident because he is cooperating in the investigation.

DeWitt, who lives in the Dallas area, also declined to comment Thursday.

University spokesman Lane Stephenson said the administration had no comment on the e-mails.

"Basically, we're just going to let the (task force) do its work," he said.

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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.

Charles C. Williams
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John A. Moseley
Sports Editor

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John H. Walker
Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

- SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER, for the hard work put forth to be awarded a 92 rating for the hospital and a 95 rating for Home Health Services by the JCAHO.

- SAND SPRINGS BOY SCOUT TROOP 25, AG SERVICES, WESTERN CONTAINER and SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, for their winning entries in the 13th annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade.

- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, on its 21st annual presentation of The Living Christmas Tree.

- FRIENDS OF THE SETTLES, for their "Party After the Parade" at the historic Settles Building.

- HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM, on the receipt of a \$110,000 grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

- The SPORTS COMMITTEE of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, for their efforts in attracting more persons to Big Spring through the Crossroads Classic Basketball Tournament.

- FIRST NAZARENE CHURCH, for their efforts in presenting the Drive-Thru Nativity, the largest of its type in the Southwest.

- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, for its presentation of its annual Christmas Concert, "A Christmas to Remember."

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

OTHER VIEWS

Now is the perfect time for the United States to put pressure on Mexico to finally crack down on that country's drug lords whose deadly products damage American society.

The occasion is a joint U.S.-Mexican police effort to recover up to 100 bodies from a killing field on the ranch of a Mexican drug lord across the border from El Paso near Ciudad Juarez.

Tipped off by an informant, about 65 FBI agents joined Mexican authorities, many in ski masks to protect their identity from Mexican drug lords, and began the search for bodies reportedly buried on the ranch, one of many well-guarded smuggling havens located along the border.

Regrettably, Mexico has allowed its local, state and federal police forces to be corrupted by drug traffickers.

Due to the heavy international publicity from the search for bodies of hundreds of vanished or kidnapped people, both Mexican and American citizens, the right authorities in Mexico may be persuaded to finally arrest the scores of Mexican citizens already indicted in the United States for drug smuggling and distribution.

Now is the time to remove the kid gloves and pressure the Mexican authorities to gather up the resolve needed to rid their nation of an international scourge in their midst.

TRIBUNE-HERALD, Waco

Well, Folks, only two dozen days remain until 2000, and various apprehensive prophecies hang over the world.

Israeli police are bracing for cultists expected to cram into Jerusalem for awesome events as the year changes.

Believe it or not, gambling Web sites are offering odds on what will happen Jan. 1. Online bookmaker William Hill is betting 1,000-to-1 that Jesus won't return.

Similarly, we predict that Jan. 1 will be just another revolution of the planet as it rolls its way around the sun — as it has been doing for billions of years.

So, the arrival of 2000 ... will be mostly symbolic, like a car odometer registering 100,000 miles. It simply looks more impressive than 99,876 miles.

The only real concern for Jan. 1 is uncertainty whether the Y2K computer dilemma has been solved.

We can't guess whether computers will malfunction — so here's what we intend to do: When people awake on New Year's Eve, it will already be Jan. 1 in the Western Pacific, on the other side of the International Date Line.

We'll watch news reports from New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Japan and the like, to see if trouble occurs.

Until then, just count down the days and enjoy the hoopla.

THE GAZETTE, Charleston (W. Va.)

Clinton makes case he will count in final year

By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — For Bill Clinton, the president who once deemed it necessary to declare himself relevant in dealing with the Republican Congress, the next year will not be an easy one.

Clinton promises to work vigorously for the passage of proposals that "got left on the table." But what he wants done must come from an election-minded GOP Congress, in a campaign setting, with the focus increasingly on the next president instead of this one.

The president told a State Department news conference Wednesday that he is not even giving up on seeking Social Security financing changes, to deal with the money crunch when the baby boom generation begins retiring.

"I know the conventional wisdom is that these things are less likely to be done in election years," he said, "but in some ways they may be more likely."

Although probably not that one, given the political sensitivity of acting in a campaign season on the program that pays benefits to more than 44 million Americans.

"But in order to pass something like that, we've got to have a bipartisan process," the

president said.

Clinton's 1999 appraisal centered on what he won in the budget deal that ended the congressional session: appropriations for his promise to put 100,000 new teachers in American schools and 50,000 more police on the street, and to provide 60,000 housing vouchers for people moving off welfare to work.

He said "we have quite a lot of accomplishments" at home, although his list was not a lengthy one. Clinton boasted of a series of achievements abroad including progress on peace in the Middle East and in Northern Ireland, the American role in Kosovo, the trade agreement with China — which he still must get through Congress — and more.

"So I'm very proud of what happened this year," he said. "What I'm most disappointed in is what still got left on the table."

That list included a patients bill of rights in managed health care, an increase in the minimum wage, a federal hate crimes law, "commonsense gun legislation," a school construction bill, a program to promote jobs and development in economically depressed areas.

A minimum wage increase and some version of a patients' rights bill may well pass after Congress reconvenes, not because Clinton is pushing

them but because Republicans need something to point to on those popular items, too.

Other points on the Clinton agenda for his last year in the White House may not fare well. The Republicans surely will press another tax cut against the threat of another Clinton veto.

"If they pass the size tax cut plan they're talking about ... they'll either have to get into the Social Security surplus or they won't have any more money for education or environment or anything else," he said.

But much of Clinton's emphasis was on foreign policy, an area in which a president can do things without Congress. He opened by announcing peace talks between Israel and Syria would be held next week in Washington, resuming negotiations broken 3 years ago. The questioning leaned that way, too.

Declining to take a side in the health care argument between Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley in their campaign for the nomination to succeed him, Clinton said he would not get into the middle of that.

"I'm not going to do that for you because I want you to write about Syria and Israel tomorrow," Clinton said.

Gore is, of course, his candidate, and Clinton said the vice

president would make a great president.

"Whenever there's an important decision in an area that he's been very active in, I always call him," Clinton said. "We still talk about it. And his role is probably still larger than that of any previous vice president, even though he's out campaigning."

His assessment of the year which began with a Senate impeachment trial did not include a mention of that episode. When he was asked whether his wounds had been self-inflicted or brought on by the excesses of politics and the special prosecutor, the answer was terse:

"Well, the mistake I made was self-inflicted, and the misconduct of others was not."

Looking ahead bears a look back, to the months after the Republicans won control of Congress in 1994. No, he said to one questioner then, he was not a titular head of state, not with the power to veto.

"The Constitution gives me relevance, the power of our ideas gives me relevance," he said. "The president is relevant here, especially an activist president."

He will have to prove it in his farewell year.

Walter R. Mears has reported on Washington and national politics for more than 30 years.



ADDRESSES

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U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
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17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515
Phone: 202-225-6605
- **HON. GEORGE W. BUSH**
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849
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- **JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY**
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
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Phone: 806-839-2478, 512-463-3000
- **ROBERT DUNCAN**
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Texas 28th District
Citizens FCU Building
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: 268-9909; (800) 322-9538, (512) 463-0128, fax (512) 463-2424

Christmas windows reveal the raw talent of people

TYUS, Ga. — Since the Norman Rockwell exhibit hit Atlanta, there's been a lot of discussion about what's art, what's not and who has the right to say.

My tastes are strictly plebeian, which means that long before it was fashionable to say so, I thought Rockwell was a great artist.

Revisionist Rockwell is not surprising. As an artistically insecure public, we tend to favor artists dead and gone, whose heirs collect the money. To die penniless in a garret is supposed to be a great artist's MO. You're always safe to praise commercial failure.

Frankly, I have a soft spot for honest artists who admit they paint to pay the bills. If, as Samuel Johnson said, only a blockhead writes for anything but money, then a similar rule must hold for painting.

Which leads to a nice experi-

ence I had one recent day. I met someone who seemed to know the elusive definition of "true talent."

I was sitting in the car outside one of my favorite stores, Luv's Country Corner in Tyus, when a small, energetic-looking woman dashed by the car, holding aloft a palette made from a used Styrofoam tray.

She held a brush in her left hand and with one deft motion painted a cream-colored candle on the plate-glass window of Luv's. Then, without a moment's hesitation, she added dripping wax, a flame, a halo around the flame and expert shadowing.

In a matter of minutes, the store window was transformed. People kept coming and going, pushing through the doors with their beer or bread, paying no attention to the artist and her daughter.

I had to talk to her. Yes, you see Christmas scenes painted on windows all over; they are so ubiquitous they become invisible. But most of them aren't this well-done. Plus, I had never really watched the artist responsible at work.

"Are you freehanding this?" I asked.

"Oh, yes," the woman said,

smiling as if I'd handed her French flowers. "I can see it in my mind before I start, that's all."

Carrie Faye Harris of Ephesus, Ga., hadn't painted anything at all until six years ago, when her twin sister in Florida bought some oils and a blank canvas. The twin urged Faye to try.

"I was good at drawing as a child," Faye said in a modest tone. Her favorite childhood subject was turtles — reptilian, not Raphaelesque.

She's had no art instruction and sometimes wonders what she might accomplish if she had gone to college and learned about perspective and shadowing and all those other things that, well, come to her quite naturally.

But she doesn't waste a lot of time pondering lost potential. Most of the year, she paints with oil on "canvas, saws, blades, jugs and et cetera," her business card says.

At Christmas, she teams with her daughter, Andrea Wiggins, who inherited her mother's artistic bent, to paint in acrylic on store windows. I watch one day as they paint the Trail Master Steak House in nearby Carrollton, Ga. (Already they'd

done the Dairy Queen, a hardware store and a finance company.)

Her jingle bell earrings tinkling, Faye creates a wreath with a few swirls of her jade-dipped brush; Andrea adds the holly. The seamless teamwork is as interesting as the design; it's a wordless pas de deux beside a busy highway.

Restaurant employees poke their heads outside the door to watch the progress, but Faye and Andrea work by the job, not the hour. They don't engage in much idle chatter.

I say something about coveting artistic talent, and Faye laughs self-consciously, then tells me about her 10-year-old grandson, Ethan.

"He's truly talented," she says. "His talent is memorization. He can quote the entire Book of Isaiah."

"Well, not the whole book," his mother, Andrea, corrects.

"Just about," Faye says. In this frantic season, I wonder how many will notice the snowman on the hardware store window or the wreath at the steakhouse. Next window, Faye says, she may sign her work.

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Mallard Fillmore
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How To Contact Us

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalker@xroadstx.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721
- Our normal hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Our offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

U.S. t

WASHINGTON — investigators a possibility the inside help planned eavesdropping inside the State Department because it took a visit to install official says.

And it took a — even after a surveillance team assignment Russian diplomat early visiting the America's diplomats early Methodist ob weekly visits was positioning though receiving signal.

U.S. investi prowled the history, two-block ment for weeks guised detector a Geiger counter the radio sign bug sent from a ference room to They could not was parked near had to activate

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WASHINGTON — at the wholesa modest 0.2 perc despite a sharp costs that over rise in food pr

The Labor De ed today that t Producer Price measures infl before they rea followed a 0.1 p October and w many analysts Not counting gy and food "core" rate of wholesale lev November, fol ate 0.3 perc October. That ter showing o

Program admits

'Melissa'

NEWARK, N L. Smith insist the "Melissa" he created to trouble.

But the 31-y programmer years in pris guilty Thursday and federal ch ting that more of damage was

"I did not ex the amount of place," Smith said he thoug features that problems with virus out from apartment last

Prosecutors' explanation.

"I think he exactly what — a total dis wide commu Attorney Ge Farmer said o "Melissa" st

e-mail systems guised as an sage" from a league, and s world like an letter.

Peter Tippit gist for the c company ICS Va., said da American bus Melissa coul lion. ICSA.net lion computer North Amer alone when t the end of Mar

Smith is t charged in the

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U.S. trying to figure out who planted listening device in State Department

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. investigators are pursuing the possibility the Russians had inside help planting a sophisticated eavesdropping device inside the State Department because it took more than one visit to install, a government official says.

And it took months to find it — even after an alert FBI surveillance team on a different assignment noticed that a Russian diplomat began regularly visiting the streets outside America's diplomatic headquarters early last summer. Methodical observation of his weekly visits then revealed he was positioning his car as though receiving an electronic signal.

U.S. investigators covertly prowled the halls of the eight-story, two-block-square department for weeks carrying a disguised detector about the size of a Geiger counter before locating the radio signal they say the bug sent from a department conference room to the spy outside. They could only search when he was parked nearby, because he had to activate the device, this

official said. The Russian, Stanislav Gusev, described by U.S. agents as a 54-year-old employee of the technical section of Moscow's SVR spy agency, has been ordered out of the country.

Now hundreds of State Department and other U.S. officials are being interviewed in an attempt to find out how and when the bug was planted.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said today "I have no idea about" whether someone inside the State Department helped the Russian. "I was told about this several months ago and we have followed a very careful procedure," she said on CBS' "The Early Show."

"We don't have a suspect," according to a government official, who described the highly secret investigation on condition of anonymity. "We're looking at and haven't eliminated any possibility."

Other agents are interviewing all the participants in 50 to 100 meetings that occurred in the bugged conference room while Gusev was outside. Their goal is to determine exactly what he

might have heard. Still other agents are briefing the security officers of other federal buildings around Washington, because "we don't imagine the Russians would take this extremely sophisticated device and use it for the first time on such a hard target as the State Department," the government official said.

Investigators doubt Gusev, who arrived in this country in March, planted the bug because there is no record he ever entered the building.

The Russian bug was disguised so it would not be easily recognized, this official said. Investigators are trying to determine whether the Russians had inside help installing it, whether any Russians ever visited the conference room and whether the room was ever renovated, because "this was not a one-time installation," the official said.

"Someone would have had to come into the room to survey it, take measurements and probably photos and come back for the installation," he said.

The bug was a radio transmitter that could broadcast conversations from the room, but the first detectors U.S. agents used were not sensitive enough to pick up the signal.

"This is obviously a very serious breach," Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder told reporters Thursday.

The earliest assessments of damage were cautiously mild, the government official said later, because "there are other, more sensitive locations in the State Department that would have been of more value to Russian intelligence."

Dave Carpenter, the State Department's top diplomatic security official, told reporters the device was not planted in the offices of Albright or any other senior official.

Although Gusev was detained on a day President Clinton visited the building to hold a news conference, Assistant FBI Director Neil Gallagher told reporters there was no evidence the Russian diplomat was able to time his visits to coincide with important meetings.

Based solely on the topics list-

ed on State Department logs of the meetings Gusev allegedly monitored, the government official said. "The initial reaction is that he didn't gather a lot of sensitive information, but as we catalogue what went on in those meetings, that assessment could change."

He added U.S. agents did not use the room to stage phony conversations for Gusev's benefit.

Of particular interest to the Russians would be any information about American plans to amend the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty to permit development of a U.S. missile defense system. The United States says it needs the system to protect against potential nuclear threats from Iraq and North Korea, but Russian military officials believe the real target

is Russia. At times, the strains in relations between the countries are reminiscent of the Cold War era, which ended almost 10 years ago.

Last week, Russia ordered the expulsion of a U.S. diplomat in Moscow, Cheri Leberknight, after accusing her of attempting to obtain secret military information from a Russian citizen.

Holder denied the U.S. move was retaliation for that.

And the government official said the decision to pick up Gusev was made before the expulsion of Leberknight.

Gusev was detained on his first visit to the vicinity after agents were sure they had found a Russian spy operation, because the State Department did not want to risk letting him hear more, this official said.

Wholesale prices rise .2 percent in U.S. in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prices at the wholesale level rose a modest 0.2 percent in November despite a sharp jump in energy costs that overwhelmed a small rise in food prices.

The Labor Department reported today that the increase in its Producer Price Index, which measures inflation pressures before they reach the consumer, followed a 0.1 percent decline in October and was on target with many analysts' expectations.

Not counting the volatile energy and food categories, the "core" rate of inflation at the wholesale level was flat in November, following a moderate 0.3 percent increase in October. That was an even better showing on inflation than

many analysts were forecasting. They were anticipating that the "core" rate would rise by 0.1 percent.

"Inflation continues to remain benign," said KeyCorp economist Ken Mayland.

Bonds rallied on the good inflation news after the report was released. Bond prices rose as yields on 30-year bonds fell to 6.18 percent from 6.21 percent late Thursday.

The increase in wholesale prices, if matched at the consumer level, should ease concerns about a potential outbreak of inflation.

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates three times this year to slow the red-hot economy and keep inflation under control. Many economists believe the Fed will leave rates unchanged at its next meeting on Dec. 21, citing concerns about problems that may be from the Y2K computer changeover.

But economists expect the central bank will bump up rates again early next year, given continuing strong growth.

So far this year, wholesale prices have been rising at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, compared with no change for all of 1998. The pickup in this year's wholesale prices has been com-

ing from big increases in energy costs, which had been declining for much of 1998.

In November, energy costs rose a sizable 1.4 percent, the biggest increase since a 2.2 percent spike in September, and followed a 1 percent decline in October.

The cost of crude oil hit its highest level in mid-November since January 1991, when war in the Persian Gulf drove up prices. The rising price of crude oil reflects a decision by oil-producing nations to limit production as well as increased demand from recovering economies in Asia and for winter heating fuel.

Heating-oil prices increased by a whopping 7.5 percent in November, the largest gain since a 15.2 percent increase in July, and residential natural gas rose by 2.7 percent, the biggest jump in two years.

On Thursday, the Clinton administration cautioned that "dangerously high" oil prices could affect economic growth and said it was prepared to intervene if costs continue to soar.

But gasoline prices rose only 0.1 percent in November, while residential electric power increased by 0.7 percent, today's report said.

Programmer admits sending 'Melissa' virus

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — David L. Smith insists he didn't expect the "Melissa" computer virus he created to cause so much trouble.

But the 31-year-old computer programmer faces about five years in prison after pleading guilty Thursday to various state and federal charges and admitting that more than \$80 million of damage was done.

"I did not expect or anticipate the amount of damage that took place," Smith read in court. He said he thought he had added features that would minimize problems when he sent the virus out from his New Jersey apartment last spring.

Prosecutors didn't buy the explanation.

"I think he intended to do exactly what was accomplished — a total disruption of worldwide communication," state Attorney General John J. Farmer said outside state court.

"Melissa" struck thousands of e-mail systems on March 26, disguised as an "important message" from a friend or colleague, and spread around the world like an electronic chain letter.

Peter Tippitt, chief technologist for the computer security company ICSA.net of Reston, Va., said damage to North American businesses caused by Melissa could reach \$385 million. ICSA.net believes 1.2 million computers were affected at North American businesses alone when the virus spread at the end of March.

Smith is the only person charged in the case.



Christmas Decorating Contest

Enter Your Home or Business
Categories: (Circle the appropriate category)

- RESIDENTIAL:
 A. Religious B. Lights Only C. Original Home-made D. Other _____
- COMMERCIAL:
 A. Store Windows B. Inside Display C. Lights Only D. Other _____
- NON-JUDGED ENTRY:
 A. Residential B. Commercial

JUDGING will be December 14.
 Inside judging begins at 4:00 p.m.; all others will begin after dark.
 Winners will receive media recognition and certificate.
 ALL entries will be listed as places to go and lights to see on a map.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE NO.: _____ CATEGORY: _____

Entries must be returned to the
 Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 1941 or 245 W. 9th
 By December 15, 1999, 5:00 p.m.

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would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and invite you to come by and register to win one of the following prizes:

PRIZE	DRAWING DATE/S	TIME
(4) Eldorado Bravada All-Season Radials	12/21/99	12:00pm
40,000 Mile Tires (16" thru 18")		
(2) Oil & Filter Change (Car & Light Truck)	12/11/99 & 12/18/99	12:00pm
(2) Wash & Wax (Car & Light Truck)	12/11/99 THRU 12/21/99	12:00pm
(2)uffy Kids Bikes (1 Boy & 1 Girl)	12/21/99	12:00pm
(1) \$50.00 Gift Certificate at Toys-R-Us	12/21/99	12:00pm
(2) Electronic Pelicanon	12/21/99	12:00pm

Employees & Immediate family are ineligible
 1 entry per visit, please - 1 winner per household

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Nostalgic Oak Swivel Top Hall Tree \$39⁹⁵

Similar to illustration

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IN BRIEF

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. For more information, call Carroll Jennings at 267-5201.

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 full service YMCA youth membership for January and February.

YMCA full members pay \$15. Basic program members pay \$25 and non-members pay \$32.

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

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. today and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Youngsters will also be able to 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.

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.

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

AREA GAMES

TODAY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL Spring City Crossroads Classic at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

- Tahoka Bulldogs vs. Amarillo Caprock Longhorns, 2:15 p.m.
- Clyde Bulldogs vs. Big Spring Steers, 4 p.m.
- Lubbock Estacado Matadors vs. Merkel Badgers, 5:45 p.m.
- Lubbock Coronado Mustangs vs. Brownfield Cubs, 7:30 p.m.

Ninth Annual Hooptown Classic in Stanton Boys Division: 4:30 p.m.

- San Angelo Central JV-Brady winner vs. Midland Trinity-Reagan County winner.

6 p.m.

- Sands vs. Robert Lee-Grape Creek winner.

7:30 p.m.

- Colorado City vs. Stanton-Kermitt winner.

Girls Division: 4:30 p.m.

- Midland Greenwood vs. Brady-Sands winner.

6 p.m.

- Ira vs. Stanton-Alpine winner.

ON THE AIR

Television HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

4 p.m. — Spring City Crossroads Classic consolation semifinal, Clyde Bulldogs at Big Spring Steers, KBST-AM 1490 and KBYG-AM 1400.

Television NBA

7 p.m. — Philadelphia 76ers at New York Knicks, TBS, Ch. 11.

NHL

7:30 p.m. — Florida Panthers at Dallas Stars, FXS, Ch. 29.

RODEO
11 p.m. — National Finals Rodeo, eighth round (same-day tape), ESPN, Ch. 30.

Dayne preps for Heisman with Maxwell, Doak Walker awards

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — A pro-Florida State crowd packed Disney's Wide World of Sports Fieldhouse to cheer on three Seminoles in the running for national honors.

Only one took home the hardware, and it wasn't Peter Warrick.

Warrick, who missed two games due to a shoplifting scandal at a Tallahassee department store, earned a spot on the Burger King Coaches All-America Team, but was beaten out by Stanford's Troy Walters for the Biletnikoff Award, given to the nation's top wide receiver.

Ironically, Walters wasn't named to the Coaches All-America Team as Arizona's Dennis Northcutt claimed the spot alongside Warrick. The Florida State senior, who wasn't invited to Saturday's Heisman Trophy presentation, was tight-lipped following

Thursday's show, but did have an award dedicated to him by Penn State's LaVar Arrington.

Arrington, a junior linebacker, was presented the Chuck Bednarik Trophy by the Maxwell Football Club, honoring the top defensive player in the college ranks.

Upon receiving the award, Arrington credited fellow members of the Nittany Lions defense, including senior lineman Courtney Brown, who was also a finalist. He culminated his speech by stating that he dedicated the award to 'Mr. Warrick,' who was sitting behind him during the show.

"To a lesser degree, I know what he's going through," Arrington said, probably referring to the controversy surrounding him for attacking Pitt's punter earlier this season. "He's a great player,

probably the best in the country and people won't let him live his mistake down."

Arrington was joined by Walters and Ron Dayne among those who tabbed Warrick as college football's best player, following the awards. However, it's Dayne who is considered college football's best.

Wisconsin's senior running back claimed the Maxwell Award for the nation's best player, beating out Purdue's Drew Brees and Georgia Tech's Joe Hamilton. Dayne, who earlier this season became college football's career leading rusher, also won the Dr Pepper Doak Walker Award, beating Virginia's Thomas Jones and Alabama's Shaun Alexander as the nation's top running back.

"I'm honored to win the award with such tremendous competition," Dayne

said. "People have seen that I'm a different type of back in the way I run. We never quit and that's what I'm most proud of. None of this has really sunk in though."

Georgia Tech's Hamilton, also a finalist in the Heisman race, won the Davey O'Brien Award given to the nation's top quarterback, beating out Brees and Marshall's Chad Pennington.

The only Florida State player to claim an award was Sebastian Janikowski, who won the Lou Groza Collegiate Placekicker award for the second consecutive season.

Defensive lineman Corey Simon, the only other Seminoles player nominated for national honors, was beaten out for the Outland Trophy (nation's top interior lineman) by Alabama's Chris Samuels.

Steers tumble in Classic opener

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor

It was anything but the way Jimmy Avery wanted his Big Spring Steers to open the inaugural Spring City Crossroads Classic basketball tournament Thursday night.

While Lubbock Estacado's Matadors, Merkel's Badgers and Lubbock Coronado's Mustangs turned in impressive wins during the tournament's opening three games, the Steers squandered a seemingly comfortable lead in the spotlight game, suffering a 54-49 loss to Brownfield's Cubs.

The Steers' inability to hit even the shortest, so-called "high percentage" shots during a 12-minute span of the second and third quarters allowed Brownfield to rally from an 11-point deficit and take control at crunch time.

"It's really disappointing ... shooting the way we did," Avery said after seeing the Steers shoot a dismal 14-of-64 (21.8 percent) from the field.

"We did a great job of playing defense," the Steers boss added. "And we did a good job of running our offense, as well. We go the shots we wanted, we just didn't make many of them."

As a result, the Steers dropped to 4-7 on the season going into today's 4 p.m. consolation semifinal against Clyde's Bulldogs, who simply didn't have the size to match up with Coronado in a 76-61 loss Thursday.

Other opening round games saw Estacado's Matadors take an 84-76 win over Tahoka's Bulldogs and Merkel's Badgers turn solid fundamental play into a 67-56 win over Amarillo Caprock.

Tahoka and Caprock were slated to play today's first consolation game at 2:15, while tonight's championship bracket semifinals pit Estacado and Merkel at 5:45 and Brownfield taking on Coronado at 7:30.

Avery admitted that the Steers' ice-cold shooting for much of the second and third quarters makes it hard for his team to build any confidence.

"Right now, we don't have but one kid that really has a shooting mentality ... Jason (Walker) steps up and puts the ball in the air believing he can make the shot, but the rest of our kids are struggling right now," he explained.

That looked to be anything but the case during the first 21/2 minutes of the second quarter, however.

After emerging from a see-saw first quarter with a 12-10 lead, the Steers immediately embarked on an 11-2 run capped by a Walker three-pointer with 5:38 remaining in the first half.

Big Spring had spread the wealth during the run — that scoring string coming from Jason Choate, Arthur Belvin, Lance Brock, Jason Woodruff and Walker.

But the Steers would not score the field again until 1:38 remained in the third quarter, the drought being snapped by Walker's second three-pointer of the evening.

While the Steers did manage to hit six of 10 free throws in the closing two minutes of the first half to take a 29-19 lead into the intermission, Brownfield started a 13-2 run of its own to open the second half.

In the process, the Cubs took their first lead, 32-31, since opening the game with a pair of technical foul free throws after offi-



Big Spring's Lance Brock (40) draws a foul from Brownfield's Ever Olivias, as he moves into traffic in the lane during the first half of the Steers' 54-49 loss to the Cubs. Big Spring now faces Clyde at 4 p.m. today as the Spring City Crossroads Classic continues at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

cial caught Big Spring's Clarence Wilkins dunking the ball during the pregame warmup.

The Steers finally woke up with Walkers second trey and rattled off an eight-point run that allowed them to take a 39-35 lead into the final eight minutes of play.

By the time Big Spring could score again, a Blair Nutting baseline jumper with 3:11 left, the Cubs had scored eight points and were never again headed.

A John Purcell jumper from the wing moments after Nutting's baseline jumper tied the game at 43-43, but Big Spring would again go cold, while Brownfield guard Byron Branch knocked down three straight three-pointers.

Those three-point shots were Branch's only points of the game, but they all but

iced the win for Brownfield.

Branch's nine points were just enough support for the game-high 14 points scored by post Brian Hooper and the 10 knocked down by wing Brian Floyd.

Walker was Big Spring's only double-digit scorer, finishing the night with 10 points, while Justin Dille had nine and Belvin chipped in seven more.

Lubbock Estacado 84, Tahoka 76

A trio of juniors — 6-foot-5 post Keith Washington and 6-foot guards Gerone Duvall and Corey Morrison — provided the spark for Estacado.

See **TOURNAMENT**, page 7A

Titans post 21-14 win over Raiders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Eddie George took away that sinking feeling the Tennessee Titans had following their worst loss in two years.

George had his best game of his four-year NFL career Thursday night, accounting for 249 yards and scoring two touchdowns as Tennessee beat the Oakland Raiders 21-14.

"I think I finally found that game where I can just cut it loose," George said. "And I wanted it tonight. I wanted the win. I think everyone in this room wanted to win."

"We were quite upset. We wanted to come out and prove something not only to the fans and the nation, but ourselves, that we're a good team. We can bounce back from a defeat like that."

The Titans (10-3) needed George's help. They started slowly against Oakland (6-7), a team trying to keep its faint playoff hopes alive.

But George, who had only eight carries for 32 yards in last week's 41-14 loss at Baltimore, responded by turning in the best rushing performance by a NFL running back this season. He carried 28 times for 199 yards through a Raiders defense that had been one of the league's toughest against the run.

It was his biggest rushing day since he got 216 yards against Oakland in 1997. The two-time Pro Bowler also caught a career-high six passes for 50 yards.

"He was possessed all week. He had that look in his eye beginning about 4 o'clock Sunday," Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher said.

The Raiders made adjustments trying to stop George, but it didn't matter as they missed several tackles on the 6-foot-3, 240-pound back.

"He came out the other end when people hit him," Oakland linebacker Sam Sword said. "You've got to wrap up a big back like that."

Oakland outgained Tennessee 364 yards to 307. But Jevon Kearse sacked the Raiders' Rich Gannon on their opening play, and the Titans finished with four sacks and three forced turnovers. Oakland also missed two field goals in the first half.

In the first half, Steve McNair looked so bad that the crowd chanted for Neil O'Donnell. George helped settle the offense down in the third quarter as the Titans went 75 yards and finally went ahead 7-0.

Bufs, Lady Bufs open Hooptown Classic with wins

HERALD Staff Reports

STANTON — The ninth annual Hooptown Classic started just the way host Stanton's Buffaloes and Lady Bufs wanted Thursday, as they took opening-round wins over Grape Creek's Eagles and Lady Eagles.

The tournament's opening round of boys' division play was not, however, what Coahoma and Sands would have liked, as the Bulldogs dropped a 48-39 loss to Midland Trinity and the Mustangs were literally manhandled by Colorado City, 79-25.

Sands' Lady Mustangs fared much better than their classmates on Thursday, however, as they took a 54-42 win over Denver City.

The Buffaloes simply had too much quickness and pressure for Grape Creek to handle in the first-round nightcap, as

Stanton took a 38-28 halftime lead and never looked back.

Keith Cook paced the Bufs with 18 points, while Henry Esquivel shared game-high honors in pacing the Eagles with 18 points.

Stanton's girls were even more dominant in their 60-28 win over the Lady Eagles, charging out to an 18-7 first-quarter lead and quickening the pace en route to a 40-12 halftime advantage that Grape Creek had literally no hope of overcoming.

The Lady Eagles managed just 16 points in the second half and the Lady Bufs simply coasted to the easy win.

Rachel Madison paced the Stanton attack with 18 points, while the best Grape Creek could muster was Kathy Sekach's none points.

Coahoma's Bulldogs never really got untracked in their loss to Midland Trinity, scoring just 15 first-half points,

while the Chargers rolled to a 40-24 lead after three quarters.

Sophomore post Chase Ward paced the Bulldogs with 13 points, as they rallied for a 15-point run down the stretch, but Nick Whitley scored a game-high 22 points for the Chargers.

Colorado City made short work of Sands in its win over the Mustangs, scoring almost all the points they'd need in the first quarter, rolling to a 22-6 lead after eight minutes.

An 18-point second quarter gave the Wolves a 40-14 halftime edge.

Any hope the Mustangs may have had for mounting a comeback disappeared when the scored just one point in the third quarter, while the Wolves scored 25 to take a 50-point cushion into the final eight minutes as coast to the 79-25 victory.

Coby Floyd provided 16 points for the Mustangs, sharing game-high honors

with the Wolves' Chase Phariss.

Scoring proved to be no problem for the Lady Mustangs, however, as Shelli Blagrove and Trisha Nichols scored 12 points apiece en route to a 54-42 win over Denver City.

The Lady Mustangs rolled to a 28-16 halftime lead and carried a 41-25 edge into the fourth quarter, making Denver City's 17 points in the final eight minutes almost meaningless.

The Lady Mustangs advanced to a noon game against Brady's Lady Bulldogs today, the winner advancing to a 4:30 semifinal game against Midland Greenwood's Rangerettes, while Denver City faces Robert Lee's Lady Steers in a 3 p.m. consolation bracket game. Greenwood opened the tournament with a 45-40 win over Robert Lee.

Other girls' division games slated

See **ROUNDUP**, page 7A

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TOURNAMENT

Continued from page 6A

Duvall led the way in the first half, as the Matadors used balanced scoring to take a 39-32 lead, offsetting the 18 points scored by Tahoka's Brad Pebsworth during the first two periods.

But the third quarter belonged to Washington, as he scored 12 of the Matadors' 25 points, setting the stage for Morrison and Duvall to do most of the damage in the fourth quarter.

While Pebsworth scored a game-high 32 points, the best the Bulldogs could muster in support was Sedrick Williams' 16.

Estacado, on the other hand, not only got 18 points from Washington, 17 from Duvall and 13 from Morrison, but all but two of the 14 players on the Matadors' roster got on the scoreboard.

Merkel 67, Amarillo Caprock 56

The Badgers improved their record to 9-0 on the season with a 21-point fourth quarter that broke open a close game.

Merkel had owned a 29-27 lead at halftime and had kept pace with the Longhorns' 17-point production in the third quarter.

Post Chad Gohlke led the way for the Badgers with 20 points, but game-high honors went to Caprock's J. Fields, who finished the night with 22.

Nehemiah Shelby added 14 points for Merkel, while Adam Stafford scored 10 more.

The Longhorns also had two more players in double figures, as Junior Correa finished with 15 points, while Derrick Collins chipped in 11 more.

ROUNDUP

Continued from page 6A

today called for the Lady Buffs to face Alpine at 10:30 this morning, the winner advancing to the championship semifinals to face Ira, which opened the tournament with a 42-30 win over Midland Trinity.

In other boys' division games Thursday, Reagan County took a 59-50 win over Midland Greenwood and Kermit was a 58-49 winner over Robert Lee.

Today's schedule called for the Buffs to take on Kermit at noon, the winner advancing to a 7:30 game tonight against Colorado City.

The remainder of the boys' schedule called for Trinity to take on Reagan County at 9 a.m.; San Angelo Central's junior varsity to play Brady at 10:30; Coahoma and Greenwood to square off in one gym at 1:30, while Robert Lee and Grape Creek played in the other.

Tonight's other games have the Central JV-Brady winner taking on the Trinity-Reagan County winner at 4:30, followed by Sands facing the Robert Lee-Grape Creek winner at 6.

Bulldogettes nip Snyder in Wylie tourney opener

ABILENE — Coahoma's Bulldogettes had just enough to get back in the win column Thursday, as they opened Abilene Wylie's Catclaw Tournament with a 37-34 victory over Snyder's Lady Tigers.

Brandi Hart scored 12 points and Jayci Roberts chipped in 11 more, as the Bulldogettes pounded the ball inside for most of its points against the Class 4A opposition.

Lubbock Coronado 76, Clyde 61

Coronado simply had too much height and power inside the paint for Clyde to handle, as 6-foot-10 senior center Zach Spivey scored 16 points and 6-foot-3 forward Ben Burkholder added 11 more for the Mustangs.

Three-point shots allowed Mustang guards Kendrick Bird and Nick Cummings to also finish in double figures with 10 points each.

After taking a 38-26 halftime advantage, the Mustangs increased it to 59-43 in the third quarter before the Bulldogs tried to make a run of shorts in the final eight minutes.

Guard T.J. Thompson scored a game-high 22 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, to lead the Bulldogs.

Spring City Crossroads Classic

First-round games
Lubbock Estacado 84, Tahoka 76

TAHOKA — Brad Pebsworth 8 5 13 32, Sedrick Williams 8 0 0 16, Shaun Williams 2 0 0 4, Brady Randle 2 0 0 4, Larry Davis 3 1 0 9, Blandon Hancock 0 0 0 0, Randy White 2 0 0 4, Jordan Sarchet 3 0 1 7, Bobby Benavidez 0 0 0 0, Jason Jaquess 0 0 0 0, Totals 28 6 25 76.

ESTACADO — Hillary Hutchinson 1 0 0 2, Jimmy McKinzie 0 0 1 2, Donald Kinney 1 0 0 2, Corey Morrison 4 1 2 13, Nicholas Skief 2 1 2 8, Carlton Phillips 3 0 1 7, Gerone Duvall 5 0 7 9 17, Willie Powell 1 0 0 2, Brandon Duvall 0 2 0 6, Keith Washington 9 0 0 18, Quincy Parks 4 0 0 8, Totals 30 4 12 17 84.

Score by Quarters: 24 8 20 24-76
ESTACADO 19 29 25 20-84
Three-point goals: Tahoka 6 (Pebsworth 5, Davis), Estacado 4 (Morrison, Skief, B. Duvall 2). Totals fouls: Tahoka 15, Estacado 11. Fouled out: None. Technical fouls: None.

Merkel 67, Amarillo Caprock 56

MERKEL — Keith Darby 4 0 0 8, Michael Qualls 3 0 2 8, Nehemiah Shelby 3 2 2 14, Wes Jordan 0 0 0 0, Adam Stafford 2 2 0 3 10, Justin Gates 2 0 3 5 7, Chad Gohlke 7 1 3 3 20, Totals 21 5 10 13 67.

CAPROCK — Mike Fajardo 0 0 0 0, Cassius Carter 1 0 0 2, Mike Shellgrove 0 0 0 0, J. Fields 5 3 3 5 22, Josh Cordell 1 0 0 2, Derrick Collins 4 1 0 3 11, Junior Correa 1

The win left the Bulldogettes advancing in the winner's bracket to face Springtown at 12:30 p.m. today.

Lady Bearkats win; but Bearkats tumble

MILES — Garden City's Lady Bearkats became the favorite to take the girls' championship of the Miles Invitational basketball tournament here Thursday, as they opened with a 56-30 win over Christoval.

The Lady Bearkats got 20 points and 10 rebounds from M'Lynn Niehues and 15 more from Kyndra Batla, who also chalked up 10 assists and seven rebounds, in improving their record to 8-1.

The victory put Garden City into the girls' championship semifinals against Veribest, which will bring a 7-1 mark into their game at 4:30 p.m. today.

Garden City's boys were not so lucky in their tournament opener, however, as Christoval rolled to a 70-47 win over the Bearkats.

Eric Halfmann scored a game-high 17 points for Garden City, but it wasn't enough to keep the Bearkats in contention. The loss leaves them moving into the consolation bracket where they were scheduled to play Miles' host Bulldogs at noon today.

Bulldog junior varsity posts overtime victory

COLORADO CITY — Coahoma's Bulldog junior varsity opened play in the Colorado City JV Invitational tournament Thursday with a 46-44 overtime win over Sweetwater's young Mustangs.

Travis Hipp paced the Bulldogs with 15 points, while Randall Rich added 12 more to the Coahoma total.

Duncan, Spurs dominate Grizzlies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs were glad to be home, and no one showed it more than Tim Duncan.

Duncan scored a career-high 42 points Thursday night as the Spurs overcame a sluggish effort to beat the Vancouver Grizzlies 99-91 and snap a three-game losing streak.

The Spurs, returning home from their roughest road trip since winning the NBA title last season, found themselves trailing the lowly Grizzlies by one point at halftime.

"Sometimes when you come back, you are still tired. We got messed up on the road," San Antonio guard Avery Johnson said.

The Spurs won their 22nd straight at home and handed the Grizzlies their 31st loss in their last 32 road games. Vancouver snapped a 30-game road losing streak Tuesday night at Dallas.

"There is no such thing as a moral victory," Grizzlies coach Brian Hill said. "The guys in the locker room are still disappointed because they feel like they missed a great opportunity to pick up a win over the defending champions."

Except for Duncan and David Robinson, who scored 19 points, the Spurs struggled. No one else scored in double-figures, and they shot 38 percent as a team.

"We never turned it around out there," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We made some stops defensively, sometimes two or three in a row. But people come at us hard every night, and it makes every game a real war."

In other NBA games, Phoenix beat Washington 99-85 and Portland downed Minnesota 90-86.

Duncan, who played all the way until leaving to a standing ovation with 27.1 seconds left, went 15-of-22 from the field and 12-of-14 at the foul line. He also led the team with 14 rebounds.

"He's a handful," said Grizzlies forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim, who led his team with 30 points. "In a lot of ways, he carried them through this one himself. He's a bad boy."

Duncan, whose previous high was 39 points on April 1 against the Grizzlies, gave the Spurs their biggest lead at 93-83 on two free throws with 2:37 left.

"Offensively, there isn't a better big man in the league," said Othella Harrington, who scored 18 points for Vancouver. "There is not a lot of flash in his game, but he plays with a lot of fundamentals. He keeps the ball in the air, puts it on the floor and shoots it well."

San Antonio never trailed after Duncan dunked off an alley-oop pass from Johnson to snap a 61-61 tie with 2:28 left in the third.

San Antonio, the NBA's top 3-point shooting team, missed its

first seven 3-pointers before Jaren Jackson connected to put the Spurs ahead 70-65 in the final minute of the third quarter. Jackson added another 3-pointer early in the fourth to increase San Antonio's lead to 78-69.

Suns 99, Wizards 85

Cliff Robinson scored 31 points and Tom Gugliotta added 27 as Phoenix handed Washington its sixth consecutive loss.

Robinson was 11-for-17 from the field, including 3-for-6 from 3-point range. Gugliotta, 1-for-9 from the field in Phoenix's victory over Orlando two nights earlier, was 13-for-17 against Washington.

Jawan Howard scored 15 and Mitch Richmond 14 for the Wizards.

Blazers 90, Timberwolves 86

Rasheed Wallace scored 23 points and Steve Smith's leaning one-hander with 14.5 seconds left helped the Trail Blazers survive a terrible fourth quarter.

The Timberwolves trailed by 18 in the third quarter, but climbed back when Portland went 7-32 without a field goal. The Blazers kept the lead by making nine of 13 free throws down the stretch, but Minnesota closed to 81-80 on Terrell Brandon's fast-break layup and free throw.

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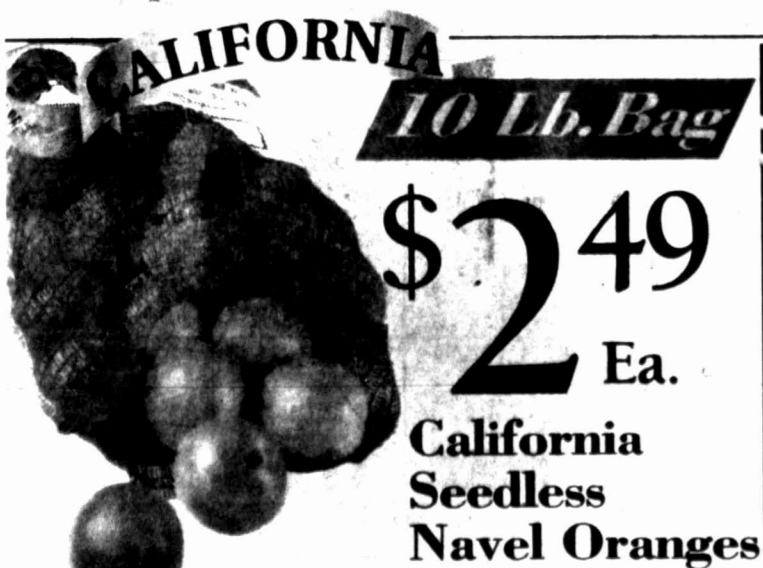


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Line dan

By DEBBIE L. JEN
Features Editor

If you enjoy dancing, or want to dance for the first time, the Big Spring area has several opportunities for you to learn.

The Spring City Senior Center is offering dance lessons for those who are interested in learning to dance. The lessons are held on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the center.

"I tell my ladies to be your Christmas angels," says Dorothy Kenner, director of the Stompers. "I tell my ladies to be your Christmas angels, especially nursing home hands and they dance and play."

They began to dance at the Big Spring Senior Center activities building.

Other performers include:

- Monday, 2 p.m. Medical Center recreational room
- Monday, 3 p.m. Spring Care Center
- Tuesday, 3 p.m. House.
- Wednesday

CHUR
NEW

St. Mary's Episcopal C

There will be a Picnic and Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m. Services will be held at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome. There will be a special dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the church. The dinner will be a special dinner for the students of Canterbury.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will have a special dinner on Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The dinner will be a special dinner for the students of Canterbury. The dinner will be a special dinner for the students of Canterbury.

First Baptist

The music minister at First Baptist Church, Eddie Turner, will present "A Remember" dir. minister of music. This evening's service begins at 7 p.m. and will be provided through 4 years. This Sunday evening service will be another Sunday evening service. Everyone is welcome to invite our community.

College Bap

In honor of the Season, College Baptist Church will observe Christmas Sunday during the month of December. The church is making plans for a special service on New Year's Eve. The church is making plans for a special service on New Year's Eve. The church is making plans for a special service on New Year's Eve.

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◆The American Museum of Natural History in New York City is the largest natural history museum in the world.

◆Congress authorized the minting of a five-cent coin called a nickel on May 16, 1866. It never contained more than 26 percent nickel.

Got an item?

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

Stomping into the holidays

Line dancers plan series of performances in local community; public invited to attend

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

If you enjoy watching line dancing, or want to see it for the first time, the next few weeks will offer plenty of chances.

The Spring City Stompers, Big Spring's line dance group that performs regularly at the Spring City Senior Center, plans eight local performances between now and Dec. 20.

"I tell my ladies, I know this is a big endeavor, but this can be your Christmas present to all these folks that don't have a lot to smile about," said Dorothy Kennemur, organizer of the Stompers. "All these people, especially those in the nursing homes, clap their hands and they smile when we dance and play our music."

They began today by dancing at the Big Spring State Hospital activities building at 3 p.m.

Other performances coming up include:

- Monday, 2 p.m. — VA Medical Center, third floor recreational room.
- Monday, 3 p.m. — Big Spring Care Center.
- Tuesday, 3 p.m. — Marcy House.
- Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. —

Comanche Trail Nursing Home.

- Thursday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m. — Mountain View Lodge.

- Friday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m. — Carriage Inn.

- Monday, Dec. 20, 3 p.m. — Scenic Mountain Medical Center transitional care unit.

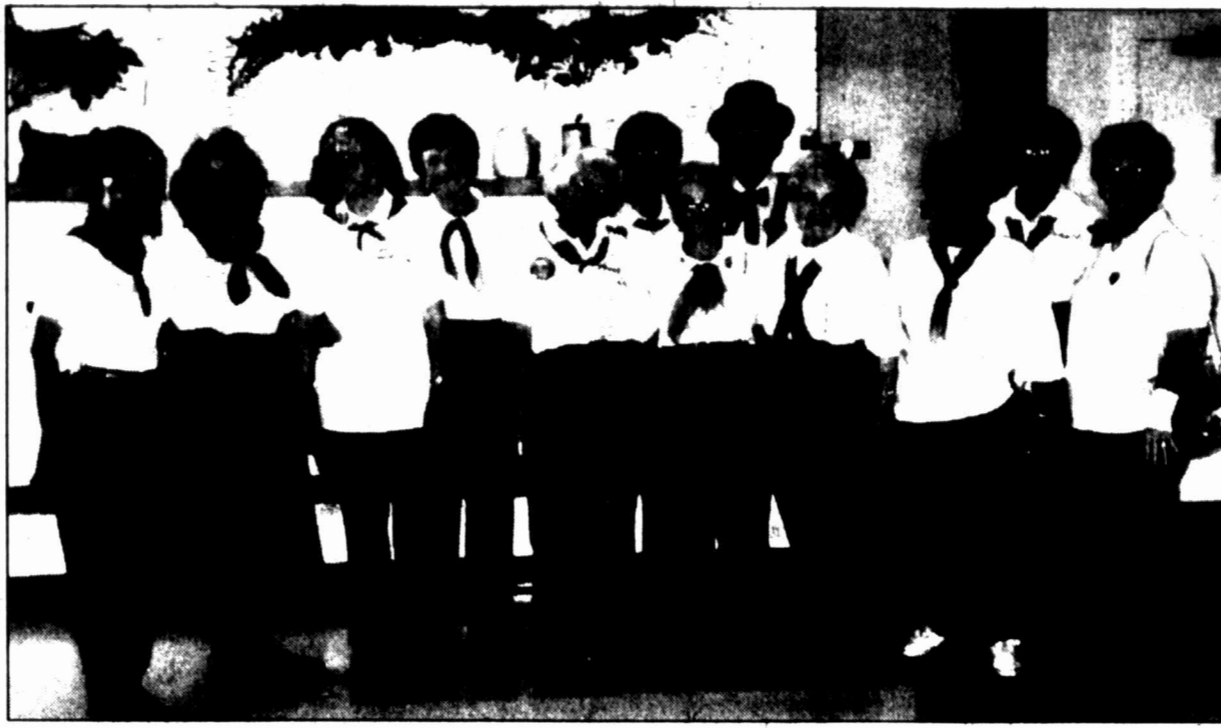
The group even plans one stop in Midland, on Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Rockwood Manor. The public is invited to all of the performances.

Kennemur said the group members don't seem to mind the hectic holiday schedule.

"These ladies seem to have a boundless amount of energy," she said. "They enjoy dancing so much."

Spring City Stompers is made up of 25 people, mostly women, ages 55-88, who have learned line dancing as a form of exercise and fun. They regularly present programs throughout the area, including nursing homes and day cares, without charge to anyone.

The group also sponsors an annual line dance festival at the local senior center. The event draws hundreds of dancers from area cities including Lubbock, Abilene and San Angelo, to perform. Free classes in line dancing



Members of the Spring City Stompers line dance group pose after a performance at Carriage Inn earlier this year. The group, made up of folks ages 55-88, practices regularly at the Spring City Senior Center and performs throughout the community. They plan eight local performances between now and Dec. 20.

are taught at the senior center by Kennemur on Wednesdays, 12:45 p.m., immediately following lunch; and by Margarita Durand-Hollis on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

For more information, call Kennemur, 398-5522; Durand-Hollis at 264-0973; or the senior center at 267-1628. Kennemur said all ages are welcome; the group is not just

for senior citizens. "This is just good exercise and it's a fun way to get exercise, and it's wonderful to see how much joy you can spread around."

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

There will be an all Parish Picnic and Canterbury Caroling on Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service. Children, parents and other parishioners are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch (drinks and desserts will be provided) so we can eat together in the Parish Hall. Then, we will car pool to Canterbury to go Christmas Caroling. Let's make this an extra special day for the residents of Canterbury.

St. Mary's Vestry will meet on Monday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

St. Mary's School's Christmas Program is Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m., at the church. Everyone is welcome to come hear this delightful program performed by the children.

First Baptist

The music ministry of First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, will present "A Christmas To Remember" directed by our minister of music, Stan Hanes. This evening's presentation begins at 7 p.m. Childcare will be provided for children through 4 years of age. There will be another presentation Sunday evening at 6 p.m. We invite our community to come.

"Do Not Be Afraid," is the morning sermon topic that Pastor Eddie Tubbs will share this Sunday morning. Our morning worship hour is 10:45.

College Baptist

In honor of the Christmas Season, College Baptist Church will observe Communion each Sunday during the month of December. The church is also making plans for "Countdown 2000" on New Year's Eve, when church members will again share in the "Lord's Supper."

The King's Kids Christmas

Musical is scheduled for Sunday at 6 p.m.

The Acteens are selling appointment calendars for 2000. The GA's have opened a church post office to deliver Christmas cards for a donation of 30 cents per card. All proceeds from both activities will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Baptist Temple

The Baptist Temple Church Choir will present "Name Above All Names" a Christmas Cantata written by Mosie Lister. It will be Sunday at 6 p.m. The public is invited. Admission is free and a nursery will be provided. For more information you may contact the church at 267-8287.

Do you need time away from your child to do your holiday shopping or get your hair done or just to catch up with life in general? Parent's Day Out at Baptist Temple is the perfect answer to your needs. We offer quality childcare in a Christian environment. We have many exciting activities going on now with the holidays.

Bring your child in for a fun and educational experience. Fees are \$8 per child each day attended and there is a one time registration and supply fee of \$10. We are open Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call for drop-in availability. We want to encourage every parent and child in the area to participate in this important ministry.

First United Methodist Church

"Breaking Away All the Barriers" (Psalms 35:1-10) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry. The message is about how God clears up all the problems in our lives when we let Jesus go to work in our lives. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Our home page is <http://www.xroad-stx.com/dove>.

See CHURCH, Page 2B

History seems to have come full circle

At the time of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, Herod the Great was the king of Judea, a province of the Roman Empire. Herod was a ruthless ruler who killed his wife and two sons because he thought they posed a threat to his power. Augustus, the Roman emperor, reportedly said of Herod, "I would rather be Herod's hog than his son."

Before Jesus was born some wise men from the east saw a star that signaled to them the birth of a king of the Jews. They came to Jerusalem looking for the place where this king had been born. When Herod heard about this, "he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him" (Matthew 2:3). It is not difficult to figure out why Herod was paranoid, but I have wondered why the people of Jerusalem were troubled by his news.

Could it be that they were afraid that a king worse than Herod would soon ascend to the throne? Generally speaking, man, if given the choice, would choose freedom over tyranny. Tyranny, especially unbenevolent dictatorship, demoralizes people and removes incentive for progress.

On the other hand, the alter-

native at the other end of the spectrum — absolute, unrestrained freedom — is no better for it too disheartens citizens.

In either case, people never know when they will become victims of the selfish actions of their government or their fellow man. We all realize, then, that the ideal society falls somewhere in between despotic tyranny and absolute freedom.

In a noble society, individuals possess the freedom to pursue personal happiness, but also the moral restraints to prevent anarchy. Sadly, it seems that there is a growing mood that freedom in any civilized society should come without moral restraint. Anything that infringes upon one's absolute freedom is often seen as oppressive.

History seems to have come full circle to that same mood that existed at the birth of Jesus. Then, people were trou-

bled at the news that a child-king had been born who, for all they knew, would be worse than Herod.

Even so, people in all walks of life today are almost phobic over the prospect that Jesus could change the face of society.

Some are so afraid of moral restraint that religion, and in particular Christianity, is viewed as the great enemy.

And like the people in that era, many today do not know the One who is King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14). If people had just known Jesus they would have welcomed His kingship. Likewise people would embrace Him now if they just knew Him.

The great unaddressed issue of our day is not that there are not enough laws or too many laws, but that there is a moral vacuum spreading over our land.

What is needed is a revival of righteousness by turning to the benevolent Savior and King. The old carol "Joy to the World" declares, "He rules the world with truth and grace." So, the question for our age is, "Will the moral vacuum prevail or will we let Him rule?"

Russ Mullins is minister of the Coahoma Church of Christ.



RUSS MULLINS

CLUB NEWS

All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

1941 Study Club

The 1941 Study Club met in the home of Sue Tindol on Dec. 6. Eighteen members answered the roll call. Joan Daniel led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jean Wynn led the collect. President Jeannie Darden led a short business meeting. We then began our gift exchange and a time of visiting.

Each member brought refreshments which were served by hostesses Sue Tindol and Eloise Davis. Our next meeting will be Jan. 3, 2000.

Green Thumb Garden Club

The Green Thumb Garden Club met Tuesday, Dec. 7, in the home of Carol Scott. Cynthia Scott was cohostess. Thirteen members attended. The home was beautifully decorated in Christmas motif.

The program "Christmas Pageants Remembered" was presented by Dianne Brown, minister of First Presbyterian Church.

Next meeting will be held on Feb. 1, 2000, in the home of Joan Lafond.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Local members of Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have experienced the death of a child, are encouraging people to participate in a candlelight vigil planned Sunday. It will be the third annual "That Their Light May Always Shine" remembrance event. People throughout the world are asked to light a candle at 7 p.m. in their time zone, so that as the candles burn down in one zone, they will be lit in the next, creating a "wave of light" circling the globe in a 24-hour period.

Dec. 12 is also National Children's Memorial Day in the U.S. It is the result of U.S. Senate resolution 118 and a presidential proclamation to be issued as a result of its unanimous passage.

Compassionate Friends Inc. is an international organization with an office in Oak Brook, Ill. It can be reached at 630-990-0010.

The Big Spring chapter meets on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at the Family Life Building, First Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. Enter at the southeast doors.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

COMANCHE TRAIL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS needs volunteers who know something about Christmas lights. They will be involved in testing, replacing bulbs and fuses and strings of lights. Call Pat Simmons at 263-4607 for information.

The group also needs greeters daily from 6:30-9 p.m. Call Pam Stephens after 5 p.m. at 268-9774 for information.

SANTA CLAUS WILL BE at the new pavilion behind Dora Roberts Community Center both Friday and Saturday evenings.

Sponsored by the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, the event will include a time for all children to visit with Saint Nick, and parents can take pictures. There is no charge. Santa will arrive about 7 p.m. and stay until 8:30 p.m., or until all children are gone.

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CHURCH

Continued from Page 1B

Youth meet on Sunday afternoon with Mid-High youth meeting at 5 p.m. Youth Choir is meeting at 6 p.m. and Senior Highs meeting at 7 p.m. There is also a Bible study for senior highs on Wednesday night at 101 Washington. Children also have a great time in our Sunday School at 9:40 a.m. every Sunday morning. We also have children's vocal and handbell choirs led by John and Denise Ross. Single Adults have a class all their own, taught by Jackie Henry, on Sunday mornings at 9:40, and if you are a single adult you are invited to come and visit us!

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

The All Church Caroling will be held on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to participate. Make plans for the New Years Eve Brunch with the seniors.

For more information call the church office at 267-6384.

Victory Baptist Church

Come join us and experience the victory that Jesus Christ has for you. Come and experience His presence, His life, and His love. Come and allow God's Holy Spirit to change and revolutionize your life.

God saves people not to just sit but to serve Him. Are you looking for a place to serve the Lord? Are you looking for the Lord? Then come to Victory Baptist Church and experience the Lord firsthand.

Sunday morning Bible study begins at 10. Praise and worship begins at 11 a.m., followed by a sermon from Pastor Jeff Jansen. Jesus said, "My House shall be called a House of Prayer." Join us Sunday evening at 6 for a time of prayer. We will be praying for each other and for an outpouring of God's Spirit upon the city of Big Spring.

A Victory Baptist Church is located at the corner of East 11th Place and FM 700. If you have a question or would like a free New Testament please call 267-6334 and leave your name and number.

Coahoma United Methodist Church

We're proud of our youth and children! Come help them celebrate Christmas. Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Coahoma United Methodist Church, 101 N. Main St.

We especially like to have any children who might want to participate to come. Dress rehearsal is at 2 p.m. Saturday at the church.

First Assembly of God

The First Christmas Service is the theme of Pastor R.T. Haveron's sermon this Sunday morning at 10:30 at the First Assembly of God Church, Fourth and Lancaster. What was the first Christmas service like? The Christmas services of our day, similar or different from the first Christmas service?

In the evening service at 6, Associate Pastor Eddie Johnston will be speaking on "The Persistence of Prayer." All services will be highlighted by special music and outstanding worship.

The public is invited to these services. For more information call 267-6334 or 267-7214.

East Side Baptist Church

On Sunday at 10:15 a.m. the East Side Baptist Church will enjoy the music of Nolan Hayes. Nolan is a gifted pianist and talented vocalist. He will bless your heart with his music and his sweet spirit. You are invited to come and enjoy a special treat. A nursery is provided.

The East Side Baptist Church is located at East Sixth and Scurry. For more information call 267-1917.

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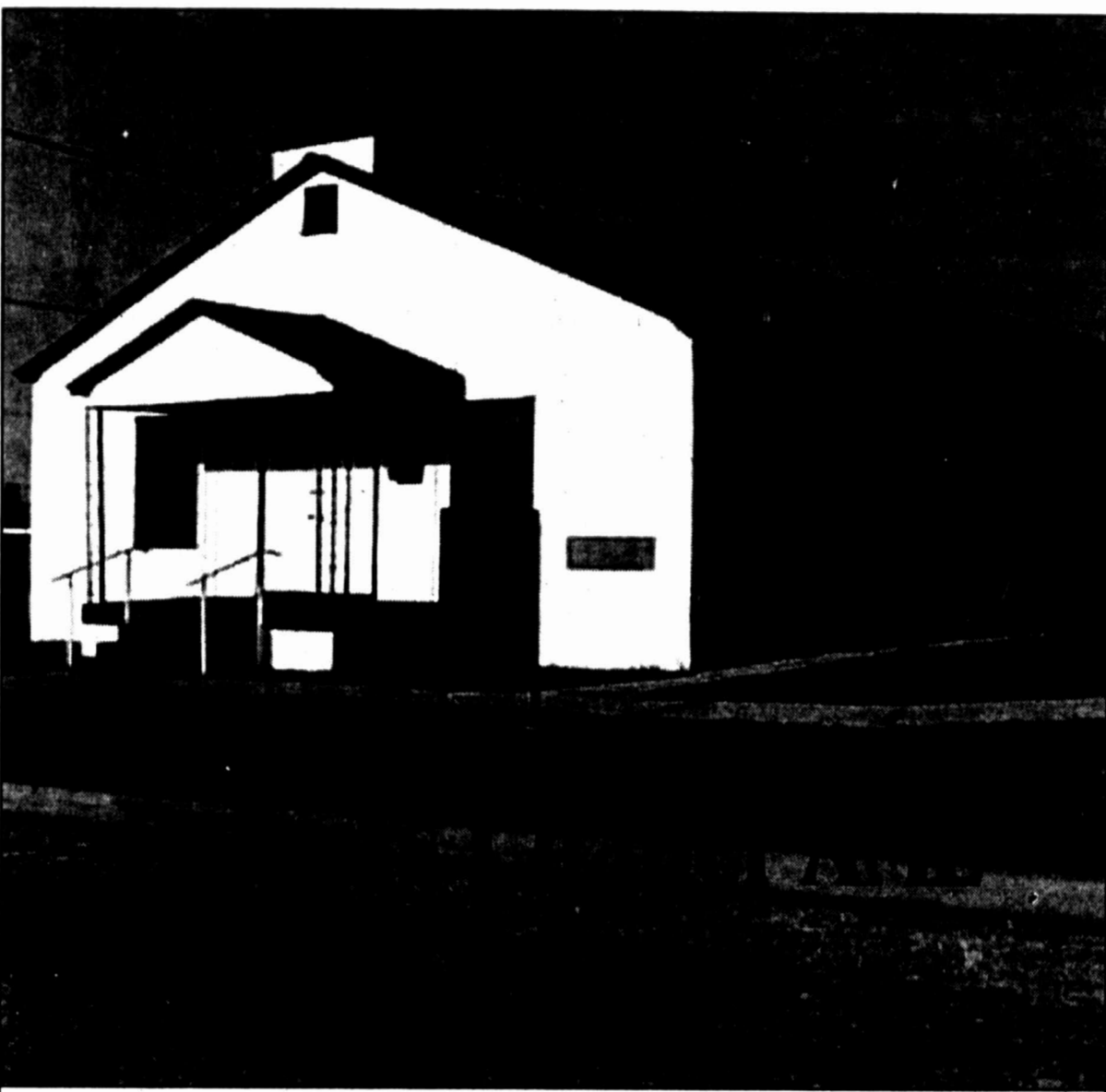
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
701 Runnels 263-4211
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✓ HONDA'S FF \$200. Police Impound Makes and Models. (NOW!!) 1-800-772-7 EXT. 6336.

92 Camaro RS V8. el. w/d, crus. 83 miles. Very nice. Brian 267-4524

95 Ford Contour door, 44k miles, 1 on excellent condition speed, mar transmission, extre good gas mileage. PS, PB, Am/Fm C 915-393-5872

Great X-Mas gift 1990 Nissan Stanza excellent condition, transmission, cl. \$3500. 264-0744 a 6pm.

Lexus '93, 88K ES \$13000. OBO. b. 12/23. 267-1000 263-6004.

1974 El Camino* Rebuilt 400ci engine* tires* Runs gi \$2500/OBO* 267-465

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1987 Ford p/u F-15 cab runs good. A \$2,500 Call 915-264-

1997 Ext. cab Silvi PU. V8, 3rd dr, loc auto, 28K, under war \$18,500, 263-3519.

1998 Ford F 150 Sup XL, 3 door, 5 speed cruise, 17,000 n \$16,900. Call 263-16-

Come By & See The New 20 Ford Focus A Fun car to drive
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Check prices w before you b Samples show your home or Lower overh means lowest price Deanna Roge Agent

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Coming Sunday: Give something that says "Big Spring."

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95 Ford Contour GL 4 door, 44k miles, 1 owner, excellent condition, 5 speed, manual transmission, extremely good gas mileage, A/C, PS, PB, Am/Fm Cass. 915-393-5872

Great X-Mas gift. 1990 Nissan Stanza GXE excellent condition, new transmission, clean. \$3500. 264-0744 after 6pm.

Lexus '93, 88K ES - 300 \$13000. OBO before 12/23. 267-1000 or 263-6004.

1974 El Camino* Recently rebuilt 400ci engine* New tires* Runs great* \$2500/OBO* 267-4650

PICKUPS

1987 Ford p/u F-150 ext. cab runs good. Asking \$2,500. Call 915-264-0549

1997 Ext. cab Silverado PU. V8, 3rd dr, loaded, auto, 28K, under warranty. \$18,500. 263-3519.

1998 Ford F150 Supercab XL, 3 door, 5 speed, AC, cruise, 17,000 miles. \$16,900. Call 263-1631

Come By & See The New 2000 Ford Focus A Fun car to drive!

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PICKUPS

92 F-150 Ford pickup supercab V8, PS, AC, at. very clean. \$7000. Call 267-3260

Small SWB truck fully enclosed utility bed, good condition. \$3500 OBO 267-2296

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1989 Grand Wagoneer. Nice. \$4,000 Call 915-263-6202.

SUBURBANS

Super condition 1996 Chevy Suburban - LT approx. 67,500 mi.; some warranty, leather interior \$19,500. 263-6892 before 10:30 am. or after 6pm.

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PERSONAL 2000 PREDICTIONS Reveal your destiny... Live & Confidential. Rated #1 in Accuracy & Service! Relationship, Finance, Daily Crisis? Mystical Connections 2-4 hrs/18+/2.99min. Credit Card. 1-877-478-4410

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MEDICAL BILLER \$15-\$45/hr Medical Billing software comp. any needs people to process medical claims from home. Training provided. Must own computer. 1-800-434-5518 ext. 667

Fully equipped restaurant for sale. Turn key operation. Call 915-268-3845 for more information.

CHILD CARE

Hilcrest Child Development Center now has openings for children that were 3 and 4 years of age before Sept. 1, 1999. Rates are \$55.00 a week. For more info, call or come by 2000 W. FM 700 (915) 267-8449.

HELP WANTED

DENTAL BILLER \$15-\$45/hr. Dental Billing software company needs people to process medical claims from the home. Training provided. Must own computer. 1-800-223-1149 ext. 450

HELP WANTED

Big Spring area Chamber of Commerce is looking for part time manager for the Dora Roberts Community Center. Send Resume to Terri Newton, P. O. Box 1391, Big Spring, TX 79721.

BLAST MASTERS, INC. Steam cleaning company needs mature operator. Valid drivers license & drug test required. Some traveling involved. Call for information @ (915) 267-5449.

Comanche Trail Nursing Center is looking for 10PM - 6AM charge nurse, also a 2-10pm shift. RN or LVN with IV experience, with strong leadership qualities. Applications can be picked up at 3200 Parkway or call 263-404.

Comanche Trail Nursing Center is looking for nurses aides. Applications can be picked up at 3200 Parkway or call 263-4041.

Dominos Pizza Part time drivers and inside help needed. Apply in person at: 2202 Gregg.

HELP WANTED

Established retail shop needs self-confident, motivated, personable and well groomed store manager. Pleasant work environment. Non-Smoker. References required with resume. Salary & hours negotiable. Send resume to: P O Box 1431/194 Big Spring, TX. 79720.

Gills Fried Chicken has immediate openings for day & evening shifts. Must be able to work weekends. Apply in person: 1101 Gregg St.

HELP WANTED

\$\$\$ Hiring Immediately \$\$\$ Truckdrivers needed for oil field work. Prefer ex-Dowall, ex-BJ, ex-Halliburton hands. No need to relocate. Class A CDL, clear driving record, 2 years truck driving experience a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. No calls after 5pm.

WEST TEXAS CENTERS for MMHR has opening for Accounting Clerk. High School graduation or GED plus (2) years of experience performing bookkeeping and accounting functions. Typing and Excel test will be required. Performs moderately complex bookkeeping and clerical work in accounting and fiscal record keeping. Must meet requirements for operating agency vehicles. Salary \$655.85 biweekly (\$17,052 annually). Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels, E.O.E.

PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING
Odessa College and International Schools offer a Four Week Semi-Driver Training Course in ODESSA
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NEED WELDERS for trailer manufacturing. For more information call 267-6347.

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DELTA LOANS Loans from \$50-\$450. So Habla Espanol. Phone Apps. Welcome. 115 E. 3rd. 268-9090

MIDWEST FINANCE Loans \$100-\$430. Open M-F 9-6pm. 612 Gregg 263-1353. Phone apps. welcome. So Habla Espanol.

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COLLECTIBLES
Ty Clubby II Beanie Buddy - \$50 each - Have two. Call 263-2228

HELP WANTED

Maintenance man needed FT/PT, salary based on experience. Send resume to PO Box 1431/304 Big Spring Tx. 79720.

Full time position for CNA's. Sick leave, vacations, holidays & insurance. Must have good references. Contact Elia Gonzalez, Don Valley Fair Lodge, 1541 Chestnut St., Colorado City, 915-728-2634.

PIZZA INN Now hiring delivery drivers & waitresses. Apply in person to 1702 Gregg or call 263-1381.

Sonic Now Hiring! All Positions! Day Time Only. Comp. salary - Apply in person only. No Phone Calls please

LONG JOHN SILVERS Day and Evening Shifts Available. Must be energetic. Apply in person. 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls please.

Need full time Porter. Company benefits. Must have good driving record and drug free.

Fiesta Dodge C. P. Jeep 502 E. FM 700. 264-6677

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FOR LEASE: building on Snyder Highway. Approx. 1800 square feet with office on 1 acre.

HOUSES FOR SALE 2200 + sq.ft. New electrical, plumbing, windows, roof and doors.

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OWNER WILL FINANCE 1610 Bluebird 2 bdr. 1 bth. excellent condition. Low down, low monthly. Call Andrew (day) 915-425-9999

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House for sale by owner. 2 bdr. 1 bth. carport, corner lot, lots of storage. Call 263-7437.

Must sell 3 Br/2 Bth home. 509 Nolan. Make an offer. Also 2 CH/A units; 2 & 2 1/2 ton. Call 263-0577.

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Your instincts are right on this year as you read people loud and clear. You handle finances with a great deal of finesse.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ****Take the lead with an older relative, who will love joining you on errands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ****Get errands done in the morning. Afternoon provides opportunities for socializing and enjoying others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ****Good news easily puts you in an euphoric state. Share in the Christmas spirit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Opportunity strikes in an unprecedented way. Good communication flourishes between you and another.

HOROSCOPE

Sort through invitations and make logical choices. You have a lot of ground to cover. Tonight: Follow the music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ****Take the lead with an older relative, who will love joining you on errands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ****Get errands done in the morning. Afternoon provides opportunities for socializing and enjoying others.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Opportunity strikes in an unprecedented way. Good communication flourishes between you and another.

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One, two and three bedroom houses. Call 263-4410.

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

Very good condition 2 Br, 1 bath. No pets, no utilities paid. \$395/mp plus dep. 263-8513.

WEDDING CAKES!! Arches, silk bouquets, catering. Evening calls and apt. welcome. The Grishams 267-8191

2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. \$350/mo, \$200/dep. Call 264-9522.

NEED MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS Good credit/bad credit. We can help (tot free) 1-877-939-9091 No Fees

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7 Station work out bench. One fender Gazz Bass, one Trombone. Call 264-1138 (mobile 664-6113)

35 foot Mobile home real clean. \$8,480. Texas Auto Sales 1108 E. 4th. St. Big Spring, Tx.

1986 Chrysler Fifth Avenue, fully equipped. Runs great. \$1,550. 634-0104 - local.

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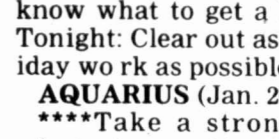
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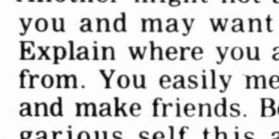
FRIDAY

Table with 2 columns: Time, Program. 6:30 PM News (CC) Fortune, 7:30 PM Boy-World Odd Man Out, 8:30 PM Sabrina-Wich Hughesleys, 9:30 PM 20/20 (CC), 10:30 PM News (CC) Nightline, 11:30 PM Politically Inc: Cheers, 12:30 AM (12:08) Gunsmoke

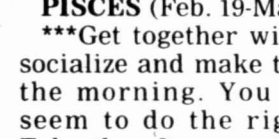
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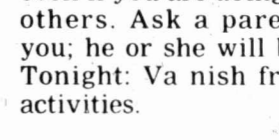
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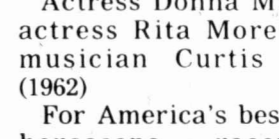
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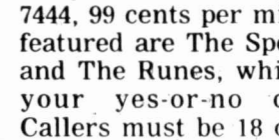
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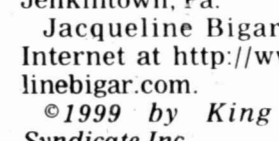
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE AI



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NOBODY ASKS FOR IT

Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

You say you didn't notice until it was too late to do anything about it?

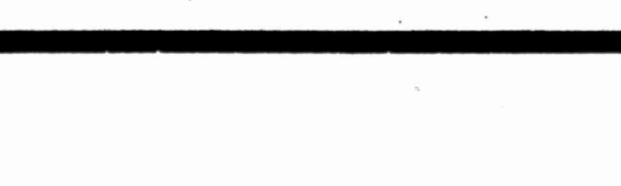
Probably, if you aren't checking the Public Notices columns of this newspaper regularly.

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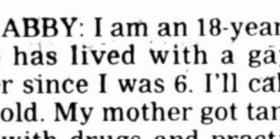
Whether you know them as Public Notices or as "the legals", it pays you to check the Public Notice columns in this newspaper each issue.

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ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am an 18-year-old who has lived with a gay man ever since I was 6. I'll call him Harold. My mother got tangled up with drugs and practically abandoned me and my brother (who's now 22).

Abby, for the last 12 years of our lives we never saw Harold do anything but work hard and come home to us. If he has a companion, we've never seen him. My brother is married and has moved out with his wife and new son. I'm still living at home and am in my freshman year of college - which Harold is paying for.

There's only one problem. Some of my friends from college come to my house to study. They have seen Harold and they ask questions about him. He has never been the flamboyant type or the proud, outgoing kind - so I tell them he is not gay, even though I know he is.

Harold has never touched me or my brother in any kind of sexual manner. Abby, he has been my mother, father, aunt, uncle, counselor and, most of all, my best friend. I love him as though he were a blood relation and so does my brother. Should I keep lying to my friends about him when they ask questions, or should I move to protect my reputation? They think I should transfer to another college so people won't know about him raising me. I love him, and the last thing I want to do is hurt him. Please help. - TORN AND CONFUSED BY LOVE AND FRIENDS

DEAR TORN: Harold's sexual preferences are personal, and none of your curious "friends" business. Since you say he is not "out," I see no reason for you to reveal anything for him. Tell your friends exactly what you told me - that he is your mother, father, aunt, uncle, counselor and - most of all - your best friend. Alternatively, you could call him a confirmed bachelor. (It's certainly the truth!)

Anyone who would imply that you should be ashamed of the way you were raised is speaking out of ignorance, is not your friend, and is not worthy of your time.

DEAR ABBY: "Ed in Long Island" sent you a list of reasons why gay people need to talk about being gay. I would like to add some thoughts because people need to talk about problems if we are ever going to put an end to discrimination.

1. Women had to talk about their right to vote before it became a reality. 2. Black people had to talk about discrimination against them before they secured civil rights. 3. Workers had to talk about their problems before they secured decent pay and other benefits. 4. Jewish people had to keep talking about the terrible crimes of the Holocaust to make sure it never happens again (and don't forget, gay people were killed along with the Jews in the Holocaust).

I'm sure others can think of other examples of the need to talk to put a check on discrimination, prejudice, bigotry and hate. - DORTHA HARNED, TERRE HAUTE, IND. DEAR DORTHA: Indeed they can - and I hope they do. Unless people talk about discrimination, there is a tendency to sweep it under the carpet and ignore its presence.

DEAR ABBY: Here's another solution for the woman whose neighbor uses her hose and water to water his own lawn and shrubs. Most faucet handles have a screw in the middle. Even without the screw, you can use the faucet. And when you're done, the handle can be removed and taken into the house. It worked for us. - SHARON L. PUYALLUP, WASH. DEAR SHARON: Thank you for a helpful suggestion. I hope it will help the woman who wrote to stop the drip next door! ©1999 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

FRIDAY

DEC. 10

Table with 20 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, USA, SCIFI, LIFE, TLC) and 5 rows of program listings including titles, times, and channels.

HAGAR



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



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GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



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DENNIS THE MENACE



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 1999. There are 21 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Old sailors, 5 Broad tie, 10 Do the crawl, 14 Cookie choice, 15 Flambeau, 16 Walk through water, 17 Pres. Fujimori's country, 18 Related on the mother's side, 19 Years and years, 20 Currently occupied, 22 Squabble, 23 Monster's loch, 24 Tenerife, Las Palmas, etc., 27 Compete, 28 Left port, 31 Yacht pole, 35 Block up, 38 Sidestep, 39 Jet, 40 Actress Black, 42 Level, 43 Knot again, 45 Existed, 46 Transmitted, 47 Flea market cubicles, 49 Egt.-Syr., once, 51 Confirmed pessimist, 58 Rue the aerobics, 60 Highway, 61 Seethes, 62 Aromatic annual plant, 63 Vietnam War participant, abbr., 65 Insect pest, 66 South African moola, 67 Nettle, 68 Peak, 69 Units of work, 70 Facilitated, 71 Betelgeuse, e.g., 44 Old Testament judge, 48 Abrasive contact, 50 Tease, 33 Affixing to, 34 Train termini, 36 Mine find, 37 Verbal adjective in Latin, 41 1963 Oscar winner Patricia, 56 Alpaca's relative, 57 Organic compound, 58 Farm measurement, 59 Scorch overhangs, 64 Roman or Beatty.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved grid with words: SPARK, RAFT, GISH, ALBEE, ELAN, UNTO, BUREN, LAST, TRITES, EMILY, POST, ADOPT, SARA, FINE, TISP, ONION, PASS, REAPED, DOCTORAL, UPPER, RED, ISSUE, MAUNA, KEA, ACHTONE, PLAN, EDEL, NAP, SLOPE, FENCE, POST, MINOR, ROLE, LANKA, ORES, IXIA, LITER, GEST, AXED, SNOWS.

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DEC 10 1999

Not so trivial pursuit for some: Ranking top Christian schisms

NEW YORK (AP) — Not doing anything on Dec. 31? A religious scholar has a suggestion. Get a group of friends together and rank the most significant religious events of the last 1,000 years. For instance: Which was bigger — the Protestant Reformation or the Great Schism?

"It's a nice parlor game, a way to make good use of New Year's Eve," jokes historian Martin E. Marty, now retired from the University of Chicago, when asked about a recently released Top 10 list.

That list was based on a survey of the nation's religion reporters, who picked as No. 1 the Reformation launched by Martin Luther in 1517 and the resulting Catholic Counter-Reformation. The Great Schism of 1054 between Eastern Orthodoxy and Western Christendom ranked third.

Both splits persist. Pope John Paul II hoped Catholics and Orthodox would be celebrating the end of the millennium by reuniting. However, Orthodox conservatism and internal problems made that ecumenical breakthrough impossible. And bridging Catholic-Protestant differences seems an equally problematic prospect for the 21st century.

Wheaton College historian Mark Noll contends that Christendom's East-West split doesn't belong on the list at all because it really occurred in the first millennium; the mutual ecclesiastical anathemas of 1054 merely ratified the fact.

Here's the ranking of the reporters' other eight choices:

2) Gutenberg's invention of printing with movable type, producing widely disseminated religious literature and the Bible in everyday languages.

4) The Nazi Holocaust and the founding of Israel.

5) The Crusades to reclaim the Holy Land from Muslims, begun by the papacy in 1095.

6) Islam's expansion in the 12th to 15th centuries, culminating in the fall of Constantinople (1453).

7) The reforms at Catholicism's Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

8) America's innovations in religious liberty, leading to the Bill of Rights.

9) Nineteenth century thinkers (Darwin, Freud, Marx, Nietzsche) pose challenges to religion.

10) Pentecostalism becomes "the fastest growing segment of Christianity" in the 20th century.

The survey, sponsored by the Religion Newswriters Association (for specialists in the general as opposed to religious media), was not especially representative. Only 30 of 200 members responded. The full ballot, on the Web at www.rna.com, listed 27 items.

Is there any value in such lists, which are sprouting like weeds this month? "They force you to think," remarks Noll.

Karla Goldman, a historian at Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College, agrees. "With a millennium, it's so giant as to be ridiculous. But it pushes you to see the broader patterns," things like the importance of the printing press.

Marty also likes lists. "We tend to be so history-less, so unaware of the things that produce us and the tradition we live off," he observes. Still, he cautions that the American reporters did not survey "the millennium" but "our millennium." The perspective is Western.

"It's a very ethnocentric list," Goldman agrees. "There's no Buddhism. There's no Hinduism."

In strictly religious terms, she would rank the European Enlightenment as a more important Jewish event than the Holocaust. She says it "reality redefined religion toward what we identify as modern experience ... (and) led to the opening of secular societies to Jewish participation."

Apparently there was no Protestant bias at work in exalting the Reformation. "I certainly would agree with No. 1," says a Catholic historian, Jay Dolan of the University of Notre Dame. But he sees a big omission.

He thinks Columbus' voyage of 1492, introducing

Christianity to the Americas, ranks "right right up there with the printing press."

Noll proposes another missing item. "Somewhere on the list there has to be Christianity becoming a global religion. That's as important as the expansion of Islam. These are the two great world religions." For the start of the trend, Protestant Noll proposes the 1542 arrival of Catholic missionary Francis Xavier in India.

Marty generally agrees with the journalists' choices but would rearrange them. For instance, rather than simply Pentecostalism he would have listed the shift to experiential religion that began long before.

From St. Paul up until the 18th century evangelical awakenings, he says, "Christianity just argued. Augustine argued. Calvin argued. The new invention was making a direct intuitive appeal to the hearts of ordinary people. That's the beginning of modernity in religion and freedom of choice."

Marty would also extend the undermining of religion from the 19th century thinkers back to the French Revolution and the Enlightenment. Meanwhile, Noll would expand the idea to include the 20th century survival of religion after tremendous persecution under Communists, Fascists and Nazis.

Though Catholic, Dolan doubts that the Second Vatican Council belongs in the Top 10.

"Certainly in my lifetime and in this century it was a major, major event. But was it more important than the Council of Trent (defining Catholic doctrine in response to Protestantism), which had impact for 400 years? That makes me lean to Trent." Vatican II's importance can only be judged in the next millennium, he believes.

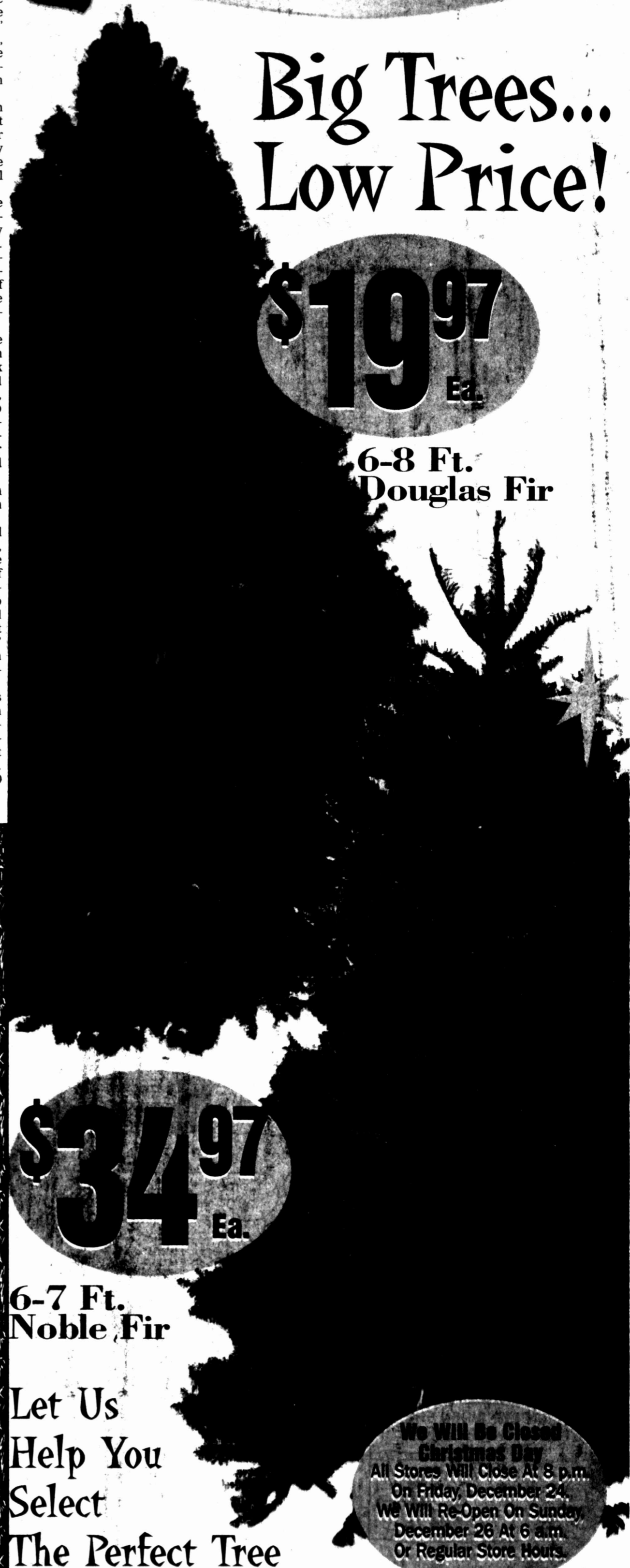
Karla Goldman also looks ahead. The rise of women in the clergy and religious leadership came so late in this millennium that it doesn't yet make the Top 10, she thinks. But "I'd put it on the Top 10 list of the next millennium."



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