

BIG SPRING HERALD

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D E C 1 3 1 9 9 9

MONDAY

December 13, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:

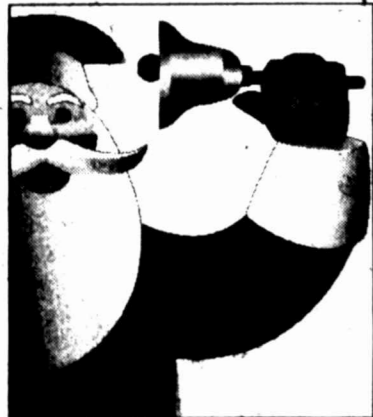


CLEAR
TONIGHT 30°-35° TUESDAY 52°-56°

HELPING OTHERS...

Each day through the holiday season, the Herald will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate, including Salvation Army Angel Trees and Salvation Army Kettles.

If your organization has an established program to help others and you would like to be included in this list, call Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 234.



Angel Tree locations:

- Big Spring Herald (seniors)
- Big Spring Mall
- Al's and Son B-B-Q
- Wal-Mart
- Cosden Credit Union
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center
- Rip Griffin's Gift Shop
- Gale's Sweet Shoppe

Salvation Army Kettles:

- Wal-Mart
- Rip Griffin's
- Big Spring Post Office
- Bealls For Her
- Cinema IV

Toys For Tots:

- Cellular One in the College Park Shopping Center

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HOW CAN ANY SELF RESPECTING REINDEER "PRANCE" ON A ROOF?



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Vol. 97, No. 40

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.

WTC/MHMR implements new medication policy to control costs

Special to the HERALD

WTC for MHMR Gets A Grip On Drug Costs With New Policy

(Big Spring)—As a result of skyrocketing pharmaceutical costs, a new policy regarding medications went into effect November 18, 1999 at West Texas Centers for MHMR. The center, which operates fifteen community mental health centers in its 23-county service area, now requires all consumers with a third-party pay

source to use that source to fill their prescriptions for psychiatric medication.

For example, if a person has private insurance with a prescription card benefit, then the psychiatrist will provide a written prescription and the person can get it filled at the pharmacy of his/her choice. Or if the person is a Medicaid recipient, which allows three prescriptions per month, then the person is expected to use one of the three allotted slots for the medication prescribed by the psychiatrist.

"Medication costs were projected to reach 2.9 million dollars or 55% over budget if we did not implement this policy and other cost containment efforts now," said Landon Sturdivant, Chief Operating Officer of West Texas Centers for MHMR. "We simply do not have the funding to provide free medications to persons who may have a personal pay source."

The policy allows for the truly indigent to qualify for medication assistance. An appeal process is also included to deal

with the possibility that a Medicaid recipient may have more than three prescriptions in a month that must be filled. "It certainly is not our intention to have consumers choosing between filling their blood pressure medication or their antidepressant," said Sturdivant.

Service Coordinators have been trained to be creative and tenacious in tracking down financial avenues to assist consumers in getting their prescriptions filled.

Drug representatives have been asked to provide as many

samples as possible so the physicians can see whether the medication is the right one for the consumer without risking an entire month's supply. Eli Lilly, the maker of Prozac, has provided WTC with \$4,000 worth of prescription coupons in one month to help ease the medication crisis.

"We are doing our best to manage this situation with as little turmoil as possible. The catch 22 is that the progress in developing new medications for chronic mental illness has been revolutionary in the past five

Vandals wreak havoc at Humane Society

By JOHN H. WALKER

Editor

A vandal or vandals broke into the Big Spring Humane Society late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, causing an estimated \$30,000 worth of damage.

The Howard County Sheriff's Department is investigating several leads.

"It was horrible," facility manager Fran Turrentine said Sunday. "They completely destroyed two of our three vehicles, tore up both gates and broke into the floor safe."

But if there was an ironic justice to the vandals' efforts, it was that the time spent with bolt cutter, pliers and a screwdriver working to tear the polished steel top from the safe that dated back to the former drive-in theater that was on the site was wasted.

"We didn't have any money in there," Turrentine explained. "We don't keep money in there."

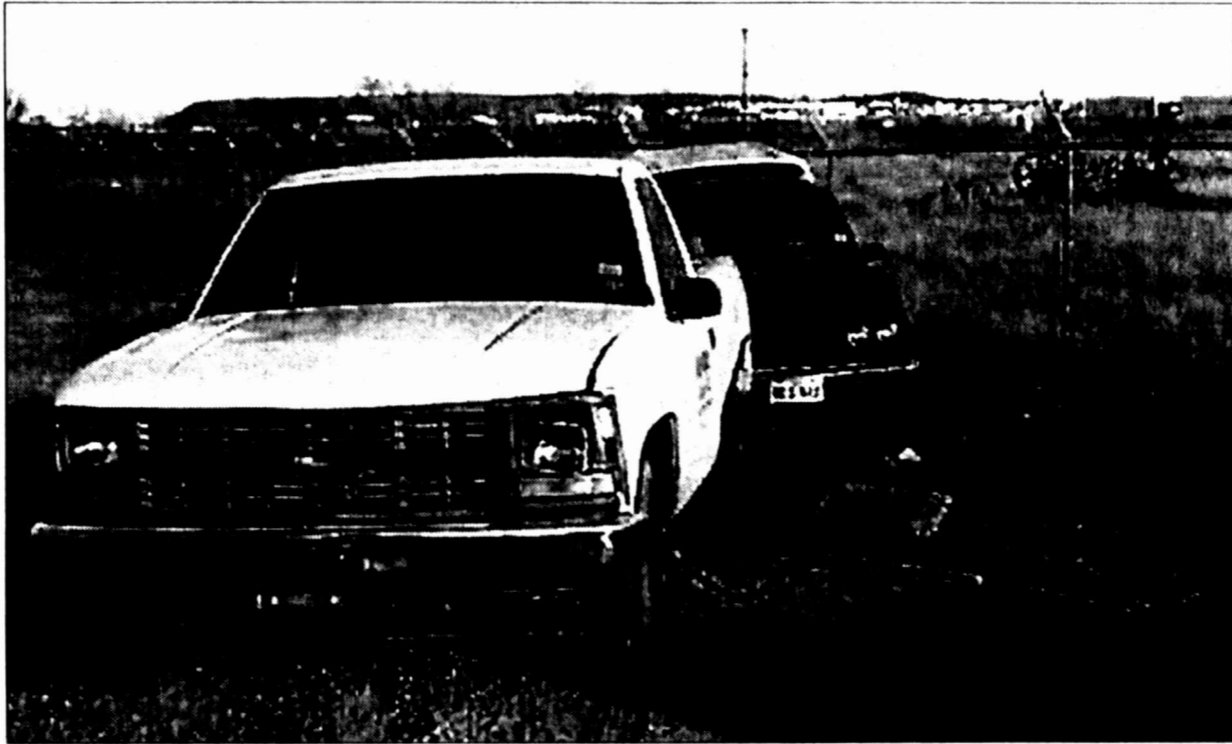
Turrentine said it appeared the Humane Society's biggest vehicle, a white Chevrolet pickup with automatic transmission, was used as a battering ram on the gates and other vehicles.

"It looks like they got in it and got it going and just used it as a battering ram," Turrentine said. "There's still a portion of the front gate hung up under the truck and the frame is broken. It looks like a total loss."

On Sunday, the white truck sat with its rear tailgate and bumper shoved against the front of a smaller pickup with a camper shell.

The right rear tire had been run off the white pickup and the wheel was buried in the soil as it appeared that the vandals had backed into the smaller truck and then sat and spun the drive wheels of the larger vehicle.

Underneath the vehicle was about 20-feet of chain link fencing, including a red on white



HERALD photos/John H. Walker

Damage to two of three pickups owned by the Big Spring Humane Society was heavy following a late Saturday night or early Sunday morning incident of vandalism. Humane Society officials estimated damages at \$30,000 on Sunday.

sign covered with dirt that read, "HUMANE SOCIETY."

At the rear of the white pickup, the smaller vehicle had been pushed back into a chain-link fence and the front-end was smashed where it had been repeatedly rammed.

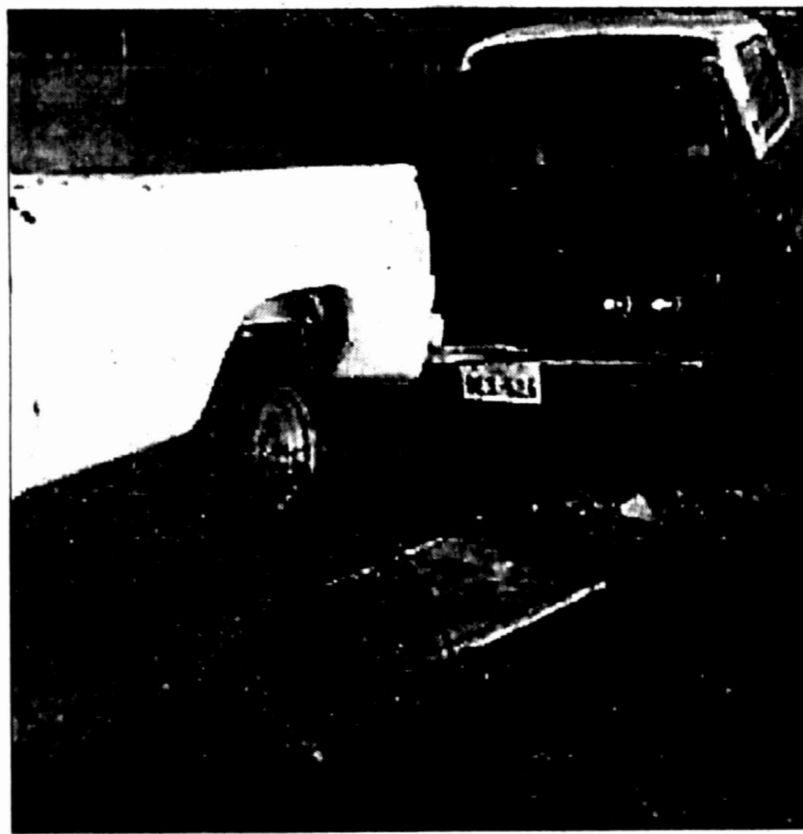
A third vehicle, a small, red pickup, appeared to have escaped major damage — with only a large dent to one side evident.

After gaining access to the property and the white pickup, it appeared the vandals headed for the front gate — located on the I-20 north service road where they completely destroyed the gate and pulled down at least two sections of fencing.

They also destroyed a smaller gate inside the property.

"We rebuilt the smaller gate because we had to have some way to secure the property."

See **VANDALS**, Page 2



Lighting contest, Biz After Hours ahead for CofC

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Staff Writer

A busy week is scheduled for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, as the deadline for entries into the annual Holiday Lighting Contest is 5 p.m. Wednesday and the final 1999 Business After Hours from 5-7 p.m. that day at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

"We'll have judging the Christmas lighting on the 16th, and winners will be announced on Friday," said Debby ValVerde.

Two categories are provided for the lighting contest. The residential category includes religious, lights only, original homemade and other.

For the commercial division, entrants may select from the show window, inside display, lights only and other category.

"Winners will receive community recognition and certificates," ValVerde said.

A special non-judged category is also available for any holiday decorator who wants to be placed on the list for the season.

Children bring three RSVP volunteers to program

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Staff Writer

The love of a child, or in this case the love of 53 children, brings three Retired Senior Volunteers Program women to school every week.

"It's their sparkling eyes, and their hugs that are so tight, and when they say Grandma, I love you, and I say I love you, too, well, that is the reward we get," said Oleta Weaver, an RSVP volunteer at Kentwood Elementary.

Every Tuesday, Weaver and her friends Beatrice Webb, Hazel Duggan and Pat Dickenson spend an afternoon at the school, whiling away the hours listening to all the first and second grade students read.

Each woman listens one-on-one with a young child as the student reads books selected by the teacher.

"Some of the students don't have anyone listening to them at home. When school first started some of them struggled, and we helped them sound out the words. Now some of them are excellent readers, going great guns" said Webb, a retired teacher.

"And they really like what we



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

RSVP volunteers listen to all first and second graders read every Tuesday at Kentwood Elementary. Pictured are Oleta Weaver, Heather Gonzales, Pat Dickenson, Trey Barteo, Bea Webb, Marcus Campbell, Hazel Duggan and Anthony Carter.

do. They enjoy coming to read to us, and we really enjoy listening," Weaver said.

The reading program began

about five years ago with Dickerson. She talked to the principal of Kentwood Elementary, who endorsed the

program and set aside a classroom for the children and RSVP

See **RSVP**, Page 2

OBITUARIES

Henriette Louise Kionka

Henriette Louise Kionka, 90, of Fort Worth, died on Friday, Dec. 3, 1999, in a Fort Worth nursing care center. Memorial service will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Jim Liggett, minister of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, officiating. A private family interment will follow.



KIONKA

She was born on Nov. 14, 1909, in Chicago, Ill., and married Dr. Paul F. Kionka in 1945, in Oak Park, Ill. He preceded her in death on Aug. 3, 1981.

She had resided in Fort Worth since 1988, moving from Big Spring, where she had lived for over 20 years. After graduating from Rockford College in Rockford, Ill., she was an art department supervisor and taught eighth grade in the Chicago, Ill. school district.

Mrs. Kionka and her late husband, Dr. Paul F. Kionka, had lived in Chicago, Tuscon, and later in Big Spring, where Dr. Kionka was a physician at the VA Hospital. While there, Mrs. Kionka was involved in many social and community activities.

Mrs. Kionka was a member of St. Christopher Episcopal Church, where she was active with the Women of St. Catherine's Guild.

Survivors include: one son, Roger Paul Kionka and wife Denita; one grandson, Jeffrey Kionka and one granddaughter, Hayley Kionka, all of Arlington, and many dear friends.

The family suggest memorials to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, Big Spring.

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

Paid obituary

Milas R. Wood

Milas R. Wood, 82, Big Spring, died on Saturday, Dec. 11, 1999, in a local hospital. No services are planned at this time.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8238

Calla Mae Perkins, 89, died Saturday. Services will be 10:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Winona Taylor Edwards, 89, died Sunday. Graveside services will be 1:00 PM, Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Dale Fox, 68, died Monday. Services are pending.

Joyce M. Smith, 79, died Saturday. Services are pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331

Henriette Louise Kionka, 90, died Friday, December 3, 1999. Memorial services will be 2:00 PM Saturday, December 18, 1999 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Private family interment will follow.

J.D. "Red" Gresham, 77, died Saturday. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Milas R. Wood, 82, died Saturday. No services are planned at this time.

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He was born on Aug. 2, 1917, in Royce City. Mr. Wood had lived in Big Spring for over 55 years and owned a car dealership. He was a Mason and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

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

Calla Mae Perkins

Service for Calla Mae Perkins, 89, Big Spring, will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1999, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mrs. Perkins died Saturday, Dec. 11, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a long illness.

She was born on Jan. 3, 1910, in Bronte. She married Vergil Lee Perkins. Mrs. Perkins moved to Big Spring in 1941. She was a Methodist and a member of the Evening Lions Club, Big Spring and Howard County Retired Teachers Association and the Big Spring Prospectors Club. She was instrumental in establishing the Big Spring Education Employees Credit Union and was a charter member and also a former board member. She had been a long time Big Spring teacher.

She is survived by: her husband, Vergil Lee Perkins of Big Spring; two sisters, Lillian Middleton of Robert Lee, and Gene Dickson of Clifton; and one brother, R.M. Williams of Oklahoma City; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.

Winona Taylor Edwards

Service for Winona Taylor Edwards, 89, San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She died Sunday, Dec. 12, 1999, in the Meadow Creek Care Center in San Angelo.

Dale Fox

Service for Dale Fox, 68, Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He died Monday, Dec. 13, 1999, at his residence.

HELPING

Continued from Page 1-

• 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.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
1601 W. 11th Place
263-1211

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• 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.

• Isaiah 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 Runnels, or anytime at First Christian Church.

WATER

Continued from Page 1

components we have that are in our primary stages of waste water treatment. These components have been broken the past seven years, and we have been processing this with our final stage components, which is currently overloading our final stage units," said Todd Darden, Big Spring public works director.

Darden said the funds use to replace the sludge thickener, primary chlorifier and trickling filter have been budgeted for this year. The banks lift station will also be replaced, another budgeted item.

"The sludge thickener and primary chlorifier have been funded through the capitol revolving fund, while the banks lift station and the trickling filter are funded through the operating and maintenance budget," Darden said.

Darden said a consultant will be hired and plans and specifications made to prepare for the bid process for the project. Bids are expected to be solicited in the spring, and the project should be completed in October of November 2000, he said.

In other business, council members are expected to approve on first reading a replacement project for a Beals Creek bridge located at Birdwell and Second streets.

"TxDOT sent us a letter after they determined that the bridge there needed to be upgraded. This will be a match grant, with TxDOT responsible for 80 percent and the city responsible for 20 percent of the roughly \$150,000 project. We expect to replace the entire bridge," Darden said.

An annexation plan for the city is also expected to be approved on first reading. Darden said the plans specifies that the city will not annex any area that has more than 15 units.

"This is just approval for an annexation plan. We do not have any plans to annex anything area right now," he said.

Council members are also expected to approve a lease to Solitaire Homes of five acres of land where Beacon Homes is presently, and is expected to cancel a lease with Signal Homes, all on first reading.

"Beacon Homes is moving to the Airpark, and we're working on the pad there this week where their homes will be placed," Bogard said. Bogard said city employees are installing water and sewer lines in the area this week as well.

Big Spring Police Department is approval from council members to apply for a Safe and Sober grant for 2000, as they have received in the past several years.

"We're doing this now, because they have added Valentine's Day, and we need to have both readings done before February," said Police Chief Lonnie Smith.

The department receives \$7,500 to be used to pay over-

Advisory council members dedicate years of service to other residents

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Some of the advisory council members for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program have dedicated years to the service of others.

"I couldn't do anything without my volunteer council. I believe their strong point is that they promote RSVP through public relations. They say nice things about RSVP out in public as they go through their daily routines, and that helps the community know more about RSVP," said RSVP director Nancy Jones.

Pat Johnston Edwards, assistant director of Canterbury, has been a member of the advisory council for the past 10 years. She was recently elected vice president.

"I love working with older people. I find it very rewarding work. I have been president of the council twice, and I believe our main goal is to encourage our volunteers to do things for

time for officers during Labor Day, Memorial Day, July 4 and now Valentine's Day, he said.

"The dollar amount did not increase, just the addition of one holiday," he said.

RSVP

Continued from Page 1

volunteers.

"I thought I would enjoy it, and when I did I asked my friends to help me. We all attend the same church, and we have become closer friends since we began doing this," Dickenson said.

Weaver and Webb have been involved in the reading program for the past three years, and all three women said it is the love of the children that keeps them coming back.

"It's funny, but when my own grandchildren were born I didn't want them to call me grandma, and I don't mind one bit," Dickenson said.

Listening to the children seems to be the key to improving the reading skills of the children, they said, and Kentwood principal Dee Owen agreed.

"The kids just love their Grandmas, which is what we call the ladies. They eat lunch with their grandmas, and will fight over who's going to sit by the grandmas. This is really a great program," Owen said.

Weaver said when the year begins, some of the students are shy and soft spoken, but as time rolls along and they all get to know each other better, the children really brighten.

"When I finish reading and the child begins to walk away, I'll say wait, I want a hug. The

other people," Edwards said.

One of the responsibilities of council members is to organize activities for the volunteers, including an annual awards dinner RSVP volunteers receive each year.

"We try to encourage them to be active and to remain RSVP volunteers," she said.

Clara Hernandez has been an RSVP advisory council member for the past 11 years. She said along with her duties on the council, she is also an RSVP volunteer.

"I really enjoy being a part of the council and my work with as RSVP volunteer. My latest project has been at Mount Olive cemetery, writing down all the names of those buried within the Catholic section. I'm working with Becky Crane from the city, and she's making us a map of the area," Hernandez said.

Jones said at least one fourth of all the advisory council members must be RSVP volunteers.

"And if they're on the council and turn old enough to be a vol-

unteer, then they have to become a volunteer," Jones said.

There are 19 advisory council members who serve three year positions. Betty Kelley is the newly elected president, while Danelle Castillo is outgoing president.

Melinda Hernandez is the new secretary. Officers and new council members are elected each December. Other new members this year are Lee Everett, Fay Horton, JoAnn Hyer, Pam Stephens, J.L. Stevens, Ray Stukel and Marsha Jones.

Existing advisory council members are John Leubner, Ina Stewart, Pat Dickenson, Galynn Gamble, Bonnie Hale, Steve-Marie Haynes, Norma Lee, William McNorton, Louise Proctor, Amber Rich and Billie Russworm.

Tom Ferguson is a non-voting member of the council, representing the city, and Jones is also a non-voting member of the council.

child will stop, his face will light up and he'll run back, and hug me and say I love you grandma. These children know we love them," Weaver said.

All the women have spend time with children throughout their 220 collective years of experience. Weaver taught Sunday school for more than 20 years, as did Dickenson. And Webb began her teaching career with Big Spring Independent school District in 1941.

Webb said she has more patience with children than with adults, and enjoys the time she spends each week at Kentwood.

"I retired from teaching in 1979, and I still love the children. There is such a reward to working with children. The children are so honest. Older people get on my nerves," Webb said.

All the women said they will continue the reading program as long as they are allowed, and they look forward to coming to the school each week.

"The teachers, well everyone here, is so nice to us. We are blessed in so many ways to be doing this kind of work, to be with the children and doing something like this. It is just wonderful," Weaver said.

And Dickerson agreed. "This is better than any vitamin ever taken."

VANDALS

Continued from Page 1

Turrentine explained. Even with the damage, Turrentine said she was relieved that none of the animals were harmed or released.

"They left the animals alone and they didn't touch the computers or anything of value," she said. "They just destroyed the vehicles and gates and broke into the safe."

Anyone with knowledge about the incident is asked to call the Howard County Sheriff's Department at 264-2244.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between noon Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

• JAMES HEADRICK, 27, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.

• TONI WEGNER, 31, was arrested on a charge of disor-



DICKERSON



WEAVER



WEBB

Holi

NEW YORK weekend of b online and or - have the appear to be their sales for iday season.

Sales have Thanksgiving started to pick as the weath through muc and many st discounts.

Now, many hoping the big coming over th so they can fr season with so

"We've had a and I think we Christmas," Morris, mark the Fair Oaks

Victi trad

AUSTIN (AF dent of Texas is optimistic a the Aggie Bo despite last r that killed 11 recent graduate

In an e-mail ate, A&M Pres said he "wou tion would end it was safe.

That appears thinking of the killed and th injured in the Austin Amer reported Sunda believe the hall dition should b

Some parents blame the univ no plans to sue accident.

"It's a wonc that A&M has whose son died told the Americ Breen's 25- Christopher, a had returned to build the stac tower 55 feet h before the Arggv against archivi

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Holiday season still going well, both online as well as at the mall

NEW YORK (AP) — Another weekend of brisk sales — both online and on lines at the mall — have the nation's retailers appear to be on track to meet their sales forecasts for the holiday season.

Sales have been strong since Thanksgiving and the pace has started to pick up in recent days as the weather turned cooler through much of the country and many stores offered deep discounts.

Now, many merchants are hoping the big crowds will keep coming over the next few weeks so they can finish the holiday season with solid sales gains.

"We've had a great few weeks, and I think we will do well until Christmas," said Judi Lewis Morris, marketing director at the Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax,

Va. "People are clearly buying more than they have in years past."

Last year, shoppers did 46 percent of their holiday buying in the 10 days before Christmas and 11 percent came right after Christmas, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Retailers in 1999 have enjoyed one of their best years in recent history, and many were optimistic about this holiday season, thanks to high consumer confidence, low unemployment rates and sharp gains on Wall Street.

Analysts project holiday sales at traditional stores will rise 5 percent to 6 percent to more than \$180 billion, while online sales are expected to at least double to \$6 billion.

"It's the economy," said Martin Fortes, general manager of the Perimeter Mall outside Atlanta. "Disposable income is so up that the short list is who isn't doing business, as opposed to who is."

Over the weekend, many merchants were stunned by the crowds. At the Cherry Creek mall in Denver, the 5,000 spots in the parking lot were filled by early afternoon on Saturday and the shopping center had one of its busiest days ever.

Crowds were also spotted at The Florida Mall in Orlando, including at the Payless Shoesource and the new Burdines upscale department store.

On the Internet, online market research firm Bizrate.com found that orders to their 2,700

Web-based clients over the last week were up about 55 percent from Thanksgiving week and more than four times what they were a year ago.

Traffic to the 1,150 merchants that make up the shopping area on portal Lycos was up 50 percent from Thanksgiving weekend.

"Christmas will soon be here, and people are suddenly realizing that they still need to get gifts to put under the Christmas tree," said Kurt Barnard, who runs the retail consulting firm Barnard's Retail Trend Report in Upper Montclair, N.J.

That's what got 24-year-old Quincy Jones out to the Valley West Mall in Des Moines. He's bought only one gift so far, and has at least four more to go. Same with Nick Oksanen, who

started and hoped to complete most of his gift-buying on Saturday at Old Orchard Shopping Center in the Chicago area.

Sheila Russell ventured out to a Wal-Mart in Sanford, Fla., in the middle of the night to pick up gifts.

"If it wasn't for the Internet, I wouldn't have done anything yet, but I still have the bulk of my shopping to do," Russell said.

Also helping to lift sales over the weekend was the arrival of cooler weather to the parts of the country that had been hit by unusually warm temperatures in the last week. The chilly weather revived demand for heavy coats and wool sweaters.

And big discounts also brought shoppers into the

stores.

"When the deals are available, why not go after them, even if it means getting up before dawn," said Mary Roman, who arrived at a JC Penney in Paramus, N.J., early Saturday to take advantage of a store-wide sale.

Not everyone, however, was looking for discounts. Merchants reported surprisingly brisk sales of high-end goods, such as \$500 diamond earrings, \$300 DVD players and even a \$229 chicken rotisserie.

At Bluefly.com, which discounts designer clothes and accessories, orders this week were up 11 percent from a year ago. The online merchant can't keep enough pashmina shawls in stock, while sales were also brisk of its pricey pocketbooks, which include Gucci and Prada.

Victims' parents say Texas A&M's bonfire tradition should continue, despite accident

AUSTIN (AP) — The president of Texas A&M University is optimistic about continuing the Aggie Bonfire tradition, despite last month's collapse that killed 11 students and a recent graduate.

In an e-mail to a 1991 graduate, A&M President Ray Bowen said he "would bet" the tradition would endure — but only if it was safe.

That appears to reflect the thinking of the parents of those killed and the 27 students injured in the accident. The Austin American-Statesman reported Sunday that they also believe the hallowed 90-year tradition should be kept alive.

Some parents said they don't blame the university and have no plans to sue over the Nov. 18 accident.

"It's a wonderful tradition that A&M has," John Breen, whose son died in the collapse, told the American-Statesman.

Breen's 25-year-old son, Christopher, a 1997 graduate, had returned to campus to help build the stack that was to tower 55 feet high and be lit before the Aggies football game against archrival Texas.

Breen, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Texas, said his son would want the tradition to continue if it is "modified to make sure there's no risk or reasonable risk to participants."

Parents of some others killed in the collapse agreed.

"We absolutely want it to continue," said Judi Frampton of Turlock, Calif., mother of Jeremy Frampton, 22, a senior psychology major. "We want them to figure out what went wrong. And we want them to correct that."

Neva Hand, mother of Jamie Hand, a 19-year-old freshman in environmental design from Henderson, said it would be "an additional tragedy" if the school ended the tradition.

"It was important enough to my daughter that she worked on it constantly," Ms. Hand said. "She loved every minute of it."

As far as litigation against the school, Les Heard, father of Chris Heard, a 19-year-old freshman from Houston, said he had no interest in it.

"We're not after a witch hunt or anything," he said.

Parents of several students injured in the collapse also said they wanted Bonfire to continue, but in a safer manner.

Judy Hill of Crockett, whose son Caleb, a sophomore, suffered a broken wrist and nose, said university officials have been "wonderful."

"This is a tragic situation. But it's not something we would ever seek legal advice for," she said.

Howard Davis of Bellaire said his son Bill, a sophomore whose elbow was pinned by a log, was spending three hours a day rehabilitating his arm and faces eight to nine months more of the exercises.

Davis, an information technology manager who is between jobs, said he still does not know the total costs of his son's medical treatment and rehabilitation.

"We may need some help. We'll be talking to the university about what their part of that is," he said.

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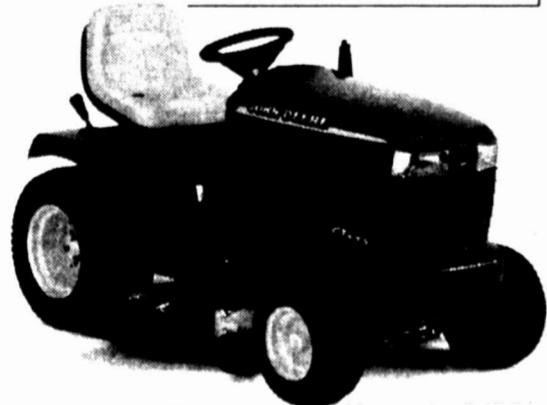
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DECEMBER 13 1999

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Act of vandalism
one that is always
puzzling, mindless

Vandalism is a puzzling activity. No matter how many times we observe it, we still find ourselves wondering why someone would destroy the property of someone else.

Such is the case regarding the weekend vandalism at the Big Spring Humane Society.

We've given up wondering why someone would think about committing such an act, because it is clear that those who tear down what others have built up are mindless individuals — the lemmings of the world, if you would, who either follow others into their acts of destruction or commit them out of some sort of frustration ... disturbed that since they don't have the ability to be productive, they resort to destruction.

Whether it is the Vietnam Memorial of the Comanche Trail Festival or Lights or Kids' Zone or the Humane Society, all vandalism is senseless and mindless.

But this will wind up being just another hurdle for the folks at the Humane Society ... yet another bump in the road for those who have worked so hard and so long to make the facility one which the entire community can be proud.

There perhaps is as much frustration at why someone would commit such an act as the frustration over the act itself.

This act, which resulted in the destruction of two vehicles and other physical property, looks to have caused about \$30,000 in damages, which makes it a state jail offense.

As a community, we have grown tired of such acts and, as a newspaper, we hesitate to publicize them because of the copycat effect. We feel, however, that the senselessness of this act needs to be made public.

To the vandals, you will be caught and you will be prosecuted. There won't be any place to hide ... there won't be any friends to protect you ... no where to turn and no place to go.

You will be caught.

OTHER VIEWS

One appropriation that had been targeted for elimination by many members of Congress but which survived the recent federal budget deal was funding for the notorious U.S. Army School of the Americas.

Its alumni include ex-Haitian dictator "Baby Doc" Duvalier, ex-Panama dictator Gen. Manuel Noriega and 19 of the 26 Salvadoran soldiers who killed six Jesuit priests in 1989. The school is a Cold War relic, designed to fight communism in the Americas, that costs U.S. taxpayers \$4 million a year.

The Army is answering its critics, inside and outside Washington, by changing the school's name (to the Center for Inter-American Security Cooperation) and its curriculum.

Why not just eliminate it? Or use the \$4 million to provide scholarships at U.S. universities to train bright young people from Latin America to run the businesses and governments of the region's burgeoning democracies.

U.S. Rep. Joe Moakley, D-Mass., says changing the SOA's name and direction is like "putting perfume on a toxic dump." We agree.

EXPRESS-NEWS,
San Antonio

It's hard to imagine that the fate of one man sitting in a prison off the coast of Istanbul could influence the course of the world. But Abdullah Ocalan's future could do just that. Ocalan was condemned to

death this summer for leading his fellow Kurds in a 15-year rebellion against Turkish rule, and last week an appeals court upheld his sentence. But the Turkish government would be foolish to carry out the punishment, and its friends must work to see that it doesn't.

Turkey's 12 million Kurds — one-fifth of its population — have much in common with ethnic minorities in other countries. They speak their own language, eat their own cooking, dance to their own music. Back in 1984, when Ocalan's fighters took up arms, Kurds who spoke Kurdish in Turkey's southeastern provinces ended up in jail. Children who spoke Kurdish in school were beaten. Kurdish music was banned.

The worst of the repression has now eased, in part because of Ocalan's campaign. But the rebellion itself has taken a great toll — leaving more than 30,000 people dead and landing Ocalan in a Turkish prison. After the national appeals court upheld his death sentence last Thursday, joyous Turks took to the streets to call for his hanging.

The Turkish appetite for revenge against the man they call a terrorist is understandable. But indulging it would induce only momentary satisfaction, and an enduring case of political indigestion. Ocalan's execution is bound to reignite Kurdish separatist fury, while keeping him alive could be the key to forging peace. ...

STAR TRIBUNE,
Minneapolis

The Writer's Art: A time for penance

From time to time, as all you faithful readers know, I rail against the use of foreign words and phrases. I railed as recently as Sept. 12. And I messed up.

I was growling at a dear lady in Washington state who wrote in a travel column that Jamaican children speak a native Patwah. The word she wanted, I said loftily, was "patois." I added an etymological note: "The noun 'patois' is an offshoot of the French verb 'patoier,' to handle clumsily, which in turn derives from 'pate,' paw."

Alas, the French word for "paw" is "patte," not pate. I had misunderstood the entry for "patois" in the Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology. The higher we ride, the harder we fall.

In May I discoursed on errors in punctuation caused by misplacement of an apostrophe, as in "your a ninny" instead of "you're a ninny." Metropolitan

Life had published a pamphlet on travel safety: "While your away, make sure you and your home are safe." I referred to "the contractual you're, as in you're in deep trouble, son."

Now "contractual" is an OK word, but it wasn't the word I wanted. I wanted "contractive." I should've looked it up. Pure sloth.

Such laziness is one cause of error. Ignorance is another. Sheer carelessness ranks high on the list of blame. I will give you two examples. In October I stumbled over a booklet of slips of speech, compiled in 1922 by a lexicographer with too much time on his hands. I loved the little work, and described it as "a gem of purest ray supreme." On Oct. 17 I churned out a column on unfamiliar words. I said that Dec. 30 would be "the penultimate day of the 20th century."

The thing is, I truly knew better. The literary allusion was to Thomas Gray's elegy written in a country churchyard: "Full many a gem of purest ray serene, the dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear; full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air." I recited that poem when I was taking elocution as a 10-year-old. These days I spend most of my working

hours covering the U.S. Supreme Court, and I suppose "serene" was subconsciously too close to "supreme," and the two collided.

As for the penultimate day of the 20th century, it couldn't possibly be Dec. 30, 1999, for the century won't end until Dec. 31, 2000. Readers have sent me a bale of letters attesting that palpable truth. I could use a leash law for my memory. It tends to wander.

It's wandering now. Where did Gray get his double reference to "full many"? The Oxford English Dictionary dates the phrase from 1330, in the sense of "very, exceedingly," and cites to Keats, "Old dames full many times declare." Back to work.

Errors happen. I ask forgiveness for mine. In a mood of Yuletide charity, let us also forgive the syndicated astrologist who said that persons under the sign of Taurus would be "wrapped in the throws of a conundrum all morning." The Georgia Power Co. last spring advertised the pleasures of its 32 recreational parks. The company "welcomes public use of these facilities."

The mind strolls away. Dear Heloise used a letter last year from a woman who wrote of the pleasure derived from her "lovebird aviary with 24 birds

plus a cage of two cocktles." The ear often does a writer wrong. In Kitsap County, Wash., a candidate for coroner offered a thought for the day: "With the on-slot of biohazards utmost care must be taken." In South Carolina a philanthropist recalled modestly that Charles Osgood once had presented him an award "at the World of Astoria hotel." (That's how it came out in print.) In Ohio, a resentful woman said that a charity scandal "gives me a pit in my stomach."

Sometimes penance is a bad idea. In May, The Dearborn County (Ind.) Register regretted that "we misspelled 'Henson'" in a thank-you notice. Some years ago the Daily News of Bowling Green, Ky., acknowledged a typographical error in an ad: "The word 'Gymnist' was incorrectly spelled. The correct spelling should be 'Gymnest.'" The News apologized for any embarrassment it had caused.

There is plenty of embarrassment to go around. In Las Vegas in September, a restaurant prepared an ad promoting its sizzling steaks. In addition to its world-class beef, "There is also an array of quality fish and fowl dishes." Don't nobody read no proof no more?

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When a candidate's 'maybe' becomes a 'yes'

By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — By Steve Forbes' political reckoning, the rival candidate who says he will consider an unpopular step is saying in code that he intends to do it.

Especially when the subject is Social Security and the candidate is Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

"And that's why the place to attack it and fight it is now," Forbes said of his offensive against Bush. The attacks came in campaign debates and in television ads after the Republican presidential front-runner said he would look at increasing the Social Security age for future beneficiaries.

Bush countered that he had been answering a question about options for the long-term financing of the benefit system and that he had said he hoped such changes could be avoided.

The GOP dispute showed the risk a candidate is taking in talking about steps that could be politically painful. In the NBC interview that prompted the Forbes ad, Bush said that as president he would spend political capital and take a hit in the polls if necessary in order to

deal with a projected shortfall in Social Security financing as the baby boom generation retires.

He is not so daring as a candidate, repeating passages from his standard speeches whenever they fit in campaign debates with five rivals for the GOP nomination. There will be another debate in Des Moines on Monday night.

Pressed on what he would do about his proposed tax cut should budget surpluses shrink, Bush would not say. "I refuse to accept the premise that surpluses are going to decline," he replied.

In the Democratic campaign, Bill Bradley had been taking hits for saying what he would consider if projected surpluses evaporate and undercut his plan for financing a \$65 billion a year health care plan.

He said it might require a tax increase. "I'd make a judgment at the time," he said in an interview with The Washington Post. "Not today."

Vice President Al Gore's campaign translated in a press release:

"He wants to pay for all this by raising taxes."

Gore then said it was not responsible for Bradley "to propose a tax increase" because

that is the only way to cover the cost of his health care proposal, not as a hedge against economic unknowns.

Bradley said that was dishonest. "I'm not proposing raising taxes," he said. He also said it would be irresponsible to rule out should economic circumstances change.

Gore would not foreclose the possibility, either. "Nobody has a crystal ball," the vice president said. He said he has no intention of proposing a tax increase "under current economic circumstances."

Nor does anyone else in the 2000 contest.

The six Republicans are pledged against new taxes; their debate is about rival tax cut plans.

"If you don't take a firm, hard pledge against raising taxes, it means you'll take the first excuse to do so," Forbes said.

Bush promises to veto any increase in personal or corporate tax rates, a less dramatic version of the "Read My Lips — No New Taxes" promise his father used in winning the White House in 1988, but could not keep. He had to renege, his worst mistake, he later said, and the turnabout was among his liabilities when he lost in 1992.

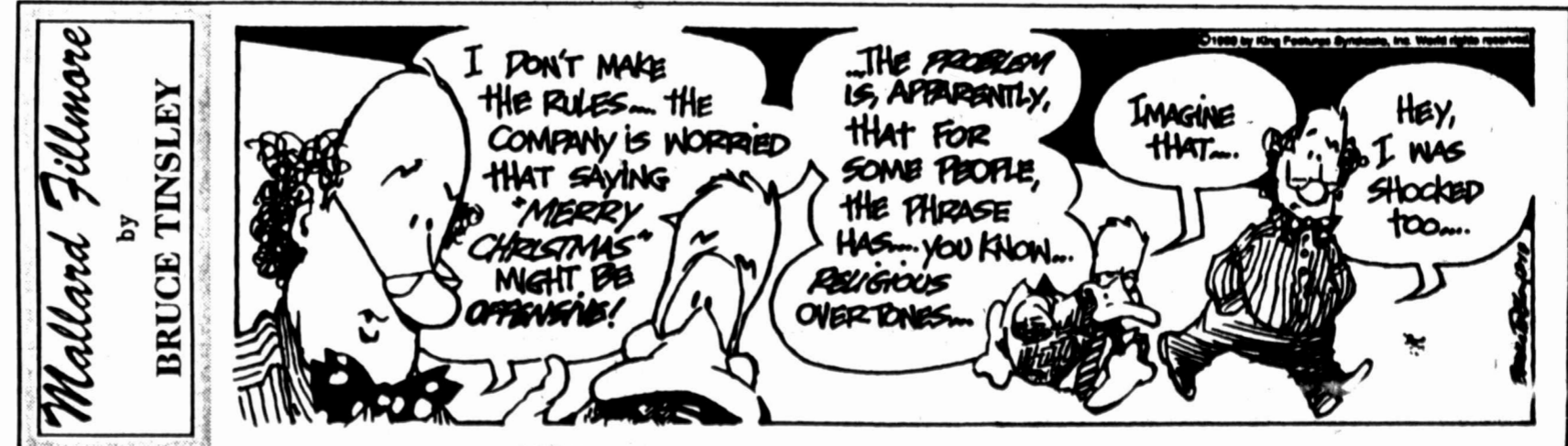
As the Democratic nominee in 1984, Walter F. Mondale began by saying there would be a tax increase whether he or Ronald Reagan were elected.

Mondale was right, but it was an issue against him, although no turning point against Reagan, whose re-election was never in real doubt. "Mr. Reagan will raise taxes and so will I," Mondale said. "He won't tell you. I just did."

President Clinton, and Gore, campaigned in 1992 promising a tax cut for the middle class. In office, Clinton decided that action against deficit spending would have to come first, saying the situation was worse than he had thought. So the cut yielded to an economic plan of spending restraint and some tax increases, passed with Gore casting the tie-breaking vote in the Senate.

In the age of quick response campaigning, discussing what-if options is a hazardous undertaking. To acknowledge that an unpopular step may be considered is not to advocate taking it, but close enough for a rival to make an issue of it.

All the solutions cannot always be painless. A campaign silent on what may have to be done in hard times will not tell the voters much about what to expect in a crunch.



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by
BRUCE TINSLEY

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IN BRIEF

Hawks post classic win; Lady Hawks fall to Tyler

Howard College's Hawks evened their record to 6-6 on the season Saturday night with an 85-50 win over Erie (N.Y.) Community College at the Hagerstown Classic in Hagerstown, Md.

Donald "Yogi" Ceasar paced the Hawks with 22 points, while Derrick Franklin added 18 and Steve Bonner scored 11 points.

"Our depth gave them problems," Hawks head coach Tommy Collins said following the victory. "They (Erie) were very outmatched, but it was a great way to go into the Christmas holiday break."

Howard's Lady Hawks did not fare so well in Saturday's finale to the Tyler Classic, as they fell to Tyler's nationally-ranked host Lady Apaches, 57-54.

Vanessa Lehrmann and Grace Gantt scored 10 points apiece in leading the Lady Hawks, who dropped to 10-2 on the season.

BSHS softball boosters slate Thursday meeting

The Big Spring Softball Boosters Club has scheduled a meeting for 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the meeting room of the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

Parents of all Lady Steers varsity, junior varsity and freshman softball players are urged to attend.

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 fee includes a two-month YMCA youth membership.

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

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

Cancer Society offering Texas Golf Pass again

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

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

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

Details are available at all three local courses.

Youth basketball program still registering players

Registration for youngsters interested in playing on a Big Spring Youth Basketball Association team will continue through Friday at All-Star Sports.

Tryouts are set for Saturday and the participation fee will be \$20 per youngster.

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

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

TP&WD official releases hunt recommendations

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have suggested harvest recommendations for the general deer hunting season which continues through Jan. 2 in Howard County.

The legal bag limit for Howard County is four deer with no more than two of them being bucks.

Wildlife biologist Kathy McGinty has recommended that landowners allow the harvest of one antlerless deer per 800 acres and one buck per 1,700 acres.

ON THE AIR

Television
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
8 p.m. on Turner Broncos at Jacksonville Jaguars, ABC, Ch. 2 and Ch. 8.

BSHS swimmers turn in solid performance at Seminole meet

HERALD Staff Report

SEMINOLE — Big Spring's Steers and Lady Steers swimmers fared just about as well as expected Saturday during the Seminole Aqua-Tribe Invitational swimming and diving meet.

The Steers tied for fifth place in the team standings with Monahans Lobos, while the Lady Steers were sixth in the girls' team standings.

Coach Harlan Smith decision to scratch his teams from the 200 medley relay hurt the Lady Steers chances of finishing higher in the field.

As a result, the Lady Steers foursome of Nadia Torres, Michelle Stokes, Tz

Marsch and Melissa Sheedy managed a third-place finish in the 400-meter freestyle relay — a much better finish than the four had managed in the 200 freestyle relay where they were eighth.

The Steers' strongest relay was also the 400 freestyle where Wolfgang Robinson, Patric Beltran, Michael Carrasco and Doug Willberg combined for third place. The same four had finished 10th in the 200 freestyle relay.

Robinson, Cody Clark, Josh Pike and Willberg also managed a seventh-place finish in the 200 medley relay.

Big Spring's best individual showing came in the girls' division where Sheedy posted a 1:21.43 clocking to win the 100-meter butterfly competition. She also

added sixth-place points in the 50 freestyle.

Marsch was close on Sheedy's heels in terms of point production, finishing second in the 200 freestyle and fifth in the 500 freestyle. So, too, was Torres who finished third in the 200 individual medley and sixth in the 100 breaststroke.

Stokes was the only other Lady Steers swimmer to place in two individual events, finishing eighth in the 100 freestyle and 10th in the 50 freestyle.

Rounding out the Lady Steers' point production were Lauren Bradley, who was eighth in the 100 butterfly; Amanda Chapman, who was sixth in the 200 individual medley; and Danielle Bartlett, who finished 13th in the 500 freestyle.

Willberg, Pike, Carrasco, Robinson and Clark turned in strong performances in their individual races.

Willberg led the way with a third-place finish in the 200 freestyle and a fifth in the 500 freestyle, while Robinson finished fourth in the 100 butterfly and ninth in the 100 breaststroke.

Carrasco added a fifth in the 100 freestyle and was 10th in the 50 freestyle; Pike added seventh in the 200 individual medley and 11th in the 100 backstroke; and Clark was eighth in the 100 butterfly and 10th in the 100 backstroke.

Beltran rounded out the individual point production for the Steers with a 10th-place finish in the 100-meter freestyle.



Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman, pictured here celebrating a touchdown pass against Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XXX, led the Cowboys to a 20-10 win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, without the services of running back Emmitt Smith.

Dallas still unbeaten at home after dumping Eagles, 20-10

IRVING (AP) — By staying unbeaten at home, the Dallas Cowboys are still in the NFC East title chase. They're not in position, however, to think any bigger.

"When you're 7-6, I think it's a little early to be talking Super Bowls or anything like that," Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman said Sunday after a 20-10 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles (3-11).

"We haven't put back-to-back victories together since we started off 3-0, so I think the emphasis needs to be to beat the Jets."

Now 6-0 at home for the first time since 1981, the Cowboys are still tied with the New York Giants a game behind Washington in the NFC East. After hosting the New York Jets next Sunday and going to New Orleans on Christmas Eve, Dallas plays its regular season finale at home against the Giants.

"Our backs are up against the wall. Unfortunately, we have to get to that point to play productive football," said Deion Sanders, who saw about a dozen snaps on offense in addition to his defensive duties for the Cowboys.

"Nobody is ranting or raving about this victory because we are on a mission, and it's not going to be complete until we finish victorious in these last three games," he said.

With the win over Philadelphia, the Cowboys avenged a 13-10 loss that came after they had won their first three games. Dallas has since lost consecutive games twice, but has not been able to put together two straight victories.

Aikman threw for 242 yards and Chris Warren ran for 92 filling in for injured Emmitt Smith as the Cowboys offense finally matched an impressive showing by their defense.

Even after sacks leader and former No. 1 pick Greg Ellis broke his leg early in the first quar-

ter, the Cowboys held an opponent to 13 or fewer points for the fourth straight game and the ninth overall.

"When a player like that goes down, it takes a collective effort from the team and we as a defense stepped up and played well in his place," said defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban, who had his first two career sacks.

Philadelphia gained 108 of its 233 yards in the fourth quarter after falling behind 20-3. Doug Pederson threw for all of the fourth-quarter yards, including a 25-yard touchdown to Na Brown with 6:41 left.

Before Donovan McNabb left the game with a sprained knee late in the third quarter, the Eagles' rookie quarterback had thrown for just 49 yards (7-of-17 passing) and run for 24.

"It's frustrating for all of us. We're trying to execute plays and we're not executing," said Philadelphia receiver Torrance Small. "We know what we are capable of doing, but we're not doing it."

Ellis broke his left tibia during a play on which he was not directly involved. Ellis was pursuing the play when Alonzo Spellman tackled McNabb along the sideline and rolled over his teammate's leg. Ellis, the Cowboys' top pick in 1998, is out for the rest of the regular season.

McNabb, Philadelphia's No. 1 pick last April, limped off the field after he was pulled down by Cowboys defensive lineman Leon Lett after a fumbled snap late in the third quarter. Eagles officials described the injury as a slightly sprained medial cruciate ligament, and said his status would be determined after tests today.

Warren filled in nicely for Smith, who strained a groin muscle on the first play and never returned. Cowboys officials said only that Smith had a slight strain of his left groin.

Bucs, Redskins, Colts win key division games; Rams keep rolling

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Those intradivision games against your closest pursuers can make or break an NFL team.

St. Louis has done the job in those games all year, and on Sunday the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Washington Redskins and Indianapolis Colts had pivotal victories over division rivals.

The Rams (11-2) are one victory away from clinching home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs after their 30-14 victory over New Orleans gave them an 8-0 record in the NFC West, a remarkable turnaround from their 0-8 mark of a year ago. They are the first team to pull off that reversal.

"We have some players playing good football, and there we go from 0-8 to 8-0 and still have a shot at home-field advantage all the way through the playoffs. That's what we're looking for," St. Louis coach Dick Vermeil said.

St. Louis has effectively known for weeks that it will play host to one or more playoff games for the first time in the city's 33-year NFL history.

The Bucs, Colts and Redskins have tighter races, but Indianapolis clinched at least a wild-card berth after its 20-15 victory over New England. Idle Jacksonville did the same thanks to losses by Buffalo and Seattle.

Washington and Tampa Bay still have some winning to do to be sure of playoff berths, but the Redskins' 28-3 victory over NFC East rival Arizona and the Buccaneers' 23-16 win over Detroit in the NFC Central left both in first place alone.

"We've always been confident, but as you get momentum going and get on a winning streak, you feel like you can't be beat," fullback Mike Alstott said after Tampa Bay broke a first-place tie with the Lions. "We're in a great situation right now."

"I don't want to kill it for the kids, but

Santa Claus is not going to bring us the playoffs," said offensive lineman Tre Johnson of the Redskins, who have just a one-game lead over Dallas and the New York Giants. We got to go there, put the mask on and go rob."

Elsewhere in the NFL on Sunday, it was Baltimore 31, Pittsburgh 24; Carolina 33, Green Bay 31; Cincinnati 44, Cleveland 28; the Giants 19, Buffalo 17; Dallas 20, Philadelphia 10; San Francisco 26, Atlanta 7; San Diego 19, Seattle 16; the New York Jets 28, Miami 20; and Kansas City 31, Minnesota 28.

Denver is at Jacksonville tonight.

Colts 20, Patriots 15

Edgerrin James ran for 101 yards and caught a touchdown pass, and Marvin Harrison caught six passes for 118 yards, setting up two TD passes by Peyton Manning as host Indianapolis (11-2) won its ninth straight.

The loss was critical for New England

(7-6), which fell back in the AFC wild-card race.

Bucs 23, Lions 16

Tampa Bay (9-4) set a franchise record with its sixth straight victory as rookie quarterback Shaun King won his second start in six days in place of the injured Trent Dilfer.

King passed for 297 yards and directed two touchdown drives in the fourth quarter against the visiting Lions (8-5). Alstott's 1-yard touchdown run finished a nine-play, 65-yard drive that tied it at 16 with 9:26 to go. The fullback scored again five minutes later, this time on a 22-yard screen pass.

Redskins 28, Cardinals 3

Stephen Davis ran for 189 yards, including a 50-yard touchdown, and Brad Johnson threw two touchdown passes for Washington (8-5).

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for visiting Arizona (6-7).

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MISCELLANEOUS

ACREAGE FOR SALE 8 acres w/trailer house & lg. metal storage bldg. due N. of old Dairy Queen near Coahoma on Swinney St. 263-4410.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOUND/LOST PETS REWARD Lost in the vicinity of Kent Morgan Ranch; 2 year old Golden Retriever. Missing since 11/10/99. Call 267-8657

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE HOME DELIVERY POWERED WHEELCHAIRS / SCOOTER AT LITTLE OR NO COST as Medicare Benefit if eligible. DIABETIC SUPPLIES Direct to YOU, NO COST as Medicare Benefit. 1-800-588-1051.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

COAHOMA...3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, fireplace, 15 yr. old home, \$60's. Charles Smith, agent, 263, 1713 or Home Realtors 263-1284.

HOUSES FOR SALE

For Sale By Owner: 3 bdr. 2 bath. 2 car garage, carpet, fireplace, & more. 505 Highland Drive, Call Tom @ 263-3916, office 263-2300

HOUSES FOR SALE

Must sell 3 Br/2 bath home, 509 Nolan. Make an offer. Also 2 CH/A units, 2 & 2 1/2 ton. Call 263-0677.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Northside: 3 bedroom, 2 bath house on 2.75 acres. Wooded lot, horse stalls, needs work. \$22,500. Call 522-1030 or 557-1927.

HOUSES FOR SALE

SECLUDED ESTATE... AWAY FROM THE WORLD - Lovely two story home features 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 living areas and a three car garage. On 2.96 acres. \$125,000. Call Lila Estes, REDEER REALTORS at 267-6256 or 267-6557 or 426-8804.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Seller will help with closing costs so you can move in the immaculate recently remodeled 3 bdr home. cent h/air, carpet tile fence, storage bldg. new carpet, fresh paint. Payment approx \$350 move in cost approx \$1,000. Owner/agent 263-6892.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Very good 3 br 2 bath home on a super lot. Double (drive thru) garage. Lots of built in storage and RV parking. \$100,000. Boosie Weaver Real Estate 267-8840

HOUSES FOR SALE

MOBILE HOMES \$239/mo!! 1997 3/2 set-up skirting, and a/c. Call now 6 5 3 - 7 8 0 0 or 1-800-698-8003 5% dn. 13.75% a.p.r., pt buy dn. 360 mos. (w.a.c.)

HOUSES FOR SALE

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

ROOMS

Inn at Big Spring Lobby Hours 8 am - 2 am \$154 wdy. \$29.96 daily + tax. Doc Holidays Saloon 263-7621

ROOMS

UNFURNISHED APTS. 2 bedroom garage apt. CH/A, fenced yard, lease, deposit. \$200/mn. 263-6824, 263-7373.

ROOMS

\$99 MOVE-IN plus deposit. 1,2,3 bdr. Partially furn. 263-7811 a.m. 393-8240 evenings

ROOMS

Free Rent For Christmas Half Off Free w/ \$99 Dep 2 bdr. \$265 Eff. \$5210 Call 915-267-4217

ROOMS

BARCELONA APARTMENTS Your Choice \$99 MOVE-IN SPECIAL w/6 mo. lease or Sign a 13 Mo. lease & get \$99 Move-In & 13th Mo. FREE. WATER & GAS PAID 538 WESTOVER ROAD 263-1282

ROOMS

UNFURNISHED HOUSES 1 br. 1 bath, 1102 Sycamore. No Pets!! Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

ROOMS

1313 Settles Like new inside w/bwn CH/A, for this 3 bdr. 2 bath. electric car garage w/ electric door opener and fenced backyard, ceiling fans, near all schools. \$500/mn. \$500/dep. Call 263-8569, 267-4090 & 267-2358. No Pets.

ROOMS

1619 Harding 4 bdr. 2 bath. \$350/mn. \$200/dep. Sorry No Pets. 263-4922

ROOMS

2 bdr. 1 bath \$300.00 mo. 1 bd 1 bath \$275.00 water & appl. furn. Coahoma School district. 267-6347.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 14: You might often feel you are at crosscurrents or cross-purposes! Understand more clearly where others are coming from by asking questions and exploring options. If you are single, relationships might not be as stable as you would like. Summer offers some intriguing options - one you can especially relate to. If attached, keep communication constant, not erratic. The two of you might not always speak the same language. Learn what each other's words mean. PISCES helps you anchor your personal life.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***You react like a bolt of lightning. Undoing what you might do in spontaneity can cause a lot of problems. Confusion is high; your best course of action is to do absolutely nothing. Take time to listen to another's woes. Tonight: Take a breather.

HOROSCOPE

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***If you stay focused, you'll gain. Someone throws a boomerang into your path at work. You might spend all day trying to regroup, but how you handle others in a pinch could make all the difference. Negotiate a new agreement financially. Tonight: Reach out for friends.

HOROSCOPE

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***News from a distance jolts you out of bed. You can handle what comes down the fairway. Listen to your instincts with a difficult associate, who will do anything to have his way. Take the lead and handle responsibilities with your customary diplomacy. Tonight: In the limelight.

HOROSCOPE

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***Taking the high road requires all your willpower and self-discipline. Handle others with brevity and courtesy. Misunderstandings can crop up where you least expect them. Network, attend meetings and make important connections. Tonight: Buy a favorite CD.

HOROSCOPE

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***Reach out for others, but take on one issue at a time. One-on-one relating roots out the problem you're experiencing. Discuss what you need from an associate. A child or friend one proves to be difficult. You are equal to the challenge if you make the effort. Tonight: Work on keeping the peace.

HOROSCOPE

VIROGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***Others let you know right track in the message she sent - and if that had been ALL she'd said, I doubt "Happy to Lose" would have been so upset. But to create a "lottery" and then inform people that they were "losers" was really uncalled for. And then to tell someone to send a gift, for which he or she would be thanked "in absentia," was truly over the top. - LEAH INGRAM, NEW HOPE, PA.

HOROSCOPE

DEAR ABBY: You put it far more politely than most of the people who responded to that item. However, some readers not only were offended at the idea of the lottery, they also found the format of the announcement offensive. Read on.

HOROSCOPE

DEAR ABBY: If I had received an e-mail from "Elmer" and "Gladys" announcing that I had lost their "lottery" and that I would be thanked for my anticipated gift "in absentia," I would have sent the following form letter in return:

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for a year. My ex and I are no longer speaking. I recently found our wedding album. What should I do with it?

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

I'm thinking of keeping it because it contains fun pictures from my past. Or perhaps I'll send it to her parents because the wedding was held in their home. Any ideas? MICHAEL IN SAN FRANCISCO

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

DEAR MICHAEL: Call and ask your former in-laws if they'd like to have the album. If they say yes, make a copy of the pictures you would like to keep and send the album to them. If the answer is no, keep the album for yourself. But don't be surprised if your next wife prefers that you keep it out of sight or in storage.

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

DEAR ABBY As the author of three wedding books, I was truly appalled at how "Happy to Lose the Lottery's" co-worker handled informing her that she was not to be invited to her wedding.

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

Brides often ask me how to handle letting people know that they won't be invited to the wedding. I always suggest that, whatever the reason, they tell people in person (or over the phone or in a written note) that although they would love to invite them, there are reasons why they can't. They can say, "We're going off to our cabin in Wisconsin for a private ceremony," or as was stated in the first half of the message that "Happy" received, "Due to the physical nature of the wedding space, there will not be enough space for all the friends and relatives we would dearly love to invite."

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

In fact, that bride was on the

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

right track in the message she sent - and if that had been ALL she'd said, I doubt "Happy to Lose" would have been so upset. But to create a "lottery" and then inform people that they were "losers" was really uncalled for. And then to tell someone to send a gift, for which he or she would be thanked "in absentia," was truly over the top. - LEAH INGRAM, NEW HOPE, PA.

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

DEAR LEAH: You put it far more politely than most of the people who responded to that item. However, some readers not only were offended at the idea of the lottery, they also found the format of the announcement offensive. Read on.

Future of wedding album is uncertain after divorce

DEAR FRIENDS: We were thrilled to learn of your significant life event through your announcement, invitation, letter, phone call or e-mail. We offer our heartfelt congratulations on your engagement, marriage, birth of your child, new home, anniversary, birthday, confirmation or graduation, or any of these accomplishments on the part of any of your children. How happy and proud you must be!

We must inform you that we have chosen to live an extravagant lifestyle even beyond our already affluent means. Unfortunately, this leaves us with no money to buy gifts for all the friends and relatives we would dearly love to honor on their special occasions. Therefore, you will not be receiving any gift from us, other than our good wishes. - DORENE IN L.A.

P.S. Tasteless is as tasteless does!



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'CLASSIFIED' and '131999'.

MONDAY

DEC. 13

Table with 24 columns (KMYD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, AAE, DISC, TNT, USA, SCFI, LIFE, TLC) and 6 rows of program listings.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



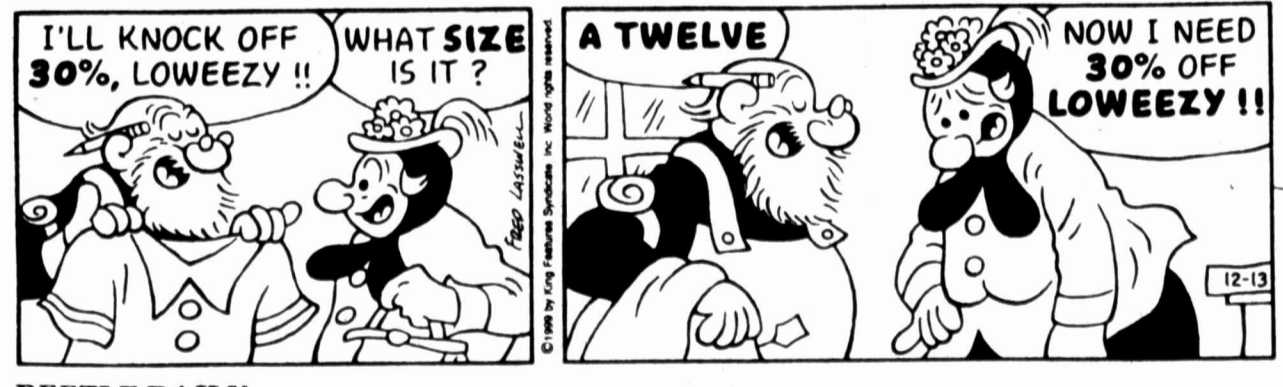
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

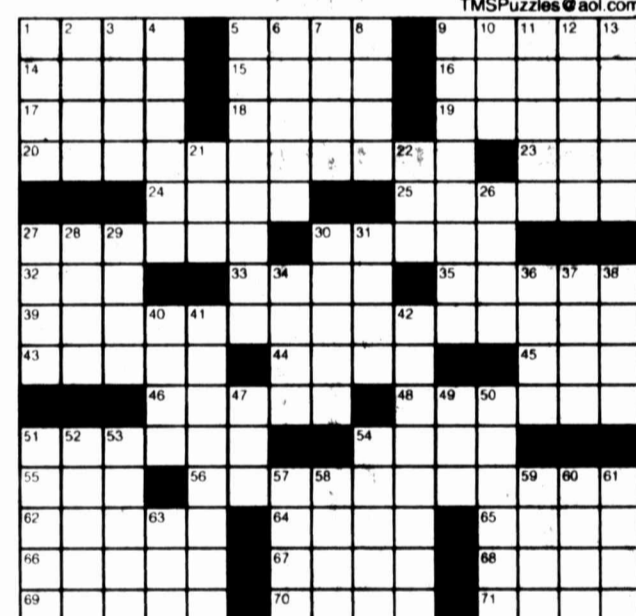
The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Monday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 1999. There are 18

days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman arrived in present-day New Zealand.
In 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

In 1835, Phillips Brooks, the American Episcopal bishop who wrote the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem," was born in Boston.
In 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg.
In 1918, President Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.
In 1928, George Gershwin's musical work "An American in Paris" had its premiere, at Carnegie Hall in New York.
In 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser "Nashville" was badly damaged in a Japanese "kamikaze" suicide attack that claimed 138 lives.
In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.
In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. Martial law formally ended in 1983.
In 1997, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Los Angeles for the \$1 billion Getty Center, one of the largest art centers in the United States.
Ten years ago: South African President F.W. de Klerk met for the first time with imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, at de Klerk's office in Cape Town.
Five years ago: An American Eagle commuter plane carrying 20 people crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15.
One year ago: With a grave impeachment threat looming, President Clinton told a news conference in Jerusalem he would not resign, and insisted he did not commit perjury. Voters in Puerto Rico rejected U.S. statehood.
Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 79. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 74. Actor Robert Prosky is 69. Country singer Buck White is 69. Movie producer Richard Zanuck is 65. Singer John Davidson is 58. Singer Ted Nugent is 51. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 51. Country musician Ron Getman is 51. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 50. Actress Wendie Malick is 49. Actor Robert Lindsay is 48. Country singer John Anderson is 45. Actor Steve Buscemi is 42. Actor Johnny Whitaker is 40. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 32. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 18.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Tasty mollusk
5 Created
9 Stable mothers
14 Verdi heroine
15 Norwegian saint
16 Unable to act
17 Shapely fruit
18 Sleeper spy
19 Stogy or cheroot
20 Oscar-winning state bird?
23 Fresh-daisy connection
24 Sacrifice period
25 Rang
27 Authoritative command
30 Cheerful
32 Just like
33 Secondhand
35 Goofed
39 Ballplaying state bird?
43 Entertainer Susan
44 Highway access
45 Blubber
46 Colorado ski resort
48 PTA member
51 Frankness
54 Cattle catcher
55 Oklahoma town
56 State bird to kill?
62 Nile nation
64 Otherwise
65 Actor Scott
66 Bursera resin
67 Boxer Spinks
68 Borodin's prince
69 Parallel bands
70 Teepee or yurt
71 Chicago slugger Sammy



By Florence Adler Chelmsford, MA 12/13/99

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



- DOWN
1 Abner's drawer
2 In _ of
3 Sixth Jewish month
4 Christie detective
5 Impetus
6 High up
7 "Persistence of Memory" painter
8 Neck and neck
9 "Hawaii" author
10 Communal cuckoo
11 Majestic
12 Backspace
13 Valuable fiddle
21 Paul of guitars
22 Figs. expert
26 Italian bell town
27 _ au rum
28 Dash
29 Come to a stop
30 Broadcasted again
31 Same as mentioned
34 Irritated
36 Got up
37 North Carolina college
38 Liability
40 Leaping amphibian
41 Sleep disorder
42 Foe
47 In favor of
49 Math subj.
50 Jewish scholars
51 Lawyer's load
52 Developed completely
53 Consumer advocate Ralph
54 Buffalo
57 Ancient Briton
58 Swiss painter
59 Shakespearean villain
60 Chilean tennis star
61 Mrs. Copperfield
63 "Bel _

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Thought for Today: "Good judgment comes from experience, and experience, well, that comes from bad judgment." -- Anonymous.