

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

THURSDAY

December 23, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 22°-24°
FRIDAY 46°-48°

Friday's edition to be delivered in the morning

So that Herald employees might have the opportunity to spend as much time as possible with family and friends this Christmas, Friday's edition will be published tonight and will be delivered by 7 a.m. Friday.

If you have a problem with your delivery Friday morning, call our circulation department at 263-7335 between the hours of 7 and 11 a.m. All other Herald offices will be closed Friday. From the Herald family to your family, may the joys of the season fill your hearts. Merry Christmas.

Post office plans late hour closing

County and city government buildings will close Friday for the holidays, but persons will still be able to pick up and mail letters and packages that day.

"I've made the decision to stay open Christmas Eve and New Years Eve until 5 p.m.," said Richard Saxton, Big Spring Postmaster. "So if anyone has any packages they need to mail, purchase stamps or things of that nature, the window will be open."

The post office will be closed Christmas Day and New Years.

City offices will be closed Friday and Monday, as well as Friday, Dec. 31.

Howard County offices will close Friday and Monday.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY
□ Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

FRIDAY
□ Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.

INSIDE TODAY...

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YES, SANTA WILL VISIT EVERY NEST AND DOGHOUSE!



shopping days 'til Christmas
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Vol. 97, No. 49

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.

Many Big Spring churches to hold Christmas Eve candlelight services

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Worshippers will flock to the local churches Friday evening, as they plan special services to mark Christmas Eve.

A variety of special services are planned, many of them including candlelight. In some cases, each member of the congregation is given a candle as they enter the sanctuary, to be lit at some point in the service

as the lights are dimmed.

First Church of God, 2009 Main, will have its annual candlelight Christmas Eve service beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be carols, the reading of the traditional Christmas story from the Bible. Professional musicians Melvin and Marilyn Chappell will also perform.

First United Methodist Church will have a 6 p.m. service, including candlelight and special music. Joyce Bradley,

soprano and longtime member, will sing a solo, "O Holy Night." Choir will also do an arrangement of "Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head" with handbells.

First Presbyterian Church, 8th and Runnels, will also host its annual Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m., with candlelight, carols and communion.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, also has a traditional service of lessons and carols, along with communion,

at 10:30 a.m. on Friday. It will include guest musicians Jamie Bain, mezzo soprano; Joyce Bradley, soprano; and Mary Frances Malone, harp. On Christmas Day, the church will also observe communion beginning at 10:30 a.m.

First Assembly of God will have a candlelight communion service beginning Friday at 7 p.m. The informal service will include music, and is designed as a time of "reflection on the

real reason for the season."

First Church of the Nazarene plans a candlelight service beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, with special music and reading of the traditional Christmas story.

First Baptist Church also plans a service at 6 p.m., with music, including the quartet of Casie Fillingim, Carol Hanes, Nancy Welch and Julie Wolf. The lighting of the Advent wreath, candlelight and communion will also be included.

Initial autopsy report shows gunshots cause of couple's death

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

A preliminary autopsy report has confirmed that a Sand Springs couple found dead at their residence Friday died of gunshot wounds to the head.

Howard County Sheriff's Department is still waiting on a full autopsy report on Carroll Coates and his wife Rhonda Coates, who were discovered in their two-room residence by a family member.

"The preliminary autopsy report said that the cause of death was due to gunshot wounds to the head that penetrated the skull," said Howard County Justice of the Peace



GREEN

See AUTOPSY, Page 2A



Jo Wyatt, a Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteer, inspects some of the bicycles which have been donated to the Salvation Army. Other bicycles have been donated to Children's Protective Services, an RSVP project completed each holiday season. RSVP is responsible for coordinating the delivery of the bikes between the donor and the inmates at the federal prison, who repair bicycles for children's Christmas presents.

HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

BSFD Jensen named interim chief at fire department

By JOHN H. WALKER
Editor

Brian Jensen, 45, an 11-year veteran with the Big Spring Police Department, has been named interim chief.

Chief Frank Anderson, who has announced his retirement effective March 1, 2000, will retain the title of fire chief until that time, but will take leave until then.

Jensen joined the department in 1988 and advanced to the position of lieutenant. In 1995, he was named to direct the day-to-day operations of EMS and has since been promoted to the



JENSEN

See CHIEF, Page 2A

Unrealistic expectations can lead to holiday depression, experts say

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

While wrapping those presents and sipping that eggnog, mental health professionals are reminding all Yuletide merry-makers to remember to take care of themselves to avoid holiday depression.

"Holiday depression, a situational type depression, really comes from three basic areas: exaggerated expectations, over commitment and disrupted routines," said Shannon Nabors, area mental health director with West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

And the solution to holiday depression requires common sense actions of slowing down, enjoying the moment, getting plenty of rest and realizing the magic of Christmas is not really magic, she said.

"One of the biggest reasons for holiday depression is that people have expectations that because it's Christmas, all their

problems will just disappear. If they have a strained relationship or marital problems or other types of problems, they tend to think those will magically resolve because it's Christmas. But that is not real life," she said.

The same problems a person has will continue through the holidays, she said, and the best way to deal with this to realize life is not perfect.

"We need to look at the holidays as a time like any other time. We shouldn't set a picture in our mind that this is how it's supposed to be," Nabors said.

Holiday depression may be caused by over commitment, or doing too much during the season. By insisting that all presents be bought and wrapped, decorated with hand-tied bows, or that all holiday baking be done perfectly could lead to depression when those commitments are left undone, she said.

"The baking traditional at Christmas started when everyone gathered together and

baked. Over commitment comes when we have a list of things we have to do, such as looking right and dressing right and all the presents are just right. We have too many commitments and that can lead to depression," she said.

Disrupted routines are other actions that might create holiday depression, Nabors said. Late-night package wrapping,

Christmas parties with alcohol during the week, and eating rich food can all lead to missed sleep, which can lead to depression, she said.

"Out sleep patterns get disrupted during the holidays, and our eating patterns too. We will eat foods not on our diet during the holidays, and these can lead to loss of sleep," she said.

She urged everyone to take

time for themselves during the holidays. Eat right, try to get plenty of sleep, watch alcohol consumption and remember to take care of their own mental health.

"Really enjoy the holidays instead of rushing through them. It's the simple things that make holiday memories, like

See DEPRESSION, Page 2A

Acceptance vital to dealing with a loss

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

One depression creating situation which requires more than common sense solutions at Christmas is when a family experiences the loss of loved one.

"If a family member has been lost due to death or illness, that can be a sad time as families realize that traditions may become different," said

Shannon Nabors, area mental health director with West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Acceptance is the key to making it through holidays when a family member or close friends is missing, she said.

"You just have to realize and accept that this will be a hard time, so make sure you have people there and that you have support," she said.

Focusing on the richness and

blessings of life will lighten the burden of some of the depression that comes from the loss of a loved one, she said.

And knowing the holidays will be a time the loss is keenly felt, and walking through that time is another solution, as well as strength builder, she said.

"We all have to go through that grief and loss, and it helps if we look at the blessings in life and enjoy being with our family and friends," she said.

BSISD began preparing for Y2K in 1997-98

Editor's Note: The following is the second in a series of articles explaining how local entities are preparing for Y2K. Coming Friday — how the City of Big Spring is addressing the problem.

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

When Big Spring Independent School District began Y2K tests in the 1997-98 school year, more than two thirds of the administrative computers had to be replaced.

"We replaced quite a few computers, 66 out of 81 in our administrative offices and our school offices, and all the business computers," said James McFarland, BSISD office manager.

McFarland said once the initial testing was completed and the problems discovered with the administrative systems, he went to the school board and asked for funds to bring the district into Y2K compliance.

"When it's all said and done, this will have cost \$450,000,

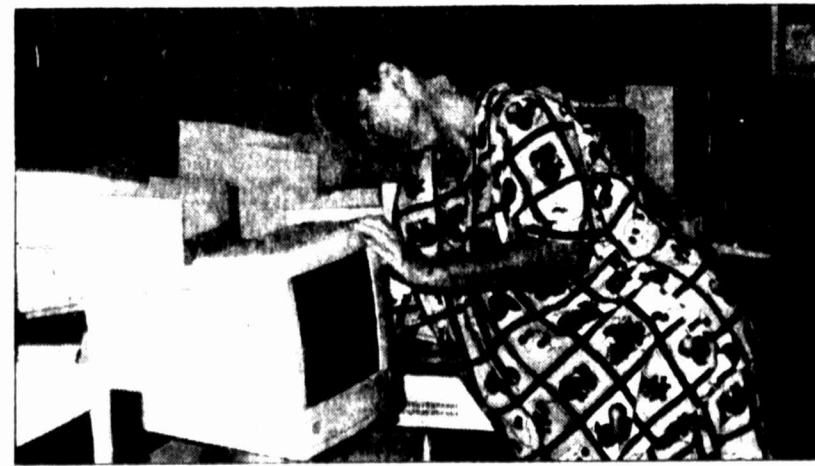


counting the new software. We began placing these items in the budget in the 1998-99 school year," he said.

McFarland said much of the district software is leased, such as the student data and business operations software. Therefore, BSISD officials were actually dealing with two separate situations at once.

"We are changing into a new system next year, so we had to check for Y2K compliance and the new system as well. We have to make sure the business and administrative offices systems are operational," he said.

The focus for Y2K compliance has been at the district and administrative level, and whether student-use computers will still function after the new year remains unknown.



HERALD file photo
Paula Cole, Big Spring ISD technology coordinator, looks over computers at Washington Elementary. BSISD began Y2K tests in the 1997-98 school year.

"We did not test all the student use computers, because those are not critical systems. Our critical systems are the ones that make money, from food service to attendance and financial. We have more than a thousand student-use computers, some old and some new, and student-use computers are a different ballgame," he said.

See BSISD, Page 2A

Big Spring police officer found dead in Ruidoso Downs

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Sgt. John Stowers, 38, a 12-year veteran with the Big Spring Police Department was found dead in Ruidoso Downs, N.M. about 6 p.m. Wednesday, a victim of a single gunshot wound.

Stowers was pronounced dead at the scene by a New Mexico medical examiner about 6:20 p.m.

"This is still under investigation. We have ordered an autopsy today, and with toxicology reports it will take about six-to-



STOWERS

See OFFICER, Page 2A

OBITUARIES

Melvin F. Ray

Service for Melvin F. Ray, 89, Temple, formerly of Big Spring, was 11 a.m. today at Sheffield Funeral Home, Temple, with Dr. Jerry Carlisle officiating. Entombment followed in Bellwood Memorial Park.

Mr. Ray died Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1999, in a Temple nursing home.

He was born on Jan. 20, 1910, in Alba. He had lived in Big Spring for 30 years before moving to Temple. He attended school in Meadow and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Temple. He married Earline Fielder on July 4, 1933, in Brownfield.

He is survived by: his wife, Earline Ray of Temple; a daughter, Melva Jane Washburn of Temple; three sisters, Gladys Reynolds of Odessa, Ona Bynum of Clovis, N.M., and LaVelle Hamilton of Dickenson; and one grandson.

Arrangements under the direction of Sheffield Funeral Home, Temple.

Patsy Gamble

Service for Patsy Gamble, 62, Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, 1999, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jess Colgrove, pastor of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, officiating.



GAMBLE

Mrs. Gamble died Wednesday, Dec. 22, at her residence following a short illness.

She was born on Oct. 31, 1937, in Spur. She married Prentice Gamble in Lovington, N.M. She moved to Big Spring in 1968 from Napa, Calif. She was a homemaker and a Baptist.

She is survived by: her husband, Prentice Gamble of Big Spring; two sons, Ricky Gamble of Big Spring, and Randy Gamble of Midland; one stepdaughter, Joellen Canales of Big Spring; one brother, Joseph Lasseter of Big Spring; one sister, Rosalyn Lasseter of Big Spring; and Peggie Ramos of Fresno, Calif.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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

Sgt. John Stowers

Service for Sgt. John Stowers, 38, Big Spring, is pending with

Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.
He died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1999, in Ruidoso, N.M.

Hank Thompson, D.V.M.

Service for Hank Thompson, D.V.M., 70, Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.
He died today at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland.

AUTOPSY

Continued from Page 1A

Peace Bennie Green.
No signs of struggle or forced entry to the residence was apparent, according to Howard County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Kerry Fritz.

Green expects to receive final autopsy reports in two weeks. Dr. Robert Lyon at the Pathology Association of Lubbock is conducting the autopsy.

Fritz said they have received reports that Coates and his wife were separated, and she had recently returned to Big Spring.

"She left Oklahoma on that Wednesday for Big Spring. Prior to that, we do not have any knowledge of what she was doing," he said.

According to reports given to the sheriff's department, Ronda Coates returned to Big Spring with the intention of considering resuming the marriage.

"We do not know what his intentions on resuming the marriage was," Fritz said. "We have talked to all the people that we are aware of that we need to talk to."

Coates and his wife were found in the back room which contained the bedroom and kitchen area, and the revolver found at the scene was owned by Carroll Coates, according to Fritz.

"We have received some information from neighbors who could have possibly heard gunshots around 9:30 p.m. on Thursday," he said. "When they heard the sound, they did not think of it as gunshots."

The medical examiner estimates that the victims had been dead around 10 to 12 hours. They can not make a final determination until they receive the final autopsy reports, according to Fritz.

Until final autopsy reports are received, the sheriff's department is continuing to investigate the incident as a double homicide, he said.

department's No. 2 position.
"We had two very talented and qualified individuals to consider for the position," Fuqua said. "We're excited to have both of them in leadership roles in the department."

In his new job, Jensen will continue his duties as EMS director while adding the responsibility of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the fire department.

"Brian will have some excellent deputy chiefs working with him and helping him out in the day-to-day operations," Fuqua said. "Brian has always had good ideas about how the department can better serve the community."

Fuqua said Jensen will remain interim chief until March 1. At that time, an acting chief will be named and the search will begin for a new fire chief.

The fire department has an annual budget of \$2.1 million, not including the EMS services, which is entering the fifth year of a five-year contract between the city and the fire department.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

teacher's salary," he said.

Also, all air conditioning systems, bell alarms and fire alarms, security systems and even fuel pumps in the district school buses have been checked.

"All systems have either been changed out or upgraded to be Y2K compliant," he said.

McFarland will begin preparing payroll Christmas that will be distributed Jan. 2, so an immediate application of the system will happen before the new year turns.

"I feel we are definitely ready to the new year," he said.

OFFICER

Continued from Page 1A

eight weeks to receive a final report. We will not say what the cause of death is until after the autopsy," said deputy medical examiner Danny Sisson.

Sisson said Stowers' body was found in a Wal-Mart in Ruidoso Downs. He had apparently been shot with his service revolver, Sisson said.

"He and his family had arrived in Ruidoso Downs Tuesday, and they had gone snow skiing. His construction company had been very busy, and he was doing some catch-up work. The family intended to return (to Big Spring) today, because they had a big Christmas party planned for Christmas Eve at their home," Sisson said.

Sisson said he would not speculate on the cause of death until the autopsy results were made available.

"We treat everything as a homicide until we know," he said.
Stowers became a patrolman for the Big Spring Police Department in 1987. He was promoted to sergeant on Nov. 1, 1997, and had also served as a detective and warrant officer.

Sgt. Roger Sweatt with the BSPD said no further information has been forthcoming from New Mexico. Big Spring officers attempted to find out more about their fellow officer's death until 11 p.m. Wednesday night.

"We still don't have the circumstances of what happened," Sweatt said.

He said he had enjoyed working with Stowers, whom he described as a good officer with a can-do attitude.

BIG SPRING
AROUND THE TOWN

"He was a friend of mine. He was a hard worker, and no matter what was asked of him, he was always willing to do it," Sweatt said.

Further investigation into the death is under the direction of the Ruidoso Downs Police Department. Other than indicating the death is not being investigated as a homicide, individuals within the department refused any additional comment.

Ruidoso Downs assistant police chief David Hightower also refused comment.

Stowers is survived by his wife, Liz, and two children, and two brothers. Funeral services are pending with Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

BRIEFS

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF Health will be giving flu shots every Wednesday through 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.

A MEMORIAL TREE FROM the American Cancer Society is set up at Merle Norman in Big Spring Mall. Donors can give a gift to the Big Spring Unit of ACS in memory or honor of a loved one.

When the tree is removed, the ornament marking the gift will be sent to the person honored or the family of the person memorialized. Donations can be made through Dec. 25. Call Lucy Bonner at 263-6305. Memorials can also be mailed to P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the Big Spring Senior Center. The center will be open Monday, Jan. 10 through Friday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

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

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 8,4,1

Lotto: 8,13,26,37,39,49

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

THURSDAY

A.D.D.A.P.T. non-profit support and learning organization about attention deficit disorder, learning disorders and dyslexia. Meets second Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May, Cerebral Palsy building, 802 Ventura, Midland.

Alzheimer's support group, noon, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, third Thursday of the month. Call Janice Wagner at 263-1211.

FIRE/EMS

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

WEDNESDAY

11:26 a.m. - 2000 block Virginia, medical call, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

2:12 p.m. - 1500 block Sycamore, trauma call, service refused.

2:12 p.m. - 100 block E. Third, dumpster fire, extinguished by responding units.

5:33 p.m. - 1000 block Stadium, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

6:58 p.m. - 1700 block Lancaster, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

7:09 p.m. - 700 block E. 15th, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

10:37 p.m. - 900 block E. I-20, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

POLICE

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

• ERLINDA HERNANDEZ, 47, was arrested for local warrants.

• DANIEL MARQUEZ, 42, was arrested for local warrants.

• JOE TORRES, no age available, was arrested for public intoxication.

• CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATION was reported near the intersection of Northwest Eighth and San Antonio.

• MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 800 block of west FM 700 and the 1100 block of Gregg.

• DISTURBANCE/FIGHT was reported in the 500 block of Northeast 10th.

• CLASS C CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 500 block of Highland.

• CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was issued at the police station.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1300 block of Mesquite.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 4200 block of Parkway.

• THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of East Third.

CORRECTION

An article in Tuesday's edition stated that Jim Grantham is the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark manager assistant. Mr. Grantham is actually a Green Thumb employee who works at the Hangar 25 Museum.

The same article listed some incorrect fees for charter membership to the Hangar 25 Air Museum. The correct prices are \$15 for student membership, \$30 for individual membership and \$60 for family membership.

MARKETS

March cotton 49.80, up 47 points; Jan. crude 25.74, up 24 points; cash hogs steady at 36; cash steers steady at 69 even; Feb. lean hog futures 55.65, down 5 points; Feb. live cattle futures 69.17, up 5 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation. Other markets unavailable by press

RECORDS

Wednesday's high 51
Wednesday's low 21
Average high 58
Average low 29
Record high 79 in 1933
Record low 0 in 1989
Precip. Wednesday 0.00
Month to date 0.00
Month's normal 0.52
Year to date 11.84
Normal for the year 18.17
Sunrise Friday 7:44 a.m.
Sunset Friday 5:47 p.m.

life! deadlines
Wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcements are due Tuesday at noon for publication in the Sunday, Jan. 2 edition of the Herald.
Church and club news for the Friday, Dec. 31 edition are due Monday by 5 p.m.

MEDICAL CARE PLAZA
ANNOUNCES THE ASSOCIATION OF DR. MEL JUAN SPECIALIZING IN FAMILY PRACTICE BOARD CERTIFIED
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KBST, KBTS 94.3 & The Big Spring Herald are joining together to help our 4 Legged Friends at THE BIG SPRING HUMANE SOCIETY
To help bring your dog either KBST or the Big Spring Herald by Christmas Eve, your donation to the Humane Society Station and receive a FREE CD. Donations are being accepted with either Dry or Canned Food.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
21th & Johnson 267-4238
Patsy Gamble, 62, died Wednesday. Services are 2:00 PM, Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.
Sgt. John Stowers, 38, died Wednesday. Services are pending.
Hank Thompson, D.V.M., 70, died Thursday. Services are pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331
Mrs. Buster "Wanda" Bruce, 77, died Tuesday. Graveside services were 11:00 AM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.
Wesley Craig "Wes" Kerby, 21, died Monday. Services were 2:00 PM Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Burial will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.

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DEPRESSION
Continued from Page 1A
Taking the children to see Christmas lights and visiting with family and friends. Everyone has mental health, but we don't exercise our mental health as we do our physical health. So try to exercise your mental health at the holidays and enjoy yourself," she said.
And Nabors also said if anyone is having trouble with depression to call the MHMR hotline at 1-800-375-4357.

CHIEF
Continued from Page 1A
rank of deputy chief.
City manager Gary Fuqua named Jensen after fire marshal Burr Lea Settles declined the position. Fuqua said Settles, who will retire in less than 20 months, asked to be left in the

Bob's Custom Woodwork 409 East 3rd St.
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Dan Wilkins Barbara Brunley

Officials try to calm Americans, urge vigilance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI warned today of possible mail bombs being sent from Germany to addresses in the United States even as federal officials urged Americans to stay calm but vigilant about possible terrorist threats.

Meanwhile, authorities are searching for links between suspicious individuals and alleged terrorism mastermind Osama bin Laden.

President Clinton, law enforcement and State Department officials all walked a fine line Wednesday, encouraging people to go ahead with holiday plans while saying they should look for unattended packages and other signs of possible terrorism.

"We obviously are trying to strike an appropriate balance," Assistant Attorney General

Eric Holder told a news conference. He advised Americans traveling overseas to avoid large gatherings, but assured people it was safe to attend large New Year's events in the United States where there will be "an extensive law enforcement presence."

An FBI statement issued in the predawn hours today warned that it had received "unsubstantiated information that individuals may be planning to send bombs in small parcels to addresses in the United States" from Frankfurt, Germany.

"Out of an abundance of caution, the public is being promptly alerted to this information," the statement said. "The public should be cautious with parcels originating from or bearing Frankfurt,

Germany, postal markings or stamps when the sender is unknown or unfamiliar to the recipient. Questionable packages should not be handled and local authorities should be notified."

The statement gave no further details nor any indication of which "individuals" were involved in the potential threat.

U.S. officials have been passing on warnings of possible attacks on Americans overseas, but the threat of domestic terrorism became real on Dec. 14 when an Algerian was arrested in Port Angeles, Wash., after bomb-making materials allegedly were found in his car.

Ahmed Ressaym, 32, was indicted in Seattle and pleaded innocent Wednesday to charges he made false statements to U.S. customs officers, smuggled

nitroglycerin across the border; transported explosives; committed a felony while carrying explosives; and possessed unregistered firearms — the apparent timing devices found in Ressaym's car.

Clinton, who plans to attend a large New Year's celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, visited a Washington food kitchen Wednesday as airport security tightened around the country and federal buildings received extra protection.

He advised Americans to "go about their holidays and enjoy themselves and make the most of it," but urged them to report "anything suspicious" immediately. "We are taking extraordinary efforts in the government to act based on the incident out in the Pacific Northwest," Clinton said.

IRS will waive penalties for legitimate Y2K tax woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayers who cannot comply with tax laws due to Y2K computer glitches can get penalties and interest waived by the Internal Revenue Service — but they should actively try to avoid such difficulties.

IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti said Wednesday that taxpayers should make a "reasonable effort" to comply, such as checking out their own computers or asking if an employer or bank is Y2K ready.

Once a problem is discovered, individuals and businesses should contact the agency immediately at 1-800-829-1040.

"Taking a common-sense approach will help most taxpayers adequately prepare for Y2K," Rossotti said. "But the IRS stands ready to help if some taxpayers and businesses encounter Y2K tax problems beyond their control."

The computer Y2K problem is the result of past computer programming that expressed years with two digits, meaning that

uncorrected computers could interpret "2000" as "1900" and crash, or garble data.

After spending \$1.3 billion, the IRS itself is confident that its multitude of computers and systems is ready for the Y2K tax filing season.

In most cases, the IRS expects that individuals will have enough time to deal with any century-change dilemmas and still get their tax returns filed by the April 17 deadline. April 15 is a Saturday in 2000.

Businesses may encounter more pressing problems because they have more frequent tax dealings with the federal government and might be prevented from sending proper forms to workers on time.

The IRS recommends that individuals hold onto their final 1999 pay stub, which contains most year-end tax and income information, in case there are delays in getting a W-2 form from an employer. That at least allows taxpayers to get started on their returns.

FCC allows Bell Atlantic to offer long-distance

NEW YORK (AP) — In just a few days, Bell Atlantic will begin offering long-distance telephone service to New York residents following a landmark decision by federal regulators.

The company said it would offer long-distance service Jan. 5 in New York, where it now provides local service to 6.6 million households.

Approval of the plan by the Federal Communications Commission marks the first time since the court-ordered breakup of AT&T 15 years ago that consumers can get both local and long-distance service from one of the AT&T spinoffs.

"We are able to finally declare that the Berlin Wall of local phone monopoly in New York has been demolished and hauled away," FCC Chairman William E. Kennard said after Wednesday's unanimous decision. "The competitive future in local phone service is now on

the doorstep of every citizen in the state of New York."

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said the decision "puts New York in the forefront of the competitive telecommunications marketplace."

Industry analysts predicted New York would be just the beginning, guessing that other local phone companies around the country would use Bell Atlantic as a model for getting into the lucrative long-distance market.

"Our own view is you're probably going to have regional bell company entry in about a half a dozen states in 2000 and then another 10 to 20 in 2001, and more will peter in after that," said Blake Bath, an analyst with Lehman Brothers.

Bell Atlantic said it hopes to snag 25 percent of the residential and business customers in the New York long-distance market within five years with a

one-stop shopping plan that includes local, long-distance and wireless service.

It also said it will soon seek federal approval to offer long-distance service in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The FCC's action is a milestone in meeting the goals of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, a law that permitted cable television and local and long-distance phone companies to get into one another's businesses.

Under the law, a local Bell company had to show it had opened up its local monopoly to give rivals a chance to compete before it could offer long-distance. Others tried, but Bell Atlantic was the first to convince the FCC it met the requirements.

"We will hit this market in a big way," said Ivan Seidenberg, chairman and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, which

serves 13 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. "We're ready to go, and we can't wait to roll out Bell Atlantic long distance, not just in New York, but all across the Bell Atlantic region."

AT&T all but promised to appeal the FCC's decision in court, claiming the commission ignored evidence that Bell Atlantic gives its own orders priority over competitors.

"Today's decision short-changes the people of New York because it does not ensure that Bell Atlantic's local phone markets are truly open to competition," said Jim Cicconi, AT&T's chief legal counsel.

Consumers in Texas may be the next to get all of their phone services from the same company.

Earlier this month, Southwestern Bell got the backing of the Texas Public Utility Commission to offer long-distance service.

Pokemon rules but other toys are in short supply

NEW YORK (AP) — So you thought Pokemon games and cards were the only things flying off store shelves this Christmas?

Guess again. Game Boy Color video game players, Amazing Ally dolls and Millennium Barbies have joined the list of toys retailers can't seem to keep in stock.

Many parents are scrambling to find these goodies in time for Christmas. Some are going so far as to pay hefty premiums on auction Web sites such as eBay and Amazon.com.

"I don't know what I am going to do if we don't find it, but I'm not sure we will. I think we've looked everywhere," said Don Schumaker of Gettysburg, Pa., who has much of his extended family searching for a "Shop With Me" Barbie Cash Register for his 7-year-old daughter.

The panic has only worsened since Toysrus.com began e-mailing shoppers late Tuesday with awful news: Some customers may not get their orders by Christmas.

Toysrus.com said affected customers would be compensated for the inconvenience with \$100 coupons that can be used in their stores.

That may do little to soothe customers like Latrice Lyde, who is furious that the four games she ordered Dec. 6 for her 4-year-old daughter will not come to her New York home by Saturday.

"What am I going to say to my daughter?" she asked. "This is the first year she really believes in Santa and this is going to be so disappointing for her."

The last-minute search for substitute gifts won't be easy. Pokemon and many products tied to the Japanese cartoon — including video games and trading cards — are in short supply.

But there are also a number of lesser-known toys that are just as hard to find.

"Yes, Pokemon is very popular, but this isn't a one-hit season. There isn't one specific toy like a Furby or Tickle Me Elmo that everyone has to have," said Jim Silver, editor of The Toy Book, a New York-based trade publication. "I would say there are a dozen or so toys that people want but can't get."

The \$80 Game Boy Color, for instance, is scarce at stores nationwide. The manufacturer, Nintendo, said it ran out of the hand-held video-game players

weeks ago and most retailers have exhausted their supplies. Shoppers also can't find

Amazing Ally, a \$60 doll with a computer chip embedded inside.

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EDITORIAL

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

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

Charles C. Williams, Publisher; John A. Moseley, Sports Editor; Debbie Jensen, Features Editor; Bill McClellan, News Editor; John H. Walker, Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

THE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP and all local donors who adopted Salvation Army angels.

JOELLE FORD, Big Spring High School teacher, who was honored recently by her former student, Sarah Sanghavi, at the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science.

VOLUNTEER BIRDERS who helped with the 100th Winter Bird Count last weekend.

ALL THOSE WHO PUT SPARKLE AND SHINE IN THE SEASON, by creating beautiful light displays at their homes and businesses, especially those who were named winners in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce decorating contest.

HOWARD COLLEGE HEAD BASEBALL COACH BRIAN ROPER who will be missed when he leaves to take the head coach job at Blinn College in Brenham.

BIG SPRING JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS who collected 3,971 cans of food for the Salvation Army.

MITCHEM AND SONS WRECKER SERVICE, which will once again offer the tipsy wrecker service to prevent drunk driving incidents for the holidays.

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

OTHER VIEWS

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

Recently, as dozens of FBI and Mexican anti-drug agents worked side-by-side digging for graves, FBI Director Louis Freeh and Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo held a press conference on the joint effort on Mexican soil.

Although the probe is far from complete, authorities fear they have uncovered the mass graves of potentially scores of victims of Mexico's drug violence.

Mexico could continue sinking under a wave of drug-fueled violence, becoming every day more like Columbia, even though

Bogota finally has realized that working with the United States is far better than allowing the drug traffickers to take over.

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

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

The way out is to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans in waging war against the cartels. Our two nations cooperate on many other issues, why not on this?

Roswell (N.M.) Daily Record

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
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By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalker@xroadstx.com.
By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721
Our normal hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Our offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

'Pomp and circumstance' found behind bars

One is from Florida, serving time for murder. Says he didn't do it.

The other is from Snellville, Ga., locked up for making terroristic threats. Says flatly, "I deserve it."

Robert Kenneth Ross, 35, is called "Doc" by other inmates. Maybe it's because he studied nursing in Florida, or because he can wax philosophical about everything from the Great Depression to the gold standard.

Ross is compiling a book that he insists will prove the body they found in Lowndes County, Ga., wasn't that of the aunt he's accused of shooting to death.

William "Billy" Nelson, 23, is as contrite as Ross is smooth. Nelson's trouble started, he says, when he dropped out of high school and fell in with

bad kids. When he gets out, he wants to attend a two-year college, maybe move out to Arizona and work as a therapist in a drug-abuse program.

"My parents say they are proud of me," he says, "if you can imagine that with me in here."

Both men are well-spoken, intelligent and polite. Both have that jail-pale skin that makes their eyes look huge, like painted eyes on bisque.

Oh, and another thing these different types have in common. Both, eventually, will get out.

So both are part of an education effort at Coffee Correctional Facility. Ross is a teacher's aide. Nelson passed the GED and is about to complete a computer course. When I visit the prison, they are just two days away from a graduation ceremony — replete with caps, gowns and "Pomp and Circumstance" — that will recognize achievement the same way it's recognized outside. With decorum.

Each "graduate" can invite four guests. There's a speech by a salutatorian and a valedic-

torian. There's an invocation and a benediction. All this in the prison's Visitation Room, the place where good things occasionally happen.

A former high-school football coach and administrator, John DeLoach, heads the prison literacy program. "Coach," as the inmates call him, is a husky, hail-fellow-well-met who knows most of his charges by name. You can tell he used to coach, to motivate with a push-up and platitude.

Coach says there's not "all that much difference" in dealing with inmates and high-school kids.

"These men are older, have more foresight, more vision. And I have fewer disciplinary problems in here."

About half of the 1,000 prisoners choose to take part in the prison school. They take a test and are placed at the right-level to work toward getting the GED.

That behind them, they have options among vocational courses. They can learn about computers from Terry Douglas, horticulture from blueberry farmer Billy Douglas, carpentry from Jackie McLean, electrical wiring from Damon Powell.

William Hardy, who himself owns a successful commercial cleaning business, teaches inmates about that — how to figure square footage, how to bid a job. He gives a final exam that begins: "Congratulations! You are the new owner of Nicholls Home Cleaning Inc. Your first big job is to clean the floors on an old Victorian home ..."

"You'd be surprised at the talent you find in here," DeLoach says. We are looking at the prison greenhouse, state of the art, and at inmate-designed beds featuring ornamental cabbage.

Actually, I wasn't at all surprised at the talent inside. I have seen plenty of warehoused talent at Parchman, Angola and Atmore. Nearly every week I get letters from prisoners, many of them more literate than your run-of-the-mill reader correspondence.

What is surprising, always, is how smart men sometimes go bad just like dumb ones. How they send themselves to concrete vaults for years of dry storage.

And how we never hear about those who get out, go to work and quietly live out the rest of their lives.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



Materialism won't bring happiness

What do the Romans, Buddha and Jesus all have in common? They all recognized that materialism could not bring human happiness.

I don't remember any declensions or conjugations from my high-school Latin classes, but I do remember that the instructor said that Romans believed that a man could become a slave to his possessions. That is certainly true. The more stuff we have, the more resources we have to devote to maintaining and protecting it.

I discovered on my own that it is easier to curb one's desires than to increase one's income. Perhaps I got a boost from my father, whose favorite way of saying no to something I wanted was, "You're old enough for your wants not to hurt you."

Because he began saying that when I was a toddler, I'm not sure how young you have to be for your wants to hurt.

Jesus, of course, taught that material things were, if anything, an impediment to improvement of the soul. I believe that he said it was easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get through the gates of heaven. One can not

serve two masters, and one can't serve two desires that are mutually exclusive. Often being and getting are mutually exclusive.

It's said you can tell what people care about by what they buy, but I think a better indicator is how they spend their time. Time is an unrecognized treasure.

Money we can usually get more of, but time, once spent, is forever gone. Moreover, our store of time on Earth is limited. We don't know when it will run out, but we do know that it will, though most people try not to think about that.

The value of time, which is equivalent to life, was brought home to me by my green years on the cop beat. Almost everyone who gets killed starts the day out unaware that it's going to be his or her last. Those people are busy going about some routine task, thinking about the future, when suddenly up pops Death.

The Christmas season is a good time to think not about death but about life, how it is to be spent, and with whom. Certainly the greatest gift any parent can give a child is time. Children, perhaps because they are recent arrivals from heaven, instinctively know that time is more valuable than money or the stuff it buys.

Investment of time with people you love will yield a far better return than any investment of money. Nobody ever said on their deathbed, "Gee, I wish I had spent more time at the office."



CHARLEY REESE

ADDRESSES

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◆The first Christmas tree was probably of German origin, created by Boniface, an English missionary to Germany. The Christ tree replaced the pagan custom of a tree dedicated to the Norse god Odin.

QUICK TRIVIA

◆Since Christmas in Brazil falls in mid-summer, it is celebrated with fireworks, picnics and boating.

Got an item?

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

Sedentary life is major health risk

By DR. GUY OWEN
Columnist

The newest and possibly the most important risk factor identified for our number one killer, Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), is a sedentary lifestyle.

The "big three" causes of all deaths in the United States are tobacco use, poor diet and inactivity, and alcohol abuse. Nine of ten causes of death are related to lifestyle and common sense.

We are the major controllers of our destiny related to our health.

Looking at the fitness levels of the youth of America, we find that surveys taken during the past decade show us that the cardio-respiratory endurance and upper body strength of our youth is decreasing and that our current physical education programs are not promoting lifetime fitness and wellness adequately.

In a recent study by Dr. Ken Cooper, from his Aerobics Center in Dallas, he states that he is now finding coronary heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure, excessive body fat, and low fitness levels in 5 and 6 year old children.

We, as adults, have been poor examples of physical fitness for our youth. The average adult gains two pounds of excessive body fat while losing one pound of lean mass each year after our high school years. In other words, we have less muscles to carry a bigger load. The change has much more to do with less activity than too much of a caloric intake.

How inactive is a sedentary person? Our forefathers averaged working 10 hours per day behind a plow. This is the

Our forefathers averaged working 10 hours per day behind a plow. This is the equivalent to four miles of activity per hour or 35-40 miles per day.

equivalent to four miles of activity per hour or 35-40 miles per day. One mile is about 100 calories of activity. This equals a calorie burn of 3,500 to 4,000 calories per day.

We, as adults, currently average 15 minutes of exercise per week at a brisk walk pace, which equals 100 calories burned per week doing exercise. Our forefathers averages 20,000 plus calories burned doing physical activity per week versus our 100 calories.

If we will go from 100 calories of exercise per week to 2,000 calories, which is less than they did in one day, women of all ages can reduce their chances of coronary heart disease by six times and men by three times.

Begin slowly by trying to exercise at least 15-20 minutes per day or 100 calories and during the year 2000, move up to at least 20 miles per week or 2000 calories and maintain this level for a lifetime. Park your car farther from your office, walk the mountain, the high school track, the mall, or join one of our three fitness centers. Then you can move out of the ranks of the sedentary!

My next article will review the difference between physical activity and exercise. Best of luck for an active Y2K!

Guy Owen, Ph.D., Program Coordinator for Dora Roberts Wellness Center.

Family history found where you least expect

Some people search for years for proof of an ancestor's parent. When they finally find it, it is often in a place they least expected.

One case in point is this: A couple of years ago, I was looking through some indexes for soldiers that served in the Revolutionary War. I found there a William Harper. In the pension application of his wife, who had remarried to an Elijah Barrett, she stated she had married William Harper in 1792 in Georgia. After his death in 1811 in Louisiana, she then married Elijah Barrett. She applied for the pension in 1857.

She further stated that she was a Rawls, born in 1777, and that her father, James Rawls and her two brothers, Isaac and Shadrach Rawls, all fought in the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Steven A. Ralls of Virginia and Henry W. Rawls of Montgomery, Ala., have been trying to find out who was the father of the three brothers, James, Isaac and Shadrach Rawls.



BOBBY RAWLS

Steven Ralls is descended from the James Rawls who began to spell the name Ralls. Henry Rawls is descended from the Isaac Rawls Sr., who moved to Georgia. James went to Stewart County, Tenn., where he is listed on records as James Ralls Jr. A genealogist

there had stated he was a junior, however there were two James Ralls there about the same time.

The second was not related to his James, so it threw him off as to the father of his James. The second James Rawls is actually from my branch of the family.

The pension application of Sarah Rawls-Harper-Barrett cleared up the mystery for Steve and Henry. The location for Sarah Rawls was Louisiana, so the point here is, the information you seek might very well be in a place you don't expect.

I had started to order the pension myself because my family was in Louisiana in the time period Sarah Rawls Harper and family were there. Always check the records for siblings,

no matter where they end up; you never know where the documentation you are seeking is located.

I also recently found information on my family from the Alston line. Philip Alston Rawls was named after his mother's grandfather, Philip Alston. I found on the Internet his family, which also ties into my direct line.

By searching families that traveled with your family, you will likely find more information on yours.

Merry Christmas!
EDITOR'S NOTE: Bobby Rawls writes a weekly column on genealogy for the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, call the life! desk at 263-7331, ext. 236 and leave a message, or e-mail to: jwalker@crcom.net with "life!" section" in the subject line.

TV stars eat, too: So says new book

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television is not a balanced meal.

We, the viewers, sit in front of the tube crunching and slurping and ballooning into the approximate shape of our couches. The performers who are holding us in thrall leave all the calories for us.

Or so it seems. In most sitcom dinner scenes, for example, characters spend more time talking than eating, a sharp contrast to real family life. Only "The Simpsons" — with dad Homer happily stuffing his face and waistline gets it right.

Actresses and most actors are rail thin, even those playing characters who logically might carry a bit more heft. Consider chef Monica (Courteney Cox) on "Friends," who probably couldn't go two rounds with sturdy Julia Child.

But evidence exists that there is feasting in TV Land, and it comes from a convincing source: an actress whose cred-

its extend from "Father Knows Best," in which she played teen-age daughter Betty from 1954 to 1960, to "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

In "In the Kitchen with Elinor Donahue: Favorite Memories and Recipes from a Life in Hollywood," Donahue reveals that she and her colleagues consume pasta, cream sauces and even (gasp!) chocolate cake.

The words "nonfat" or "reduced calorie" are rare in this down-to-earth book (Cumberland House, Nashville, Tenn.)

The recipes collected from co-stars and Donahue's own files include, for example, the Blintz Casserole: Beat 1-1/2 cups sour cream, four eggs, 1/2 cup sugar and one teaspoon vanilla extract. Place two boxes of cheese blintzes in a casserole containing a quarter cube of melted butter and top with sour cream mixture. Drizzle another quarter cube of butter on top; bake for 55 minutes. Serve with

fruit. There's a favorite recipe of the late Robert Young, the wise dad in "Father Knows Best" and wiser physician in "Marcus Welby, M.D.," in which liver and onions are sauteed in bacon drippings.

Is this all a charade? What about the image of actors living on Evian and air?

"I think that's true today more than back then," Donahue said, referring to her early years in the business. "But when you really have your favorite recipe, it's something yummy, gooey, good — or something your mother made."

So stars are not so different from the rest of us? "Absolutely not," she replied firmly. "Actors tend to go for comfort food."

"I think my book is unique in the form it takes," she said. "It has 260 pictures, most never seen before. They're pictures taken on set, and not just publicity photos, of all kinds of people in the business."

Study says honesty not key to teen popularity

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Whether Pinocchio or a president, a liar can remain a pretty beloved figure. In fact, a new study suggests the best teen-age liars are often the most popular kids.

"Politicians have known for a very long time that telling people what they want to hear is a very good social tactic," said Robert Feldman, the University of Massachusetts psychologist who did the research.

The study in this month's Journal of Nonverbal Behavior bolsters a widespread view among researchers that lying is a social skill that can help a person get along. Other researchers looking at adults have made similar findings, but this study was said to be the first to focus on teens.

The study led by Feldman looked at the nonverbal behavior of 32 young people ages 11 to 16. They were first evaluated for their social skills from information on friends, interests, and school performance — yielding an assessment of their popularity.

They were then videotaped both lying and telling the truth about whether they liked a drink they were given. Then, 58 college students were asked to watch the videotapes and judge how much each teen-ager really liked the drink.

Possibly thanks to stronger nonverbal skills, girls were better at lying than boys. Nonverbal cues of lying can include a blank expression, blinking, little or excessive eye contact, shrugs, scratching or rubbing, and even dilated pupils in the eyes.

"Lying is in some ways a social skill," Feldman said. "If we were always totally honest with other people, we would get ourselves in lots of unpleasant situations. Nobody wants to hear that you don't like the gift they just gave you."

Psychologist Bella DePaulo of the University of Virginia, who studies lying, said the study doesn't indicate if better liars are apt to lie more often.

PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Make room in your garage. Celebrities are clearing out theirs.

A 1933 Ford hot rod owned by Nicolas Cage and the James Bond "Goldfinger" Mustang are among the show business vehicles up for bids Jan. 20-23 at the Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction.

The selection of rare cars available includes a 1957 Chrysler convertible and 1955 Ford Thunderbird owned by Richard Carpenter, half of the 1970s brother-sister singing duo.

There's also a 1991 Lamborghini Diablo custom built for late billionaire publisher Malcolm Forbes and the 1965 gold Mustang from "Goldfinger."

In total, more than 800 vehicles will be offered at the Barrett-Jackson auction, which is considered a barometer for collector car values at the start of each year.

LONDON (AP) — The pop group Pet Shop Boys will receive undisclosed libel damages Tuesday over an author's claim that they made only a minimal contribution to songs recorded in their name.

Neil Tennant and Chris

See PEOPLE, Page 6A

Healthy relationships built on tough love

QUESTION: In your book "Love Must Be Tough," you suggest some ways unmarried people can build healthy relationships and not smother each other.

Would you share those again and apply the "tough love" principle to those of us who are not married?

DR. DOBSON: The principles of loving toughness are the same for those who are single as for those who have been married for decades. There are circumstances, however, that are specific to the courtship period.

Let me cite 17 suggestions that will help you avoid the common pitfalls among those who are trying to win the heart of another.

1. Don't let a relationship move too fast in its infancy. The phrase "too hot not to cool down" has validity. Romantic affairs that begin in a frenzy frequently burn themselves out. Take it one step at a time.

2. Don't discuss your personal inadequacies and flaws in great detail when the relationship is new.

No matter how warm and accepting your friend may be, any great revelation of low self-esteem or embarrassing weaknesses can be fatal when interpersonal "valleys" occur. And they will occur.

3. Remember that respect precedes love. Build it stone upon stone.

4. Don't call too often on the phone or give the other person an opportunity to get tired of you.

5. Don't be too quick to reveal your desire to get married — or that you think you've just found Mr. Wonderful or Miss Marvelous. If your partner has not arrived at the same conclusion, you'll throw him or her into panic.

6. Most important: Relationships are constantly being "tested" by cautious lovers who like to nibble at the bait before swallowing the hook. This testing procedure takes many forms, but it usually involves pulling back from the other person to see what will happen. Perhaps a foolish fight is initiated. Maybe two weeks will pass without a phone call. Or sometimes flirtation occurs with a rival.

In each instance, the question being asked is, "How important

Most important: Relationships are constantly being "tested." ... Keep in mind that virtually every dating relationship that continues for a year or more and seems to be moving toward marriage will be given the ultimate test.



DR. JAMES DOBSON

am I to you, and what would you do if you lost me?" An even more basic issue lies below that one. It is: "How free am I to leave if I want to?" It is incredibly important in these instances to appear poised, secure and equally independent.

Do not grasp the other person and beg for mercy. Some people remain single throughout life because they cannot resist the temptation to grovel when the test occurs.

7. Extending the same concept, keep in mind that virtually every dating relationship that continues for a year or more and seems to be moving toward marriage will be given the ultimate test. A breakup will occur, motivated by only

one of the lovers.

The rejected individual should know that their future together depends on the skill with which he or she handles that crisis. If the hurting individual can remain calm, the next two steps may be reconciliation and marriage. It often happens that way. If not, then no amount of pleading will change anything.

8. Do not depend entirely upon each other for the satisfaction of every emotional need. Maintain interests and activities outside that romantic relationship, even after marriage.

9. Guard against selfishness in your love affair. Neither the man nor the woman should do all the giving. I once broke up with a girl because she let me take her to nice places, bring her flowers, buy her lunch, etc. I wanted to do these things but expected her to reciprocate in some way. She didn't.

There are eight more "Love Must Be Tough" principles to be discussed, and we'll take a look at them next week.

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

Slice of life!



Bobbi-Leigh Spiller, a senior at Coahoma High School, has been named area candidate for All-State Choir from Region II. She placed fifth chair in the soprano section, competing against students from Wichita Falls to San Angelo, including Abilene area. Bobbi-Leigh will compete again on Jan. 8 in Birdville for a position in the all-state mixed chorus or the new treble chorus. She is the daughter of Jan Spiller of Coahoma.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A MEMORIAL TREE FROM the American Cancer Society is set up at Merle Norman in Big Spring Mall. Donors can give a gift to the Big Spring Unit of ACS in memory or honor of a loved one. When the tree is removed, the ornament marking the gift will be sent to the person honored or the family of the person memorialized. Donations can be made through Dec. 25. Call Lucy Bonner at 263-6305. Memorials can also be mailed to P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring.

THE LAST WORD

More than kisses, letters mingle souls.
John Donne
Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost degree.
Ezra Pound
His words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.
Psalms 55:21

MEM!!
N! SHE SALLY AS ME!

PEOPLE

Continued from Page 5A

Lowe, who make up the group, had sued Roger Scruton, author of "An Intelligent Person's Guide to Modern Culture," and the book's publishers, Gerald Duckworth and Company Ltd.

The defendants' lawyer, Jane Phillips, said the book mistakenly suggested that there was compelling evidence that songs recorded by the Pet Shop Boys were almost entirely the work of sound engineers.

Ms. Phillips said that the allegations were baseless, and that her clients would pay Tennant and Lowe damages and reimburse them for their legal costs.

SPARKS, Md. (AP) — Tennis star Jennifer Capriati, who has bounced back after a drug arrest five years ago, has signed a multimillion-dollar endorsement deal with Fila U.S.A. Inc.

Capriati, 23, will compete wearing Fila tennis shoes and apparel, appear in Fila advertising and conduct tennis clinics for young players.

Capriati, a top-10 player as a teen-ager, went through drug rehabilitation after her arrest and has had a strong year. She is ranked 23rd on the Women's Tennis Association Tour.

"She's making a comeback, we're making a comeback," said Howe Burch, spokesman for Sparks-based Fila. "We see Jennifer as a metaphor for what we're doing as a company."

Fila's apparel sales fell 20 percent during the third quarter of 1999, and the company lost \$132.9 million last year.

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) Rare surfing medals awarded to Shaun Tomson were stolen from the former world champion's home.

Tomson, who moved from South Africa to California to escape the high crime rate, returned home after dinner Friday night to find intruders took \$50,000 worth of jewelry and surfing gold medals.

"I was going to pass the medals on to my son," the 44-year-old Tomson said. "This really hits us hard. These things were very precious to us."

The medals were given to Tomson by the South African government in 1975 and 1977.

He was once named top surfer in the world by Surfer Magazine, and was ranked among the top six professional surfers for nine straight years.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) A collection of watercolors attributed to Georgia O'Keeffe that had fetched millions of dollars is not the work of the world-famous painter, art experts say.

Experts from the National Gallery of Art in Washington deemed the collection inauthentic because the age of the paper on which the works were painted wasn't consistent with the dates attributed to the art.

The so-called Canyon Suite exhibit features 28 watercolors in all and is on display at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.

Four of the works were a gift to the museum from New York art dealer Gerald Peters. The other 24 had been sold by Peters to the museum's founder, R. Crosby Kemper Jr., for \$5.5 million.

Doubts about the works' authenticity have swirled since early November, when it became known that they were among 210 works omitted from a new catalog of the artist's complete works.

Kemper Museum director Dan Keegan said Monday that the museum had accepted the experts' findings.

"It's not the outcome we would have hoped for," he said, "but one we were prepared for, after having done our own research."

Schools, parents joining forces to fight against children's asthma

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Steward Perez, a wide-bodied ex-football player, remembers standing in the emergency room holding back tears. He gently cradled his 6-month-old son, Jacob, in an attempt to calm his rapid breathing. Jacob's panting and unsettling humming left his father at the mercy of anyone who could help.

"We took him to the emergency room with a temperature of about 104 degrees," Perez recalls. "He was breathing really fast, about 60 breaths per minute. He kept humming; it was so awkward. We were scared."

After numerous X-rays, breathing treatments and what seemed a "lifetime of waiting," little Jacob was diagnosed as having asthma.

"It was a really crazy time. We were like, 'What's going on?'" says Perez.

As the number of children with asthma grows, more parents are asking the same question. American Medical News reports that the number of Americans with asthma has increased 75 percent since 1980, with a 160 percent rise in children under the age of 5. One out of 10 children in the United States has asthma, and more than 28,000 children in San Antonio suffer from the chronic lung disorder.

At its onset, asthma restricts the passage of air in and out of the lungs. Muscles around the tubes of lungs squeeze shut and the walls of the airways become

irritated and inflamed. As mucus in the airways increases, air has a hard time getting through, resulting in wheezing, coughing or shortness of breath.

As unbearable as an attack can be for an adult, it can be even more traumatic for a child. Rebecca Gray, assistant regional director of the American Lung Association, says that the tubes in an adult's lungs are about the size of a pinky finger.

"Can you imagine how hard it is to breathe for a child with swollen tubes?" says Gray.

Unable to pinpoint the reason for the increase in asthma, Gray ventures it could be a combination of things.

"There could be more polluted areas. We also have a lot more indoor pets and synthetics like drapery and carpeting which house dust mites," says Gray. "Also, doctors are now able to diagnose asthma with improved techniques to spot the symptoms quicker."

The disorder can be kept under control with proper precautions. Daily medication is often prescribed. Jacob, now 4, is on preventive medication.

"Now we can tell when he is getting sick. We can tell with his coughs," says Perez. "As soon as he starts coughing or wheezing we start the treatments of albuterol (a dilating medication)."

Asthma also causes a lot of problems for kids in school. The American Lung Association reports that asthma is the leading cause of absenteeism in

schools.

More than 20 percent of missed school is due to asthma-related problems, says Candy Mallonee, assistant director of Health Services for the North East School District.

And many children in the Southwest School District are on daily medication for preventive care, says Melanie Matthews, nurse coordinator for the district.

"We have a higher number of children with asthma in the elementary schools than the secondary (schools)," says Matthews. "I am not sure, but they may be growing out of it by that age."

Bronchodilators, like albuterol, which open tubes in the lungs, are routinely prescribed to be taken before asthmatic students exercise.

Nine-year-old Francisco Javier Vasquez has had asthma since he was 9 months old. He plays soccer regularly and has learned to control his asthma so well that he has never had an attack during a game.

"When I am running, I smell the grass, and I start to not breathe right," says Vasquez. "I feel a little weak, so I sit down until I breathe a little better."

With the help of the American Lung Association, the Southwest School District brings teachers, coaches and principals together to teach the children how to use inhalers and peak-flow meters, instruments used to measure the amount of air flow in the airways.

THE RESPONSE WAS GREAT!
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Valor Telecommunications of Texas, LP, ("Valor"), formerly known as dba Texas Operating Co., LP, has entered into a contract with GTE Southwest Incorporated to purchase the following exchanges in Howard County: Forsan. On December 13, 1999, Valor filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") requesting approval of the acquisition and issuance of a certificate from the Commission to provide telephone service to the listed exchange(s). If approved, GTE will cease to be the local telephone service provider in this area and Valor will assume the responsibility of providing local exchange service in this area. The Valor application has been assigned Docket No. 21834. GTE's application to remove the exchange(s) from its certificate has been assigned Docket No. 21830. The Commission intends to investigate the acquisition and its impact on the public interest pursuant to Sections 14.101 and 54.051-54.054 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act.

Valor does not propose any increase in charges to customers in this application. If, in the future, the Company proposes a rate change, customers will be given notice at that time.

In addition, Valor seeks designation by the Commission as both an eligible telecommunications provider ("ETP") and as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") within the service area acquired from GTE, to permit it to receive state and federal universal service support. The Valor applications have been assigned Docket Nos. 21832 and 21833. GTE also seeks to remove the service area sold to Valor from the area in which it has been designated as an ETP and ETC. The GTE application has been assigned Docket No. 21831.

All of the applications and the proposed tariffs are available for inspection and copying at the Central Records Office of the Public Utility Commission of Texas in Austin, Texas. The Valor applications and tariffs are also available at the office of counsel, Brook Bennett Brown, McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, L.L.P., 919 Congress Avenue, 1300 Capitol Center, Austin, Texas 78701. The GTE applications are available for inspection at GTE's offices at 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas 78701.

Persons with questions regarding the Valor proceeding should contact Mike Page with Valor at (202) 466-0940. Persons with questions regarding the GTE proceeding should call Carl Erhart with GTE at (512) 477-8986. Persons who wish to intervene in either proceeding or comment on the action sought should identify the relevant docket number and contact the Public Utility Commission at Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas, 78711-3326, or you may call the Public Utility Commission office of Consumer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or, toll free, at (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones ("TTY") may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas at (800) 735-2989 to reach the Commission's toll free number (888) 782-8477. The deadline for intervention in these proceedings is February 22, 2000, and you must send a letter requesting intervention to the Commission which is received by that date.

AVISO PUBLICO

La Compañía de Telecomunicaciones Valor, LP, ("Valor"), antiguamente conocida como Texas Operating Co., LP, inició un contrato con la Compañía GTE Southwest Incorporated para comprar la siguiente central telefónica Forsan en el Condado de Howard. El 13 de Diciembre de 1999, la compañía Valor llenó una aplicación con la Comisión de Servicio Público de Texas ("La Comisión") solicitando la aprobación para la adquisición y la emisión de un certificado por parte de la Comisión, para proveer servicio telefónico a la(s) mencionada central telefónica. Si la solicitud es aprobada, GTE dejará de ser la proveedora local de servicio telefónico en esta área y la compañía Valor asumirá la responsabilidad de proveer servicio telefónico a través de esta central telefónica en este área. La aplicación de la compañía Valor le a sido asignado la Causa No. 21834. La aplicación de GTE para que la central telefónica sea eliminada de su certificado le a sido asignado la Causa No. 21830. La Comisión tiene la intención de investigar la adquisición y su impacto en el interés del público según lo establecido en la Sección 14.101 y 54.051-54.054 de la Ley Reguladora de Servicio Público.

En esta aplicación la compañía Valor no propone ningún aumento de precio para el público. Si en el futuro, la compañía propone un cambio de precio, se le notificará oportunamente a los clientes.

Adicionalmente, la Compañía Valor esta solicitando de la Comisión, la designación como una compañía elegible para proveer ("ETP") y transportar ("ETC") telecomunicaciones dentro del área de servicio adquirida de GTE, para que le permitan recibir servicio de soporte universal estatal y federal. Las aplicaciones de la compañía Valor les a sido asignada las Causas No. 21832 y 21833. GTE esta solicitando también la eliminación del área de servicio vendida a la compañía Valor del área que a sido designada como ETP y ETC. A la aplicación de GTE le a sido asignada la Causa No. 21831.

Todas las aplicaciones y las tarifas propuestas están disponibles para ser examinadas y copiadas en la Oficina del Registro Central de la Comisión de Servicio Público de Texas en Austin, Texas. Las aplicaciones de la compañía Valor y sus tarifas están disponibles también en las oficinas de los Abogados, Brook Bennett Brown, McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, L.L.P., en el 919 Congress Avenue, 1300 Capitol Center, Austin, Texas 78701. Las aplicaciones de GTE están disponibles para ser examinadas en las oficinas de GTE en el 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas 78701.

Las personas que tengan preguntas en relación al proceso que esta llevando a cabo la compañía Valor, deben de contactar al Sr. Mike Page en la compañía Valor por el teléfono (202) 466-0940. Las personas que tengan preguntas con respecto al proceso que GTE esta llevando a cabo deben de contactar al Sr. Carl Erhart en GTE al teléfono (512) 477-8986. Las personas que deseen intervenir en cualquiera de los dos procesos o quieran hacer comentarios en relación a las acciones solicitadas, deben de identificar en No. de la Causa apropiada y ponerse en contacto con la Comisión de Servicio Público de Texas en el P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas, 78711-3326 o pueden llamar a la Oficina Protección al Consumidor al teléfono (512) 936-7120 o llamar gratuitamente al (888) 782-8477. Las personas con problemas de audición-conversación que utilicen teléfonos con texto ("TTY"), pueden ponerse en contacto con la Comisión al teléfono (512) 936-7136 o pueden utilizar el Relay Texas al (800) 735-2989 para comunicarse con el número telefónico gratuito de la Comisión (800) 782-8477. La fecha de vencimiento para una intervención en esos procesos es el 22 de Febrero del 2000 y se requiere que usted envíe antes de esa fecha, una carta requiriendo una intervención ante la Comisión.

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Watch for a special Christmas Reader's Corner, coming Friday.

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SPORTS

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item or story idea for sports? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 233.

Page 1B
Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999

IN BRIEF

Coahoma Bulldogettes trip Permian by 52-42

Coahoma's Bulldogettes improved to 10-5 on the season with a 52-42 win over Class 5A Odessa Permian on Tuesday.

Kortney Kemper led the Bulldogettes with 22 points, followed by Karen Sterling's 16. Kenni Kay Buchanan added six points and Crystal Atkinson five for the victors.

Coahoma coach Danny Williams said his team was victorious despite putting a young team on the court.

"We had a young lineup," he said. "Both our post girls (Suzanna Wood and Jayci Roberts) did not play because of injuries."

Coahoma returns to action next Tuesday when they face Class 4A Amarillo Caprock at 3 p.m. in the Lubbock Caprock Classic.

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. 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.

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.

No special permits are required for harvesting antlerless deer, but both antlerless deer and bucks must be tagged with an appropriate tag from a valid hunting license.

TP&WD 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.

For more information, call McGinty at (915) 795-2238.

Rodman arrested for drunken driving

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Dennis Rodman, who has had a stormy few months since his NBA career ended abruptly, was booked Wednesday for investigation of drunken driving.

Rodman, who was driving a Bentley, was stopped for a traffic violation, a passenger not wearing a seat belt, police Sgt. Bob Ciszek said.

ON THE AIR

Television
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
6 p.m. — Michigan State at Kentucky, ESPN.
8 p.m. — North Carolina at Louisville, ESPN.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
6:30 p.m. — Colorado Avalanche at Buffalo Sabres, ESPN2.
7:30 p.m. — Dallas Stars at Chicago Blackhawks, Fox Sports Net.

UCLA comes up short against Colorado St. in Pearl Harbor play

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCLA came up just short of stopping Colorado State's upset bid.

John Ford made a free throw with 22 seconds left Wednesday night, and the Rams hung on to beat the No. 18 Bruins 55-54 in the Pearl Harbor Invitational.

"We didn't want to get into a running game with UCLA. They have so many weapons," Colorado State coach Ritchie McKay said.

"I felt like the lower the score, the greater our opportunity to win."

In other Top 25 games, No. 4 Cincinnati beat No. 21 Oklahoma 72-57; No. 7 Auburn topped Pepperdine 87-76; No. 9 Syracuse beat La Salle 68-52; No. 11 Tennessee downed Southern Illinois 87-74; No. 12 Kansas beat Princeton 82-67; Utah stopped No. 14 Texas 79-73; No. 16 Ohio State edged Toledo 64-61; No. 19 Temple defeated Penn State 66-51; and Tulane surprised No. 25 North Carolina State 73-62.

No. 4 Cincinnati 72, No. 21 Oklahoma 57
Kenyon Martin, slowed by

foul trouble in the first half, finished with 23 points as Cincinnati rebounded from its first loss of the season.

No. 7 Auburn 87, Pepperdine 76
At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Chris Porter scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half and Mamadou N'Diaye added 18 points and 10 rebounds as Auburn won the San Juan Shootout.

No. 9 Syracuse 68, La Salle 52
Ryan Blackwell had 14 points and 13 rebounds and Jason Hart

added 19 points for the Orangemen (8-0), who have yet to play a road game this season.

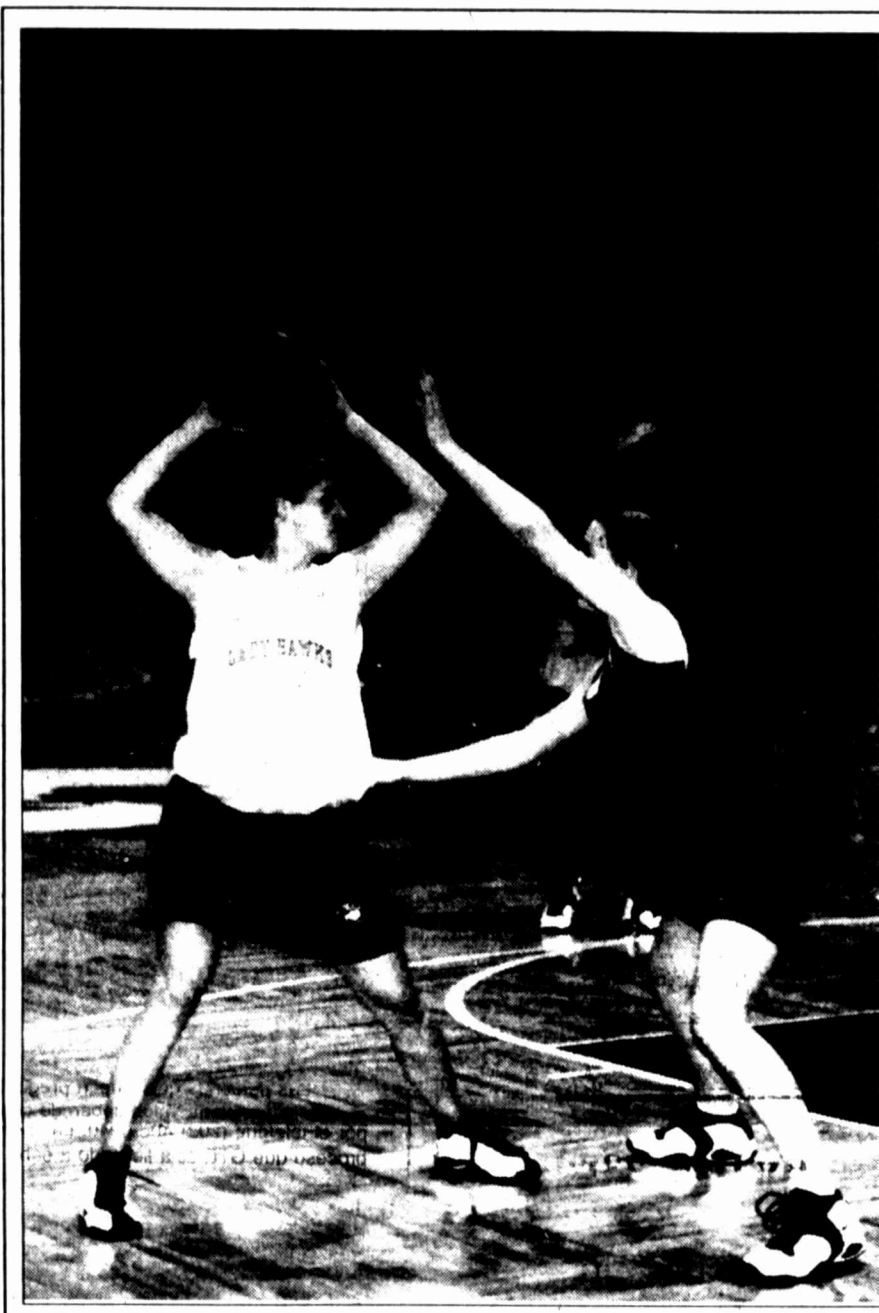
No. 11 Tennessee 87, S. Illinois 74
At Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Vincent Yarbrough and Tony Harris each had 21 points and Tennessee beat Southern Illinois in the semifinals of the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

No. 12 Kansas 82, Princeton 67
At Lawrence, Kan., Nick Bradford scored a season-high 17 points and Ashante Johnson added a career-high 16 for KU.

Utah 79, No. 14 Texas 73
Hanno Mottola scored a career-high 32 points, including a crucial 3-pointer, to lead host Utah to a victory over Texas.

Texas (6-3) closed to 65-62 on Chris Mihm's jumper, but Mottola answered with a 3-pointer with 1:55 to play.

No. 16 Ohio St. 64, Toledo 61
At Columbus, Ohio, Scoonie Penn made four free throws in the final two minutes and then sealed Ohio State's victory with a late steal.



Howard College Lady Hawks sophomore Caryn Ross (left) is guarded by Sweetwater freshman Vanessa Lehmann during a recent practice.

The Lady Hawks travel to Scottsdale, Ariz. next week to take part in the Scottsdale Classic — a tournament they have won the past two years.

Howard opens with Phoenix College on Wednesday, then faces perennial national power Central Arizona on Thursday before finishing against Glendale on Friday.

HERALD file photo

TCU Horned Frogs take second consecutive upset victory in post-season bowl game

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Texas Christian and East Carolina wanted to get the same thing out of the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl — a little momentum for next season.

Only TCU accomplished it, using Wednesday night's 28-14 win over the 20th-ranked Pirates to make a case for a spot in the final Top 25 poll.

"I hope it gives us some national respect and a little credibility," TCU coach Dennis Franchione said. "We beat a Top 20 team — and I think we beat them pretty convincingly. That gives us something to bring into next year."

It was the second consecutive bowl upset for TCU (8-4), which knocked off heavily favored Southern Cal in last year's Sun Bowl and East Carolina (10-4) was favored by six points.

It was the first time the Horned Frogs have won consecutive bowl games since winning three in a row from 1936-39.

The loss will probably knock East Carolina out of the Top 25, something coach Steve Logan wouldn't dwell on.

When asked if the loss ruined what otherwise would have been considered a great season, Logan just laughed.

"We're 9-3, so I guess this is just one of those 9-3 crappy old seasons," he said. Logan then ended his press conference.

"I'm tired, I'm going home."

For TCU, which leaves the Western Athletic Conference after next season for Conference USA, the win proved the school was ready for the move.

"Maybe we should go in next year," Franchione said. "But it feels good to know when we do go, we'll be going in on pretty good footing."

LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns to lead TCU.

TCU confused East Carolina early with its two-quarterback option attack and shut down the Pirates' running game, holding them to minus-16 yards.

East Carolina had tried to slow Tomlinson, whose 1,850 yards edged Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne for the NCAA Division I rushing title.

But TCU countered the effort

by alternating between quarterbacks Casey Printers and Patrick Batteaux, while making it impossible for the Pirates to adjust.

Early in the first quarter, Printers gained 7 yards on an option run to move TCU to the 2. Batteaux, a senior who runs the option better than Printers, came in on the next play and pitched the ball to Tomlinson, who ran in for the touchdown. That tied the game at 7-7, and TCU pulled away from there.

The trio set up another touchdown the same way in the second quarter. Printers threw a 9-yard pass to Tomlinson and Batteaux came in on the next play and gained 35 yards on an option keeper that put TCU at the 19.

Tomlinson carried on four plays, finally scoring from 3 yards with 51 seconds left in the half. It gave the Horned Frogs a 21-7 halftime lead.

"I knew they were keying on me, so the yards came hard," said Tomlinson, who TCU plans to promote for the Heisman Trophy next season. "At first, I could only get 8 yards here, 4 yards there, and they were tough. But they came and I'm happy with the outcome."

East Carolina had to go to the air in the second half.

It initially worked as David Garrard moved the Pirates down the field, setting up Jaimie Wilson's 13-yard touchdown run that made it 21-14 with 4:30 to play in the third quarter.

But Russell Garry later intercepted a pass from Garrard and returned it 32 yards for a touchdown to give TCU a 28-14 lead with 14:04 to play.

"They scored 21 and that's doable against our defense," Logan said. "But that interception put it away. It was a good throw, David did the right thing, but it was one of those things."

Printers, a freshman who started nine games after Batteaux went down with an injury, threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Mike Scarborough in the second quarter.

He finished 13-of-19 for 174 yards and ran for 24, earning the game's MVP award.

Potvin, Kariya celebrate Vancouver victory

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Vancouver Canucks unveiled their new goalie on Steve Kariya's birthday.

Felix Potvin, acquired Sunday in a trade with the New York Islanders, was brought out west to try and cure the Canucks' problems in goal.

Potvin made 31 saves Wednesday night and ended his own eight-game winless stretch (0-6-2) in Vancouver's 6-3 victory over the Washington Capitals.

Kariya celebrated his 22nd birthday with two goals to snap his 13-game scoring drought and give Potvin a win for the first time since Nov. 19.

The Canucks won for the first time in eight games and second in 14.

In other NHL games, it was New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 2; Detroit 4, Carolina 1; Atlanta 3, Florida 3; Phoenix 8, Anaheim 2; and San Jose 2, Los Angeles 1.

After giving up three goals on the first 12 shots he faced, including the first goal by James Black on a breakaway

1:17 into the game, Potvin settled down.

Kariya's performance ignited the Canucks' best offensive output in more than two months and snapped a string of 12 straight games in which Vancouver failed to score three or more goals in regulation.

Olaf Kolzig had his third straight poor performance, stopping only 17 Vancouver shots. Kolzig has given up 16 goals in 149 minutes of play.

The loss spoiled Capitals captain Adam Oates' night. He was playing in his 1,000th game.

Red Wings 4, Hurricanes 1
Brendan Shanahan scored a goal and assisted on another in the first period as Detroit defeated Carolina for its fifth win in six games.

Panthers 3, Thrashers 3
Andrew Brunette scored with 43 seconds left in regulation and Dean Sylvester tallied two goals as Atlanta rallied for a tie with Florida.

Atlanta snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Sylvester's second goal of the night at 7:38 pulled Atlanta to 3-

2, and Brunette's back-hander past Mikhail Shtalenkov tied it on the power play.

Devils 3, Flyers 2
Patrik Elias had two goals and an assist and New Jersey beat Philadelphia once again on the Devils' home ice.

Sharks 2, Kings 1
Owen Nolan's league-leading 26th goal midway through the second period lifted San Jose to a home victory over Los Angeles.

Coyotes 8, Mighty Ducks 2
Greg Adams scored twice in a five-goal third period by Phoenix, and Jyrki Lumme had three assists as the Coyotes ended Anaheim's four-game winning streak.

Shane Doan and Adams scored on the Coyotes' first two shots against relief goalie Dominic Roussel, who played the final period after Guy Hebert left with neck spasms.

Keith Tkachuk, Jeremy Roenick, Trevor Letowski and Mike Sullivan also had goals for the visitors. Stan Neckar, on his 24th birthday, capped the scoring with his first goal.

Ewing's shot returns in Knick of time for New York

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patrick Ewing found his shot just in the nick of time to help New York avoid a fourth-quarter collapse.

Ewing hit a turnaround 14-footer with 21.3 seconds left as the Knicks overcame Vince Carter and the Toronto Raptors 91-90 Wednesday night.

It was the biggest shot of the season for Ewing, who was playing in just his seventh game since recovering from a partially torn Achilles' tendon. He finished with eight points — just the 36th single-digit scoring night of his 984-game career — and eight rebounds.

"I can't remember," Ewing responded when asked when was the last time he had made such a clutch shot. "Last year because of the (injured) wrist I missed some, so it's good to hit one."

"My shot is back," he said.

The Knicks led 84-71 with 6:12 remaining before going scoreless for more than four minutes. The Raptors tied it at 86 on a jumper by Carter, setting up Ewing's game-winner.

"I've said it since he was hurt: We need Patrick if we're going to go all the way," Latrell Sprewell said.

In other NBA games, it was Miami 74, Utah 72; Boston 98, Atlanta 81; Orlando 103, Cleveland 97; Minnesota 106, Chicago 86; and L.A. Clippers 103, Golden State 99.

Carter scored a crowd-pleasing 36 points, the highest total by a Knicks opponent this season, and the Raptors had a chance to win after Sprewell missed two free throws — the second intentionally — with 2.9 seconds left.

Out of timeouts, the Raptors could only get a shot off from

midcourt — a heave by Doug Christie that barely missed.

It was the second straight tough home victory for the Knicks, who moved seven games above 500 and into contention with Miami, Charlotte and Indiana for the best record in the conference.

Sprewell scored 25 points, Allan Houston had 18 and John Wallace, playing against his former team for the first time, added 14.

Heat 74, Jazz 72
Alonzo Mourning had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks — including one in the final seconds — to lead host Miami.

Mourning blocked Bryon Russell's drive to basket with 13 seconds remaining, and John Stockton missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for Utah.

Celtics 98, Hawks 81
Boston said goodbye to its par-

quet floor at halftime, and Atlanta even before that, getting 24 points from Antoine Walker to snap a six-game losing streak.

The Celtics led by 14 points after one quarter, 18 after two, 24 after three and 87-59 early in the fourth.

The 81 points was Atlanta's lowest output of the season, and the loss was the Hawks' fourth in a row.

Magic 103, Cavaliers 97
Rookie Chuckie Atkins scored 22 points to lead Orlando to victory at Cleveland.

Atkins scored six points down the stretch as the Magic took advantage of an injury-depleted and turnover-plagued Cavaliers team to win their fourth straight game.

Cleveland, with only nine healthy players, committed 10 turnovers in the first 9:19 of the fourth quarter and lost its fifth

in a row.

Timberwolves 106, Bulls 86
Kevin Garnett provided the muscle inside and Malik Sealy and Terrell Brandon hit just about everything outside as Minnesota routed host Chicago.

It was the third win in a row for the Timberwolves, who started the month 0-8. Garnett led five Timberwolves in double figures with 22 points. He also had 13 rebounds.

Sealy had 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting, and Brandon added 16.

Clippers 103, Warriors 99
Tyrone Nesby scored a season-high 28 points and Lamar Odom added 22 and seven blocked shots for Los Angeles.

Eric Piatkowski also scored 22 for the Clippers, who ended a six-game losing streak on the road and won for the first time this season after trailing at half-time.

IN BRIEF

Coahoma Bulldogettes trip Permian by 52-42

Coahoma's Bulldogettes improved to 10-5 on the season with a 52-42 win over Class 5A Odessa Permian on Tuesday. Kortney Kemper led the Bulldogettes with 22 points, followed by Karen Sterling's 16. Kenni Kay Buchanan added six points and Crystal Atkinson five for the victors. Coahoma coach Danny Williams said his team was victorious despite putting a young team on the court.

"We had a young lineup," he said. "Both our post girls (Suzanna Wood and Jayci Roberts) did not play because of injuries."

Coahoma returns to action next Tuesday when they face Class 4A Amarillo Caprock at 3 p.m. in the Lubbock Caprock Classic.

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. 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.

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.

No special permits are required for harvesting antlerless deer, but both antlerless deer and bucks must be tagged with an appropriate tag from a valid hunting license.

TP&WD 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.

For more information, call McGinty at (915) 795-2238.

Rodman arrested for drunken driving

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Dennis Rodman, who has had a stormy few months since his NBA career ended abruptly, was booked Wednesday for investigation of drunken driving.

Rodman, who was driving a Bentley, was stopped for a traffic violation, a passenger not wearing a seat belt, police Sgt. Bob Ciszek said.

ON THE AIR

Television

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
6 p.m. — Michigan State at Kentucky, ESPN.
8 p.m. — North Carolina at Louisville, ESPN.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

6:30 p.m. — Colorado Avalanche at Buffalo Sabres, ESPN2.
7:30 p.m. — Dallas Stars at Chicago Blackhawks, Fox Sports Net.

UCLA comes up short against Colorado St. in Pearl Harbor play

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCLA came up just short of stopping Colorado State's upset bid.

John Ford made a free throw with 22 seconds left Wednesday night, and the Rams hung on to beat the No. 18 Bruins 55-54 in the Pearl Harbor Invitational.

"We didn't want to get into a running game with UCLA. They have so many weapons," Colorado State coach Ritchie McKay said.

"I felt like the lower the score, the greater our opportunity to

win."

In other Top 25 games, No. 4 Cincinnati beat No. 21 Oklahoma 72-57; No. 7 Auburn topped Pepperdine 87-76; No. 9 Syracuse beat La Salle 68-52; No. 11 Tennessee downed Southern Illinois 87-74; No. 12 Kansas beat Princeton 82-67; Utah stopped No. 14 Texas 79-73; No. 16 Ohio State edged Toledo 64-61; No. 19 Temple defeated Penn State 66-51; and Tulane surprised No. 25 North Carolina State 73-62.

No. 4 Cincinnati 72, No. 21 Oklahoma 57

Kenyon Martin, slowed by

foul trouble in the first half, finished with 23 points as Cincinnati rebounded from its first loss of the season.

No. 7 Auburn 87, Pepperdine 76

At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Chris Porter scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half and Mamadou N'Diaye added 18 points and 10 rebounds as Auburn won the San Juan Shootout.

No. 9 Syracuse 68, La Salle 52

Ryan Blackwell had 14 points and 13 rebounds and Jason Hart

added 19 points for the Orangemen (8-0), who have yet to play a road game this season.

No. 11 Tennessee 87, S. Illinois 74

At Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Vincent Yarbrough and Tony Harris each had 21 points and Tennessee beat Southern Illinois in the semifinals of the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

No. 12 Kansas 82, Princeton 67

At Lawrence, Kan., Nick Bradford scored a season-high 17 points and Ashante Johnson added a career-high 16 for KU.

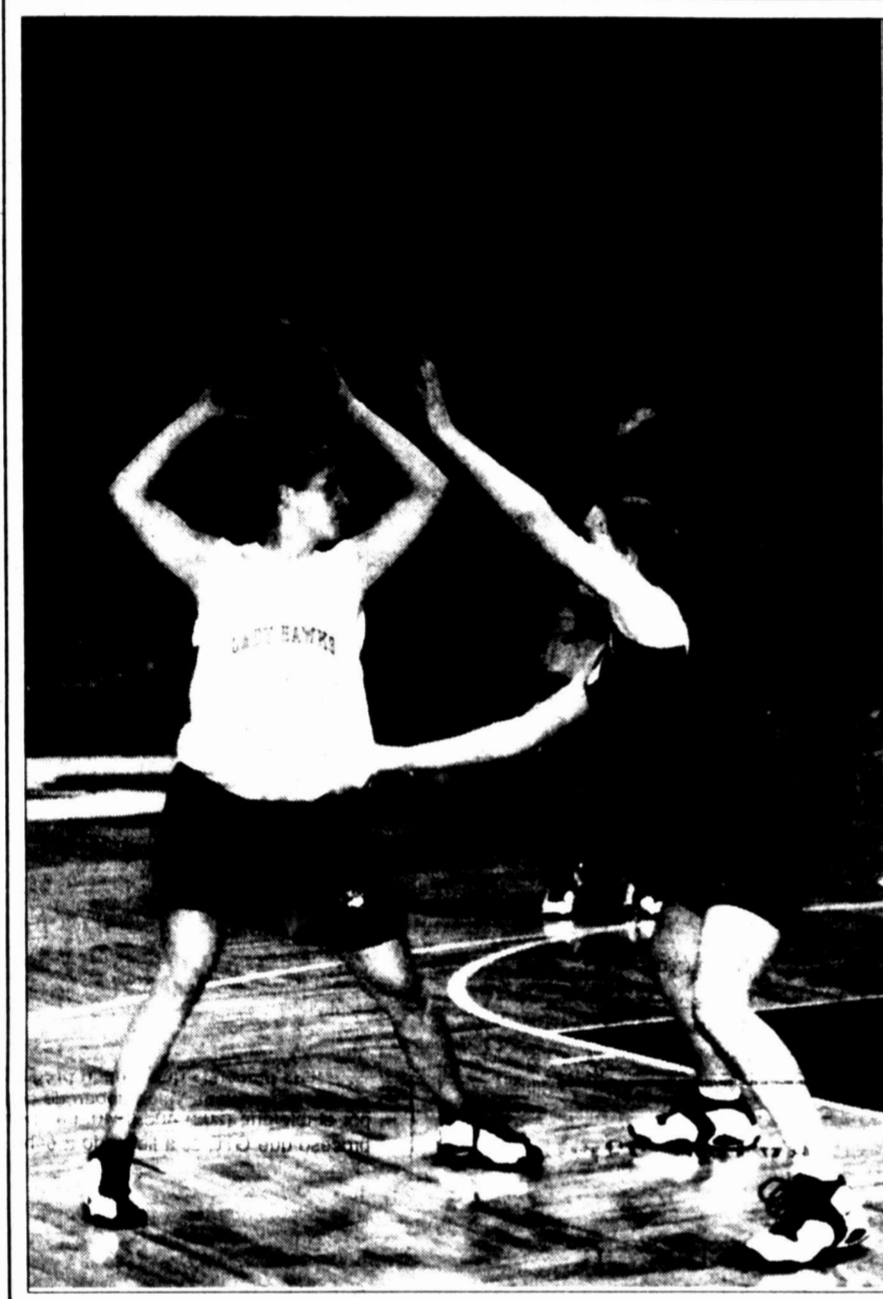
Utah 79, No. 14 Texas 73

Hanno Mottola scored a career-high 32 points, including a crucial 3-pointer, to lead host Utah to a victory over Texas.

Texas (6-3) closed to 65-62 on Chris Mihm's jumper, but Mottola answered with a 3-pointer with 1:55 to play.

No. 16 Ohio St. 64, Toledo 61

At Columbus, Ohio, Scoonie Penn made four free throws in the final two minutes and then sealed Ohio State's victory with a late steal.



Howard College Lady Hawks sophomore Cary Ross (left) is guard by Sweetwater freshman Vanessa Lehrmann during a recent practice.

The Lady Hawks travel to Scottsdale, Ariz. next week to take part in the Scottsdale Classic — a tournament they have won the past two years.

Howard opens with Phoenix College on Wednesday, then faces perennial national power Central Arizona on Thursday before finishing against Glendale on Friday.

HERALD file photo

TCU

Horned Frogs take second consecutive upset victory in post-season bowl game

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Texas Christian and East Carolina wanted to get the same thing out of the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl — a little momentum for next season.

Only TCU accomplished it, using Wednesday night's 28-14 win over the 20th-ranked Pirates to make a case for a spot in the final Top 25 poll.

"I hope it gives us some national respect and a little credibility," TCU coach Dennis Franchione said. "We beat a Top 20 team — and I think we beat them pretty convincingly. That gives us something to bring into next year."

It was the second consecutive bowl upset for TCU (8-4), which knocked off heavily favored Southern Cal in last year's Sun Bowl and East Carolina (10-4) was favored by six points.

It was the first time the Horned Frogs have won consecutive bowl games since winning three in a row from 1936-39.

The loss will probably knock East Carolina out of the Top 25, something coach Steve Logan wouldn't dwell on.

When asked if the loss ruined what otherwise would have been considered a great season, Logan just laughed.

"We're 9-3, so I guess this is just one of those 9-3 crappy old seasons," he said. Logan then ended his press conference.

"I'm tired, I'm going home." For TCU, which leaves the Western Athletic Conference after next season for Conference USA, the win proved the school was ready for the move.

"Maybe we should go in next year," Franchione said. "But it feels good to know when we do go, we'll be going in on pretty good footing."

LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns to lead TCU.

TCU confused East Carolina early with its two-quarterback option attack and shut down the Pirates' running game, holding them to minus-16 yards.

East Carolina had tried to slow Tomlinson, whose 1,850 yards edged Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne for the NCAA Division I rushing title.

But TCU countered the effort

by alternating between quarterbacks Casey Printers and Patrick Batteaux, while making it impossible for the Pirates to adjust.

Early in the first quarter, Printers gained 7 yards on an option run to move TCU to the 2. Batteaux, a senior who runs the option better than Printers, came in on the next play and pitched the ball to Tomlinson, who ran in for the touchdown. That tied the game at 7-7, and TCU pulled away from there.

The trio set up another touchdown the same way in the second quarter. Printers threw a 9-yard pass to Tomlinson and Batteaux came in on the next play and gained 35 yards on an option keeper that put TCU at the 19.

Tomlinson carried on four plays, finally scoring from 3 yards with 51 seconds left in the half. It gave the Horned Frogs a 21-7 halftime lead.

"I knew they were keying on me, so the yards came hard," said Tomlinson, who TCU plans to promote for the Heisman Trophy next season. "At first, I could only get 8 yards here, 4 yards there, and they were tough. But they came and I'm happy with the outcome."

East Carolina had to go to the air in the second half. It initially worked as David Garrard moved the Pirates down the field, setting up Jaimie Wilson's 13-yard touchdown run that made it 21-14 with 4:30 to play in the third quarter.

But Russell Garry later intercepted a pass from Garrard and returned it 32 yards for a touchdown to give TCU a 28-14 lead with 14:04 to play.

"They scored 21 and that's doable against our defense," Logan said. "But that interception put it away. It was a good throw, David did the right thing, but it was one of those things."

Printers, a freshman who started nine games after Batteaux went down with an injury, threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Mike Scarborough in the second quarter.

He finished 13-of-19 for 174 yards and ran for 24, earning the game's MVP award.

Potvin, Kariya celebrate Vancouver victory

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Vancouver Canucks unveiled their new goalie on Steve Kariya's birthday.

Felix Potvin, acquired Sunday in a trade with the New York Islanders, was brought out west to try and cure the Canucks' problems in goal.

Potvin made 31 saves Wednesday night and ended his own eight-game winless stretch (0-6-2) in Vancouver's 6-3 victory over the Washington Capitals.

Kariya celebrated his 22nd birthday with two goals to snap his 13-game scoring drought and give Potvin a win for the first time since Nov. 19.

The Canucks won for the first time in eight games and second in 14.

In other NHL games, it was New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 2; Detroit 4, Carolina 1; Atlanta 3, Florida 3; Phoenix 8, Anaheim 2; and San Jose 2, Los Angeles 1.

After giving up three goals on the first 12 shots he faced, including the first goal by James Black on a breakaway

1:17 into the game, Potvin settled down.

Kariya's performance ignited the Canucks' best offensive output in more than two months and snapped a string of 12 straight games in which Vancouver failed to score three or more goals in regulation.

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The loss spoiled Capitals captain Adam Oates' night. He was playing in his 1,000th game.

Red Wings 4, Hurricanes 1

Brendan Shanahan scored a goal and assisted on another in the first period as Detroit defeated Carolina for its fifth win in six games.

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Andrew Brunette scored with 43 seconds left in regulation and Dean Sylvester tallied two goals as Atlanta rallied for a tie with Florida.

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Magic 103, Cavaliers 97

Rookie Chucky Atkins scored 22 points to lead Orlando to victory at Cleveland.

Atkins scored six points down the stretch as the Magic took advantage of an injury-depleted and turnover-plagued Cavaliers team to win their fourth straight game.

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Timberwolves 106, Bulls 86

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It was the third win in a row for the Timberwolves, who started the month 0-8. Garnett led five Timberwolves in double figures with 22 points. He also had 13 rebounds.

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SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEAN EAST

Holy Cross 82, Northeastern 71
St. John's 98, Hofstra 86
St. Peter's 83, Monmouth, N.J. 77
Syracuse 68, La Salle 52
Temple 66, Penn St. 51
Villanova 77, S. Carolina St. 71

SOUTH

E. Kentucky 73, American U. 63
Florida St. 70, Vanderbilt 65
Clemson 71
Georgia Tech 80, Wofford 70
McNeese St. 68, Jackson St. 59
Stetson 67, Belmont 57
Tulane 73, N.C. State 62
W. Illinois 73, Florida Atlantic 53
William & Mary 89, Campbell 70

MIDWEST

Bowling Green 114, Urbana 52
Butler 66, Nevada 45
Hankston 79, Chicago St. 68
Indiana St. 89, Tennessee St. 62
Kansas 82, Princeton 67
Kansas St. 68, Old Dominion 64
Loyola, Ill. 79, Canisius 65
Nebraska 80, Oral Roberts 65
Notre Dame 75, Rider 62
Ohio St. 64, Toledo 61
Purdue 92, Cent. Michigan 61
SE Missouri 65, Bradley 60
St. Francis, Pa. 72, Youngstown St. 69
UMKC 70, SW Missouri St. 65
W. Michigan 101, Mansf. 78

SOUTHWEST

Alcorn St. 70, Texas Southern 67
Cincinnati 72, Oklahoma 57
Lamar 51, Rice 40
Southern U. 91, Prairie View 79
Texas-Pan American 68, Pacific 56
Wyoming 78, Denver 60

TOURNAMENTS

Coors Light Classic Championship
Fresno St. 105, Cornell 86
Third Place
Wagner 86, Norfolk St. 67
Pearl Harbor Classic
Colorado St. 55, UCLA 54
San Jose St. 71, South Florida 63
Consolation Bracket
BYU-Hawaii 92, The Citadel 78
Maine 83, Florida A&M 73

Consolation Bracket

Massachusetts 102, American U. P.R. 65
Sport Tours San Juan Shootout Championship
Auburn 87, Pepperdine 76
Third Place
Virginia Tech 59, Louisiana Larkins 56
Fifth Place
Illinois St. 87, Miami 78
Seventh Place
Detroit 92, Puerto Rico Mayaguez 41
The Tribune Holiday Classic Championship
Iowa St. 86, Texas A&M Corpus Christi 64
Third Place
Samford 86, Idaho St. 67

WOMEN

Florida St. 81, Albany, N.Y. 55
Boston College 80, La Salle 66
Cleveland St. 81, Niagara 78
Merrimack 58, Mass. Lowell 48
Seton Hall 65, Loyola, Md. 54
St. Peter's 83, Long Island U. 75
Vermont 76, Syracuse 56
York, N.Y. 68, NYC Tech 54

SOUTH

Auburn 79, Charleston Southern 31
Cent. Florida 75, Austin Peay 57
Grambling St. 85, Alabama A&M 50
James Madison 85, UMBC 67
LSU 63, Wake Forest 52
Radford 76, Robert Morris 73
South Carolina 100, S. Carolina St. 55
Southern Miss. 55, Va. Commonwealth 50
Vanderbilt 92, Fairfield 42

MIDWEST

Evansville 79, N. Illinois 58
Kentucky 68, Cincinnati 62
Kenyon 76, Mount Union 63
Missouri 91, Illinois St. 44
Oakland, Mich. 75, Cent. Michigan 61
Oregon 86, DePaul 82
Saint Louis 76, Hampton 66
Simpson, Iowa 93, Baldwin Wallace 78
Tennessee Tech 62, Indiana St. 55

SOUTHWEST

Alcorn St. 77, Texas Southern 61
SW Texas 68, Texas Pan American 66
Southern U. 69, Prairie View 68
Texas Tech 63, TCU 57
Tulsa 78, Oral Roberts 51

FAR WEST

Hawaii 70, Princeton 52
Nevada 60, Idaho St. 49
Portland 61, Montana St. 57
Utah 75, San Francisco 62
Willamette 77, Redlands 52

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named Syd Thrift vice president, baseball operations. Promoted Bill Stetko to director, public relations.
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with LHP Jeff Fassero on a one-year contract.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Jay Robertson special assistant to the general manager, professional player procurement, and Dom Chiti special assistant to the general manager, professional and advanced scouting. Agreed to terms with RHP Kane Davis, C Mabej Romero, C Kevin Tuite, INF Ryan Jones and RHP Ernie Delgado

on minor-league contracts.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Traded RHP Hideki Irabu to the Montreal Expos for RHP Jake Westbrook and two players to be named.
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with C Mike Figgins on a minor-league contract.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS—Traded LHP Dan Serafini to the San Diego Padres for OF Brandon Parnell.
COLORADO ROCKIES—Named Jim Fregosi Jr. major league scout.
FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Ricardo Bones on a minor-league contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Named John Cook general manager of Clearwater of the Florida State League. Promoted Lee McDaniel to assistant director of Florida operations.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with OF Thomas Howard on a one-year contract.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Acquired 1B Ryan Klesko, 2B Bret Boone and RHP Jason Shurt from the Atlanta Braves for 2B Quiroz Veras, 1B Wally Joyner and OF Reggie Sanders.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS—Activated F LaPhonso Ellis from the injured list. Waived F Brandon Williams.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Placed F Darnell Ferry on the injured list.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL—Fined Denver Broncos LB Bill Romanowski \$15,000 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Jacksonville Jaguars RB Fred Taylor. Suspended Cleveland Browns OT Orlando Brown indefinitely for showing a referee in a Dec. 19 game.
ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed QB Wally Richardson.
BALTIMORE RAVENS—Signed DT Marques Douglas. Released TE Lovett Purnell.
Signed DE Charles Preston to the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS—Placed WR Curtis Conway on injured reserve. Signed WR Salecio Sanford from the practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed DB Jason Kiser from Kansas City's practice squad. Waived WR Bryan Still.
DENVER BRONCOS—Signed OL Jason Watts to the practice squad. Waived DE Jonathan Brown.

DETROIT LIONS

Placed OT Ray Roberts and FB Brock Olivo on injured reserve. Signed FB Travis Reece and G Paul Janus. Signed LB Scott Field to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed DT Noel Scarlett to the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS—Waived K Jose Cortez. Signed TE Mark Thom to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Recalled G Tomas Vokoun from Milwaukee of the IHL. Assigned G Corey Hirsch to Milwaukee.
SAN JOSE SHARKS—Assigned G Evgeni Nabokov to Cleveland of the IHL.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Recalled C Glen Metropolit from Portland of the AHL.

St. Louis Rams, Tampa Bay Bucs land six starters on Pro Bowl team

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Having six players named Pro Bowl starters a year after the St. Louis Rams had to settle for one third alternate was almost too much to take for Dick Vermeil. The coach choked up, as he's known to do, relaying the news Wednesday that quarterback Kurt Warner, running back Marshall Faulk, offensive tackle Orlando Pace, wide receiver Isaac Bruce, defensive end Kevin Carter and cornerback Todd Lyght would represent the NFC West champions in the Feb. 6 game.

Their first four seasons in St. Louis, the Rams had only one Pro Bowler, Bruce in 1996. This time around, it's an embarrassment of riches, with six more Rams selected as alternates.

"I think we might rent a Rams yacht," said Lyght, a nine-year veteran who'll get his first free trip to Hawaii. Lyght is one of four Rams players honored for

the first time. It's another indication of the upheaval this year in the NFL, with the Rams (12-2), Colts (12-2) and Buccaneers (9-5) among the league's dominant teams. Warner, Steve Beuerlein of Carolina and Rich Gannon of Oakland made the Pro Bowl ahead of Brett Favre, Troy Aikman and Doug Flutie. "I guess the second half of life is the greater half," said Beuerlein, 34, selected for the first time in a 13-year career. Warner, a former Arena League and NFL Europe star, was left unprotected on the expansion list from which the Cleveland Browns assembled their roster. He became an instant success as a starter when Trent Green was lost with a knee injury in the preseason, and leads the league in passing with 36 touchdowns and a 111.1 rating.

"I dreamed about this back

when I was in the third grade," Warner said. "Obviously, it's going to go to certain people that are more in the limelight, but there's a lot of guys that are deserving on this team."

Last year, Pace was the only Rams player to get a mention. "That's the difference a year makes," Pace said.

Tampa Bay also has six players on the NFC squad, five of them starters, while Dallas, Detroit and Minnesota will send five players each.

The Bucs have a league-high four starters on defense: outside linebacker Derrick Brooks, inside linebacker Hardy Nickerson, tackle Warren Sapp and strong safety John Lynch. Fullback Mike Alstott will start on offense, and center Tony Mayberry is a reserve.

Jacksonville (13-1) landed seven players on the AFC team, five of them starters: wide receiver Jimmy Smith, offen-

sive tackle Tony Boselli, free safety Carnell Lake, defensive end Tony Brackens and outside linebacker Kevin Hardy. Quarterback Mark Brunell is a backup behind the Colts' Peyton Manning, and offensive tackle Leon Searcy also is a reserve.

The Colts lead the AFC with three offensive starters, with wide receiver Marvin Harrison, rookie running back Edgerrin James and Manning unanimous choices.

James and defensive end Jevon Kearse of the Titans were the only rookies to make the team. Kearse has a rookie record 13.5 sacks and James leads the AFC with 1,400 yards rushing and trails only Faulk in total yardage.

Five teams have no representatives, including the NFC's last three Super Bowl representatives, Atlanta and Green Bay. The other three are San Diego, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

POWER POINTS FOOTBALL CONTEST WINNER

WEEK NUMBER 15

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Lubbock ★ 136

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Robert Rodriguez

Big Spring ★ 120 Points

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FISHING REPORT

AUSTIN (AP) — Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Dec. 22. (Report also available on Web as www.txfishing.com.)

SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water clear; 64 degrees; Black bass are good on jugging spoons and slabs fished in 30 feet. Crappie are slow. White and striped bass are fair on slabs, shad and Little George's. Channel and blue catfish are fair on cut and prepared baits fished in 50 to 80 feet of water. Yellow catfish are slow on live perch.

CHOKE CANYON: Water fairly clear; 62 degrees; Black bass are good on grape Texas-rigged worms and spinnerbaits fished along the edges of the hydrilla. Crappie are fair on minnows fished over brush piles. White bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait fished in 7 to 8 feet off the south shore. Yellow catfish are slow.

PANHANDLE
BAYLOR: Little activity on the lake due to poor weather conditions.

GREENBELT: Water murky; 48 degrees; White bass and walleye are fair on slabs fished in 40 to 45 feet. Very few fishermen on the lake due to cold temperatures.

MACKENZIE: Few fishermen out due to poor weather conditions.

MEREDITH: Water stained; 48-52 degrees; Black bass are good on slabs. Crappie are slow on minnows. White bass are good on slabs (fish are suspended in 48 to 58 feet of water). Smallmouth bass are slow on minnows fished by the dam. Walleye are fair on minnows fished off the bottom by the dam.

PALO DURO: Water fairly clear; 56 degrees; Black bass are fair on minnows fished near the bridge in shallow water. Walleye are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shad fished in the channels.

WEST
ALAN HENRY: Water stained; 58 degrees; Black bass are fair on jig and pork combinations fished in the creek channels. All other fishing has been slow.

ARROWHEAD: Water clear; 60 degrees; Black bass are fair on orange and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows fished near the docks in 18 feet. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on large shiners fished at night on the south end of the lake.

BRADY: No report available.

COLORADO CITY: Water murky; 56-58 degrees; Black bass are fair to good on chrome Rat-L-Traps fished over the rocks. Redfish are fair trolling stickbaits. Few fishermen out due to cold temperatures.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 60 degrees; Black bass are slow. Blue catfish are good on shad and shiners fished on the west side of the lake in the shallows.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; Black bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and white marabou jugs fished in Sandy and Hubbard creeks in 8 to 12 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

KEMP: Water stained; 58 degrees; Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on white and chartreuse slabs fished in 30 to 45 feet.

NASWORTHY: No report available.

NOCONA: Water clear; 58-60 degrees; Black bass are fair on chrome jugging spoons fished in 15 to 25 feet and black/blue jugs fished in 10 to 18 feet. Crappie are good on jugs and jugging spoons fished in 15 to 30 feet. White bass and hybrid stripers are fair on chrome jugging spoons fished in 15 to 30 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

OAK CREEK: Water fairly clear; 59 degrees; Black bass are fair on minnows, spinner and buzzbaits fished in 5 to 15 feet. Crappie are slow on minnows and jugs. White bass are fair on minnows and jugs. Channel and blue catfish are slow on stinkbait and minnows fished in 10 to 20 feet.

OH. LIVE: Water clear; 62 degrees; Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits fished in 2 to 4 feet. White bass are fair to good on slabs and jugging spoons fished in the creek channels in 40 feet. Catfish are slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water fairly clear; 62 degrees; 7.5' low; Black bass are slow on jugs and crankbaits fished in 5 to 20 feet. Crappie are slow on minnows fished in 20 feet. White bass are slow on small jugs and minnows fished in 5 to 20 feet. Striped bass are fair on live shad fished in 30 to 40 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow on cut baits fished in 30 to 45 feet. Yellow catfish are slow on live perch fished in 20 to 30 feet.

SPENCE: Water stained; 60 degrees; Black bass are good on Texas-rigged worms fished off the bank. White bass are very good on slabs and minnows fished in 2 to 18 feet. Striped bass are good on cut baits fished in 12 to 16 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp fished in 4 to 12 feet.

STAMFORD: Water murky; 62 degrees; Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on nightcrawlers and minnows fished in 5 to 12 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

SWEETWATER: Water murky; 58-60 degrees; Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits fished in the shallows. Few people on the lake due to poor weather conditions.

TWIN BUTTES: Water stained; 62 degrees; 40 feet low; No fishing report due to extreme low lake level. Boats can be launched from Sailboat point but caution is advised on entire lake.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear; 58 degrees; Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits fished in 2 to 10 feet. Crappie are good on minnows fished around the docks in the evening and over brush piles during the day. Hybrid stripers are good on white jugs and slabs fished in 25 to 30 feet. Catfish are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water ultra clear; 60 degrees; 906.02'; Black and smallmouth bass are fair to good on Creme Killer Krawdads, 1/8 or 1/4oz. brown/black jugs with trailers and 3" white or chartreuse grubs on 1/4 oz. jigheads fished in the lower end. Crappie are slow on minnows scattered trolling shad-type crankbaits and 1/8 or 1/4oz. Horizon Perk Minnows from the midlake to Cranes Mill. Striped bass are fair on Golden Eye Creme Lil Fishies and bucktail jugs fished on lake points in the mid lake area. Channel and blue catfish are slow on cut or live baits. Yellow catfish to 21 pounds are fair on trotlines baited goldfish set upriver.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 58 degrees; Black bass are good on black 6" Power Worms fished in 2 to 10 feet. Crappie are slow. Hybrid stripers are good on slabs fished in 30 feet (follow the birds). Catfish are slow.

LAKE LBJ: Water stained; 60 degrees; 824.91'; Black bass are fair (but scattered due to weather) on Creme Screamer worms, 1/4oz. pumpkin jugs with trailers and 1/4oz. white spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and chartreuse tiny tubes fished under bridges and dock with bushpiles. White bass are fair but small trolling Spin Traps or vertically jugging Horizon Perk Minnows. Channel catfish are slow on live baits. Yellow catfish are fair on goldfish fished in deep holes.

Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

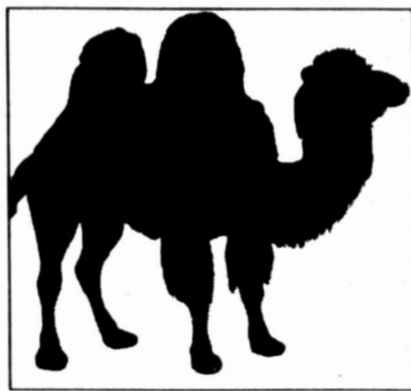
A Celebration of Creatures
Animals of Christmas

The camel



The Arabian camel has one hump. It is mainly found in the deserts of Asia and northern Africa. It is sometimes called a dromedary (DRAH-muh-dere-ee).

For thousands of years, camels have been important in Africa and Asia. They allowed people to explore the deserts of the world and to trade with faraway cities. Today, few people still use camels for transportation. They are raised for their milk, meat, wool, leather and for racing. Dried droppings are used for fuel. Camels are known for their bad habits. They often don't follow orders. They also bite, kick and spit!



The bactrian (BAK-tree-un) camel has two humps. It is found mainly in the rocky Asian deserts. It has longer hair than the Arabian camel.

When camels walk, two legs on the same side move forward at the same time. This makes riding a camel very rocky.

Camels store fat in their hump. When they get hungry, their hump shrinks. After they eat, the hump becomes firm.

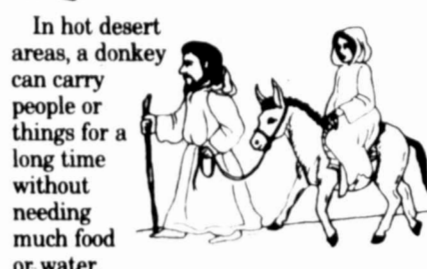
Camels are well-adapted for desert living. They can go without water for a long time because they don't sweat as much as other mammals. They also get moisture from the plants they eat. Camels have special parts on their bodies to help keep out the sand. These include:

- three eyelids and a double row of eyelashes.
- special muscles that enable them to close their nostrils.
- special hairs inside their ears.

The donkey



The donkey is a smaller relative of the horse. Small donkeys are called burros. A mule is a cross between a male donkey and a female horse.



The sheep



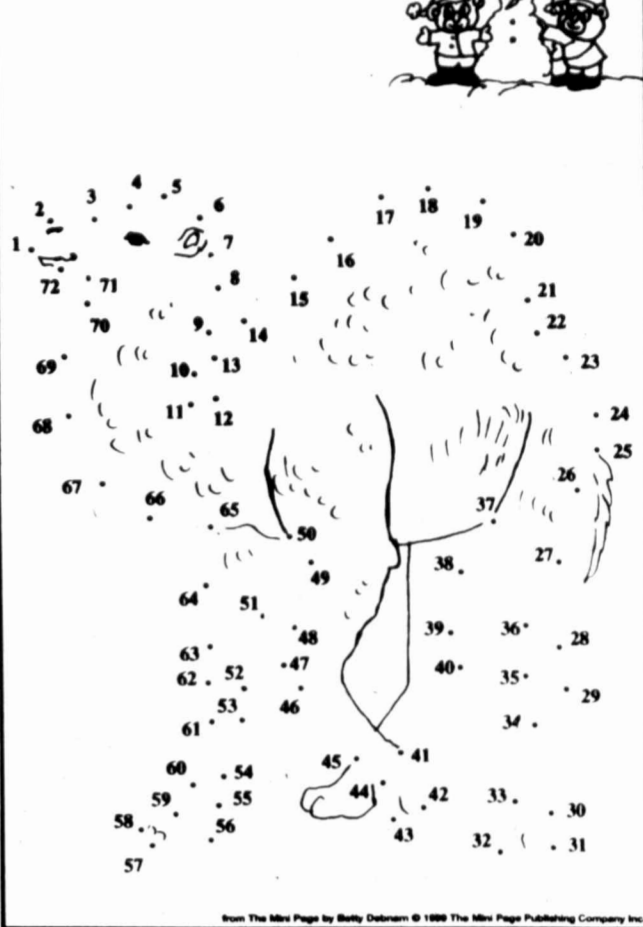
Sheep can do well in many climates. Often they are raised in dry, arid areas because they don't need a lot of water.



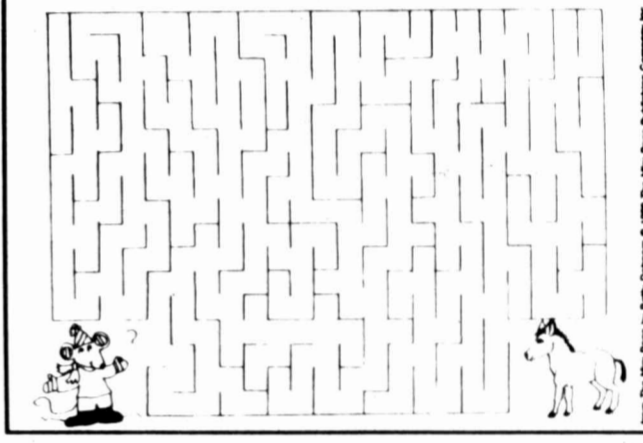
Shepherds throughout the world still watch over their flocks. For thousands of years, people have depended on sheep for food and clothing.

The Mini Page Map of the U.S.A. is a colorful 23-by-36-inch map that includes state capitals, state birds and state flowers. For your copy, send \$3 plus 76¢ postage and handling per copy to Mini Page Maps, Andrews McMeel Publishing, P.O. Box 419245, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.

Go dot to dot and color.



Help Alpha Mouse find the donkey. He wants to deliver a holiday treat!



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Merry Mix

You can serve this at a holiday party.
You'll need:

- 1 can mixed nuts
- 3 tablespoons sunflower seeds
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce
- 2 teaspoons seasoned salt
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder

What to do:

1. Place nuts and sunflower seeds in an 8-by-8-inch baking pan.
2. Combine remaining ingredients in a small bowl. Mix well.
3. Pour mixture in bowl over nuts and seeds. Toss to coat.
4. Bake in a preheated 250-degree oven for 45 minutes. Stir every 15 minutes. Makes about 2 cups.



Holiday Creature Care

Although this little dog looks cute, it would be unfair to give it as a holiday gift. So much is going on during the holidays that new pets often do not get the care they need at that time.

Say no to pets as gifts
Giving an animal as a gift is an especially bad idea during the busy holiday times, according to experts at the Humane Society of the United States.

There is so much commotion then that people would probably be too distracted to care for a new pet properly.

Also, there is a chemistry between an animal and a person. It is important that people pick out the animal that is right for them.

If you are giving an animal as a gift, it is much better to give a gift certificate. Then, when the time is right, the person can go to a shelter and pick out the right pet.

The Mini Page thanks Nancy Peterson, issues specialist at the Humane Society of the United States, for help with this story.

Look through your newspaper for pictures of animals. What kind of care do you think they would need?

Next week The Mini Page celebrates the millennium. Check out: www.minipage.com

Care for pets already there

During the holiday season there are extra dangers to pets. During this time it is important to take special care of the pets you already have.

Cats especially are very curious. They will investigate anything new. Be sure dangerous things are out of your house or out of their reach.

Remove glass ornaments and tinsel. It would be better to use ornaments made of different materials, such as satin or wood.

Cover the water under the Christmas tree. Pets should not be drinking it. Never put chemicals in the tree water. They might make the tree last longer, but could hurt your pets.

If you are using candles, be very careful to keep your pets away.

Some holiday plants, such as mistletoe, poinsettia and holly, are harmful to cats. It is better not to have them in your house.

Animals, like humans, need to watch what they eat during the holidays. A little extra turkey is fine, but ham could upset their stomachs. Never give your pets candy. Chocolate is especially bad.

Be sure your pets are safe inside on New Year's Eve. Loud noises and people celebrating could scare or hurt animals.

Adopt an animal

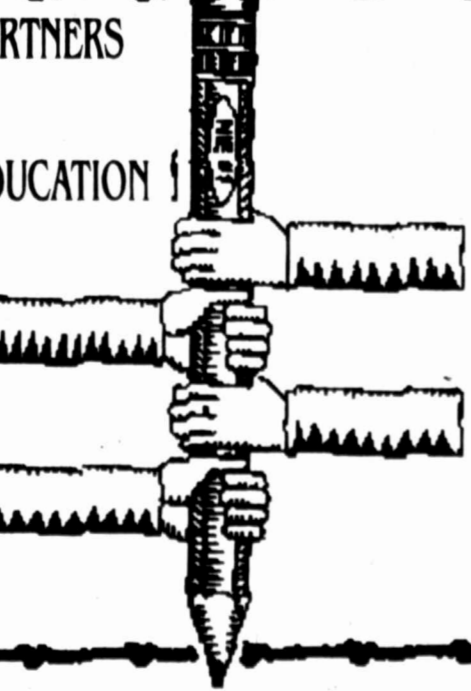
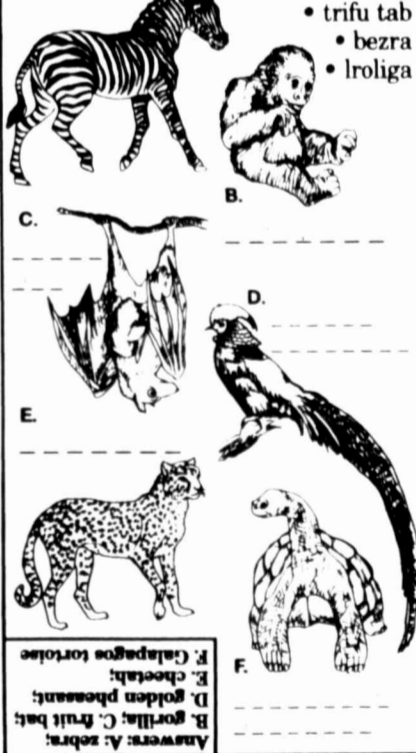


Many caring people celebrate the holiday season by making a contribution to a worthy cause.

At many zoos you can "adopt" an animal, helping to pay for its care. Although all animals stay at the zoos, the "adoptive parents" receive pictures and other benefits.

Here are some of the animals you can adopt at zoos around the country. Unscramble the letters to spell out the name of the animal. Then match the name to the correct picture.

- pgoaslaag tsotroei
- ledgon saaehtnp
- hbeeact
- trifu tab
- bezra
- Iroliga



Tomorrow's workforce is in today's classrooms.

The Mini Page
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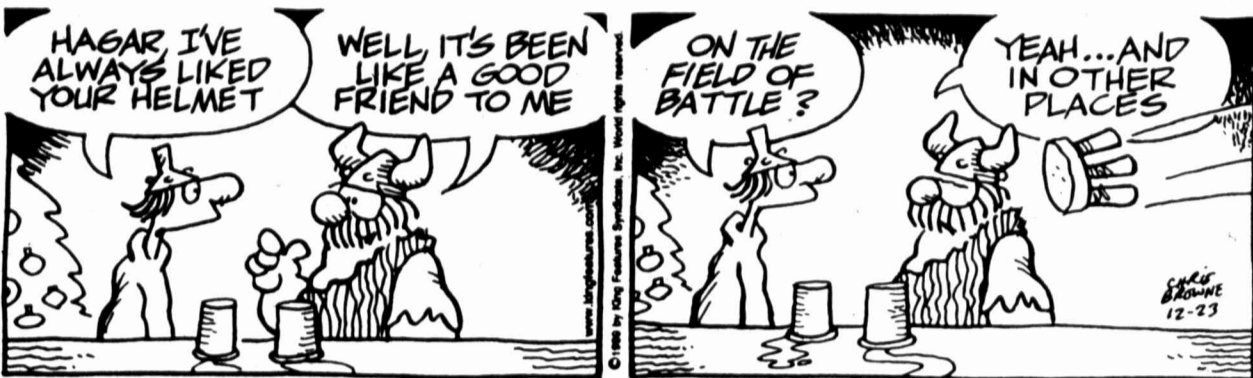
- Fina Refinery
- Partee Enterprises
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center

THURSDAY

DEC. 23

Table with 24 columns (KMYD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, USA, SCIFI, LIFE, TLC) and 6 rows (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various TV programs and their channels.

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B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



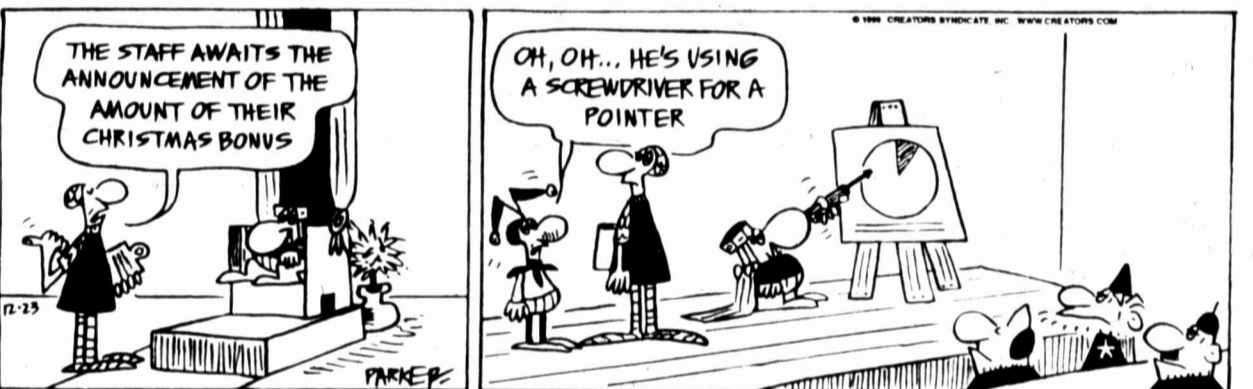
DENNIS THE MENACE



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WIZARD OF ID



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GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 1999. There are

eight days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 23, 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Hansel und Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany. On this date:

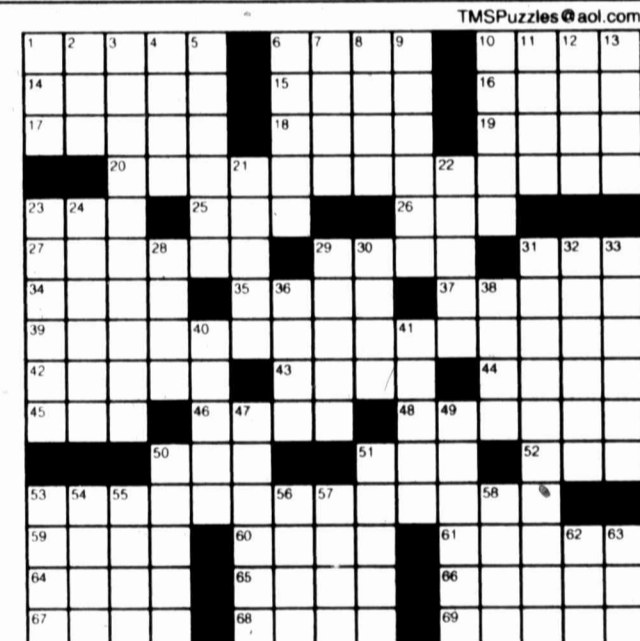
In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va. In 1823, the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement C. Moore was published in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel. In 1928, the National Broadcasting Co. set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network. In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese. In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo. In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after their capture. In 1980, a state funeral was held in Moscow for former Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, who had died Dec. 18 at age 76. In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first nonstop, round-the-world flight without refueling as it landed safely at Edwards Air Force Base in California. In 1995, a fire in Dabwali, India, killed 540 people, including 170 children, during a year-end party near the children's school. In 1997, a jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder. Ten years ago: Ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were captured as they were attempting to flee their country. Five years ago: Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government agreed to a week-long truce beginning the next day as they worked on details of a four-month cease-fire. Professional baseball owners imposed a salary cap fiercely opposed by players. One year ago: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat freed Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin from house arrest, a move denounced by Israel. Lebanese guerrillas attacked Israel's northern border with rockets, in retaliation for an Israeli air raid a day earlier.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" writer
6 Be a Good Samaritan
10 Counterfeit
14 Declares
15 Hebrew month
16 Roll-call call
17 Station
18 Wendy's dog
19 Actress Moran
20 Star of Evan Esar quote
23 Layer
25 Toledo aunt
26 Down the dumplings
27 Like an NBA backboard?
29 Type of insurance
31 Toque or tam
34 Fencer's foil
35 List ender
37 Wide-receiver Don
39 Part 2 of quote
42 Sen. Kefauver
43 One on one's side
44 Former Yugoslavian dictator
45 Moines
46 Irritated
48 Island, NY
50 Still
51 In favor of
52 Madison Ave. offerings
53 End of quote
59 Conception
60 Rara
61 Pot sweeteners
64 Bring up
65 Destitution
66 River's end, often
67 Goofs up
68 Pub potables
69 Authority

- 1 Possessed
2 "Mafia"
3 Debt reducers
4 Illium
5 What we will?



By Alan P. Olchwang Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



- 6 Barbera's partner
7 Ball-shaped cheese
8 Actress Turner
9 Orison
10 Ream component
11 Parsley or sage
12 Callas number
13 Darn it?
21 More extensive
22 Disney deer
23 College course, in brief
24 Enzyme that breaks down fats
28 Word on the wall
29 Up-for-bids location
30 Hebrew month
31 Reluctantly
32 Slackened
33 Mortise mates
36 Russian autocrat
38 Kait of the comics
40 Double curves
41 Actress Cicely
47 Canada capital
49 Threesomes
50 Decade divisions
51 Puglist's weapons
53 Engage
54 Baltic feeder
55 Approach
56 Cricket pitch
57 Yearn
58 SSS classification
62 "Star Trek" extras
63 Paulo

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information: 915-263-7331, 915-263-7335, (Main Switchboard), (Circulation Calls Only), (Fax) 915-264-7205. Lists staff members: Chuck Williams, John H. Walker, Edwin Vela, Mark Sheedy, Tony Hernandez, Dianne Marquez. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Today's Birthdays: Photographer Yousuf Karsh is 91. Actor James Gregory is 88. Actor Gerald S. O'Loughlin is 78. Emperor Akihito of Japan is 66. Actor Frederic Forrest is 63. Actor James Stacy is 63.