

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

**TUESDAY**

December 21, 1999

**WEATHER**

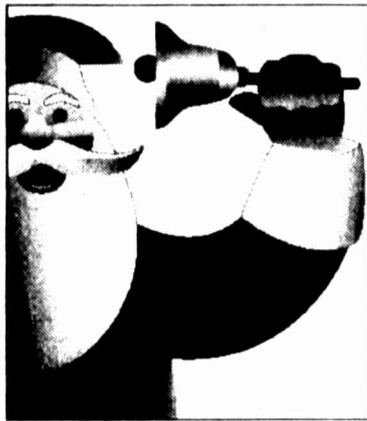
**Tonight:**



**TONIGHT** 20°-25° **WEDNESDAY** 34°-36°

**HELPING OTHERS...**

Each day through the holiday season, the Herald will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate, including 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.



**Salvation Army Kettles:**

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

**Toys For Tots:**

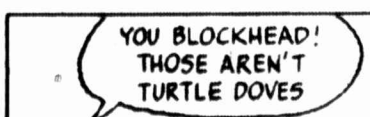
- Cellular One in the College Park Shopping Center

**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.
- Isaiah 58, Christian assistance agency, is accepting food and toy donations. Hours 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.

**INSIDE TODAY...**

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shopping days 'til Christmas Sponsored by BARCELONA APARTMENTS

**Vol. 97, No. 47**  
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.

**KBST, Herald aiding four-footed friends**

**LYNDEL MOODY**  
Staff Writer

Snuggled tight in their cages, with dreams of treats and cheese dancing in their heads, our four-legged friends of the Big Spring Humane Society dream



**WEEKS**

that Santa Claus will remember them this Christmas Eve. Those who would like to help make a difference — Big Spring Herald, KBST, and KBST 94.3 — are accepting donations of dry or canned food for the humane society from now until Christmas Eve. "In this season of giving, it is a good time to also think of our four-footed friends and especially those without homes," said Chuck Williams, publisher of the Big Spring Herald. "This

drive gives us a chance to increase the food inventory of the humane society, which takes care of these homeless animals year round." The humane society was recently vandalized, and an estimated \$30,000 dollars of damaged was done to three vehicles and several sections of the fencing area around the facility. Anyone wishing to donate to the drive can bring dry or

**Brrr: Snow in the forecast**

**HERALD Staff Report**

Big Spring has its first chance of snow tonight or early in the morning, though forecasters say it is likely to be light, if it occurs. "We have a fairly cold air mass at the surface and an upper level storm system moving through the four corners area of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah right now," said a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in

Midland. "We expect that to continue south tonight. We're not expecting much snow because there's not a lot of moisture with it, and we won't be getting any help from the Gulf." The forecast is for a 30 percent chance of light snow, late tonight or in the morning. "It's too early still to be more specific about when it might arrive," he said.

See **SNOW**, Page 2

**Hangar 25 charter memberships available**

**LYNDEL MOODY**  
Staff Writer

The deadline to become a charter member of Hangar 25 Air Museum and be named among those who helped fund the museum in its first year of operation is quickly approaching. "This is an unique opportunity to become a charter member of a museum," said Hangar 25 coordinator Susan Lewis. Membership is \$15 dollars for an individual and \$30 for a family. Other memberships are supporting members, \$250, patrons, \$500, and founders, \$1,000.



**LEWIS**

All memberships received before Dec. 31 will have a charter membership designation. Membership includes a special membership card, museum store discounts, the museum newsletter and invitations to special events. Also, all charter members will have their names inscribed on a special plaque that will be displayed in the museum, according to the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark Manager Nelda Reagan. What began as a grassroots community effort has grown into a local tourist attraction that has received more than 800 visitors since its dedication day on May 31. "We have received many visitors who are sentimentally and emotionally attached to the airplanes and war memorabilia," Lewis said. The museum continues to collect and display memorabilia from military aircraft and the military air traffic industry.



**Jim Grantham, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark manager assistant, views the AT-11 bombardier training plane used for training bombardiers for World War II, currently on loan to the museum.**

Since its opening, the museum has added an A-10 training cockpit, a B-52 cockpit, and soon plans to add an U. S. Marine Corp. Harrier Jet to the collection. Currently on loan to the museum is an AT-11 bombardier training plane used for training bombardiers for World War II. The B-52 cockpit is accessible to the public, and museum visitors can climb into it the same way pilots do.

"We have had some visitors stay in the B-52 cockpit for as long as 30 minutes," she said. The last wing commander at Webb Air Force Base, retired Colonel Harry Spannaus, donated to the museum several photographs, plaques and other memorabilia. The museum also plans to display a large collection of World War II memorabilia donated from Peppy Blount, a former Texas Representative whose mother worked at Webb

Air Force Base. The collection includes several original pictures of Webb Air Force Base. Museum officials plan to have Blount's donation ready for display in time for the membership party in January. Only museum members will be invited to the gathering. Anyone interested in becoming a charter member should contact Lewis or Reagan at 264-2362.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

**Safety**

**Police urge motorists to stay focused on the road**

**LYNDEL MOODY**  
Staff Writer

Everyone waits for the man in red to visit their home this holiday season, but no one expects the men in blue to come knocking at their door, so the Big Spring Police Department reminds drivers to stay focused on driving.



**SWEATT**

"Eighty-five to 90 percent of automobile accidents are caused by inattention," said Roger Sweatt, BSPD public information officer. Five major accidents occurred last weekend. Fortunately, none resulted in a fatality, according to Sweatt. "People are not paying as much attention as they should," he said. Police responded to a two-car accident Friday morning on Lamesa Drive. According to Sweatt, a vehicle was southbound on Lamesa Drive and turned from the wrong lane left in front of another vehicle, causing an accident that sent two people to the hospital. "Watch out for the other guy because he might be distracted and not see you," Sweatt said. Make sure to use seat belts and that your children are using the seat belts, Sweatt advised.

Another two-car accident occurred on Fourth and Owens early Friday evening when automobile turned in front of a pickup. The driver of the automobile became distracted when one of her children started climbing out of the car seat. Three people were taken to the hospital, according to Sweatt. "When a car is hit, a child can turn into a missile and go out the windshield," he said. "If the child hits something unmovable, the child usually gets hurt. This is the reason for the safety belt laws. "We do not ever want to tell anyone they lost someone but it is especially bad to give the news around the holidays," said Sweatt. "We would like everyone to make it to Christmas."

**Holiday lights sparkle across Crossroads Area**

**By MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
Staff Writer

As a traditional holiday event, taking the children to view Christmas lights may be an even more spectacular journey this year, as the 43 entries received into the Christmas Decorating Contest was the grandest total yet. And the five judges who visited the sites reported a feast for the eyes, as several locations received the Best of the Best recognition. Terri Johansen, longtime judge and one of the original creators of the lighting contest, said several areas on Big Spring are a "must see."

Johansen named other locations a "Santa-fest, a kid pleaser," "a real dollhouse" as well as "pretty," "beautiful" and

"great." Another commercial entry Johansen described as "glitz, glitz, glitz."

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third, has a list of addresses and city maps available free for the asking.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST**

Homemade & Combination Lights		Boucheureau		1100 Runnels, Eleanor Lopez	
1603 Johnson, Troy and Laurie Hyden	204 W. Main, Forsan, Sammy and Frances Wisman	814 Angela Road, Albert Carlile	301 Texas, Craig Ferguson	4 Kiowa, Bill Brooks	2618 Crestline, Tim and Mary Cain
1800 Wasson, Kit and Doris Smith	3227 Auburn, Edward and Alexandra Garipey	<b>Non-Judged</b>		700 Craigmont, Donald and Cindy Longorio, Best of the Best	4911 Ratliff Road, David Bagnall
1314 Monmouth, Randy and Katy McKinney	806 San Antonio, Gwen and Arnold Collins	908 Lancaster, Tom and Julie Coates		7103 Lyle Road, Don and Lana Brewer	608 Aylesford, Lea Whitehead
1500 Johnson, Sean		2506 Carol Drive, Betty and Ricky Cain		1407 Bluebird, Jose Ariaz	711 Belvedere, Stan and Sue
		Doporto		1213 W. Sixth, Erlinda Flores	

See **LIGHTS**, Page 2

**Drought, lack of volunteers takes toll on annual bird count**

**By MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
Staff Writer

Tallies from the 100th annual Christmas bird count reveal nearly 6,000 fewer birds than last year, which birders said was caused by two factors. "We just did not have the sandhill cranes that we normally see. Last year we had 11,580, compared to just 5,669 this year



**SIMMONS**

that were counted," said Pat Simmons, local birder and organizer of the local event. Sandhill cranes, which normally inhabit the Beals Creek area, are not as populous this year, mostly due to the drought. Simmons said they need the marsh to roost, and this year there is little marsh to be found. "Last year we had 9,017 sandhill cranes, and this year we counted just 3,382," she said. And the second problem that contributed to the decreased bird count was the lack of indi-



Jane Jones and Michelle Werner spot a Copper's Hawk at Comanche Trail Park during the 100th Winter Bird Count. A total of 5,669 birds were counted, nearly a 6,000 decrease from 1998. The decline was attributed to fewer sandhill cranes and fewer volunteer bird counters.

HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

DECEMBER 21 1999



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OBITUARIES

Jeanne Woodall

Funeral service for Jeanne Meredith Woodall, 88, Little Rock, Ark., formerly of Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1999, at Roller-Chenal Funeral Home Chapel. Entombment will be in Hillcrest Mausoleum in Dallas. Mrs. Woodall died Monday, Dec. 20.

She was born on Jan. 8, 1911, in Hillsboro. She married Jack M. Woodall. He preceded her in death. She attended Hillsboro schools, Hill County Junior College and was a graduate of the New York School of Interior Design. Mrs. Woodall lived in Big Spring for 54 years where her husband practiced pediatrics before moving to Little Rock in 1994. She was a member of the Second Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include: a daughter, Linda Woodall Simmons of Little Rock; one sister, Ann Clark of San Antonio; three granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Parkway Village, 14300 Chenal Parkway; Little Rock, Ark.; 72211 or Baptist Hospice; 11900 Colonel Glenn Rd.; Little Rock, Ark.; 72205.

Arrangements under the direction of Roller-Chenal Funeral Home, Little Rock.

Robert Box

Service for Robert Box, 76, Big Spring, was 4 p.m. today at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Ed Williamson, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial followed in Trinity Memorial Park.

Mr. Box died Monday, Dec. 20, 1999, in a local hospital.

He was born on Nov. 26, 1923, in Thurber, and married Charlotte Montee on Aug. 18, 1956, in Yuma, Ariz. She preceded him in death on Sept. 24, 1997. Mr. Box worked for ICX as a truck driver for 33 years until retiring. He came to Big Spring in July of 1993. He attended First United Methodist Church and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the Teamsters Union.

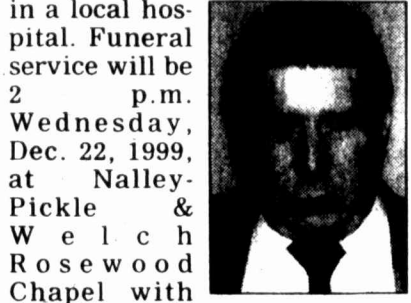
Survivors include: a daughter, Amber Buske of Big Spring; a son, Anthony Box of Chico, Calif.; two step-sons, Lyle Wallace and Cheryl Cooper, both of Huntington

Beach, Calif.; two sisters, Mary Tune and Joyce Conner, both of Big Spring; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Vista Care Family Hospice; 3210 E. 11th Place; Big Spring.

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

Harry Grayson Davis

Harry Grayson Davis, Ph.D., 70, Big Spring, died on Sunday, Dec. 19, 1999, in a local hospital. Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1999, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Christopher Coleman, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, and Chaplain Rick Foster, of the Big Spring State Hospital, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



DAVIS

He was born on Sept. 20, 1929, in Austin, and married Alice Clark on July 8, 1993, in Reno, Nev.

He had been in Big Spring for the past 41 years and had worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 34 years as chief of the psychology department until retiring in 1992. He was a member of The American Psychological Association. He attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos and received his Masters Degree from The University of Houston. He later earned his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University where he served as a professor and as a mentor for many West Texas psychologists.

Survivors include: a son, Harry Arbut Davis serving with the United States Army in Korea; a step-son, Matthew Casey O'Brien of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; his mother, Bessie Davis of Elgin; a sister, Bea Davis, wife of Marshall; and two grandsons, Joshua Davis and Michael Davis, both of Spokane, Wash.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry Grayson Davis Sr. and one brother, Bill Davis of Salt Lake City, Utah. The family suggests memorials to The American Leukemia Society; 2651 N. Harwood St.; Dallas; 75201.

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

Ronda Louise Coates

Ronda Louise Coates, 33, died Friday, Dec. 17, 1999. Private family services will be held at a later date in Oklahoma.

She was born on Jan. 23, 1966, in Denver, Okla. She was of the Lutheran faith. Ronda had grown up in Denver and had lived in San Angelo before coming to Big Spring. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by: her children, Veronica Spugin, Shawn Baumgardner and Alan Baumgardner, all of Oklahoma; her parents, Ronal and Edna Diltz of Oklahoma; and one brother, Ronald R. Diltz, also of Oklahoma.

Local arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ

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

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

Partee  
2908 E. Highway 350, Don and Retta Caldwell  
1700 Allendale, Forrest and Karla Wester, Best of the Best  
#28 Brackeen, Kerry and Wanda Fryar, Best of the Best  
4208 Theo, Shane and Karen Ward  
1504 Mesquite, Charles Buzbee  
1303 Mulberry, Freddy and Lucy Rodriguez

6100 Walter Road, Jerry Sloan  
6013 E. Midway, George and Lola Sloan  
601 E. 17th, Benny Rodriguez  
2312 Driver, Paul and Rhonda Gibbs

Commercial  
300 Main, County Courthouse, Best of the Best  
408 Runnels, Franklin & Son Goodyear  
Eighth and Runnels, First Presbyterian Church  
1900 Gregg, Joy's Hallmark  
6900 S. Highway 87, Trinity Memorial Park  
1901 Simler Ave., Spring City Senior Center  
2300 Wasson, Marcy House  
400 Main, Norwest Bank  
2401 Gregg, Red Mesa Grill  
212 Runnels, Ward's Western Wear  
Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, Comanche Trail Park

COUNT

Continued from Page 1

vidual counters, she said. "We really need more people out counting the birds for us to have cover the county," she said.

More individual species of birds were counted this year than last year, she said. Ninety-two species were spotted and counted, compared to 83 in 1998. And a few of those species are an unusual sighting for this area, she said.

"We had common loons, which we normally don't see here. And we had one Eastern blue bird spotted out near Moss Lake," Simmons said.

Blue birds, she explained, are much smaller than the common blue jay or scrub jay, which is often seen in West Texas. And Eastern, Western or Mountain blue birds are about the size of a sparrow, and the Eastern blue bird is sky blue in color, Simmons said.

"I remember one year out near the county club we were counting, and it was snowing and we spotted a flock of blue birds. That blue color on that white snow was truly spectacular," she said.

Several species of hawks were spotted, as well as one Prairie falcon. Coopers hawk, Ferruginous hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, kestrels, red-shouldered hawk and red-tailed hawk, she said.

"These were seen in places all around the county. Hawks may be seen circling around most any place, because they migrate through here," she said. She also said no Cedar wax wings were spotted this year, unlike years past.

SNOW

Continued from Page 1

The low tonight is expected to be 20 to 25 degrees, with Wednesday's high a chilly 35. A 10 to 20 mile per hour wind will mean residents will need to bundle up.

A slight chance of snow is forecast for Thursday before a

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

warming trend moves in. Thursday's high will range from the lower 30s to the lower 40s and Friday's forecasted high is 45-50. For Christmas Day, the high is expected to be in the lower 60s.

DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

canned food to the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry or to the radio station at 608 Johnson by Christmas Eve.

"We delivered three pickup loads of food last year to the humane society, and our goal for this year is to deliver four pickup loads," said John Weeks, KBST general manager. A free CD will be given to those who bring donations to the radio station.

This is the second year for the dry and canned food drive for the humane society, and Weeks plans to continue on with the drive next year.

"I came up with the idea when I was at a Christmas party for the humane society last year," said Weeks. "I teamed together with Chuck (Williams), so we can help with our four-legged friends."

"We are lagging behind from last year, and we need everyone to help," said he. "With the recent vandalism of the humane society, we need to step up our effort because our four-legged friends need help."

BRIEFS

THE VIDEOTAPE OF THE Living Christmas Tree production at First United Methodist Church will be shown on cable channel 10 Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. The production, which included many members of the community singing and performing, was performed live Dec. 4.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR the income tax assistance program. A training class will take place at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, 1901 Simler Drive, Monday, Jan. 10-Friday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m.-noon each day.

Volunteers will provide tax assistance during February and March. Call Dorothy Kennemur, 398-5522 or the senior center, 267-1628, for more information.

BIG SPRING MOVIE HOTLINE  
For showtimes call  
263-2479

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  
Moss Lake Rd & I-20  
393-5344  
Mon.-Thurs. 11 am-4 pm; Fri. & Sat. 11 am-6 pm

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 0,6,3

Cash 5: 2,6,14,37,38

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

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF Health will be giving flu shots every Wednesday throughout the winter months to those persons 18 years and older, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m. If you are on Medicare we will file. The cost to others will be \$5. For more information call 263-9775.

RECORDS

Monday's high 42  
Monday's low 29  
Average high 56  
Average low 28  
Record high 78 in 1981  
Record low 8 in 1973  
Precip. Monday 0.00  
Month to date 0.00  
Month's normal 0.48  
Year to date 11.84  
Normal for the year 18.13  
Sunrise Wednesday 7:43 a.m.  
Sunset Wednesday 5:46 p.m.

POLICE

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

• JOHN WATKINS, 48, was arrested for county warrants.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 600 block of Aylesford, 1400 block of Aylesford and 1700 block of West Fourth.

• ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 500 block of Westover and 1600 block of Settles.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 3600 block of Calvin, 1700 block of Lancaster, 1300 block of Nolan, 1500 block of Stadium, 1800 block of Runnels and 2800 block of Coronado.

• FORGERY was reported at the police station.

• JUVENILE PROBLEM was reported near the intersection of Benton and Mittel.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1000 block of East 15th and the 2000 block of North Monticello.

• THEFT was reported in the

900 block of Willia, 3200 block of Auburn and 400 block of Johnson.

• MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 1700 block of East Third.

• MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of West Fifth and Abrams, and Willia and Air Base Road.

• WEEKEND REPORT indicates two assault, one family violence, one burglary of a habitation, one burglary of a building and three burglary of a motor vehicle reports.

Also three criminal mischief, one criminal trespassing, five driving while intoxicated and three driving while license suspended/invalid reports.

And three runaway, 20 thefts, 13 convenience store thefts, 10 information, 16 arrests, five major accidents and five minor accidents reported.

FIRE/EMS

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

MONDAY

12:33 a.m. - 500 block Abrams, traffic accident, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

6:15 a.m. - 1300 block Virginia, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

11:21 a.m. - 8500 block El Camino, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

12:18 p.m. - 2900 block W. Hwy 80, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

3:42 p.m. - Highway 80 and Airbase, traffic accident, service refused by two.

4:21 p.m. - 1100 block N. Lamesa, medical call, patient transported to VA Medical Center.

5:04 p.m. - 11th and Goliad, traffic accident, two patients transported to SMMC.

6:52 p.m. - 1900 block Wasson, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

7:13 p.m. - 100 block Ritchey Road, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

18 Larry Bryan Golf Shop  
Located at the Big Spring Country Club  
"Under New Ownership"  
JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS  
Clubs • Bags • Shoes • Balls  
All Of Your Golfing Accessories  
Ping Callaway Clubs In Stock  
Famous Name Brand Apparel  
267-5354

In observance of the Christmas Holiday these financial institutions will observe these hours and are closed Christmas Day  
First Bank of West Texas  
Closing at 1:00 PM Fri. Dec. 24th  
Norwest  
Closing at 12 Noon Fri. Dec. 24th  
American State Bank  
Closing at 12 Noon Fri. Dec. 24th  
Citizens Federal Credit Union  
Closing at 1:00 PM Fri. Dec. 24th  
State Hospital Federal Credit Union  
Closed Fri. Dec. 24th  
Electric Utilities Federal Credit Union  
Closed Dec. 23rd & 24th  
First Big Spring Banking Center  
Closing at 12 Noon Fri. Dec. 24th  
State National Bank  
Closing at 12 Noon Fri. Dec. 24th  
A note of thanks for your kind patronage. We wish you a glorious season filled with loved and harmony. Happy Holidays!!

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL  
24th & Johnson 267-4288  
Doris Knocke, 73, died Saturday. Services will be 11:00 AM, today at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.  
Ronda Louise Coates, 33, died Friday. Private family services will be held in Oklahoma at a later date.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home  
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory  
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331  
Harry Grayson Davis, Ph.D., 70, died Sunday. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM Wednesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.  
Wesley Craig Kerby, 21, died Monday. Services will be 2:00 PM Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Burial will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.  
Wanda Bruce, 77, died Tuesday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Big Spring Herald  
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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, \$12.25 elsewhere.  
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### As fears along borders increase, two are arrested

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — A second Algerian citizen has been arrested at a U.S. border checkpoint as the federal government tightens security at scores of entry points into the United States.

The U.S. Border Patrol said Monday the man used a falsified Canadian passport at the tiny border station in Beecher's Falls in Vermont's northeast corner. With him was a woman whose background wasn't immediately detailed by authorities.

Mark Henry, assistant chief of the Border Patrol sector cover-

ing Vermont, said he could not provide identification for either person. Both were jailed pending a federal court appearance in Burlington.

"I don't know why they were here. It could be as simple as she's smuggling him into the United States," he said.

Last week, a man was arrested

while trying to enter Port Angeles, Wash., on a ferry from Victoria, British Columbia. Authorities said Ahmed Ressam had nitroglycerin and other

potential bomb-making materials in his car when he was arrested.

Vincent Illuzzi, the prosecutor for Vermont's Essex County,

where the attempted entries were allegedly made, said he had been told there was no clear link between the Washington state and Vermont arrests.

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### Van accident in Mexico kills nine from Texas

MEXICO CITY (AP) — An accident involving a freight truck and a van in the northern Mexican state of Zacatecas killed six children and three adults, residents of Fort Worth who were traveling to visit family in Mexico for Christmas, Mexican officials said.

The victims were making a holiday-season trip to their home town in Zacatecas Sunday when a truck owned by a steel mill struck their van.

The family members ranged in age from 1 to 30 and had lived in three different homes in Fort Worth for at least two years, friends said.

A 10th relative survived the accident, which Mexican police said was caused by a truck driver who was speeding. The truck driver fled after the wreck.

"They were good people and we will remember them that way," relative Patricia Delgadillo told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Monday night at a rosary inside one of the homes.

The dead children were identified as Javier Delgadillo, 1; Cecilia Delgadillo, 4; Cindy Delgadillo, 6; Maria Carvajal, 11; Silvano Carvajal, 13; and Eva Carvajal, 16. Also killed were Noel Carvajal, 21; Sofia Carvajal, 30; and Filiberta Carvajal Delgadillo, 26. All of the Carvajals were siblings.

### Union blames understaffing for guard's death

BEEVILLE (AP) — The union for Texas corrections officers blames understaffing for a prison disturbance and the killing of a prison guard at the McConnell Unit.

Both incidents occurred within days of each other at this prison about 90 miles southeast of San Antonio.

"They (the Texas Department of Criminal Justice) know that we have a problem with the staffing level, but they are not wanting to admit that any of these problems are occurring because of it," said Brian Olson, deputy director of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees. "The governor needs to step in and take a look at this."

In the first deadly attack on a Texas correctional officer in 17 years, a 37-year-old guard was stabbed to death Friday night in a minimum-security area of the prison.

Early Monday, a prisoner overpowered a guard and freed about 80 maximum-security inmates. The inmates never got beyond their cellblock. Riot teams regained control of the maximum security area four hours later.

Glen Castlebury, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said there was no apparent connection between the disturbance and the killing of correctional officer Daniel Nagle.

Nagle was attacked in the general population section of the prison, while Monday's disturbance happened in the administrative segregation area, where prisoners spend 23 hours a day in their cells and receive one hour for recreation.

But union officials insist that understaffing is the culprit.

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DECEMBER 21 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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**John H. Walker**  
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**John A. Moseley**  
Sports Editor  
**Debbie Jensen**  
Features Editor  
**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Try finding that last-minute gift at local shops

Like sand through the hourglass, time is running out on those of us still searching for a Christmas gift here and a stocking stuffer there.

If you haven't tried to find those last-minute items here at home, it's a suggestion we would make to you for a couple of reasons.

First, when you shop at home, you save yourself time — and at this busy time of the year, every minute counts.

Second, an item bought at home helps keep local persons employed and local taxes paid. It also allows the merchant to expand their respective stock so that we might have a better selection.

Third, it keeps you off of the roadways and out of the holiday traffic.

And fourth, shopping at home is just good business. There are plenty of options for you to consider — from the mass merchandiser to the small shop that is operated by its owner.

There's candles and jewelry and clothes and more for you to choose from and local merchants are opening earlier and staying later to accommodate your shopping needs.

So, with 72 hours or so left to prepare and execute your Christmas shopping plan, try finding that special item at home before wasting your time driving elsewhere.

## OTHER VIEWS

The Supreme Court heard arguments recently in a case that has important ramifications for free speech, the content of our airwaves, and the responsibility of parents to monitor what their children see or hear.

At issue is the question of whether the rights of adults to watch what they want, when they want, must be abridged in order to protect children from unsuitable material — and we would not disagree that the material on such adult programming as that of the Playboy Entertainment Group is unsuitable for young kids.

The government should not once again adopt the

role of nanny, taking the place of parents who should be controlling what their children see. It is not the role of government to step in and mandate what appears on our television screens, obliged to do so because two-working-parent households leave the television as a baby sitter.

We agree that children should not be able to view unsuitable material. But the means to restrict access are available through technology, and it is a matter of parental supervision and responsibility to ensure that those restrictions are in place.

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either [bsherald@xroadstx.com](mailto:bsherald@xroadstx.com) or [jwalker@xroadstx.com](mailto: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.

# Time again for the annual family newsletter

DAVID CHARTRAND

To whom it may concern: Have a great holiday!

Every Christmas season someone I know, or once knew, sends me one of those canned family newsletters. I'm sure you get them, too.

They're full of happy news, spotlighting the family's many achievements in the past year, just in case you really give a hoot. Sometimes they even print and fold the letter like a miniature newspaper, with pictures and headlines (ANDREW WINS PRE-SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR!!)

It's really fun to read these letters out loud at Christmas parties and watch people laugh so hard that the egg nog squirts out their nose.

To All Our Dear Friends, Hello! We hope you don't mind this somewhat impersonal holiday greeting but we just have so many friends we want to say hello to this time of year and our lives are so hectic we don't ever have time to stop and try to remember all your names.

1999 was a memorable year for our family. The highlight was moving into our new home at Executive Manor Plantation Creek Estate Gardens on-the-Green.

We just wanted to have a modest ranch so we'd have

space to entertain our friends and sponsor occasional symphony concerts. But once we got started we just couldn't stop. Some who have visited so far tell us it reminds them of Bill Gates' new home outside Seattle. I think they're exaggerating a little.

There are 11 bathrooms, nine bedrooms, a pool on the roof, a working volcano, and lots of room for YOU to come and visit us.

Brandon graduated in May from Harvard Medical School. Not only did he finish second in his class, but he was also class valedictorian and his professors say he's in line to be named U.S. Surgeon General.

Our little princess, Tiffany, has one year left at the Rainey Brooke Debutante Country Club Academy for Girls. I don't know where she inherited all her brains but she tells her father that she plans to get a scholarship offers from even more New England private colleges than he did!

We are particularly warmed by Tiff's passion to serve others. During the spring semester she chaired Rainey Brooke's "We Care" campaign to purchase a rain canopy for the team benches on the girls' soccer fields.

Roland — our baby! — turned 13 in May. He says his favorite memory of the year is the two-month summer camp he attended in Minsk working as a translator for Russian

humanitarian assistance programs.

The coaches at Rainey Brooke Prep begged him to return as captain of the 8th Grade basketball team this year but Rollie said he couldn't play sports and devote the necessary time to his fledgling import-export business, which he plans to use to finance his college education.

It was such a difficult decision for him but we are so proud!

Are your lives as crazy as ours? Nathan's company had him traveling all over Europe this year. He LOVES being the senior managing partner but he says he hardly has time anymore for his favorite hobby — helicopter snow skiing in Aspen!

In September Nathan got to ski with Al and Tipper Gore and they gave him two VIP tickets to a dress rehearsal in Washington for a gala starring Barbra Streisand. We wish all of you could have been there with us!

Somehow, Nathan also found time on the weekends this year to plant a half-acre rose garden for me. We hope you can come see it! My favorite part is the waterfall that runs from atop the 18-foot gazebo, across the Italianate marble terraced steps and into a gorgeous reflecting pool that the horses just love to sip out of (pictures lower right).

The kids are after me to cut

back my hectic schedule of civic activities. This year I co-chaired our Middleton Community Symphony's concert in the Park Series. Over the July 4 holiday we had Kathie Lee Gifford do an autograph-signing in the park.

I don't know how we did it, but we raised \$13,000 to bring a 24-piece orchestra to the park for Kathie Lee — she always insists on an orchestra for her guest appearances because she loves to sing.

As it turns out, she never had time to sing anything because her schedule was just too hectic. Before she left she gave me a big hug and said she loved my outfits.

I wish we had time to call each and every one of you and see how you are doing. But I know you understand. We hope you'll come visit us in the new year.

After all, we have lots of room! Have a great year — wherever you are!

The Richolsons — Marci, Nathan, Tiffany and Roland

David Chartrand is a syndicated columnist based in Olathe, Kansas, just outside Kansas City. His funny and poignant columns on parents, kids, life and living have appeared in magazines and newspapers across the United States. You can reach David at [dvc@aol.com](mailto:dvc@aol.com) or visit his web site at [www.davidchartrand.com](http://www.davidchartrand.com)



## The Writer's Art: With no answer expected

Rhetorical questions have a long and glorious history in the realms of the written and the spoken word. Shall we have a look?

A rhetorical question, by definition, is a question "asked merely for effect with no answer expected," for example, "What's the world coming to?"

You will recall an occasion (one of many) when the Lord was really fed up with the children of Israel. "How long," the Lord inquires of Moses, "how long will this people provoke me?" He didn't expect an answer, but he wanted Moses to think about it. The same rhetorical device appears when Moses gets into negotiations with Pharaoh. Moses delivers a message from the Lord: "How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself?" If Pharaoh had replied, "Well, Mo, just another week or so," he might have saved himself a heap of trouble, but the question didn't demand a definitive answer.

Cicero loved the rhetorical question. "How long, Catiline, will you abuse our patience?" Juvenal asked a question for all ages: "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" Who will guard the guards themselves? Shakespeare was a master of the art. The most famous question in English literature was addressed to an empty stage. Mark Antony stirred up the mob by recounting Caesar's rejection of a kingly crown: "Was this ambition?"

The best rhetorical questions are the short ones. What's up, doc? Where's the action? Sez who? When a question drags on, it loses its punch. Last month a reporter for The New York Times provided a light piece from Capitol Hill, but it collapsed like a tired soufflé: "What else but the encroaching millennium could explain Rep. David R. Obey of Wisconsin walking in tandem with a 6-foot cow across the sparkling Capitol?"

Too many words! Boil it down! Tighter editing would suggest some such recasting as, "Why was David Obey walking a 6-foot cow across Capitol Hill?" That bobtailed inquiry would get us promptly into the tale, with plenty of time remaining to identify Obey as a representative from Wisconsin, to say when this curious parade took place, to

explain the bovine presence and to get on with the yarn.

Another Times writer began an art review in this fashion: "What is there to be said about the Metropolitan Museum of Art's wonderful exhibition of treasures from the legendary collection that Calouste Gulbenkian assembled in the first half of this century and then left to the world in a museum in Lisbon, where he spent his last dozen years?"

As an alternative, let us try: "What is to be said about the treasures of Calouste Gulbenkian?" The idea is to hook the reader, not to hug him. The Lisbon museum can wait.

The Times' Thomas L. Friedman came closer to the stylistic mark on Dec. 1: "Is there anything more ridiculous in the news today than the protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle?" I'm not sure "ridiculous" was the right adjective, but never mind. The rhetorical question was effectively sharp.

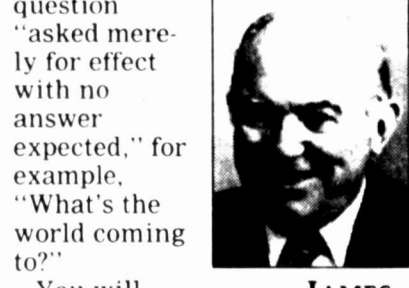
The same general principles apply to the fashioning of a simile. A good simile is as taut as a tow line, as snugly confined as the yolk in an egg. A writer for The New Yorker covered a festival of the New York City Ballet honoring choreographer Jerome Robbins. Among the visiting artists were three

ballerinas from Paris. "Lacquered and sleek, they stood out like alexandrine in a book of free verse."

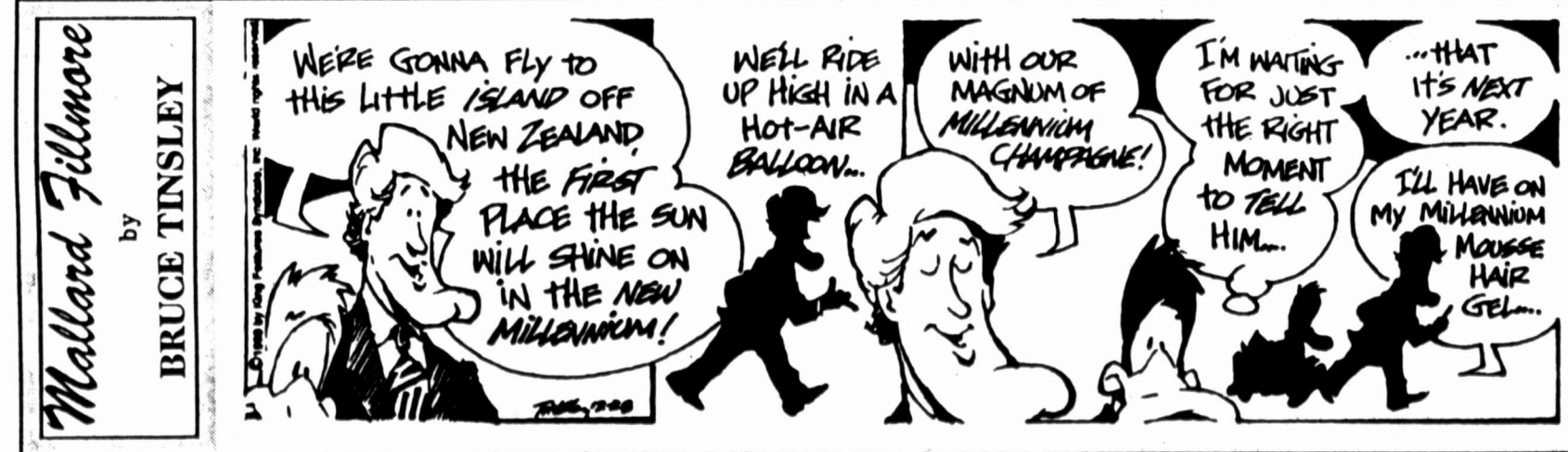
Ordinarily I preach clarity, clarity, clarity, and I flee from unfamiliar words, but that beautiful simile would have been spoiled by definition. At some point readers must be left to their own resources to learn that an alexandrine is "a line of verse of 12 syllables consisting regularly of six iambs with a caesura after the third iamb." The finer points of prosody can be explicated somewhere else, some other time. It was a splendid simile all by itself.

Tommy Tomlinson, one of the star columnists in the stable of The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, regularly packs a nice image in a few words. Last February he remarked on an issue of Esquire magazine devoted to breasts. Pamela Anderson Lee was on the cover. Tomlinson reacted with derision:

"Putting Pamela Anderson Lee on the cover of an issue about breasts is like putting Velveta on the cover of an issue about cheese. She's got more silicon than CompUSA." That comment may have been indelicate, but wasn't it a nice line? That's a rhetorical question, son. No answer required.



JAMES J. KILPATRICK



Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

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at Odessa Permia...

ON THE...  
Television...  
COLLEGE BASKE...  
6 p.m. — Jimmy...  
Indiana vs. North...  
8 p.m. — Jimm...  
Florida vs. Rutgers

NATIONAL BASK...  
7 p.m. — Phoe...  
Antonio Spurs, Th...

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Calgary Flames, F...  
8 p.m. — St. L...  
Phoenix Coyotes,



### IN BRIEF

#### Lady Steers win by 16 on road at Brownfield

BROWNFIELD — Latricia Rollins scored 16 points and Melissa Forth added 15 as Big Spring's Lady Steers took a 58-34 win over Brownfield here Monday.

Big Spring improves to 9-5 with the win and is now off until a Dec. 29 appearance in the Abilene Invitational.

"It was a really good game," Lady Steers head coach Kathy Loter said. "We shot the ball well and played well."

Big Spring led from the outset, jumping to a 14-6 first quarter advantage. They stretched the margin to 15-31-16 at the half — and continued to stretch the lead until the end of the game.

In sub-varsity play, Big Spring's ninth grade team took a 58-38 win while the JV squad was also victorious, 47-41.

**BIG SPRING 58, BROWNFIELD 34**  
BSHS 14 17 9 18 — 58  
BFIELD 6 10 6 12 — 34

Leading scorers: Big Spring — Rollins 16, Forth 15, Brownfield — Burnett 9. Records: Big Spring is 9-5, Brownfield is 5-9.

#### Lady Buffs rip Midland Trinity

MIDLAND — Stanton had three players score in double figures here Monday en route to a 78-56 thumping of Midland Trinity.

Rachel Madison, who had a game-high 25 points for the Lady Buffs, scored 14 of them in the first period as her team jumped to a 25-14 lead.

Jessica Thompson and Stephanie Washington each had 19 for the Lady Buffs.

### BRIEFS

#### 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.

Those wanting to order the pass can do so by calling 1-800-ACS-2345 or online at [www.acs-tx.org](http://www.acs-tx.org). Details are also available at all three local courses.

#### YMCA registering players for its basketball program

The Big Spring YMCA is now registering girls and boys in grades K-6 for its youth basketball program.

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

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

For more info, call 267-8234.

### AREA GAMES

**TODAY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**  
1 p.m. — Coahoma (JV, V) girls at Odessa Permian.

### ON THE AIR

**Television COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
6 p.m. — Jimmy V Classic, Indiana vs. North Carolina, ESPN.  
8 p.m. — Jimmy V Classic, Florida vs. Rutgers, ESPN.

**NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSN.**  
7 p.m. — Phoenix Suns at San Antonio Spurs, TNT.

**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
8 p.m. — Dallas Stars at Calgary Flames, Fox Sports Net.  
8 p.m. — St. Louis Blues at Phoenix Coyotes, ESPN2

## Blinn hires Howard's Brian Roper to head baseball program

By JOHN H. WALKER  
Editor

Brian Roper, who compiled a 268-119-1 record in seven seasons as head baseball coach at Howard College, was named today as the head coach at Blinn College in Brenham.

The announcement came at a 10:30 press conference.



ROPER

"The job only came open about 10 days ago," explained Howard College president Dr. Cheri Sparks.

"Brian interviewed last Friday and I kept praying all weekend he would change his mind, but when someone has an opportunity like that, you really are happy for them — even if you hate to see them go."

Roper was twice named coach of the year in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference — in 1993 and 1996 — and posted a winning percentage of .692.

His 1994 and 1996 Hawks teams won the conference championships and Roper was selected to coach the Region V All-Stars in the Texas/New Mexico Junior College All-Star Games on three separate occasions.

Roper came to Howard College from Ralls High School, where his Jackrabbits teams compiled a 40-5 record over his two years.

Roper took over a losing program at Ralls and led it to two straight district championships, advancing to the regional finals both years.

A Houston native, he played

collegiately at Texas Tech University where he was the starting catcher for three years. While at TECh, Roper set the school record for catching the most consecutive Southwest Conference games. He was voted team captain his senior year.

Roper continued his baseball career professionally in the Texas Rangers organization after being drafted in 1989. After one season with the Rangers organization, he opted to return to Tech as a student assistant coach while he completed his education.

He earned his B.S. in 1990 and his master's in sports administration in December 1995.

Roper's resignation leaves Howard College with two positions to fill, as his wife, Karla, is the college's director of human resources.

"We will begin a search immediately," Sparks said. "We hate to lose Brian and Karla because they represented Howard College and the community so well."

Roper is the father of two children, 4-year-old Emily and 1-year-old Brady.

## Steers top Midland Trinity, 59-49

By VALERIE AVERY  
Herald Correspondent

The Big Spring Steers head into the Christmas holidays with a 9-7 record following a 59-49 second-half surge against Midland Trinity Monday in the Big Spring Junior High Gymnasium.

Big Spring takes the week off before tipping off against Dimmitt Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the AMBUCS Caprock Holiday Basketball Tournament in the Frenship High School Gym.

The 32-team tournament takes place over three days in seven gymnasiums in Lubbock County.

Eleven lead changes were recorded in the contest, and Midland Trinity appeared to be pulling ahead with 6:36 remaining in the final period. But senior Lance Brock started off the Steers scoring spree, hitting Arthur Belvin, who drained a three-pointer and knotted the score at 42.

A minute later, the sophomore Belvin was caught in traffic and hit a short jumper to push the score to 44-42. Guard John Purcell dished it to Blair Nutting for another basket, and Belvin made a lay-up at 4:08, putting the Steers ahead 48-42.

Senior Blair Nutting put the finishing touches on Midland Trinity with a thundering dunk at the 3:45 mark in the fourth quarter in the midst of a 4:00 scoring run, which pushed the lead to 56-44.

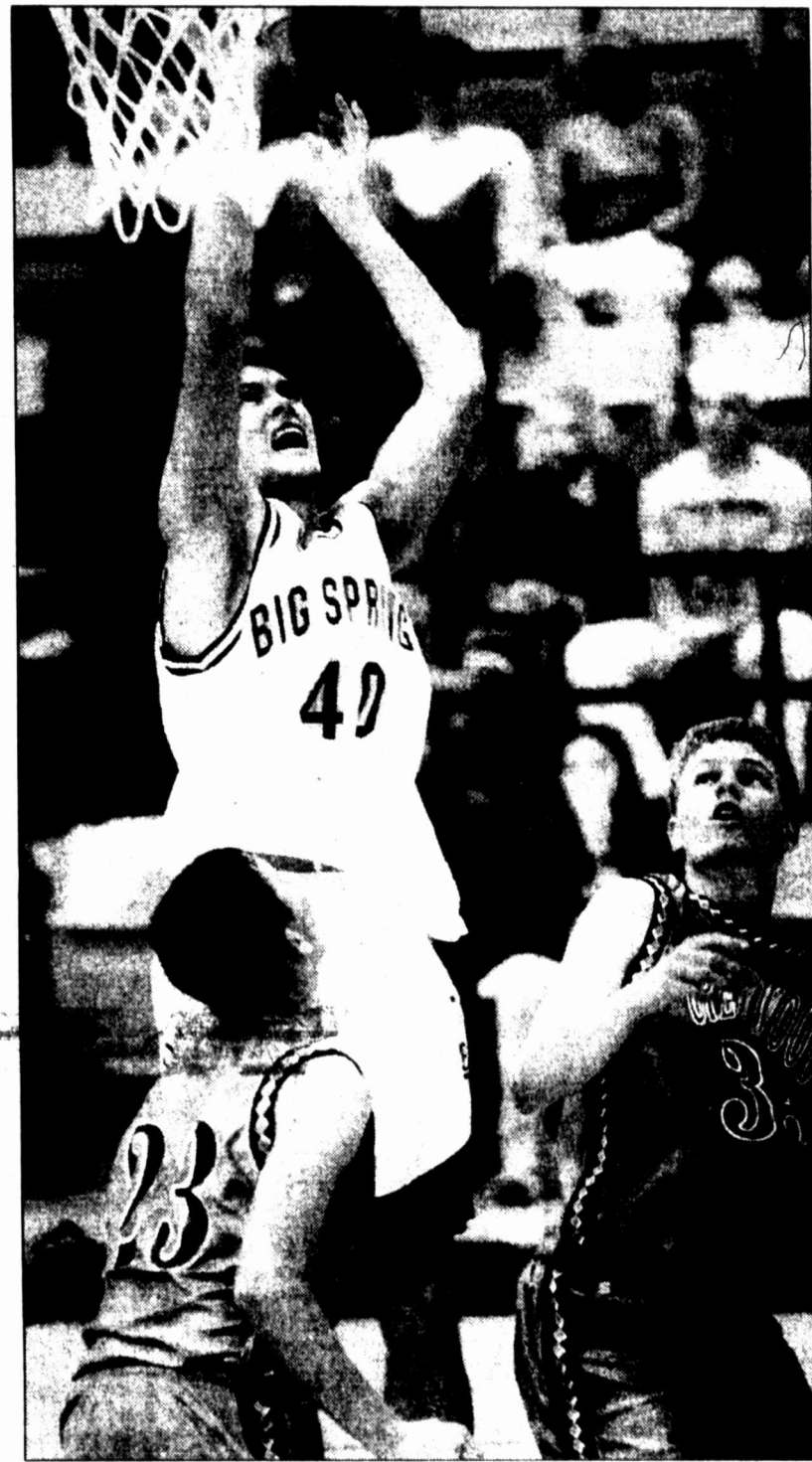
"That dunk really pumped us up," Steers head coach Jimmy Avery said. "It gave us more energy and made us play even better. It was kind of a crucial point."

Brock continued to take control of the game, grabbing a defensive board — one of his team-high eight boards — and feeding Purcell an easy two.

Brock fed Nutting, and Brock hit one-of-two from the free throw line for a 56-42 lead with 1:49. Nutting passed to Justin Dille who closed out the game with two more baskets. Midland's Andrew Anderson hit a basket and Tabrick Ephriam, made one of his four three-pointers to finish out the game.

"Offensively we played a lot better in the second half than in the first half," Avery said. "It seemed like Belvin got more and more confidence as the game went on. We talked at halftime about relaxing and playing. I told them to take shots and penetrate, and it would be there."

Big Spring struggled in the first half, scoring six points in 4:00 in the second quarter. It appeared they were going to go into the lockerroom at halftime with a 16-15 lead until Midland's Anderson, Nick



HERALD file photo

Lance Brock goes up for a shot under the basket in a game against Greenwood earlier this season. Brock had eight points and eight rebounds on Monday against Midland Trinity.

Whitley and Evan McLaughlin went on a seven-point run before half and the 22-18 lead.

"We have been struggling with that, so that was so satisfying. Defensively, we can play defense with anybody. It's good that we have so many people share in the points. We do not have to depend on any one person for points. That puts the pressure on everyone."

The back-and-forth battle continued in the third quarter, but Ephriam — who finished with a team-high 24 points, scored the last eight points for a 38-37 lead heading into the final period.

Again, Avery was pleased with their defensive performance.

"Defensively, we held a good team to 49 points. When you do that, it gives you a chance to win every night. We scored 41 points the second half. That was really encouraging and

also takes pressure off any one person. Its good when we can spread it out like that. Whoever is open, shoots the ball for us."

The JV Steers romped Midland Trinity's JV squad with a 59-31 thrashing. Mike Smith paced Big Spring with 13 points, Mic Fleming added 12 and Jason Watson added 10.

#### Big Spring 59, Midland Trinity 49

MIDLAND TRINITY: Jehuon Yi 0 0 0 0, Matt Midkiff 0 0 0 0, Layne Rouse 0 0 0 0, Matt Horne 0 0 0 0, Matt Attanucci 0 0 0 0, Andrew Anderson 1 1 0 0 5, Dustin Trutt 0 0 0 0, Tabrick Ephriam 6 4 0 0 24, Justin Stokes 0 0 0 0, Evan McLaughlin 2 0 0 2 4, Nick Whitley 7 0 2 2 16, Leesoung Yi 0 0 0 0, Dan Attanucci 0 0 0 0, Chris Puebla 0 0 0 0, Totals: 16 5 2 4 49.

BIG SPRING: Justin Dille 5 0 0 0 10, Ricky Smith 0 0 0 0 0, Clarence Wilkins 2 1 1 2 8, Arthur Belvin 4 1 0 0 11, John Purcell 4 1 1 2 12, Jason Woodruff 0 0 0 0, Lance Brock 3 0 2 5 8, Blair Nutting 5 0 0 0 10, Totals: 23 3 4 9 59.

Score by Quarters:  
MIDLAND TRINITY 13 9 16 11-49  
BIG SPRING 10 8 19 22-59  
Three-point goals: Midland Trinity 5 (Ephriam 4, Anderson), Big Spring 3 (Wilkins, Belvin, Purcell).  
Total fouls: Midland Trinity 12, Big Spring 11.  
Technical fouls: None. Fouled out: None. Records: Big Spring is 9-7, Trinity is 8-5.

## Lakers roll to seventh straight win, Hornets fall in NBA action

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bigger was better. Shaquille O'Neal overpowered Boston in the Los Angeles Lakers' seventh straight victory, while the New York Knicks turned to a big backcourt to snap Charlotte's eight-game winning streak.

O'Neal, playing all but 2:17, had 34 points and 20 rebounds as the Lakers ran their NBA-best record to 22-5 with a 99-90 victory in Boston on Monday night.

"I've been playing big minutes. It's fine with me," O'Neal said. "I know how to pace myself. ... I'm not tired from playing. I'm tired from getting beat up."

In New York, Allan Houston scored 31 points and Latrell Sprewell had 30 in their debut as a starting backcourt to help the Knicks beat the Hornets 112-109

in overtime. In other NBA games, it was Philadelphia 122, Detroit 121 in overtime; Minnesota 100, Cleveland 94; Orlando 104, Utah 102; Seattle 93, Chicago 84; Miami 92, Dallas 89; Phoenix 108, Milwaukee 101; Denver 97, Portland 88; Golden State 111, Sacramento 99.

The five Celtics starters used 27 of their 30 fouls trying to guard O'Neal, who was 13-for-20 from the field and 8-for-17 from the free-throw line.

"There's nothing you can do, he's so strong," Celtics forward Eric Williams said. "He's pretty much bulked up. He knows people are going to be hacking and fouling him."

Kobe Bryant, who played 45 minutes, added 27 points for the Lakers, who were playing their fourth game in five days.

76ers 122, Pistons 121, OT

Eric Snow hit a 16-foot jumper at the buzzer as Philadelphia beat visiting Detroit.

Allen Iverson had 32 points after making up with 76ers coach Larry Brown earlier in the day and apologizing for asking to be traded.

Timberwolves 100, Cavaliers 94

Terrell Brandon, playing in Gund Arena for the first time since being traded by Cleveland, made a jumper and six free throws in the final 1:36 as Minnesota beat the Cavaliers.

Suns 108, Bucks 101

Rodney Rogers, starting in place of Tom Gugliotta, had a season-high 24 points and 13 rebounds as Phoenix improved to 4-0 under new coach Scott Skiles.

Phoenix was without Gugliotta for the second game in a row. He was home rest-

ing after a seizure Friday night in Portland.

Nuggets 97, Trail Blazers 88

Antonio McDyess scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter as Denver beat Portland for its third straight victory.

Heat 92, Mavericks 89

At Dallas, P.J. Brown scored 22 of his season-high 25 points in the first half as Miami snapped a four-game losing streak.

Warriors 111, Kings 99

Jason Caffey had 20 of his 26 points in the first half as Golden State beat injury-depleted Sacramento.

Magic 104, Jazz 102

Darrell Armstrong scored 22 points and Pat Garrity hit the game-winning 3-pointer with 38.5 seconds left as Orlando beat Utah.

## Ref attacked

### Tackle's eye may be permanently damaged after being hit by flag

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Orlando Brown might have permanent damage in the eye that was accidentally hit by a referee's weighted penalty flag during a game, doctors said Monday.

The Cleveland Browns tackle, who pushed the ref to the ground after being struck by the flag, was being treated for impaired vision at the Cleveland Clinic.

Brown said his family's medical history is what drove him to storm onto the field and confront Jeff Triplette. Brown's father lost his sight to glaucoma in 1993.

Triplette's 3-ounce flag — weighted with BBs — struck Brown directly in his right eye on Sunday in a game against Jacksonville.

"My actions yesterday were based upon an incredible amount of pain which affected my judgment," Brown said in a statement. "This situation was very scary due to my father's blindness and having to deal with that for many years."

"My injury and those facts still do not justify pushing an official. I regret what happened a great deal. Nothing like this will ever happen again."

The NFL is considering disciplinary action, which could include a fine and suspension. The minimum fine for physical contact with an official is \$10,000.

Brown was expected to remain under a doctor's care for at least two more days.

"It's not good," said Cleveland coach Chris Palmer, who visited Brown at the hospital. "He is concerned about losing his eyesight."

Palmer said doctors were concerned about pressure building around the eye, which was swollen shut and covered by a metal patch. Doctors told Palmer that because Brown is predisposed to eye problems, any injury could lead to permanent damage.

Because Brown already had poor vision he couldn't see the flag right away as it was coming toward him, Palmer said.

After he was hit, the 6-7, 350-pound Brown dropped to one knee, and Triplette rushed to his side to pull the marker from inside the player's helmet.

Brown then staggered toward the Cleveland sideline, but returned to confront Triplette, an energy company treasurer.

Brown knocked the 6-foot-5, 200-pound ref to the ground with a two-handed shove to the chest.

Four NFL players have been disciplined for such contact: Don Burroughs of Philadelphia in 1963, Monty Sticksles of New Orleans in 1968, Michael Jackson of Seattle in 1982 and Steve Wisniewski of Oakland in 1996.

Browns president Carmen Policy, who appeared at a news conference with Palmer, said the league should not treat Brown any differently because of the severity of the injury.

"The pushing of an official should never be ignored," Policy said. "With that premise in mind, I don't think what happened can simply be written off. I don't think the league should totally waive what happened, but I do think they should weigh all the details."

Palmer said when he saw Brown walking back onto the field he thought he was simply rejoining the huddle. He thinks Brown became enraged when he crossed paths with Triplette. "I think if he was in a fit of rage it would have been a sprint onto the field like you see in baseball," said Palmer, who tried to calm Brown down on the sideline. "God knows if it was a fit of rage I wouldn't be here today."

Policy said he hopes the NFL will change the way officials are instructed to throw their penalty flags. Officials are taught to throw the markers upward or at the spot of the infraction.

Browns linebacker Jamir Miller said he could understand why Brown lost his composure.

"The man was upset that he was taken out of the game by a flag, of all things," Miller said. "You have 300-pound guys running around at you all day and you get hit in the eye with a flag?"

"It's a frustrating thing. How he dealt with it? That's how he dealt with it. I can tell you why it happened — frustration."

Browns safety Corey Fuller berated a reporter for asking if any of the Cleveland players were afraid of Brown, fined \$5,000 earlier this season for a slide hit.

"I'm not defending him and I'm not defending the ref," he said. "It's just a situation where it seems like the athlete is always totally wrong."

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\*\*\*\* Your ebullient personality melts others and draws much activity.

Don't let another push you. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*Others are acting in a cantankerous manner. Don't react, if you can help it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\*Take a back seat. Let others express their thoughts and caring. You might not be sure what to do with a visitor or special friend from a distance.

friends as well as a loved one.

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Brother's death from sniffing should be warning for teens

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Concerned Counselor in Virginia Beach," who wrote about the problem he was having with teen-agers sniffing glue from a spray can to get high, I had to write. He asked you for names of celebrities who have died from drug overdoses, which you provided for him in abundance because, sadly, some celebrities, like some teen-agers, think nothing will ever happen to them.

With a 44-year-old man I'll call "Mark." He was a guest for about five months here at the hotel where I work. Mark would stay here Monday through Friday and go home every weekend. His job transfer was the reason he was staying here. After he sold his home, he planned to move closer to here.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Let me tell you a story about a REGULAR person who happened to be my 16-year-old brother. Twenty-nine years ago (yes, I still keep count) my brother, unbeknownst to me, was experimenting with ways to get high. He tried huffing. I was in college at the time. On March 16, four days before my 20th birthday, I got a phone call at 3 a.m. telling me that my only brother had died. I was devastated. It was the worst time in my life. I still think about it every March 16.

Well, a few days ago Mark got promoted, and now he has to work in Detroit. He lives only a couple of hours from Detroit, so he might not have to sell his house after all. The bad thing is, not only is Mark working in Detroit, he also has a wife.

I grew up real quick that week. Not only did I help my dad arrange the funeral because Mom was totally unable, but a few weeks later, I came home for spring break. I opened the door of his bedroom where he had died to find that it had not been cleaned since his death. It was not a pretty sight. I called my dearest friend, who lived five hours away at the time, and told her. She was there the next morning. We dealt with cleaning up while his lungs were hemorrhaging and no one could do anything to help. To this day, she is my dearest friend, even though we have not lived in the same city for 31 years.

I know this whole thing is wrong, but I love him. He promised to leave me his pager and cell phone numbers when he left, but he didn't. In fact, my boss was the one who told me that he got the new job and would never be back again. Mark and I saw each other for most of his stay here, and I miss him so much. I don't know why he left the way he did or why he hasn't even called. I have a boyfriend, and he happens to like Mark. (He doesn't know about us.)

I deeply regret that my brother never got to grow up, live his life, get married and have children of his own to love. I have always regretted that my children never had the chance to meet and know their wonderful Uncle Mark.

I have Mark's address and telephone number at home, but I can't call because of his wife. I'm in the process of making plans to move to Detroit just so I can be near him. Abby, I love Mark and will do anything just to see his face and hear his voice - even if it's for the last time. What should I do? - MISSING MARK IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MISSING MARK: A man who cared about you and respected your feelings would not have left it to your boss to tell you about his promotion and the fact that he wasn't returning.

DEAR ABBY: A reader asked you how to stop elderly relatives from sending useless gifts without hurting their feelings. I would suggest that the reader tell them how much a record of their own history and personal recollections would mean to younger members of the family. These stories could be written or taped, but should always be identified as to who the person is and all the proper dates. They could also be recorded in installments and given on various gift-giving occasions. Many families would deeply appreciate such gifts. Historical societies could no doubt help the elderly with suggestions, if needed.

DEAR HARRIET: That's a terrific suggestion. A collection of written recollections would make a unique bound volume after a few years - and the collection of tapes becomes a one-of-a-kind library or oral history.

DEAR ABBY: I had to giggle when I read the letter from the reader complaining about the Christmas gifts they had received in years past. It reminded me of a feminist joke. If you like it, feel free to print it. - BURLISON, EXAS, READER

DEAR READER: It's cute, and I'm sure many people will enjoy it. Read on: THE FIRST CHRISTMAS. If on the first Christmas, the three wise men had been women, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, cleaned the stable, helped deliver the baby, made a casserole and brought PRACTICAL gifts.

DEAR ABBY: I am in love

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