

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

**FRIDAY**  
December 24, 1999

Today:



**PARTLY CLOUDY**  
TODAY 50°-55°  
TONIGHT 25°-30°

## Tipsy Wrecker Service available for safe holiday

Big Spring citizens who find themselves a little too consumed with the holiday spirit tonight or on New Year's Eve don't have any reason to get out on the road and drive home.

Mitchem and Sons, Inc. wrecker service will continue its tradition of providing the "Tipsy Wrecker Service."

Big Spring residents who have been drinking can call the wrecker service and someone will pick them and their vehicle up and take them home.

Hours for the "Tipsy Wrecker Service" are from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. tonight and again on New Year's Eve. The number to call if you need a ride home is 267-3747.

## WHAT'S UP...

**TODAY**  
Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

**MONDAY**  
Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third.

**TUESDAY**  
Intermediate line dance classes, 9 a.m. Senior Citizens Center.  
Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room  
Quarterback Club, 7 p.m., Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

## INSIDE TODAY...

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Santa's sleigh is pulled by eight Zambonis.



shopping day '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.

## Unichem employees give up gift swapping to spread holiday cheer

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
Staff Writer

Christmas became a little brighter for a local family, thanks to the kindness of the 20 or so employees of Unichem, an oil field production chemical company.



CAMPBELL

"We've had a good year at Unichem, even with the tough times in the oil field, and we wanted to share that with a family in Big Spring. This was a lot of fun, we really had fun doing this, and it gave all of us such a blessing," said Jim Campbell, an account representative with Unichem.

Campbell said at an employee Christmas party, the decision was made to adopt a family instead of buying each other gifts. That decision prompted a tele-

phone call to the Salvation Army, who gave Campbell the specifics on a family in need of Christmas assistance.

"We thought instead of the usual gift exchange, we would choose to do this instead. We decided we really didn't need those white elephant-type gifts, although those are wonderful. Instead, we chose to do something like this," he said.

Campbell, along with Norma Reagan, another

See **CHEER**, Page 2A



Jim Campbell and his wife Sammie brought Christmas gifts to a family adopted for the holiday by employees at Unichem, a division of BJ Services. Toys, clothes and food for the family.

HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

## Santa's got his list; ready for a big night

LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

Santa stayed busy at the Big Spring Mall the past few days, listening to children whisper their wish lists before he makes his famous flight this evening.

"We are averaging between 60 and 100 kids during a five-hour period," said Santa Claus.

"I mostly enjoy the little kids' smiles and the fascination in their eyes," he said. "I like to give the little ones that chance to believe."

"Last year, I had one little girl ask me if I was a real man," he said.

"I pulled my sleeve back so she could see my skin, and then she yelled to her mother 'he is a real man!'"

So what are the kids asking from Santa this year? According to St Nick, Pokemon and Power Rangers are the most frequently asked for toys.

"I have some kids who ask for new cars, but I tell them I only deal with toys."

According to Santa, some of the older kids see the cars displayed in the mall and ask for them.

"I tell them, 'Santa wants that too,'" he said.

Santa has had some interesting experiences since he began asking kids what they want for Christmas, including one little



Santa Claus got a visit from four special girls this Christmas season. Victoria, Madison, Sheridan, and Noelle McDowell sat on St. Nick's knee at the Big Spring Mall.

girl who asked him for a live bunny.

"One time, I had a child on my lap, and we were posing for the picture. 'Once the picture was taken, the child said 'you can put me down now.'"

Santa deals with apprehensive children who are not quite

sure of the man in the red suit.

"I try to talk with the children, but parents should not to force their child to sit on Santa's lap," he said.

He enjoys the pleasure from the kids, and the part he can play in helping keep their faith in him.

"One year, I noticed a little girl who was sitting apart from the others," he said. "She had a cold and did not want to give it to Santa."

"I told her a hug would not give Santa a cold. She gave me a hug, and she was happy as she could be."

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

## Needy families receive joy from Cedar Hill Unit

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
Staff Writer



Celestino Correa, facility maintenance manager at the Cedar Hill Unit, and Raymond Chavez, assistant, display some of the gifts which employees gave to adopted families this season.

Employees at the Cedar Hill Unit of Cornell Corrections played Santa Claus for two local families this year with a fundraiser that gathered more than \$400.

"We have a Christmas project every year, and this year, with the help of some local businesses, we were able to adopt a family," said Billie Rodriguez, warden's secretary for the Cedar Hill Unit.

Dominguez, along with Capt. Cruz Sanchez, coordinated efforts that brought nearly all the 93 employees of the unit together for a unified project.

Once the decision was made to adopt a family, Dominguez

said she contacted Andre Clark, principal of Bauer Magnet School, and Clark approached her teachers with the project.

"We told her we wanted a family who was truly needy, and she and her teachers talked it over and selected a family with seven children," Dominguez said.

The children range in ages from 14 years down to 3 months, she said.

"And the inmates here made a rocking horse out of scrap lumber for the littlest in the family," she said.

Along with the employee fundraiser, Cedar Hill employees also sponsored Santa Claus at the Party After the Parade in

See **JOY**, Page 2A

## City of Big Spring eyeing Year 2000

*Editor's Note: The following is the third in a series of articles explaining how local entities are preparing for Y2K. Coming Sunday — how local health care organizations are addressing the problem.*

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**  
News Editor



The City of Big Spring has tested and retested its systems to make sure everything goes smoothly when the clock changes to the new year, but if there is a glitch, officials still plan to be ready for it.

"If we've got electricity, I feel we will be in good shape," said City Secretary Tom Ferguson, who is spearheading the readi-

ness for Y2K.

"We started off about a year and a half ago and got our data processing people to go through our mainframe with the software company. We found that a lot of our software was not Y2K compliant, so we had the software company come in and make updates. Now, everything has tested out fine," Ferguson said.

Just in case, though, city

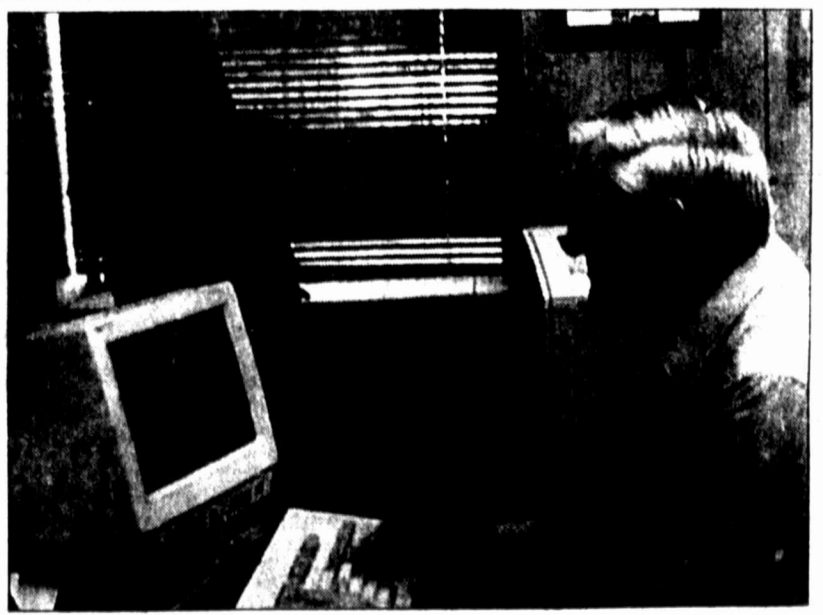
employees will be running out hardcopy of all billing and payroll information.

"This way, if anything goes wrong, we'll be able to handle billing and take care of our employees," Ferguson said.

Earlier this year, the city also sent 1,250 letters to vendors and suppliers, asking them to make sure they will be Y2K compliant so that the city can continue receiving the supplies it needs.

The city water plant can be operated manually, so assuming electricity is available, no problems are anticipated there. However, as a precaution, all reservoirs will be pre-caulked by Dec.

See **Y2K**, Page 2A



Everything is in good shape for the police department; all computers are Y2K compliant, according to Big Spring City Secretary Tom Ferguson.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

## WWII

### Local VFW to assist in funding for a memorial

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**  
Features Editor

A nationwide effort to build a memorial for veterans of World War II is under way, and a local organization has plans to help.

Nationally, the Veterans of Foreign Wars group is matching at 50 percent all contributions made through them for the memorial fundraising drive. Locally, gifts can be sent to VFW Post 2013 at P.O. Box 1921.

"We will match \$1 for every \$2 contributed through the organization," explained Leo Welch, post commander of the local VFW and a veteran of WWII. "This is a good way people can help us build that memorial, and make their money count."

The final goal of the project is \$7.5 million to build the memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Some large corporations such as Wal-Mart are assisting with publicity campaigns and gifts.

Architect Friedrich St Florian, whose design was chosen from more than 400 submitted, plans a memorial with a sunken, circular plaza in the center. On all sides of the plaza are pillars representing the states of the union during the war.

Information from the VFW says the pillars "are positioned to symbolize the independence of each state, yet in their togetherness, they represent the unity of the nation during WWII."

Veterans can also be honored on the Registry of Remembrances, a permanent

See **VFW**, Page 2A

AUSTI Family Andrew family wants fo His Elizabeth handy li can shog day wish The At thousand online th greetings: more, a released Compute "We ju (Interne) brating natural. online. A nected s way to st Shelli H "I thi Hill said some Ch and they Interne

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witl ATHEN woman is East Texa days and was smas brick on a Nicole F family's Monday a New Yorl about a attacked i "We're c er after C of us," A friend, to Review. The sev group of g in high s touch thro attended Communi together, for the co been Stir Athens Hi The gro holiday re newspaper pall of tra reunion a attacked c an appar slammed as she w temp agn Days lai Drake, 34, ond-degre the case. l his girlfri the incid said. Two br Ms. Barre parents ar itation th Sharon Ba She has hopes to r once her which co many prec "Everyb Mrs. Barr never exp However signs of ir Barrett headaches

OBITUARIES

Dr. Hank Thompson

Dr. Hank Thompson, 70, Big Spring, passed away at 3:07 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999, at Midland Memorial Hospital, Midland, following a sudden illness. Services are 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 1999, at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Wilson, associate pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Graveside services are 2 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at Garrett Hall immediately following the service. He was born on Nov. 16, 1929, in Halfway, Ore., and was the son of Earl and Billee Keyes Thompson. He married Betty Jo Greener on Feb. 9, 1952, in El Paso. Dr. Thompson was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as a forward observer in the Army Artillery. He was a commissioned officer and received the bronze star. In 1951, he graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Science in Range Management. He graduated from Colorado State University with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1967. Dr. Thompson began his profession as a veterinarian in Claredon, in 1967. In 1968, he moved to Big Spring and purchased the veterinary clinic from Dr. Howard Schwarzenbach and established Western Hills Animal Clinic. He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Bovine Practitioners and Texas General Practitioners. He was a long time member of the Big Spring Rodeo Cowboy Reunion. Dr. Thompson was awarded Man of the Year by the Texas Agriculture Association, and received the Upjohn Award for proficiency in large animal medicine at Colorado State University. He is survived by: his wife, Betty Jo Thompson of Big Spring; two daughters, Nancy Thompson of San Francisco, and Terri Chustz and her husband Tony of Midlothian; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Patti Thompson of Longview, and Tom and Karla Thompson of San Angelo; four grandsons, Jason and Zachary Chustz and Collin and Trent Thompson; one sister, Sandi Shore of La Grande, Ore.; two nieces and two nephews. Pallbearers are John Edward



THOMPSON

Bland, John Anderson, Allen McDowell, Handy Driver, Larry Horwood, Clay Cowart. Honorary pallbearers are Fern Cox, Joe Canon, Rich Anderson, Dr. R.M. Zirkle, Howard Carleton and Skipper Driver. The family suggests memorials to Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, P.O. Box 2213, Big Spring. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday. Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel. Paid obituary

Y2K

Continued from Page 1A

31. "We're going to be getting information out soon to the public, asking that they conserve water on the first (of January), just in case there is a problem," said Ferguson. "If there were to be a problem, we would have enough water to last three days. But it could have four to five days if conservative measures are put in place by the public. "We'll have generators in place at key areas for minor problems. Obviously if something happens at the water plant, generators aren't going to be enough, but they will help in small areas," Ferguson said. The city will have generators in place at two of the main lift stations in town as a backup to the waste water treatment plant. "We don't anticipate any problems with the landfill or sanitation. That's all keyed on electricity - receiving gasoline from our providers - and Trio Fuels has told us they will have emergency gasoline trucks available if we need them," Ferguson said. Gasoline will be the main necessity for fire, ambulance and police. All will have emergency generators available, Ferguson said. "We've contacted all our vehicle vendors - Ford, Chevrolet and the like - because some of the newer models have computer chips in them. They all tell us they are Y2K compliant. If for some reason they are not, we have older model vehicles we can put on the road temporarily," he said. All of the emergency equipment used in the ambulances, as well as hand-held units, have been checked to make sure they are Y2K compatible, he said. The Texas Department of Transportation has assured city officials it will have crews to send out in the event of stop signals failing on state highways. For regular city streets, the city will be prepared to erect stop signs if electricity fails. Generators are in place at the airpark if the landing lights fail. "The FAA has told us they will handle any flight control if their is a problem," said Ferguson. Ferguson believes that months of planning will pay off with little or no problems. The city began replacing or upgrading its software and hardware year before last and a Y2K committee meets monthly to outline preparations. "We'll double our standby crews in case of any problems, and on Dec. 31, all city staff will be here between 10:30 and 11 and stay until about 1 a.m., just in case there is a problem," Ferguson said. "We've really given a lot of thought and worked hard at this. I'm not going to discount that one out of 100 things can go wrong, but I think 99 times out of 100 we'll be in good shape," he said.

VFW

Continued from Page 1A

display to be part at the memorial. Names to be honored can be sent to: VFW WWII Memorial Matching Gift Program, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 219, Kansas City, Mo. 64111. The memorial reportedly will be the only and final structure built on the center line of the National Mall. Groundbreaking is scheduled for Veterans Day 2000. Welch said the memorial comes late, but also just in time. "There is a memorial for World War I, one for Vietnam

and Korea," he said. "There's no memorial for us. Now, 1,000 of us are dying every day and we need to get some recognition for these guys before it is too late."

JOY

Continued from Page 1A

the Settles building Dec. 4. "We purchased clothes and toys with the money we raised, and when we saw we would have money left over, I contacted Rape Crisis/Victim Services, and they told me of a single mother struggling to provide Christmas for her child," she said. The inmates then created another two rocking horses to give as presents to the children, so Dominguez called Melinda Hernandez at Westside Community Day Care Center, and located another child to adopt for Christmas, she said. "We've really done well this year and we all feel really positive about the effort we put forth to help these families with Christmas," she said. Employees also donated money to purchase Christmas ornaments for a tree at the unit, and all those proceeds went toward the Christmas project, she said. The entire project took the employees and inmates about two months to raise the funds and make the toys. "We want the community to know something positive about the Cedar Hill unit of Correll Corrections. We are the newest unit in Big Spring," she said.

CHEER

Continued from Page 1A

employee at Unichem, coordinated the effort. He said he was blessed and grateful for the response from nearly all of the employees at Unichem. "We're the district office, but this was not just us. When they found out what we were doing, our regional office in Midland donated to this effort as well. And another employee out of town sent us a check for the project. This has just been an awesome blessing," Campbell said. The family selected had three small grandchildren, ages 4, 5 and 6, and with the funds generated by the Unichem employees, toys, clothes and food were brought to the family Wednesday. Nearly two-thirds of compa-

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

With tears in her eyes, the grandmother of the family, who is raising her son's children, expressed her amazement at the amount of goods brought to her. "I never expected anything like this. Thank you so very much. We're going to place this under the Christmas tree and say this is all from Santa Claus," the grandmother said. Campbell said some of the employees elected to purchase gifts for the family, while others donated money. And the goal was to purchase toys as well as the necessities such as clothing and food, he said. At least five boxes of goods were given to the family. "We tried to buy toys appropriate for each age, so I hope that's what you'll find here," Campbell said to the grandmother. She replied that all the toys would be ideal, as the three children share and play together with their toys. Campbell went on to explain what was provided the children. "Each child received two pairs of shoes, along with one brand new outfit. These are nice clothes. And so much of the joy was buying toys for these kiddos. It gave us such joy and we are so glad to be able to share so much when there is such a need," he said. Campbell said he hopes this becomes an annual event for the company. "I really wasn't in the spirit of Christmas until we did this, and now I have the wonderful spirit of Christmas - I got it today. This felt so good, to be able to give back. This has been such a blessing," Campbell said.

No bonus? Practice is fading among businesses...

CHICAGO (AP) - If all you want for Christmas is your company bonus, make another wish. A new study finds that the holiday practice is fading faster than the red on your Santa Claus socks. Nearly two-thirds of compa-

panies don't give any holiday bonuses - not even a lump of coal in employees' stockings. Twelve percent of the companies that responded to a nationwide survey said they've dropped the bonuses recently. The reason many cited: It's not smart business and provides little incentive for employees to do better work. "Companies want to get away from giving something for nothing, even at Christmas," said Frank Belmonte, compensation consultant for Hewitt Associates, a management consulting firm that released the findings Wednesday. With the U.S. economy aglow like the White House Christmas tree, it might seem an odd time for companies to play Scrooge. But hold those humbug thoughts. Companies are shelling out more bonuses overall than ever, according to Hewitt - they just give them out at different times, linking them to performance rather than the calendar. "Bonuses are not going away," Belmonte said. "Organizations are just being much more prudent in giving dollars away... and want to see a clear return on their investment through enhanced business results." Take the Kryptonite Corp. Three years ago, when its top management changed, the Canton, Mass.-based lock manufacturer decided to scrap its holiday bonus of a week's pay and tie any bonuses to the company's bottom line. Now the firm throws a party every February and hands each employee a check based on the previous year's profits. This year's was for \$2,100. "We wanted to get employees much more involved in driving the success of the company," said Jim Mills, the company's chief financial officer. "Some people may have preferred to get a check in December. But now they're complaining now."

Mixed Y2K messages leave some people jittery

WASHINGTON (AP) - Americans aren't just searching for the perfect last-minute gift this holiday season. They're also on the lookout for suspicious packages. As the Year 2000 approaches, government officials from President Clinton to local police are issuing reminders to be on the lookout for warning signs of terrorist attack, especially in large crowds. But, they insist, that shouldn't spoil anyone's plans for holiday festivities. The mixed message is bound to leave some people feeling jittery as the



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant Big Spring Rod and Custom Car Club adopted angels for the Salvation Army. Pictured are David Clinkscales and Steve Gray, Frank Edwards, Sheila Burcham, Dickie Partlow, Jack Jones and Maj. Roy Tolcher of the Salvation Army.

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

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RITZ 501 S. Main CHILD \$2.00 263-7480 ADULT \$2.00 THE RITZ Theatre has returned to sub-run Admission will be \$2.00 per person. Tuesdays only \$1.00 per person Showtimes Christmas Eve Only Random Hearts (R) Daily: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 Superstar (PG-13) Daily: 2:20, 4:20, 7:20 Pokemon (G) Daily: 2:10 & 4:10 End Of Days (R) Daily: 7:10

RITZ 501 S. Main CHILD \$2.00 263-7480 ADULT \$2.00 THE RITZ Theatre has returned to sub-run Admission will be \$2.00 per person. Tuesdays only \$1.00 per person Random Hearts (R) Daily: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30 Anna and the King (PG-13) Daily: 1:50, 4:40, 7:30 & 9:20 Pokemon (G) Daily: 2:10 & 4:10 End Of Days (R) Daily: 7:10 & 9:40

Showtimes Christmas Eve Only STAR College Park Shopping Ctr. \*STUART LITTLE (PG) Daily: 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30 \*THE GREEN MILE (R) Daily: 1:45-5:15

STAR College Park Shopping Ctr. \*STUART LITTLE (PG) Daily: 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30 THE GREEN MILE (R) Daily: 1:45-5:15-8:45

CINEMA 4 \*ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) Daily: 1:20-4:40 TOY STORY 2 (G) Daily: 1:30-4:30-7:30 \*BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) Daily: 1:10-4:10-7:10 ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) Daily: 1:00-4:00-7:00 ADULTS: \$5.50 \$3.25 ALL MATINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS \*PASS RESTRICTED

CINEMA 4 \*ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) Daily: 1:20-4:40 & 8:00 TOY STORY 2 (G) Daily: 1:30-4:30-7:30-9:40 \*BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) Daily: 1:10 & 7:00 \*THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (PG-13) Daily: 1:00-4:00-7:10-10:00 \*GALAXY QUEST (PG) Daily: 4:10 & 8:50 ADULTS: \$5.50 \$3.25 ALL MATINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS \*PASS RESTRICTED

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288 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 11:00 AM Monday at First United Methodist Church. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6:00 to 8:00 PM Sunday.

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### More families sending holiday greetings online

AUSTIN (AP) — On the Hill Family Web site 9-year-old Andrew has a page that shows family and friends what he wants for Christmas.

His 11-year-old sister, Elizabeth, has a section of handy links to sites where they can shop for items on her holiday wish list.

The Austin family is joining thousands of others going online this year to send holiday greetings, photos, recipes and more, according to a survey released recently by Dell Computer Corp.

"We just always used (the Internet) for everything so celebrating the holidays seemed natural. I do all of my shopping online. All of our family is connected so it's just a real easy way to stay in touch," said mom Shelli Hill.

"I think it's wonderful," Mrs. Hill said. "My kids have sent some Christmas cards online and they're having lots of fun."

Internet experts say designing

family home pages for specific occasions is a growing trend as more households get connected and Web design gets simpler.

No longer is it necessary to type in complicated codes or learn computer languages. Users can buy Web design software or use one of several online services that offer free space and programs.

"I think that a lot of the things they do in their normal life, we're trying to make it easier for them to do online," said Mark Feldman, senior producer at Yahoo! GeoCities, one of the sites that offers free space for personal Web pages.

According to Dell's TechKnow Generation 2000 survey based on interviews of 1,001 random computer users, 61 percent said they have a family Web site or are interested in creating one. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

A random Web search turned up sites showing family photos,

party invitations, wish lists and newsletters.

Internet companies are taking advantage of the trend.

Yahoo! GeoCities has a special section devoted to the creation of holiday sites.

The section offers pre-designed templates and simple ideas for the novice.

Dell and Homestead.com, another personal Web page site, offered \$2,000 towards a new computer to the owner of the most creative family holiday page. Hundreds have entered the contest.

"We're making sure that customers can easily take advantage of technology," said Janet Mountain, of Dell's consumer product division.

"It's very popular," Feldman said. "Kids are all online. They're online at school, they're online everywhere. Something like home pages for the holidays are giving parents an opportunity to be online with the kids."

For Barbara Kiebel and her

two daughters, 20-year-old Emily and 16-year-old Lauren, sharing their favorite holiday recipes on their Web site was convenient.

Ms. Kiebel's baked mushroom dish was so popular at Thanksgiving dinner in Englewood, Colo., everyone in the family wanted the recipe.

"It was just a lot easier for me to say, 'Well go to my Web site. It's listed in my database,'" Ms. Kiebel said. "I do cook a fair amount and I thought instead of trying to sort through the other recipes I would just do a holiday page."

The Kiebels have also received electronic holiday newsletters from family spread out all over the country.

"I hadn't heard from my niece for years until she realized we both had e-mail," Ms. Kiebel said.

"When it comes to holidays I do feel we're connecting to some of our family that we would not be otherwise."

### Prosecutors say woman arrested at Canadian border has terrorist ties

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — A woman arrested at the Vermont-Canadian border has ties to an international group that is believed to have sponsored terrorist activities in Europe and Algeria, federal prosecutors said today.

The disclosure came as prosecutors argued successfully in federal court to keep Lucia Garofalo and Bouabide Chamchi in jail. Both were arrested Sunday at a remote border crossing in northeastern Vermont.

Their arrests, combined with the arrest of an Algerian man in Washington state last week on bomb-related charges, have stirred fears of terrorist attacks. At the same time, the State Department has warned that U.S. citizens abroad should be cautious over the holiday weekend because of possible terrorism.

In court documents, prosecutors said they have linked Ms. Garofalo's cell phone and the car she was driving to Brahim Mahdi, a member of the Algerian Islamic League, whose leader is said to be connected to "organizations sponsoring a number of terrorist acts in Europe and Algeria."

That information came from American intelligence sources, which the prosecutors did not identify.

Ms. Garofalo's cell phone account was opened by Mahdi, and the car she was driving when stopped at the border Sunday night was registered in his name, they said.

Prosecutors also said U.S. and Canadian authorities were investigating a land line telephone account connected to Ms. Garofalo. There were calls from that account to another Montreal number, the court papers said.

"This latter telephone number ... was reportedly associated with a person under investigation

for the theft and sale of dynamite stolen in Ontario," said a document submitted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tristram Coffin.

Neither Ms. Garofalo nor Chamchi had an opportunity to speak during the proceedings.

The court documents, citing intelligence sources, said the Algerian Islamic League was founded and directed by Mourad Dhina.

"Dhina has been identified from other sources of information as an Algerian international arms dealer who resides in Switzerland and is connected to organizations sponsoring a number of terrorist acts in Europe and Algeria. Dhina is reported to be actively involved in the shipment of arms to terrorist organizations," the documents said.

Prosecutors said final tests by the FBI found no evidence of explosives or materials used to make them from samples taken from Ms. Garofalo's car in Beecher Falls. Two dogs trained to detect explosives had indicated the possibility of explosives in the right rear fender.

Chamchi was ordered held without bail pending trial because the court found he posed a substantial risk of flight. Ms. Garofalo will be in court again Dec. 30 to continue the detention hearing begun today.

"There are a number of connections with other organizations that we have concerns about," said U.S. Attorney Charles Tetzlaff. He did not identify the other organizations, referring to the information in the documents.

"I think that the government is trying to use common sense in this case," Tetzlaff said, referring to State Department warnings to be careful over the holidays.

### New drug showing promise for asthma patients

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asthma sufferers worried about dangerous side effects from steroid medications — the best treatment for many patients — may soon have a better option for controlling the increasingly common respiratory condition.

An experimental, genetically engineered asthma drug called rhuMab-E25 not only reduced asthma symptoms but allowed nearly one-quarter of asthma patients on inhaled steroids to stop taking them, researchers reported today in the New England Journal of Medicine.

One-third of those using oral steroids — given to the most severe cases — were able to quit, too.

"It's going to be a breakthrough," said the lead researcher, pediatric asthma specialist Dr. Henry Milgrom of the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. "The new drugs such as this

one are intended to be the magic bullet against asthma."

Experts say the drug might also control hay fever and other allergies.

Steroids have been widely used to treat moderate to severe asthma for the past decade. But long-term use stunts children's growth. In adults, steroids can cause osteoporosis, stomach bleeding, elevated blood pressure and blood sugar, cataracts and weight gain.

RhuMab-E25 is an intravenous drug made by splicing a tiny segment of a cloned mouse antibody into a human antibody.

After further testing, the three companies developing it — Genentech, Novartis Pharma AG and Tanox — hope to seek Food and Drug Administration approval for sale in about six months. Genentech funded the study.

Despite the numerous drugs available, many patients don't control their asthma well. The

condition kills 5,500 Americans annually, is the ninth-leading cause of hospitalization and prompts 10 million doctor visits each year.

About 17 million Americans have asthma, an astonishing increase of more than 75 percent since 1980.

In an asthma attack, hyper-sensitive airways narrow drastically when exposed to an allergen, such as cigarette smoke, pet dander, pollen, feathers and mites. A type of antibody called IgE prompts immune cells to release histamines in a misguided attempt to neutralize the allergens. Instead, the histamines inflame and further narrow the airways.

Exercise and breathing cold air also can trigger attacks. Symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing.

Steroids reduce the airway inflammation.

Over time, the drugs lower sensitivity to those allergens, reducing the incidence of asthma

attacks.

RhuMab-E25 works differently. It binds up more than 95 percent of the IgE, blocking release of much of the histamine, said another researcher, Dr. W. James Metzger of East Carolina University.

"This is not a cure, but it reduces the allergic reaction" dramatically, said Metzger.

Over a 12-week period, 317 patients with moderate to severe asthma were injected every two weeks with either a high dose of the drug, a low dose or a placebo. Over the next eight weeks, they were slowly taken off steroids.

About half those getting either drug dose cut their use of inhaled steroids at least 50 percent, compared with 38 percent of the placebo group. Eighteen percent of the high-dose group and 23 percent of the low-dose group stopped using inhaled steroids entirely, compared with 12 percent in the placebo group.

### Brick attack victim home with her family in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — A 27-year-old woman is back home with her East Texas family for the holidays and recuperation after she was smashed in the head with a brick on a New York City street.

Nicole Barrett returned to her family's home in Athens on Monday after her release from New York's Bellevue Hospital, about a month after she was attacked in midtown Manhattan.

"We're all going to get together after Christmas — the seven of us," Alicia Daniel, a close friend, told the Athens Daily Review.

The seven are a tightly knit group of girlfriends who bonded in high school and stayed in touch through the years. Several attended Trinity Valley Community College in Athens together, serving as Cardettes for the college just as they had been Stingerettes together at Athens High School.

The group began planning a holiday reunion months ago, the newspaper reported. However, a pall of tragedy loomed over the reunion after Ms. Barrett was attacked on Nov. 16. Police said an apparently deranged man slammed a brick into her head as she walked to her job at a temp agency.

Days later, panhandler Paris Drake, 34, was charged with second-degree attempted murder in the case. Drake was living with his girlfriend and others when the incident happened, police said.

Two brain operations later, Ms. Barrett is living with her parents and set to begin rehabilitation therapy, her mother, Sharon Barrett, has said.

She has said her daughter hopes to move back to New York once her condition improves, which could come sooner than many predicted.

"Everybody's amazed," said Mrs. Barrett. "Even her doctors never expected it."

However, she said the obvious signs of injury still linger. Miss Barrett suffers debilitating headaches, sometimes has trouble

speaking, and grapples with some cognitive abilities.

Still, Ms. Daniel reports that in a recent conversation with her friend, Miss Barrett sounded good.

"She gets a little flustered here and there," Ms. Daniel said.

But the community of 11,500 residents, about 70 miles southeast of Dallas, is rallying around her.

Members of First United Methodist in Athens, which the Barrett family attends, have decorated a live tree with the family's own ornaments, hung a wreath on the door, and added a poinsettia. On Tuesday, church members plan to deliver gifts donated to the family, as well as stock the Barretts' refrigerator.

"We wanted it to look like it was ready for Christmas," said the church's Kathy Middleton. "That's the least we could do. They obviously haven't had time."

### U.S., Mexican officials sign accord to inform each other about waste sites

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A new agreement between the United States and Mexico requires each country to inform each other where they plan to construct or expand sites used to dispose hazardous or radioactive waste along the border.

U.S. officials announced the agreement this week. Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and Mexico's National Ecology Institute signed the pact on Dec. 1.

The agreement requires each nation to tell each other plans for waste facilities, including recycling and treatment centers and incinerators, within 60 miles of the border.

The accord still allows each country to make individual decisions on where waste facilities will be built.

A Mexican Embassy spokesman in Washington said it "allowed both governments

to move forward in responding to the sensitivities of populations living on both sides of our border."

Felicia Marcus, who heads the EPA's regional office in San Francisco, said it would provide unprecedented "cross-border access to information about hazardous waste facilities."

California environmentalists have wanted Mexican officials to release data on hazardous materials produced in foreign-owned assembly plants in Baja California.

EPA spokesman Dave Schmidt said the state licenses California sites. Information about which toxic materials are kept on those sites or transported elsewhere is available to the public on the agency's web site, he said.

However, the spokesman said there is not much information available for Mexican dumps.

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**Mary Christmas.**

*Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by remembering that God's son was born to Mary. Such a marvelous gift! Mary held in her arms and that we hold in our hearts.*

*Mary Christmas. Merry Christmas.*

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

**Christmas Eve Service  
10:30 PM December 24**

**Christmas Day Communion—10:30 AM**

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[Http://www.xroadstx.com/stmarys](http://www.xroadstx.com/stmarys)

**Scenic Mountain Medical Center**

1601 W. 11th Place  
263-1211

**Big Spring Independent School District**

**Financial Statement for the Year Ending**

**August 31, 1999**

	Governmental Fund Types			Total
	100-199	200-499	500-599	
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Project Fund
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Local and Intermediate Sources	\$10,285,883	\$ 509,525	\$ 915,978	\$ 123,165
State Program Revenues	10,962,974	274,826	47,711	
Federal Program Revenues	178,739	2,468,275		
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$21,427,596</b>	<b>\$ 3,252,626</b>	<b>\$ 963,689</b>	<b>\$ 123,165</b>
				\$25,767,076
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>				
Instruction & Instructional Related Services	\$13,302,523	\$ 1,353,069	\$	\$
Instructional & School Leadership	1,754,328	85,176		
Support Services - Student (Pupil)	2,308,708	1,887,829		
Administration Support Services	798,487			
Support Services - Nonstudent Based	3,530,891	40,171		
Debt Services	218,390	20,254	1,008,650	
Capital Outlay	254,794	97,491		3,809,812
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,168,121</b>	<b>\$ 3,483,790</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,650</b>	<b>\$ 3,809,812</b>
				\$30,470,373
<b>Excess(Deficiency) Revenues Over (Under)</b>				
Expenditures	\$ (740,525)	\$ (231,164)	\$ (44,961)	\$ (3,686,647)
Other Resources	297,316	131,932		
Other (Uses)	(40,000)			
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Resources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	<b>\$ (483,209)</b>	<b>\$ (99,232)</b>	<b>\$ (44,961)</b>	<b>\$ (3,686,647)</b>
				\$ (4,314,049)
<b>Fund Balance - September 1, 1998 (Beginning)</b>	<b>5,841,098</b>	<b>125,465</b>	<b>196,712</b>	<b>3,806,110</b>
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	194,458	3,154	56	3,982
<b>Fund Balance - August 31, 1999 (Ending)</b>	<b>\$ 5,352,345</b>	<b>\$ 29,387</b>	<b>\$ 151,807</b>	<b>\$ 123,445</b>
				\$ 5,656,984

# EDITORIAL

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

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

<b>Charles C. Williams</b> Publisher	<b>Debbie Jensen</b> Features Editor	<b>John H. Walker</b> Editor
<b>John A. Moseley</b> Sports Editor	<b>Bill McClellan</b> News Editor	

## OUR VIEWS

# Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

*"Dear Editor:  
I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.  
Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'  
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"*

*Virginia O'Hanlon,  
115 West 95th Street"*

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, and ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you every see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what make the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

\*\*\*  
"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) Sun in September, 1897. Her Letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" — the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every quarter of the globe.

The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcelius Church's response is an annual tradition at the Herald. We hope you enjoy it.

# The Bethlehem Star: It's not just another tale

It is customary to place a star or some other gleaming ornament at the top of a Christmas tree. This symbolizes the famous star which, according to Matthew, caught the attention of the "wise men" and led them to Judea, where they enormously alarmed King Herod with their report to him. Just what this "star" was has been the subject of much speculation. Was it a comet? Was it a "nova" or new star?



JEFFREY HART

I report here that Dr. Michael R. Molnar, an astronomer formerly of Rutgers University, has solved the question in "The Star of Bethlehem: The Legacy of the Magi" (Rutgers University Press). I hasten to add that his investigation, a model of inquiry into the mind or minds of the ancient world, does nothing to diminish the religious significance of those events as most famously described in Matthew.

Here is the translation from Matthew's Greek in the "New Revised Standard Version": "In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?' For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage. When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him."

Molnar's scholarship brings us back to that ancient world,

and his argument is complicated and often subtle, but it is also convincing. I will try to summarize it at the risk of simplifying it. The wise men, or Magi, from the East were astrologers, for whom events among the planets and stars were of immense importance. Much of the difficulty of Molnar's short book resides in his account of how intricately astrological theories were worked out, and how seriously they were taken. The entire ancient world indeed, was soaked in astrology — but the ancient Israelites were an exception. For them, and naturally for their king, Herod, history was understood in terms of their biblical prophetic tradition.

So what did the Magi astrologers see in the sky that brought them to Judea? A modern astronomer like Molnar can, so to speak, read astronomy backward and calculate what the various planets and constellations were doing at given dates far back in time.

The Magi astrologers from the East (Persia?) had not seen a comet or a nova, but the planet Jupiter. And the singular thing about this sighting of Jupiter was that it was a "morning star."

That is, it rose before sunrise and could be seen in the pre-dawn sky.

Now the ancient Middle East in Herod's time was also soaked in Greek and Roman culture. Matthew himself wrote in Greek. In fact, the entire New Testament is written in Greek. And, of course, the planet named "Jupiter" had momentous importance in the system of classical divinities. Jupiter was the god of gods on Olympus. No wonder Herod was "frightened." But the Magi had more bad news for Herod.

The constellation that controlled the astrological fate of Judea was Aries. And strange things were happening in Aries. When the morning star Jupiter entered Aries, it disappeared from the gaze of the astrologers. Molnar has worked it out that this was a "lunar occultation" of Jupiter. The "star" disappeared for a time behind the shadow of the moon. Of course, the astrologers could not understand the astronomy of this and could not but regard the phenomena as fabulous.

In Matthew's narrative, the frightened King Herod calls together his own advisers and asks them where, according to scriptural tradition, the Messiah is to be born. "They told him: 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet.'"

Next, we hear from Matthew about another strange astral phenomenon, which Molnar is able to explain in terms of modern astronomy. "Then Herod secretly called for the wise men (Magi) and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'"

For King Herod at this point, his own messianic tradition is combined with the account by the Magi of the remarkable astral events to induce what seems to be a panic.

The wise men set out for Bethlehem. "When they had heard the King, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great

joy."  
So the planet Jupiter stopped up there in the constellation of Aries?

What happened, says Molnar, it that the Magi thought the star had stopped because more distant bodies in the sky appear to be moving more quickly, the way an automobile looks stationary when viewed against the backdrop of a speeding train. Modern astronomers call this retrograde movement."

Molnar, through complicated calculations, dates these remarkable events on or close to the date of April 17, 6 B.C., which is earlier than most historians place the birth of Jesus.

Herod, whose rule is shaky anyway, dismisses the Magi and sets about killing newborn infants in Bethlehem, but not before Mary, Joseph and the child escape into Egypt.

Strange to say, those astrologers from the East were correct in believing that something momentous was at hand, though they were right for the wrong — that is, astrological — reasons. In historical outcome, these were world-changing events.

As Molnar concludes this important and fascinating book, "the portent formed in Aries by Jupiter and other celestial bodies conveyed a joyous, wondrous message about a regal and divine birth in the Kingdom of Herod the Great. Now we can look at the star above a creche at Christmas and know that there was indeed a Star of Bethlehem."

I would add that in dealing with such ancient texts as Matthew, what seems sometimes to be legendary or mythical very often turns out to have been closely observed fact.

Merry Christmas.



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0001; Fax: 512-463-0326.

# After war on tobacco, look for war on fat

Obesity, according to Judith Stern, vice president of the American Obesity Association, is a national emergency of epidemic proportions. More than half of Americans — about 97 million — are overweight, and 39 million of those people are obese, or more than 30 pounds overweight.



JACK ANDERSON

Obesity is, according to the American Medical Association, the second leading cause of preventable death after smoking. Over 300,000 people die every year from being overweight. The cost of being overweight to

Medicare and other insurance providers, Stern says, is over \$100 billion a year when you weigh in the tertiary diseases accompanying obesity like diabetes, heart disease and certain types of cancers.

In the last seven years, there has been a 50 percent increase in obesity prevalence in both sexes, in every age group, race, education level and smoking status. Even children are larger; a fourth of America's kids are obese.

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman's has planned a summit for the next year to explore all types of solutions, including the tobacco approach. "The time has come," according to an article written in the American Medical Association magazine, "to develop a national comprehensive strategy — analogous to those already in place for tobacco use."

First declare war on fats.

Kelly Brownell of Yale University said obesity is being encouraged by the "toxic food environment" offered by fast food joints that offer "high-calorie foods, heavily promoted and good tasting."

The upshot is those restaurants and food makers may be culpable in impending lawsuits. "There is no difference to me between Joe Camel and Ronald McDonald," Brownell said.

One proposal is for a "Twinkie Tax" which would be applied to high fat-content items and used to subsidize vegetables and "approved foods" — and make them cheaper — as well as research into any of the 23 genes in our DNA that are thought to influence body weight. "For us to not treat (obesity) and not to spend lots of money — I mean lots of money on research — is false economy," Stern told us.

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) recently devoted an entire issue to this subject. The epidemic of fat, according to the magazine, was due to "the availability of more food, the growth of the fast-food industry, the increased numbers and the marketing of snack food — along with a custom of socializing with food and drink."

Stern told us that the IRS will not allow tax deductions on two types of medical treatment: cosmetic surgery and treatment for obesity. But the IRS does allow taxation benefits for drug, alcohol and tobacco cessation programs.

The fat tax idea has been around for two years, but action taken this year is a Clinton initiative to have nutritional information listed on every restaurant menu that is supposed to go into effect in the coming two years.

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

THE BOTTOM LINE IS, DON'T MAX YOUR MASTERCARD SHOPPING FOR PETS!

REMEMBER!  
1. THEIR BRAINS ARE THE SIZE OF A LIME, AT BEST...

2. THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS... AND... 3. IN THE CASE OF CATS...

IF THEY WERE BIGGER THEY'D EAT YOU.

IF I WERE BIGGER, I'D EAT HIM.

HAPPY SHOPPING!

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# life!

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## QUICK TRIVIA

◆100 percent of shopping-mall Santas surveyed reported having their beard pulled by a young visitor.

◆75 percent of shopping-mall Santas reported being kicked, while 12 percent said they were bitten.

## Got an Item?

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

# 5A

Big Spring Herald

Friday, December 24, 1999

## CHURCH NEWS

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's will once more have a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service. The service will begin with a special time of Lessons and Carols, and will include the Holy Communion. It begins at 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, guest musicians include Jamie Bain — mezzo soprano; Joyce Bradley — soprano; and Mary Francis Malone — harp.

On Christmas Day, Holy Communion will begin at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, contact the Rev. James Liggett, Rector of St. Mary's. The office phone is 267-8201.

### First United Methodist Church

"Is This the End? Come and Find Out!" (Rev. 21:1-5a) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry. The message is about the end of the Second Millennium. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Youth meet on Sunday afternoon with Mid-High youth meeting at 5 p.m. Youth Choir is meeting at 6 p.m. and Senior Highs meeting at 7 p.m. There is also a Bible study for senior highs on Wednesday night at 101 Washington. Children also have a great time in our Sunday School at 9:40 a.m. every Sunday morning. We also have children's vocal and handbell choirs led by John and Denise Ross.

The First United Methodist Church has several Sunday

School classes for adults, youth and children.

There will be a "Welcome the Third Thousand Years of Christianity" service at 11:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31. The senior's brunch on New Year's Day will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Garrett Hall.

There will not be a Wednesday noon Bible study class this week.

For more information call the church office at 267-6394.

### First Assembly of God

First Assembly of God will have a "Candlelight Communion" Service tonight at 7. This service will be informal with music and an atmosphere that will help those attending to pause for a few moments to reflect on the real reason for the Season.

Sunday mornings at 10:40, the

last Sunday in this century pastor Havener will be speaking on the subject "Flight 2000." This message will help challenge the hearer as we prepare to embark on a "New Millennium."

In the evening service, Pastor Johnston will be speaking on the subject, "Order of the Mighties."

The theme for a special service to be held New Years Eve will be "Front Seats for 2000 AD."

This service will begin at 9 p.m. and conclude at 12:01 a.m. There will be an hour of special music, an hour of fellowship, and testimonies, with the conclusion of the activities ending on the church parking lot with noisemakers, and praise to God for the New Millennium.

The congregation of First Assembly invite all to come and help them celebrate in these services.

## In spite of everything, the world has changed

I stepped down into the darkened stone stairway with some hesitancy and stared into the room below, quiet and lit by electric torches and lanterns. It was July 1988, and I was in Bethlehem in the Church of the Nativity, the traditional site where it is believed Jesus Christ was born. Down in the little room ahead was a brass star fixed to the stone floor, shining like a gold beacon.



ED WILLIAMSON

This is the exact place, believed by many, where it all began, where Mary gave birth to the baby Jesus and where the Hope of the World came into the world.

To hear the Christmas story all your life and to be influenced by it, from Christmas carols to shopping malls to Christmas cards to Christmas dinners, and all the rest all your life, is one thing. To stare down at that shining brass star and ponder that it all started with this one life who came into the world in this tiny place is quite another.

To think that it all started with this one man, then came across the country of Israel to Europe, then across the ocean to America, then after 2,000

years of human history to me, is amazing.

The reality hits you like a thunderclap, the biggest thunderclap you have ever felt in your life. You think: Christmas, my Christmas, started HERE.

Jesus began his life in that "Little Town of Bethlehem" about 2,000 years ago. What has been the result? That one life touched another with love, and then another, and then another. Love was the key. He said, "Repent, and become new, become Saved. You were blessed to be a blessing to others, in the Father's name. Pass on this message of life and healing."

Today, in spite of all the cynicism and broken dreams in the world, the world is a changed place now. People know love. Healing and hope and realities.

Light shines in the darkness. And that one life still goes on touching others every day through the love that we share.

This Christmas, let Hope flow into you. Joy to your life, the Lord has come ... for you. If you are hurting, there is healing. If you are tired, there is rest. If you are lonely, there is love.

A man named Jesus was born for you 2,000 years ago, and he wants to give you a fresh start. Don't pass him by.

Ed Williamson is pastor at First United Methodist Church.

## CLUB NEWS

### 1905 Hyperion Club

1905 Hyperion Club met Thursday, Dec. 16, in the home of Carol Scott for a Christmas buffet supper. Husbands of members were guests. Rev. Guy White, of the Baptist Memorial Center of San Angelo, presented a program entitled "Hope for the New Millennium." Christmas carols were sung by the group.

The next meeting will be Jan. 20.

### Mary Jane Club

Mary Jane Club met Thursday morning, Dec. 9, in the beautifully decorated home of Sue Tindol. Marie Ethridge and Nan McKinney served as co-hostesses.

The meeting was called to order by vice president Bobbie Nix and opened with readings from old calendars. A letter was received from the State Hospital Volunteer Council thanking the club for the party-house.

Following the short meeting, members enjoyed a fun Christmas gift exchange of handmade gifts. A delicious

salad luncheon was then served from tables decorated with angels.

### Mighty Oaks

The Mighty Oaks Senior Adult Club of East Fourth Street Baptist Church Christmas dinner meeting was in the Big Spring Senior Center Friday, Dec. 17.

December birthday honorees were Callie Bennett, Mattie Richardson, Marie Gillihan and Lenora Willingham. New club officers were elected to serve for the year 2000.

These were: Drue and Pat Wyrick, co-presidents; Lennis Couch, vice president; Ola Lee

McMullin, sec./reporter; Joy Fortenberry, treasurer; Latrice Davis, co-treasurer; Joyce Walker, Norma Kelley and Dorothy Taylor, program committee; Lee Roy Day and Very Hipp, telephone committee; Helen Green, pianist; Velma Ruth Wood, co-pianist; Cletha Clayton, decoration chairman.

Merle Roman read a poem "The Night Before Jesus Came," and Vera Hipp read a letter to Santa Claus from a little girl.

The group sang several Christmas carols led by Merle Roman, accompanied by Helen Green at the piano. Christmas gifts were exchanged. The next meeting will be Jan. 18.

## READERS' CORNER

EDITOR'S NOTE: This special edition of Readers' Corner features poems and other writings for the holiday by our readers. Our regularly scheduled Corner will appear Wednesday as well.

### "Somebody Special"

by Lana F. Anguiano

Born into the darkness of a bitter cold winter night with no shelter except for the crudely built walls of a stable. No soft bed to lay his tiny body, only a manger full of hay. Did he cry as the bitter cold wind touched his sweet face? No, not him, for he was born to be somebody special. A gift from God, his heavenly Father, to all men.

As he grew, he sought to teach all men the special things that he was born to teach others. But he was often laughed at, mocked and spat upon. Rocks were thrown at him to cause him pain. Did he cry as he bore much pain? No not him, for he was born to be somebody special.

But what he was born to do caused him to be hung from a cruel cross of wood. The bitter dry wind tore at his beautiful face and dried his mouth. His lips were cracked and bleeding and oh how they laughed as they poured a bitter drink of wine vinegar in his mouth and watched as it ran down his broken and bleeding body.

Did he cry as they beat and tortured him and mocked the one he called Father? No not him for he was born to be somebody special.

Written to honor the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Friend to all, enemy to none. Happy Birthday Jesus, thank you for the gift of life you gave not to me but to all!

would all be hopeless as well as helpless. Romans 6:23, RKJV just as clearly states that, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 10:9-10, RKJV says, "...if you confess with your mouth Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation."

We fervently pray that strife in Israel and in other parts of the world will cease and that peace on earth will be maintained and sustained. For Christians, however, peace on earth means more than absence of conflict. The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom. Shalom means well-being, completeness or wholeness. Such peace comes as a result of a saving relationship with Jesus. Paul, in Philippians (4:7, RKJV), explains that, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Two thousand years ago, the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people (Luke 2:10, RKJV).

Jesus' coming to earth has provided His followers a joyous and living hope of a heavenly inheritance. Peter assures and exhorts us: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope

See SMITH, Page 6A

"Signs of Christmas" by Einetta McAnally  
All the signs of Christmas  
Are in the air today,  
Bustle, and lots of fuss,  
No time to kneel and pray?

So why do people celebrate?  
If it's not about our King!  
All the parties and being life,  
And bells that ring and ring!

Why do we wrap and give those gifts  
And buy and spend for so many things?  
If not to give us real spiritual lifts,  
And worship our Lord and King!

Oh, let the little town of Bethlehem  
Ring songs within our hearts.  
Let the world grow far and dim,  
As we worship Him in our hearts.

Take away all fuss and bother,  
Take away the stress that comes.  
Kneel and pray to our Heavenly Father,  
He will give us a lasting peace that overcomes.

When we are on our knees  
Our Hearts in tune with our King,  
Then our Christmas it will please,  
And all Heaven's bells will ring!

"The Strange Birthday Party" by Martha Christy  
I was invited to a birthday party today and since it was your birthday, my Lord, I assumed it was being held in Your honor. When I arrived, I

noticed a tree set up with lights and gifts, so many gifts, and I thought what a lot of planning goes into a party for someone so very special.

As I look'd at this tree, it reminded me of the tree that was cut down to make the cross where you died for me, with nails in your feet and hands. I noticed the red lights blinking on the tree, reminded me of the blood that you shed that day, for me. The white lights were so bright and they stayed on continuously like you Lord. You are the light of the world, and you never stop shining for me.

I saw trinkets hanging on the tree and I'm reminded again of the wisemen's gifts for You. There were angels on the tree, I'm reminded of the angel that hovered above the night you were born.

Ribbon streamers on the tree reminded me of the path the shepherds took on their way to find You, and the bright star on top of the tree reminded me of the star that shown so bright to lead the wisemen to see You.

So very much to remind me once again of what a special birthday this was for You, Lord. When it was time to give You Your gifts, a strange thing happened. Everyone received a gift but You. Isn't that a strange birthday party?

You and I know You didn't mind not receiving a gift wrapped with a pretty bow. All You ever wanted is for us to give ourself to You, we don't have to be dressed in bright colors and bows. We don't have to be perfect, because You accept us "just as we are" and You can take us and make something beautiful of our lives.

So today I give myself to You again on this Your very special day. "Happy Birthday Jesus."

### "My Secret Santa"

by Sarah Vela, age 13

It came again quickly,  
It's that time of year,  
For stockings and carolers,  
And St. Nick to be here.  
Watching the specials,  
We sit on the floor  
Drinking our eggnog,  
hearing the dog snore.  
The cat sleeps in the corner,  
Not a movement or sound.  
Having sweet dreams  
Of family around.  
We all say good night,  
I kiss my sweetie goodbye,  
Under the mistletoe,  
With a wink in his eye.  
I slip under the covers,  
Ready to dream,  
But hear a loud thud,  
St. Nicholas it seems.  
I crack open my door,  
And what do I see?  
It's Santa Claus, but he saw me!

And winked his right eye,  
I went back to my bed,  
Too afraid to sleep,  
I didn't make a sound,  
I didn't make a peep.  
I went to bed late,  
Woke up early the next day,  
Looked at all the presents,  
What an array!  
In came my sweetie,  
Wearing a grin,  
I looked at him and said:  
"Where have you been?"  
With a smirk for a grin,  
A dimple in his cheek,  
He was so anxious,  
He could hardly speak.  
"Looking for presents,  
And I found a few more,  
I was putting down a  
Real special one,  
When you opened  
your door."

## SLICE of life!

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

NICEVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Forget the chalupa, just "Drop the Chihuahua." That's what Sandy Parks shrieked when an injured red-tailed hawk dug its talons into Bandita, a 6-pound spitting image of the Taco Bell commercials' talking Chihuahua.

The hawk burst from a neighbor's bushes Monday and grabbed little Bandita, only to find itself in a tug-of-war with Ms. Parks, who was hanging onto the other end of a 5-foot leash.

"Here I am, yelling 'Drop the Chihuahua! Drop the Chihuahua!'" said Ms. Parks, 61. "I am surprised I didn't scare the hawk away. I've been hungry before, but I've never held on to food that much."

Ms. Parks said she yanked on the leash and slammed the 2.6-pound bird into a wall. The hawk dropped, but kept its talons in Bandita, so Ms. Parks said she stomped on the bird, then slammed a door on its legs before it finally let go.

She left the hawk and rushed Bandita to the Niceville Animal Clinic where the dog's puncture wounds were treated.

Audubon Society members later brought in the hawk, which suffered a broken feather in its battle with Ms. Parks, but it also had a previously broken wing that was still healing.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A SCHOOL-BREAK MOVIE is planned Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library. There is no charge and children of all ages in the community are invited to attend.

THE AREA AGENCY ON Aging Ombudsman Program will begin a new training session to train volunteer ombudsmen to visit residents in Big Spring nursing homes. The training will begin after Jan. 1. Please call 800-491-4636 for more information.

## THE LAST WORD

It is much safer to obey than to rule.

Thomas Kempis

Originality is the art of concealing your sources.

Anon.

I feel when people say "bigger and better," they should say "bigger and badder."

Marie Elizabeth Kane, age 13

RELIGION IN BRIEF

No more 'winter' breaks

COVINGTON, Ga. (AP) — Forget political correctness, Newton County students will get time off next year for the "Christmas holidays."

But for this year, their two-week, year-end break is still called "winter holidays."

The metro-Atlanta county school board voted the name change proposed by one of its members, John Douglas, who said he found 17 other school districts in Georgia with a "Christmas" break.

Attorney Sam Harben said if there were any litigation, "the courts may conclude there was not a valid, secular reason on the part of the board for the change."

Sy Commanday, rabbi for a Jewish congregation in Covington, called the decision a slap in the face, but board member Richard Tiede defended the change.

"This is a Christian country, and it is founded on Christian values with God in mind," Tiede said. "Winter holidays" came as a result of political correctness.

Couple repays old favor

LIVONIA, Mich. (AP) — June and Dave Wilson spent the days leading up to Christmas working at a food bank at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church.

They say it's part of a pay-back for the aid they received several years ago.

"I was laid off from Ford back in late '50s and early '60s, once for seven months and once for nine months," Wilson recalled as he helped pack about 130 bags of food for distribution to needy families. "We had food delivered to our place. We weren't expecting it. It made our Christmas."

The Wilsons had two young children at the time and had just moved into their house.

The Rosedale food bank runs with military precision. Volunteer Bill Coleman pored over computer maps, pinpointing the homes that would receive help based on names from social service agencies. Earlier, checklists kept track of

supplies as bags were filled with tuna, Jello, soup and other foods.

The Presbyterian congregation is not just a holiday helper. Basement food lockers at the are stocked year-round for periodic distribution, including Christmas.

'Preacher of the Millennium'

NEW YORK (AP) — Shmuley Boteach, a former Lubavitch rabbi, author and founder of the L'Chaim Society, has been named "Preacher of the Millennium" by the Times of London.

Actually, he won a contest for clergy worldwide, sponsored by the newspaper. Boteach won with a final preach-off in Westminster Central Hall, opposite Westminster Abbey. His winning sermons included "Sabbath: A Cathedral in Time," which addresses the Jewish perspective of time vs. space, and "Nakedness," which relates the story of Adam and Eve to modern-day role playing.

The L'Chaim Society is a Jewish education organization that invites world figures to lecture on value-based leadership.

Penny-saver 'heavy' contributor

MONTROSE, Mich. (AP) — They're not quite pennies from heaven, but to a church in need of capital funds, they make plenty of cents — more than \$10,000 worth, to be exact.

Bob Hobson of Clio plans to donate more than a million pennies — 2.5 tons worth — to help pay for an addition to the Lamb of God Fellowship Church.

"God loves a cheerful giver," said Hobson, a 55-year-old elder at the church. "I just wanted to do something that's creative, that children can come alongside of."

The pennies were saved by Hobson and his family over the past 23 years.

"I just started collecting them one year, then thought it would be fun to show kids what one million of something would be," said Hobson.

East Texas inmates get gourmet holiday meal

HOUSTON (AP) — When inmates at the Trinity County Jail sit down for their Christmas meal this year, the daily fare of frozen TV dinners will give way to a gourmet meal fit for, well, a president.

Gretchen Hurt, a 21-year-old recent transplant from Seattle and the new chef at Baroque Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard in Houston — which counts former President Bush among its occasional visitors — is whipping up a holiday feast for jail inmates and staff during her off-work hours.

Christmas Day, her "guests" will dine on a tossed salad in red pepper cups dressed with roasted garlic vinaigrette alongside assorted fresh fruits with cranberry-infused whipped cream. The entree will consist of ham in a rum-spike orange and brown-sugar glaze accompanied by roasted garlic mashed potatoes, green beans almondine with bacon and red onions, and butter-top rolls. For desserts, she is serving Bailey's Irish Cream cheesecake with chunks of white and dark chocolate and a raspberry swirl, baked in an Oreo cookie crust. Warm cinnamon-apple and cherry pies, served a la mode, also will be on the table.

"It's been a tradition in our family to adopt people who

don't have families," Hurt said, explaining in part how she got involved in cooking a holiday meal for the Trinity County Jail.

It will be the second time Hurt has prepared such a feast for the jail; she and her father also cooked a lavish dinner for Thanksgiving.

"It was something that just felt right to do," she said. "We would have been cooking anyway, and it's just as easy to cook for a large group as for one."

Right. Tell that to any harried host or hostess this season who is fretting over how to handle the increased cooking chores and party fare.

But Hurt, a graduate of the Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Ore., who also has studied at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, Scuola di Artes Culinaria in Rome and the Culinary Institute of America in Napa, Calif., began cooking family meals at age 11, catered her mother's wedding reception for 85 at age 12 and began catering meals and special occasion cakes and pastries at age 14.

A former chef with the Doubletree Hotels in Portland and Seattle and at two trendy Seattle-area restaurants, Hurt moved back to Texas from Seattle earlier this year to get

reacquainted with her father, Chuck Hurt.

Her parents divorced when she was 7, and, after her dad was sent to prison as a sex offender, Hurt lost all contact with him except for one visit she made to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice when she was 16.

"Mom disapproved, and it was very hard for me to communicate with him," she said.

But last year, after seeing her mother struggle with the death of her own parents from whom she had been estranged, Hurt decided to move back to Texas to get to know her dad, who was paroled several years ago and works as a paralegal for Huntsville-area attorney Bill Habern.

"I just realized how much I didn't know about him," she added. "I haven't known my father in the past 10 years."

Her father has become a surrogate father to a young man, Tim Beaver, who is serving time in the Trinity County Jail. They met while both were in prison and Chuck Hurt had become sort of a counselor to Beaver. He continued that role after both were paroled.

And when Hurt and her father began talking about the bleak Thanksgiving Beaver faced in jail and how they might brighten it, they came

up with the idea of taking him a meal.

"We talked about taking him a plate of food for Thanksgiving dinner, but that didn't seem very festive or fair," she said.

Instead, she and her dad decided to cook for all the inmates and staff at the jail. That is not as cumbersome a task as it might seem at first, because the jail has only eight inmates.

Sheriff Brent Phillips said he welcomed the offer.

"We're a small jail and we don't have much of a budget for food," Phillips said.

Families of inmates often ask him if they can bring food on holidays to their relatives behind bars. Because the jail is so small, Phillips has a policy that if one person gets a special meal, all the prisoners must get the same treat.

At Thanksgiving, Hurt and her father also tried to promote the idea of families and organizations volunteering similar holiday meals in small jails around the state. Ray Hill, who does a Friday night prison radio show from Houston, promoted the idea.

The Texas Inmate Family Association took up the cause, but executive director Linda Reeves said sheriffs rejected the offers.

SMITH

Continued from Page 5A

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls (I Pet. 1:3-9, NIV).

Paul tells us: "Thank God, who always leads us in triumphant procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him" (II Cor. 2:14, NIV).

Two thousand years ago, the shepherds hurried and found Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus, who was lying in a manger. "When they had seen Him, they spread the word about what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2:17 f., NIV).

Paul instructs us that, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation: that God is reconciling the world to Himself in Christ...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." (II Cor. 5:17 f., NIV).

My prayer is that we all will take time out during this busy season to listen to the angelic message and that we might learn from those humble shepherds. Let us all glorify and praise our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I pray that any person who has not confessed their belief in Jesus as their personal savior, will do so without delay and that they will live lives that are pleasing to God. Accept God's great and indescribable gift to you right this minute. Pray to God, telling Him of your decision. Then join with other Christians as you confess, practice, and reinforce your faith. My prayer is that each person who reads this will accept their gift of salvation through Jesus and thereby finding spiritual peace and internal harmony of heart, mind and spirit. I pray that we Christians herald the Good News of Jesus' birth and His gifts to this weary world.

Shalom to all!

Paul Smith is operations manager for Isaiah 58 Christian relief agency, and chaplain of the Big Spring Gideon Camp.

Large decorative graphic with a central illustration of a reindeer and text: 'DUKE Visited making magical memories' 'Merry Christmas From The Staff At The Big Spring Herald' 'Let your Christmas shine!' Numerous handwritten signatures are present.

Advertisement for Trinity Baptist Church: Cordially Invite You to Attend our Services TRINITY BAPTIST 810 11TH PLACE 267-6344 Jesus was born that we might be born again. Randy Cotton Pastor. Sunday 11:00 a.m. Service broadcast over KBYG 1400 AM on your dial. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evangelistic Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page containing various headlines and snippets from other parts of the newspaper.

# SPORTS

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B  
Friday, Dec. 24, 1999

### IN BRIEF

#### Houston Astros trade Mike Hampton to Mets

HOUSTON (AP) — Fearing they would lose him to free agency, the Houston Astros traded 22-game winner Mike Hampton to the New York Mets Thursday, after dealing center fielder Carl Everett on Dec. 15 for the same reason.

Hampton, 22, and the Cy Young runner-up last season, and right fielder Derek Bell will go to the Mets in exchange for pitcher Octavio Dotel, outfielder Roger Cedeno and minor league left-hander Kyle Kessel.

Hampton will earn \$5.75 million this season and be eligible for free agency following the 2000 season. He had told the Astros he was not interested in discussing a contract extension, and the Astros determined they would not be able to meet his contract demands after next season.

#### Cancer Society offering Texas Golf Pass again

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

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

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

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

#### YMCA registering players for its basketball program

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

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

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

For more info, call 267-8234.

#### 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 info, call at (915) 795-2238.

### ON THE AIR

**Television TODAY**  
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
2 p.m. — Dallas Cowboys at New Orleans Saints, Fox.  
**GOLF**  
2:30 p.m. — Senior Match Play Challenge, quarterfinals, ESPN.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
3 p.m. — Denver Broncos at Detroit Lions, CBS.  
**GOLF**  
1:30 p.m. — Senior Match Play Challenge, semifinals, ESPN.  
**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
11 a.m. — Blue-Gray All-Star Classic, ABC.  
2:30 p.m. — Aloha Bowl: Arizona State vs. Wake Forest, ABC.  
7:30 p.m. — Oahu Bowl: Hawaii vs. Oregon, ESPN.  
**NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE**  
6 p.m. — New York Knicks at Indiana Pacers, NBC.  
8:30 p.m. — San Antonio Spurs at Los Angeles Lakers, NBC.

## Carruth changes attorneys; victim's mom granted custody of baby

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Rae Carruth arrived for his latest court appearance with a new team of lawyers and a promise that he will not plead guilty to charges he organized the slaying of his pregnant girlfriend.

"Rae indicates his innocence and will be pleading not guilty," said Carruth's new lawyer, Kenneth Spaulding. "We feel like the residents of Mecklenburg County are going to give him a chance to be heard."

Spaulding is part of a new team of lawyers hired after Carruth fired George Laughrun and Harold Bender. David Rudolf also is joining in Carruth's defense.

In the court hearing Wednesday, the infant boy who lost his mother, Cherica Adams, in the slaying police say was directed by Carruth was placed in the temporary custody of the child's maternal grandmother.

Carruth is being held without bond on first-degree murder and related charges for his alleged role in Adams' death.

Neither Carruth nor his mother, Theodry Carruth, sought custody of the child, Chancellor Lee Adams.

"We feel it's a very supportive family, a good family," Spaulding said in court. "Mr. Carruth, based on his current status and location, could not maintain custody of Chancellor."

Judge Yvonne Evans put off a decision on awarding permanent custody to Sandra Adams pending the results of a paternity test that Carruth has agreed to take. The judge scheduled another hearing on the matter for Dec. 30.

Authorities said Carruth, a former Carolina Panthers wide receiver, is the father of Chancellor Adams. Carruth and three other men have been charged with a Nov. 16 drive-by shooting that wounded Cherica Adams and prompted the emergency delivery of her son, who was 10 weeks short of full term.

Chancellor Adams remains hospitalized, but has been upgraded to fair condition; his mother died Dec. 14. Sandra Adams was granted emergency custody of her grandson on the day her daughter died.

"We are ready to move forward and start building a life for Chancellor when he is ready to come out of the hospital," Sandra Adams' attorney, Jay Ferguson, said afterwards.

Prosecutors have said they plan to seek the death penalty against Carruth. Carruth is the first active NFL player to be charged with murder.

As the custody hearing ended Wednesday and deputies led Carruth out of the courtroom, his mother sobbed and wiped away tears, but she said her son is not giving up.

## Cowboys

### Dallas limps into New Orleans wary that Saints won last year against better Pokes squad

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys, America's Team, the team that won six division titles and three Super Bowls, is limping along at 7-7 this year, beset with injuries and strife, the offense sputtering, the fans muttering, the owner grim. What could be worse?

How about a loss to the 2-12 New Orleans Saints on Christmas Eve?

Before the chuckles begin, remember the Saints were not much better last year and they whipped the Cowboys 22-3.

"That does not have to be reminded to anybody," quarterback Troy Aikman said. "Those who were on the football team last year know what happened when we went there and how disappointing that was for us. Right now, we know what's in front of us. If we win the next two ball games we're in the playoffs. That's really our focus."

The Cowboys bring a six-game losing streak on the road to New Orleans and are coming off their first home loss of the season. The New York Jets' 22-21 victory killed Dallas' chance to take over first place in the NFC East.

Dallas would be guaranteed at least a wild card berth with a 9-7 finish.

The game means a lot to the Cowboys, Saints coach Mike Ditka acknowledged, but it also means a lot to his long-suffering players.

"They're playing for something, we're not," Ditka said. "We're playing for pride, but you're playing on national television. You got a chance to rectify a lot of wrongs by playing some good football out there."

Since the Dallas game last

### DALLAS-SAINTS

**Dallas Cowboys (7-7) vs. New Orleans Saints (2-12) from the Louisiana Superdome, 2 p.m. today on Fox.**

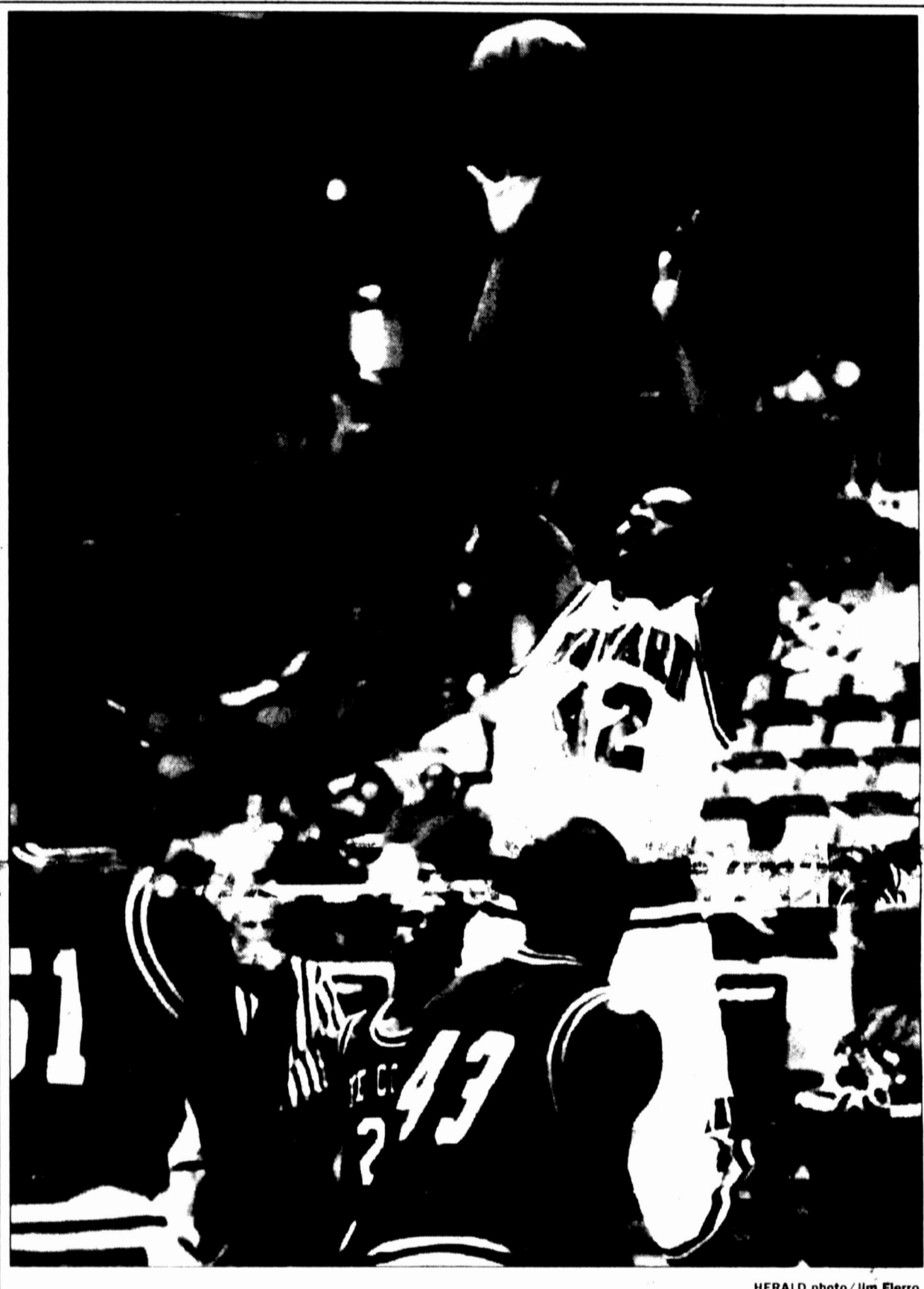
year, good football is not something the Saints have had much contact with.

New Orleans has lost five straight and, after dropping the Jacksonville game 41-23, has been beaten 43-12, 35-12, 30-14 and 31-8 by Baltimore last week when the offense made just eight first downs.

Offensively, the Saints are 20th in the NFL. Defensively, they're 21st.

Running back Ricky Williams, who has missed the last four games with a sprained toe, is expected to play today. Jake Delhomme, who will take his first snap in a regular-season NFL game, will start at quarterback, replacing the battered Billy Joe Hobert and Tolliver — and moving ahead of Danny Wuerffel, who has been ineffective in sparing use.

"I really don't know what to expect at this point," said Dallas coach Chan Gailey. "I would think that if Ricky was healthy, they would be trying to run it more. If Ricky is not healthy, we really don't know what to expect. I don't know if they think that Jake would be the kind of guy that would want to come out and throw the ball around some, or would they try to throw a little closer to the vest and let him get acclimated by running the ball a little more."



Howard College sophomore Donald "Yogi" Ceasar goes up for a shot in an earlier game this season at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks play in the Dixie Shootout in St. George, Utah next Tuesday-Thursday before opening conference play at home on Jan. 10 against New Mexico Military Institute.

## Gophers to spend nearly \$1 million taking 600 on Sun Bowl trip

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota will pay nearly \$1 million to send more than 600 people to the Sun Bowl, including former men's athletics director Mark Dienhart and three family members.

The expenditure on the football game is coming at a time when the school is taking an estimated \$5 million hit over the academic fraud scandal in the men's basketball program. Dienhart was among the casualties of the probe.

Jeff Schemmel, senior associate athletics director who is in charge of the Sun Bowl operation, said that as of Wednesday, he expected the total cost will be \$999,532. The bill will include two charter flights, other airfares, hotels and

some meal money.

The Gophers, who have not played in a bowl game since 1986, will meet Oregon in the Sun Bowl on Dec. 31 in El Paso.

In the wake of the cheating investigation, university President Mark Yudof decided not to renew Dienhart's contract after this school year. Dienhart chose to resign Dec. 6.

Schemmel, whose contract also won't be renewed in the wake of the investigation, said Dienhart and his family were invited by Yudof and football coach Glen Mason.

"He was as important a part of why we're there as there is," Schemmel said of Dienhart. "He was an invitee of both

Glen Mason and President Yudof."

The university may break even or show a small profit from the Sun Bowl.

Schemmel said the Sun Bowl will give at least \$1 million to the Big Ten Conference, which will then transfer \$1 million to Minnesota to cover expenses. Any additional revenue from the football game will be split among the 11 Big Ten schools to spend as they choose.

Department spokesman Marc Ryan said Tonya Moten Brown, Yudof's chief of staff who now oversees athletics, approved the manifest and trip budget.

Schemmel said no one spoke of using the bowl proceeds to pay part of the pending debt from the hoops scandal.

Officials said the manifest includes:

- 291 band members, with slots for 23 more.
- 100 football players.
- 43 cheerleaders and their coaches.
- Yudof and his chief of staff.
- Five members of the Board of Regents, as of Monday.
- Dienhart and three members of his family.
- Five members of the academic counseling staff.
- Four members of the faculty senate panel that oversees athletics and three of their family members or guests.
- One man to fire the cannon, and his wife.

## Rudy Tomjanovich sifting through Rockets' rubble

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Don't look for long faces in the Houston Rockets' locker room.

Oh, there's plenty of reason for gloom. Charles Barkley was forced into early retirement last week by a knee injury. Hakeem Olajuwon is out until late January recovering from hernia surgery.

There's also a need for name tags. Only three active players, Matt Bullard, Cuttino Mobley and Bryce Drew, were on the roster last season.

Despite it all, coach Rudy Tomjanovich keeps finding positives. All that time around Barkley has helped him keep a

sense of humor.

"This situation is giving invaluable experience for guys like Kenny Thomas," Tomjanovich said of his top draft pick. "If everybody stays healthy, he doesn't get much playing time. Now, he'll be so far ahead by next season than he would have been."

Houston went into the season knowing it was going through a transition. What's happened since has only sped things up, forcing the Rockets to give even more minutes to more youngsters.

Tomjanovich has been experimenting like a mad scientist, using seven different starting lineups in the first seven weeks of the season. Shandon Anderson is the only player who

has started every game.

"It is starting over, that's what it is," Tomjanovich said. "We've lost half of our offensive game."

It's probably fair to say the Rockets have bottomed out — they're playing to win but clearly looking to the future. That's where Tomjanovich finds his positive.

Still, even Tomjanovich is somewhat bitter about the three-game road trip that started Dec. 8 in Philadelphia with Barkley rupturing the tendon that connects the quadriceps muscle to his left knee.

A loss that night was followed by losses to Boston, New Jersey, New York and San Antonio. As of Thursday, the Rockets were 7-17, ahead of only Vancouver in their division. Houston was even

looking up at lowly Dallas.

"Before Charles went down, we already had the road trip mapped out," Carlos Rogers said. "We felt we could sweep the road trip and with a little luck, our goal was to be .500 for Christmas. Now, we're back to square one."

"We'd just got used to playing with Charles and now we've got to turn around and do something else."

Tomjanovich suggests his team should take advantage of its youth and try running more. Yet, he wants it done only at the right times.

"We've tried to do that from the start of the season," Tomjanovich said. "But if you don't have a lot of firepower you can't come down and just start flinging stuff up there."

Rebuilding the team this time won't be like the early 1980s when the Rockets were accused of losing to ensure themselves the first pick in the NBA draft. Whatever they did worked as consecutive top draft picks yielded Ralph Sampson and Olajuwon.

With no quick fix in sight, Tomjanovich is ready for a long trip back.

"I'm always going to coach to win, but probably the biggest goal we have is growth, getting better and growing and establishing some things," Tomjanovich said. "Maybe the things we need to do we haven't even put in. I'm going to keep bringing stuff that makes sense."

SPORTS EXTRA

**BOWLING SCHEDULE**

All Times CST  
(Subject to change)

**Saturday, Dec. 18**  
Las Vegas Bowl  
At Las Vegas  
Payoff: \$1.2 million  
Utah 17, Fresno State 16

**Heritage Bowl**  
At Atlanta  
Hampton 24, Southern U. 3

**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
Mobile Alabama Bowl  
Payoff: \$750,000  
Texas Christian 28, East Carolina 14

**Saturday, Dec. 25**  
Blue-Gray Classic  
At Montgomery, Ala.  
Gray vs. Blue, 11 a.m. (ABC)

**Alhambra Bowl**  
At Honolulu  
Payoff: \$800,000  
Arizona State (6-5) vs. Wake Forest (6-5), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)

**Orlando Bowl**  
At Honolulu  
Payoff: \$800,000  
Oregon State (7-4) vs. Hawaii (8-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Dec. 27**  
Motor City Bowl  
At Pontiac, Mich.  
Payoff: \$750,000  
Marshall (12-0) vs. Brigham Young (8-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Tuesday, Dec. 28**  
Alamo Bowl  
At San Antonio  
Payoff: \$1.2 million  
Texas A&M (8-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**  
Music City Bowl  
At Nashville, Tenn.  
Payoff: \$750,000  
Kentucky (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

**Holiday Bowl**  
At San Diego  
Payoff: \$1.6 million  
Kansas State (10-1) vs. Washington (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Thursday, Dec. 30**  
Humanitarian Bowl  
At Boise, Idaho  
Payoff: \$750,000  
Boise State (9-3) vs. Louisville (7-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN)

**At Miami**  
Payoff: \$750,000  
Virginia (7-4) vs. Illinois (7-4), 6 p.m. (TBS)

**At Atlanta**  
Payoff: \$1.6 million  
Mississippi State (9-2) vs. Clemson (6-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Dec. 31**  
Inlight.com Bowl  
At Tucson, Ariz.

**NFL STANDINGS**

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

<b>East</b>						
Indianapolis	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Indianapolis	12	2	0	.846	364	253
Buffalo	9	5	0	.615	245	192
Miami	9	5	0	.615	273	268
New England	7	7	0	.538	260	244
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.423	229	248
<b>Central</b>						
Jacksonville	13	1	0	.923	334	155
Tennessee	11	3	0	.769	274	257
Baltimore	7	7	0	.462	268	249
Pittsburgh	5	9	0	.357	251	253
Cincinnati	4	10	0	.286	276	414
Cleveland	2	13	0	.143	175	384
<b>West</b>						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	338	258
Seattle	8	6	0	.577	276	229
Oakland	7	7	0	.462	284	268
San Diego	6	8	0	.423	222	278
Denver	5	9	0	.357	255	269

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

<b>East</b>						
Washington	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Washington	8	6	0	.577	375	323
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	254	267
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	281	295
Arizona	6	8	0	.423	186	265
Philadelphia	4	11	0	.214	210	317
<b>West</b>						
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.692	221	174
Detroit	8	6	0	.577	288	254
Minnesota	8	6	0	.577	317	281
Green Bay	7	7	0	.500	278	254
Chicago	6	8	0	.423	226	277
<b>West</b>						
St. Louis	12	2	0	.846	430	182
Carolina	7	7	0	.500	356	338
San Francisco	4	10	0	.286	246	393
Atlanta	3	11	0	.214	197	307
New Orleans	2	12	0	.143	208	334

**Saturday's Games**  
Kansas City 35, Pittsburgh 19  
Carolina 41, San Francisco 24

**Sunday's Games**  
Tennessee 30, Atlanta 17  
Chicago 28, Detroit 10  
Jacksonville 24, Cleveland 14  
Philadelphia 24, New England 9  
Baltimore 31, New Orleans 8  
St. Louis 31, New York Giants 10  
Miami 12, San Diego 9  
Indianapolis 24, Washington 21  
Oakland 45, Tampa Bay 0  
New York Jets 22, Dallas 21  
Denver 36, Seattle 30, OT  
Buffalo 31, Arizona 21

**Monday's Game**  
Minnesota 24, Green Bay 20

**Today's Game**  
Payoff: \$750,000  
Boston College (8-3) vs. Colorado (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**San Bow**  
At El Paso, Texas  
Payoff: \$1 million  
Oregon (8-3) vs. Minnesota (8-3), 1:15 p.m. (CBS)

**Liberty Bowl**  
At Memphis, Tenn.  
Payoff: \$1.2 million  
Colorado State (8-3) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

**Independence Bowl**  
At Shreveport, La.  
Payoff: \$1 million  
Mississippi (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Outback Bowl**  
At Tampa, Fla.  
Payoff: \$1.9 million  
Georgia (7-4) vs. Purdue (7-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

**Christmas Day**  
Denver at Detroit, 3:15 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 26**  
Buffalo at New England, noon  
Carolina at Pittsburgh, noon  
Chicago at St. Louis, noon  
Cincinnati at Baltimore, noon  
Indianapolis at Cleveland, noon  
Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon  
Minnesota at NY Giants, noon  
Oakland at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.  
Kansas City at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.  
Green Bay at Tampa, 3:15 p.m.  
Washington at San Francisco, 7:20 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 27**  
New York Jets at Miami, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**COLLEGE RANKINGS**

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 19, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

<b>Record Pts Pvs</b>			
1. Stordred	60-8-0	1,729	2
2. Conn(B)	7-1	1,635	3
3. Arizona	9-1	1,606	4
4. Cincinnati	8-1	1,534	1
5. Michigan	8-2	1,476	5
6. NoCar	8-2	1,326	7
7. Auburn	7-1	1,322	6
8. Florida	7-1	1,200	9
9. Syracuse	7-0	1,168	10
10. Duke	7-2	1,074	11
11. Tennessee	4-2	502	17
12. Kansas	8-2	999	8
13. Oklahoma	9-0	851	14
14. Texas	6-2	712	15
15. Illinois	6-2	694	20
16. OhioSt	5-2	630	12
17. Maryland	4-2	571	16
18. UCLA	4-1	561	18
19. Tenn	4-2	502	17
20. Indiana	7-1	452	21
21. Oklahoma	9-0	441	23
22. Gonzaga	7-2	339	22
23. Wake	7-2	322	24
24. DePaul	7-3	201	19
25. NCState	7-0	111	NR

**Through Week 15**

**AFC Individual Leaders**

<b>Quarterbacks</b>					
Att	Com	Yds	Td	Int	
Manning, Ind	461	286	3696	26	15
Garner, Oak	435	263	3250	20	11
Lucas, Nev	223	137	1277	11	4
Blake, Cin	329	182	2342	16	8

**Rushers**

Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	
James, Ind	323	430	43	72	10
Martin, Nev	313	1234	39	36	3
Dillon, Cin	253	1173	46	50	5
E. George, Tex	286	1170	41	40	9
SMU 2, Vanderbilt 2, Iowa St. 1, Penn St. 1, Siena 1	298	1117	37	45	5

**RECEIVERS**

<b>(ESPN)</b>					
Smith, Jac	98	1367	13.9	57	6
Harrison, Ind	97	1474	15.2	87	11
Kuhns, NY	83	1121	13.5	65	7
Brown, Oak	81	1113	13.7	45	6
Glenn, N.E.	69	1147	16.6	67	4

**NFC Individual Leaders**

**Quarterbacks**

Att	Com	Yds	Td	Int	
Warner, STL	441	289	3878	36	10
George, Min	284	167	2356	22	8
Brayton, Car	495	303	3851	29	14
B. Brown, Was	461	277	3459	22	12
Ferrette, Det	266	161	1937	8	6

**Rushers**

Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	
Davis, Was	290	1405	4.8	76	17
Faulk, St.L	237	1248	5.3	58	6
Staley, Ph	307	1229	4.0	29	4
E. Smith, Dal	284	1165	4.1	63	10
Gamer, S.F.	216	1071	5.0	53	3

**Receivers**

No	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	
Mhamd, Car	86	1163	13.5	60	7
Carter, Min	82	1058	12.9	68	12
Bruce, St.L	73	1120	15.3	60	11
Moss, Min	72	1214	16.9	61	10
Mattis, Atl	72	906	12.6	52	4

Devotion helps Spellman outlast his demons

IRVING (AP) — Alonzo Spellman sits on a bench in front of his cubicle in the Dallas Cowboys locker room. He tilts his knees together and balances a plate of food on his lap.

The hulking defensive lineman drops his chin toward his chest, shuts his eyes and silently begins to pray. He's motionless for 30 seconds. Forty-five. More than a minute passes and he's still frozen in prayer.

It's a far cry from the wild-man reputation Spellman brought to Dallas.

The transformation from reckless to religious changed Spellman's life and probably saved it. With his demons under control, he returned to football this summer after a 19-month lay-off and has been playing as well as ever.

Spellman had become infamous for a spurt of bizarre episodes in 1998 that led to his release by the Chicago Bears.

His downfall began that March when he refused to leave his publicist's house for eight hours. The next day, he kicked down a hospital door and walked barefoot into a frigid Chicago afternoon wearing only a thin white gown.

Two months later, Detroit police used pepper spray to subdue him after he got out of control while breaking up a fight between two female companions. Three months after that, police found him sleeping in his car. It was parked in the fast lane of a highway.

Spellman knew his life was spinning out of control, but he felt helpless against it. Even being diagnosed and treated for bipolar disorder, a mental illness that triggers erratic behavior and depression, couldn't pull him out of it.

"I tried everything I could to

make things better for me," said Spellman, declining to give specifics. "And none of it worked."

Finally, he turned to religion. Or, more accurately, he returned to religion.

"No one can ever say that it wasn't God who touched my life and changed it because only God could have done that," he said. "No human person could've done that. That had nothing to do with Alonzo Spellman. Believe me."

Rewind to 1992. Spellman, then 20, left Ohio State after his junior year and became a first-round draft pick by the Bears, who saw the 6-foot-4, 292-pound defensive end as the next Richard Dent. They even had the original around to tutor him.

Away from football, Spellman loaded up on expensive clothes and fancy size-18 shoes. He drove fast cars, fathered three children out of wedlock and began drifting from the family-oriented, Christian lifestyle that led him to success in the first place.

"I starting thinking it was more about me than it was about God," said Spellman, whose church life slowed in college and was practically nonexistent in the pros. "He had to chop me back down to size."

Spellman missed one game his rookie season, then was in the lineup every week the next four years. He took over Dent's job in 1994 and after the '95 season he signed a four-year, \$11.6 million contract.

A shoulder injury wrecked his '97 season and tarnished his relationship with the Bears when he refused to have surgery.

His emotions boiled one morning at his publicist's home when an NFL-mandated drug test was delayed. He started kicking and

throwing things and wouldn't leave. A police tactical unit surrounded the house and tried talking him into coming out. Former teammate Mike Singletary ultimately lured Spellman into a peaceful exit.

The Bears cut him in June 1998. His wife divorced him. He was evicted from his suburban Chicago house.

Spellman, who was baptized at three months and raised a devout Christian, eventually decided it was time to return to his faith. Every day for six months, he got on his hands and knees and prayed.

He doesn't remember the exact date of what he calls his "delivery," but it was around late May or early June. He remembers everything else about it.

"I was by myself. I had put on a tape and was listening to the music and looking at some pictures of my family," Spellman said, his deep voice becoming softer.

"Then, the Lord walked into my heart. I felt the Holy Spirit all over me. I broke down and started crying. I fell to my knees and prayed to him and repented."

Spellman and his agent, Leigh Steinberg, had agreed that his football career would have to wait until his life was in order.

By July, he was ready.

The Cowboys, a team that's no stranger to players with off-field problems, had been interested in Spellman for months. In addition to a spot on the defensive line, Spellman was attracted by team owner Jerry Jones' promise that his well-being would come ahead

of the team's needs. And the Cowboys offer a counseling department run by Calvin Hill to help players deal with myriad difficulties.

"We were very, very careful," Steinberg said. "One of the real factors was the excellent program that Dallas had set up. The other thing was that Jerry Jones is an extremely strong and accepting person. He's really taken Alonzo under his wing."

The Cowboys also had Deion Sanders.

Sanders first reached out to Spellman after seeing news reports of his problems. The pair were barely acquainted, but Sanders had recently gone through a religious awakening and thought Spellman could use some spiritual guidance.

"We had an automatic bond," Sanders said. "It was something special that we've shared because both of us had struggled with the verge of suicide on our minds. I wanted to be there for him and he's been there for me, too."

Sanders urged the Cowboys to interview Spellman late last year. They called each other often and Sanders encouraged Spellman to resurrect his career.

"Deion was the first to seek me out," Spellman said. "He made the transition so much easier. Having that spiritual outlet to link into was a huge plus. He's got all my respect. He's not just a Hall of Famer. He's an incredible person."

Spellman signed a one-year contract for the veteran minimum of \$400,000 and reported to training camp July 30.

**Keeping an eye on Texas**

Rah! High school mascots rule

The ten most popular high school mascots or team nicknames in Texas are:

<b>Mascot scoreboard</b>			
Teams	Number of teams	Teams	Number of teams
#1 Eagles	64	#6 Mustangs	32
#2 Bulldogs	56	#7 Hornets	27
#3 Wildcats	47	#8 Cougars	25
#4 Tigers	42	#9 Lions	26
#5 Panthers	39	#10 Indians	22

**New Year's Holiday Office Hours and Advertising Deadlines for the Big Spring Herald**

The Big Spring Herald offices will be closed December 31 and will reopen for business at 7:30 a.m. Monday, January 3.

**Advertising Deadlines**  
Friday, December 31.....Wednesday, 12 NOON  
Sunday, January 2.....Thursday, 12 NOON  
Monday, January 3.....Thursday, 3 p.m.

**Classified Deadlines**  
Friday, December 31.....Thursday, 12 NOON  
Sunday, January 2.....Thursday, 3 p.m.  
(NO TOO LATES FOR SUNDAY)  
Monday, January 3.....Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

**Circulation Phones**  
The December 31 paper will be delivered as a morning product. Phone hours will be 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**For Circulation Call 263-7335**  
We at the Herald wish you a Happy Holiday!

LPGA Hall of Fame for the young, restless

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — Traffic in the PGA Tour Stop store was slow on a gray, chilly afternoon at the World Golf Village as Karrie Webb sat behind a table and signed autographs for two hours. Most of her visitors were on lunch break from the Hall of Fame.

All of them wanted to know whether she had visited the new hall.

Webb politely shook her head, explaining that her schedule was so tight all she had time to see were the signatures of every Hall of Famer inscribed on the circular path of bricks.

A tour of the shrine will come another day. She plans to return Nov. 20 to watch Beth Daniel and Juli Inkster become only the 16th and 17th players to be inducted.

"You'll be in there soon enough," one employee told her.

The question is, will it be too soon?

With another season like wonder Webb had this year, she could surpass the required 27 points for qualification under the new LPGA Tour criteria.

By winning six times this year, including her first major, shattering the LPGA Tour's scoring record for the Vare Trophy and winning player of the year, Webb now has 16 victories which, along with her major and three awards, give her 20 points.

Of course, she would still need 10 years on tour to become eligible for induction. Webb, who turned 25 on Tuesday, has been around all of four seasons.

And she probably won't be the first player to gather enough points for the Hall of Fame before her time. Annika Sorenstam, a 29-year-old who joined the LPGA Tour only six years ago, needs just two points to reach the magic number. Se Ri Pak might not be too far behind. The 21-year-old from South Korea already has eight victories, two of them majors, in her first two seasons.

Did the LPGA Tour set the bar too low when it changed its requirements? Webb only makes it seem that way, although she should hardly be condemned for being so good.

"The way the LPGA is treated, if we play on a course and shoot 20-under, then the course is too easy, not that we played great golf," Webb said. "But if we play Blackwolf Run (site of the 1998 U.S. Open) and 6-over wins, then we can't play."

"This is the same thing," she said. "If no one gets in, the criteria is too tough. But it will be too easy if we get in under the 10-

year period."

The LPGA Hall of Fame used to be the toughest to crack in all of sports. It was based on a rigid set of standards that only 14 women had been able to meet — a sliding scale that began with 30 victories and five majors and ended with 40 wins and no majors.

Until the criteria changed, it risked becoming a memorial rather than a shrine.

"Do you want a Hall of Fame to have people in it? The way it is now, I don't think anyone else would get in," Inkster said before the LPGA voted in the changes.

Without the changes, Inkster wouldn't have had a chance. That would have been an injustice to leave out a woman with 22 victories and five major championships, one of only four players to complete the LPGA career Grand Slam.

It would have been a crime to leave out Daniel with her 32 victories and one major. Same with Amy Alcott, the first player inducted under the new criteria, who had five majors among her 29 victories.

Is it also a crime just because Sorenstam and Webb qualify in their 20s?

Consider the class from two generations ago — Pat Bradley, Alcott, Nancy Lopez, Betsy King, Patty Sheehan and Daniel.

Had the 27-point criteria been in effect then, all of them except Lopez would have taken at least 10 years to amass enough points.

Lopez would have done it in four seasons.

"We're seeing the level of play with Annika and Karrie — and maybe with Se Ri — like you saw with that class," commissioner Ty Votaw said. "And what history shows us is that group of players — Pat, Amy, Nancy, Beth, Betsy and Patty — are in the same class as the Kathy Whitworths and Mickey Wrights and JoAnne Carner. The generational greatness is there."

Laura Davies (22 points) and Dottie Pepper (20) also have a chance to make the Hall of Fame. Both joined the LPGA Tour in 1988, and along with Inkster are the most accomplished players of their generation.

What Webb and Sorenstam have done in such a short period of time is more a reflection on their ability than an indictment on the LPGA Tour's new Hall of Fame criteria.

What women's golf has are simply the best two players of their generation — perhaps even two players history will show as among the best ever.

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**MENS CAPR 12-13-99**

**RESULTS-T**  
Rama 6-2, Burgess Auto Peline 8-0, 6-2, Partee Sandwiches Gutierrez 23/ 638, hi hdcpp gdcpp series 1 game Burger 780, hi hd Amory 832, Auto 2276, Nails 2349.

**STANDING**  
Santa Fe 5 Drilling 71-4 Bowl-A-Rama 53, Four Way 66, Tough As

**GUY'S & DOL WEEK 16**

**RESULTS-J**  
8-0, Hester's State Park 6-over Hyden's game men B women Nell (Ben Sparks Velma Campbell Robert Beatty Nell Clark 25 sparks 667, Clark 631, hi 685, hi hdc 835, hi sc tei hi hdcpp team STANDING Hester's Me State Pat Photography Hyden's Auto

**WEEK 15**

**RESULTS-I**  
Dogs 8:0, F 8:0, Eight over Hoot Owl NFS over The tied Thirteen 0-0, Three ov team series 1914, Bette's game Undeci 679, Bette's 679, Bette's women Krug Lacey 595, F 228, Joe Krug series womer McCright 500 game womer Jackson 186 hdcpp team 5 2630, Fourth game Thirteen hi hdcpp series Krug 750, Bi game men Kr Abe Yanez 2 Lucia Roberts Irene Jackson Sam Horton Yanez 256.

**STANDINGS**  
Lightouse 66-54, The D 57, Untouch Don'ts 60-61 Hoot Owls 60 67, Thirter Undecided 4 Fifteen 32-72

**MENS MAJOL WEEK #16**

**RESULTS-B**  
6-2, Mason's Trucking 4-4 Collums Rest Parks Agency 672, John Gil hi sc game Jo 261, Pat Car Trio Fuels 28, Parks Agency Fuels 1009, F Trucking 990 780, John Gil hi hdcpp Carter, Doug series BSI 3 3272, Mason hdcpp team F Trucking 113

**STANDINGS**  
Restaurant 7 Bob Brock O'Daniel Tr Collectables 40-88.

**PIN POPPER! WEEK #16**

**RESULTS**  
Pro Care Cr over Dixie Ch over Rose Bartied Bowl-A-R Health Food Bernadine Se hi sc game E Burchell 205 Designs by F Shop 1872; Designs by F Shop 666; hi 647, Mary Ell Mulkey 246, team series G Designs by R game Hair De Restaurant 82

**STANDINGS**  
Grub 68-60, L&M Propertie 62-66, Kuyke 56-72, Bowl-A Store 54-74.

**WEDNESDAY WEEK #16**

**RESULTS-A**  
Monistat 5 6-Tunes 6-2, M Records 8-0, Scattech over Jerald Burgess-Gutierrez 645 258, Joey Gut hi sc team se Dust Devils 2 team game A Devils 966, I series Robe Gutierrez 690 hi hdcpp game Burgess 258, team series A Devils 2993, 3 game Allans F 1040, Dust D

**STANDINGS**  
8R 40, Allans 76-52, Scatte 64, Looney Records 56-7 128.





# Herald Classifieds

**ATTENTION**  
**THE BIG SPRING**  
**HERALD**  
**APPRECIATES**  
**YOUR BUSINESS**

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made, we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed your advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount actually received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

**AUTOS FOR SALE**  
Now taking bids - 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix, 40795 miles. 1998 Ford Contour GL, 64,114 miles. \*Any bid may be refused. Call BSSH FCU 263-5304.

Take up payments on 1999 Cavalier Chev. like new 9,000 miles. Leave message 915-263-0417.

**PICKUPS**

1968 Ford PU SW V/8 at new lic. & sticker. Runs good. \$1,500. OBO. 1408 Hwy. 350. Call 270-1135.

1992 Red/white ext. cab Dodge 3/4 ton cummins turbo diesel. \$8,000. Call 263-0121.

1994 F-350 crew cab dually, turbo diesel. Loaded. Nice clean truck. 145K. \$12,200. O.B.O. 267-2107

Small SouthWestern Bell truck fully enclosed utility bed, good condition. \$3200. OBO 267-2296

**SUBURBANS**

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

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLES**

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

Several NEW 99's still remaining in our inventory - Reduced to ALMOST used car prices.

**BOB BROCK FORD**  
500 W. 4th

**PERSONAL**

**PERSONAL 2000 PREDICTIONS** Reveal your destiny. Live & Confidential. #1 in Accuracy & Service! Relationships, Finance, Daily Crisis? Mystical Connections 24hrs/18+/2.99min. Credit Card Only. 1-877-478-4410

Did you miss your Herald? Call 263-7335 & ask for Circulation.

**PERSONAL**

**NEED CASH NOW OPEN E-Z CASH** of Big Spring Checking Acct. Required 263-4315

**BUSINESS OPPT.**

Convenient store great location. Gross sales \$700,000+. A money maker \$110,000. Call 263-8690.

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

**FINANCIAL**

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

Personal/Business Oppt. Bankrupt? Bad Credit? We can help, call toll free 1-877-583-9846

**HELP WANTED**

**DENTAL BILLER** \$15-\$45/hr. Dental Billing software company needs people to process medical claims from home. Training provided. Must own computer. 1-800-223-1149 ext 460

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

**Domino's Pizza** Part time drivers and inside help needed. Apply in person at 2202 Gregg

Girling Health Care, Inc. Home Care Attendants needed in Big Springs and surrounding areas to help with housekeeping and personal care. For more information call 1-800-665-4471 or 1-915-643-5604.

**LOGO**

**WEST TEXAS CENTERS** now hiring full-time and part-time Direct Care Staff. High School Diploma/GED required. Full time salary \$517.85 b/wkly (\$13,464 annually). excellent benefits. part time salary \$6.47 per hour. Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels. EOE.

**PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING** Odessa College and International Schools offer a Four Week Semi-Driver Training Course in ODESSA

All qualified applicants preferred prior to class start Call (915) 580-0860 or (800) 681-8105 619 North Grant Ave #115 Odessa, Texas 79601

**TRANSPORTATION**

Major carrier has immediate openings at its Big Spring Terminal for experienced Truck Drivers. CX offers: Sign-On Bonus-\$200.00, group health insurance, retirement plan, paid vacation, paid company holidays, home most nights, CX requirements, 23 yrs. old, 1 yr. verifiable road exp., CDL-Class A License with Haz Mat. Endorsement, good driving record, must pass DOT physical & drug screen. Applicants can apply at I-20 & Midway Rd - B.S. or call 1-800-729-4645

**HELP WANTED**

Enter the new century with a BANG. Make up to \$2,000.00 in 6 days. Looking for enthusiastic adults to manage a fireworks stand outside Big Spring December 27 thru January 1. Phone 10am thru 5 pm 1-800-364-0136 or 1-210-622-3788.

Medical office has opening for front office person with good communication skills. Applicant who enjoys working with people a plus. Send Resume to: P O Box 631 Big Spring, Texas 79720.

**HELP WANTED**

Wanted FT/PT to start after the first of the year. Experience preferred but not necessary. Must have High School diploma or G.E. D. Good salary + benefits. NO Calls! Apply in person, 121 E. 3rd.

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

**LOANS**

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

**MIDWEST FINANCE** Loans \$100-\$430. Open M-F 9-6pm. 612 Gregg. 263-1353. Phone apps. welcome. Se Habla Espanol. 110 West 3rd. 263-1138

**NEED CASH NOW OPEN E-Z CASH** \$100 to \$100,000. NO Credit Check. No Credit Check. Required 263-4315

**SUN LOANS** Loans from \$100 - \$470. Phone apps. welcome. Se Habla Espanol. 110 West 3rd. 263-1138

Wallace Medical Unit with Mitchell County Hospital District is accepting applications for a Correctional LVN position. Good benefits. Contact Ms. Cogburn, R.N., D.O.N. at (915) 728-2162, extension 1236.

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New Steel Building in crate. 40x22 was \$5,880 now \$2,830. Must sell 1-800-292-0111.

**DOGS, PETS, ETC.** All Breeds Grooming And Boarding Pick up and delivery available. Call Heather @ 263-4180 for appt.

**Grand Opening E-Z Rentals** 120 days same as cash! SPECIAL 10 free weeks on long term contract. or \$50 OFF -120 Namebrand TV's, VCR's, furniture, appliances, etc. 263-4315

**Unbeatable Values at Branham Furniture** 2004 W. 4th In Bedroom, livingroom suites, dinette, sofa sets, computer desk, bunk and canopy beds, mattresses, futons, vanities and new appliances

**Z J's BASIC FURNITURE** Living room, bedroom suites, dining room sets, at unbelievable low prices. Located in old Wheat's building. Come see us today. 115 E. 2nd. 263-4563.

**1000 NEW CUSTOMERS** No Credit - No Problem Loans \$100-\$467 Apply by phone 267-4591 or come by SECURITY FINANCE 204 S. Goliad • Big Spring

**BUILDING MATERIALS** New Steel Building in crate. 40x22 was \$5,880 now \$2,830. Must sell 1-800-292-0111.

**PORTABLE BUILDINGS** SIERRA MERCANTILE For all your building needs. Portable On sight - Carports I-20 East • 263-1460

**PRODUCE** 1999 crop shelled pecans. \$5.00 a pound. Call 263-2976.

This years pecans. Good quality. \$1.50 lb. Call 263-8785

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

Land for Sale. Some for mobile homes, some for houses. Best quality and volume of water in Howard County. Some well make over 50 gallons a minute. Will finance or Texas Veterans. 263-8785.

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Position are now available for full-time and part-time LVN. We offer excellent starting pay. 10 pd vacation days after a year, 7 pd holidays per year, incentive bonus, & quarterly bonus. Apply in person at 2009 Virginia.

Opening with established company, good benefits, 401k, advancement opportunities. Purchasing/expeditor. Will train. Send resume to P. O. Box 2158, Big Spring TX. 79720.

Set Own Income! Set Own Hours! Be Your Own Boss! Sign Up Free! AVON 394-4804

Malone & Hogan Clinic, a member of Covenant Health System, has an immediate opening for a Patient Representative. Minimum qualifications include one year medical office experience, typing speed of 40 words per minute and 10 key St. Touch. Salary is commensurate to experience and full benefit package is available. Only qualified applicants need apply to the Personnel Office of Malone and Hogan Clinic, 1501 W. 11th Place, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or fax resume to 915-264-7019. EOE.

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**HOUSES FOR SALE**

2 bedroom on 4 ac. Owner Finance with low down pay and easy qualifying. \$17,500. Call Linda 263-7500 or Home Realtors 263-1284.

3 bedroom - 2 bath with pool. Forsan school district. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

**FORECLOSED HOMES**  
Low or 0 down! Gov't and bank repo's being sold Now! Financing available. Call Now!  
1-800-355-0024 ext.8040

**ABANDONED HOMES**  
in Big Spring.  
Take up payments w/nothing down.  
Local 264-0510

Beautiful Executive home, 1008 Driver Rd. 2.69 acres pool, priced below cost. 268-9696 or 263-0664.

**EXECUTIVE HOME.**  
4400 sq ft, 5br, 4 bath  
Parkhill, \$235,000  
By owner, 267-3601

For Sale By Owner: 123 Jonesboro Rd. Nice 2 bdr, 1 bth. Pecan trees and fruit trees on 1/2 acre. Double carport with storage. Fenced yard. Call 399-4406 or 353-4402.

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

**FOR SALE BY OWNER**  
3 bdr, 2 bth. home in Kentwood - 2100 Merrily Assumable Loan at 7%.  
Call 263-4922

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

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

**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD**  
•Swimming Pool  
•Private Patios  
•Carports  
•Appliances  
•Most Utilities Paid  
•Senior Citizens Discount  
•1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished  
PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS  
800 W. Marcy Drive  
263-5555 263-5000

**HOUSES FOR SALE**

Seller will help with closing costs so you can move in the immaculate recently remodeled 3 bdrm home. cent h/air, carport tile fence, storage bldg. new carpet, fresh paint. Payment approx \$350 move in cost approx \$1,000. Owner/agent 263-6882.

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

**MOBILE HOMES**

\*\$16,000 for very nice 2 bedroom 2 bath. We Finance You!! 563-9000

\$239/mo!! 1997 3/2 set-up skirting, a/c. Call now 653-7800 or 1-800-698-8003. 5% dn, 13.75% a.p.r., 8 pt buy dn, 360 mos.(w.a.c.)

\*\*\$250 per month!! for beautiful 3 bedroom, includes delivery, A/C and 5 year warranty!! 563-9000 9.50% VAP, 360 mos, 10% down, W.A.C.

\$3000\* Holiday shopping spree! With every new Palm Harbor in Dec. Call for appt. 653-7800 or 1-800-698-8003. (\* 1500 per section)

**BIG SCREEN TV.** gourmet kitchen, sliding patio door, glamour bath. Only \$750 gets you in. 653-7800 or 1-800-698-8003 (w.a.c.)

**DRASTIC DOUBLEWIDE DISCOUNT**  
3 bedroom, 2 bath as low as \$236/mo!! 10% down, 7.99% - 300 months with approved credit. (915) 520-2177

**SI ESTA CANSADO** de pagar Renta. Pero su credito esta mal, o no tiene credito. Venga a verme en A-1 HOMES, Midland, TX. O hablame al telefono: 563-9000 y pregunte por Cucu Arellano, para ayudarle en su casa mobil nueva o usada.

**LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX**  
Swimming Pool  
Carports,  
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**FURNISHED APTS.**

Apartments, Unfurnished houses, Mobile Home. References required. Call 263-6944, 263-2341.

**FURNISHED HOUSES**

1407 Virginia, 1 Bedroom, one bath. Furnished. Call 267-2298 after 5 pm.

2504 E 24th, 1 Bedroom, one bath. Furnished. Call 267-2298 after 5 pm.

**OFFICE SPACE**

For Rent/Lease: Office space on FM 700. \$325/mo., utilities paid. Call 915-263-1709

**UNFURNISHED APTS.**

\$99 MOVE IN plus deposit. 1,2,3 bdr. Partially furn. 263-7811 a.m. 393-5240 evenings

Free Rent For Christmas Half of Dec. Free w/ \$99 Dep 2 bdr. \$265 Eff. \$3210 Call 915-267-4217

**UNFURNISHED HOUSES**

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

**BARCELONA APARTMENTS**  
Your Choice  
\$99 MOVE-IN SPECIAL  
w/6 mo. lease or  
Sign a 13 Mo. Lease & get \$99 Move-In & 13th Mo. FREE!  
WATER & GAS PAID  
538 WESTOVER ROAD  
263-1262

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 25:**

Financial dealings with others are highlighted this year. You'll enjoy the ease of working with partners and associates. You pull the monetary wild card, so expect the unexpected in your finances. Sometimes you might feel that your creativity is impaired but you'll ultimately manifest a great deal of ingenuity. Work flourishes from summer on. If you are single, romance and commitment will walk hand in hand. Opportunities for a relationship are especially likely from mid- to late winter. If attached, you are likely to decide on a new addition, maybe even a pet. Develop other common interests. LEO understands you.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
\*\*\*\* Don't count on anything going the way you think, but don't decide that this is negative, either. Release control and let people be. You are delighted and surprised by a friend. Your thoughts about another who is at a distance could change substantially. Tonight: Bring more

caring into a relationship.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
\*\*\*\*Keep your home center stage. Decide what is needed. You are more in touch with your feelings than you have been. A partner changes his tune and makes every attempt to create a special time for you. A parent or older relative does the unexpected. Tonight: Happy wherever you are.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
\*\*\*\* Let another tell you what is on his mind. Sometimes you are very careful when dealing with this person, but now you see a new side. Turn over a new leaf and approach him openly. Express caring to those close to you. A surprise call or unexpected news propels you in a new direction. Tonight: Return calls; take time with a loved one.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
\*\*\*\*You clearly put forth an extraordinary effort this Christmas. Others let you know how very important you are to them. A change of plans allows others to pitch in. Not everything has to happen the same way every year. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
\*\*\*\* Joy emanates from children, and also from an adult

**UNFURNISHED HOUSES**

2 bdr mobile home 1407 B Mesquite \$265/mn. \$150/dep. Also: 2 bdr. mobile 1410 rear Harding \$265/mn. \$150/dep. water paid. Call 267-6667.

2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 304 E. 5th. No pets. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

2/1 \$350/mo + dep. 3/1 \$450/mo. + dep. 3/2 \$600/mo. + dep. Call 264-9907.

2506 Central 3 bdr. C/H/A, garage fenced yard. Also: 3617 Hamilton clean, 3 bdr. C/H/A, fenced yard. Call 263-3350 or 634-0997

2510 Carlton. Good neighborhood. Nice, clean 3BR, 2bth, CH/A, 2 living areas, fenced backyard, double carport. \$550/mo, \$250/dep, 267-1543.

3 bdr. stove & refrigerator furnished. New paint & carpet. Bills pd. HUD ok! 501 Union. Secluded. Call 263-4011

3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 4219 Hamilton Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

3 Br 1 bath, CH/A. Nice Neighborhood. 2410 Carellton. \$475/mo. + dep. Call 263-4367 or 263-6997

**UNFURNISHED HOUSES**

2 bdr, 2 bth, brick C/A, well water, trash & yard paid. Ref. needed. No Pets. \$375/mn. (Knott area), 915-268-3044 lv. message.

Especially nice rentals: 3/2. Kentwood, \$495, 2/2, ref., stove, dishwasher, \$550. Call Doris at 263-6525 or Home Realtors 263-1284.

**FOR RENT** 207 Jefferson 3 bdr, 2 bth, fireplace, totally remodeled, new plumbing & electric, C/H/A, wood & tile floors, new carpet. \$650 + dep. with good references. 267-2296

**FOR RENT** 407 1/2 East 8th 2 - 1 bdrm Eff Apt (upstairs) Stove + Ref. \$250 + Deposit.

**NO HUD You Pay Bills** 267-2296

House for rent at Lake Colorado City. Call (915) 263-2510.

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

**HOROSCOPE**

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
\*\*\*\* A loved one touches you deeply. Respond from your heart, as you evolve to the next step in a relationship. A child could be demanding or cranky. Pitch in with a partner when you discover someone who has been forgotten. Tonight: You don't need mistle toe!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
\*\*\*\*You find others distinctly cranky and difficult. Could this be you, too? Loosen up. Allow yourself more freedom. Break from some traditional happenings that you might not enjoy. Others see you as a rebel, anyway. Friends surround you. Tonight: Be you or ever-gregarious self.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
\*\*\*\*This Christmas, you are into doing. Others hear you caring loud and clear. Actions speak louder than words. Touch base with a friend who could be a bit down and out. Be doing for others, you'll keep your spirits up. You see others in a new light. Tonight: Go with the flow.

**BORN TODAY**  
Singer Annie Lennox (1954), actress Sissy Spacek (1949), singer Jimmy Buffet (1946)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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**UNFURNISHED HOUSES**

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

2 bdr, 1 bth unfurnished \$200/mn. \$100/dep 1610 Lark. Call 267-7449.

**MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT**

For Rent, 2BR, 1 bath mobile home. Partially furnished. For more information call 394-4669.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 TEXAS PROPERTY CODE AMERICAN SELF STORAGE WHICH IS LOCATED AT 3314 E FM 700, BIG SPRING, TX 77720 WILL HOLD A PUBLIC AUCTION OF PROPERTY BEING SOLD TO SATISFY A LANDLORD'S LIEN.

SALE WILL BE AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M. ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 08, 2000 AT AMERICAN SELF STORAGE, 3314 E FM 700, BIG SPRING, TX 77720

PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH. SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO NOT ACCEPT ANY BID AND TO WITHDRAW PROPERTY FROM SALE. PROPERTY TO EACH SPACE MAY BE SOLD ITEM-BY-ITEM IN BATCHES, OR BY THE SPACE. ALL SALES ARE SUBJECT TO TEXAS STATE SALES TAX. SALE IS ON THE CONTENTS OF

TENANT RUSSELL RAY, CONSISTING OF ANTIQUE STOVE, BED, BOOKCASE, CHILDS CAR SEAT, REFRIGERATOR, CHAIRS, MISC. BOXES

TENANT BUCK CHARPEL, CONSISTING OF STOVE, ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

TENANT SONJIA M GROSS, CONSISTING OF SOFA, BEDS, LAMP, BIKES, CHEST OF DRAWERS, BOOKS, CLOTHES, MISC. BOXES

2566 DECEMBER 24 & 31, 1999

**Confused wife would take husband back despite abuse**

DEAR ABBY: I recently divorced my husband of nine years because I found out he was having an affair. He actually introduced her to people that we both knew. I ended up hiring an off-duty police officer so I could get the proof (pictures). It turned out she was one of my husband's co-workers, and the affair had been going on for three years. I ended up divorcing him, but the woman's husband decided to forgive her.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

My ex hates my guts because she chose to remain with her husband. Abby, I am so ashamed. How could I not have known? We had not slept together since our daughter was born; she is 6 years old now. He blames the whole affair on me. He says I was not doing my wifely duty and that's what made him cheat. Well, I just didn't feel that close to him. He had been verbally and physically abusive prior to our daughter's birth and afterward. He was terrible to my parents and called them names. He never paid any bills nor helped me with our daughter.

To this day he hates me so much he can't stand to look at me because he has to pay child support. He has every other weekend with our daughter, and it kills him to come and pick her up. He was a sorry excuse for a husband and not much better as a father. The problem is — if he wanted to come back, I believe I would take him back. Why do I feel like this? Is there something wrong with me? Do I need counseling? — DAZED AND CONFUSED

DEAR DAZED: Your husband was a master manipulator. Regardless of where he tries to lay the blame, the physical and verbal abuse you received from him was not your fault. Nor did you "make" him cheat on you — he managed that all by himself. One of the tactics of an abuser is blaming the victim for the terrible things he does. Unfortunately, the victim often believes her abuser when he says she "made" him act the way he did. There is nothing "wrong" with you that can't be fixed. Counseling is the answer — and the sooner the better. If your physician cannot refer you to a therapist, call the

Domestic Violence Hotline. (800) 799-7233, for a referral. (The TDD line for people with hearing impairments is (800) 787-3224.) Please don't wait to make the call.

DEAR ABBY: The letters in your column about people who wear too much perfume in public prompts this letter.

Some years ago, faced with an identical crisis, I discovered a fix that has stood me well in the numerous olfactory confrontations I've encountered since. When assaulted by odors I can't endure, I obtain a small wedge of lemon or lime. When rubbed under the nose, the resulting citrus aroma effectively masks the sickeningly sweet smell of the perfume. The application of the lemon slice can be done inconspicuously if one doesn't wish to embarrass the offender, or can be done blatantly if one wishes the odor-wafter to become aware of the problem he or she is causing. — EARLE TIMBERLAKE, B.S.C., REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST

DEAR EARLE: Thank you for the tip. For people who are simply offended by the odor of too much perfume, your suggestion could prove to be a godsend. For those who suffer allergic reactions to perfume, however, I still think prudence would dictate that they put as much distance between them and the offender as possible.

**CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS:** Have a merry Christmas, but keep this in mind: If you're drinking, don't drive; if you're driving, don't drink. For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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**NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring**

**America's Drug Problem Is Not As Big As You Think.**



It can start as a dare. Or youthful curiosity. Or it may be a way to escape problems at home. Whatever the reason, studies show that an alarming number of young children are trying drugs. Unfortunately, too many parents still do not believe that their children are at risk. The truth is, it's never too early to start teaching your kids about the dangers of drugs.

If you are not sure how to talk to them, call the Texas Prevention Partnership at 1-800-269-4237 and ask for the free booklet called "Growing Up Drug-Free - A Parent's Guide to Prevention." Call today because if you don't take care of little problems, they can easily grow into big ones.

**Texas Prevention Partnership**  
BRINGING TEXAS A NEW VIEW OF HUMAN POTENTIAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

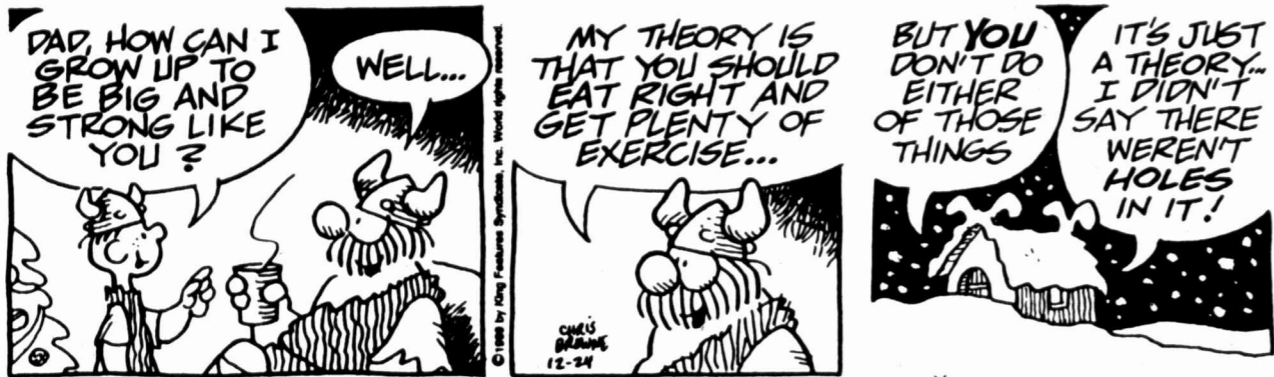
**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**  
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**Guess which advertiser used the Herald SUPER CLASSIEDS**  
For SUPER fast Results! Call 263-7331

**Guess which advertiser used the Herald SUPER CLASSIEDS**  
For SUPER fast Results! Call 263-7331

FRIDAY DEC. 24 TV schedule grid with columns for station (KMBD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and time slots (6:30, 7:00, etc.) listing various programs like News, Sports, and Movies.

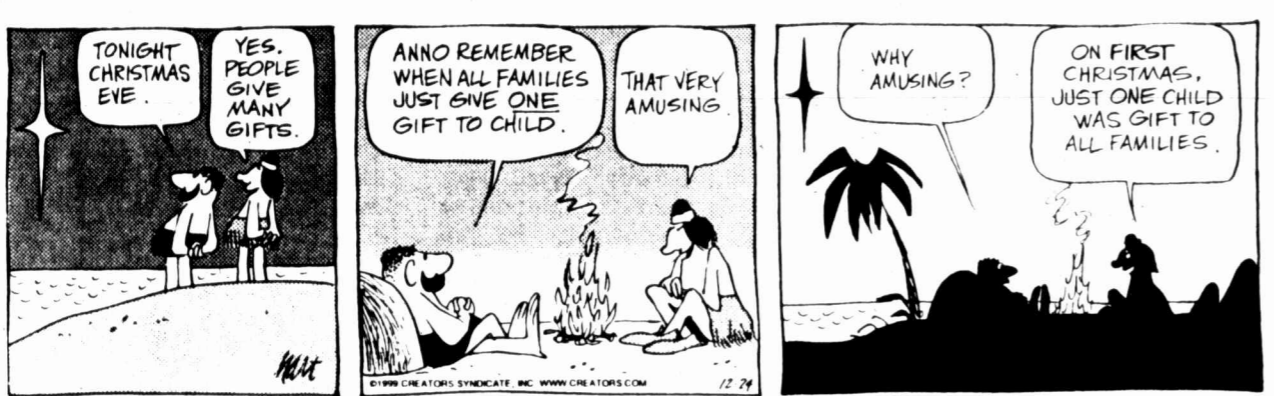
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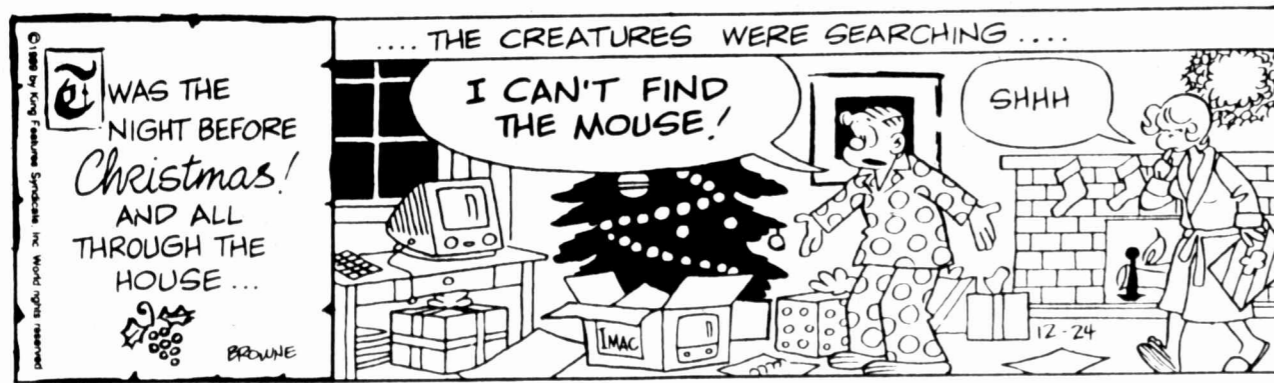
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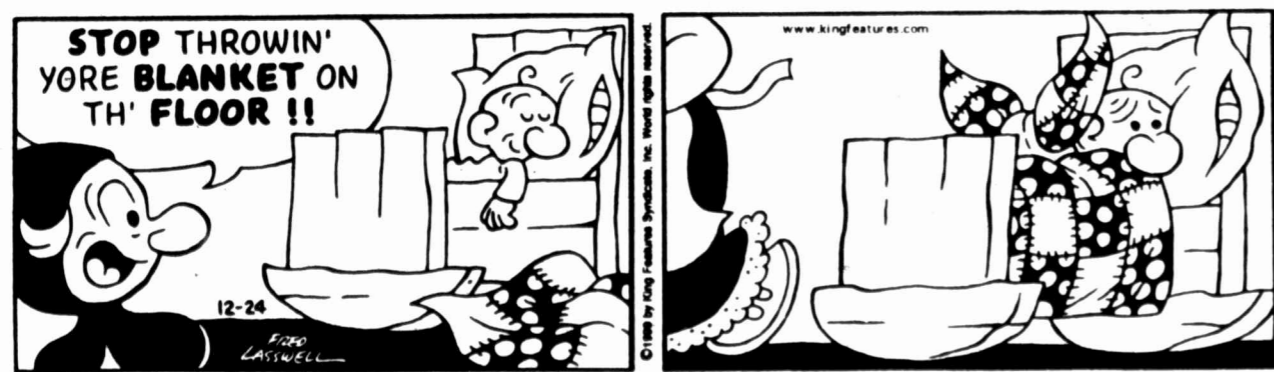
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 1999. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 24, 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's 'Amahl and the Night Visitors,' the first opera written specifically for television, premiered on NBC-TV.

On this date: In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama, who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India, died in Cochin, India.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved grid with filled-in words and a list of answers.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and office hours.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851, fire at the Library of Congress destroyed about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera 'Aida' had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to broadcast a music program over radio, from Brant Rock, Mass.

In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halevy's 'La Juive' at the Metropolitan Opera.

In 1943, President Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1968, the Apollo VIII astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

In 1980, Americans remembered U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds, one second for each day of captivity.

Ten years ago: Ousted Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega, who had succeeded in eluding U.S. forces, took refuge at the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Panama City.

Five years ago: Armed Islamic fundamentalists hijacked an Air France Airbus A-300 carrying 227 passengers at the Algiers airport; three passengers were killed before the hijackers were killed by French commandos in Marseille two days later.

British playwright John Osborne died at age 65.

One year ago: Ignoring NATO warnings, Serb tanks and troops struck an ethnic Albanian stronghold in Kosovo. Most of California's citrus crop was considered ruined after three consecutive nights of freezing cold.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 79. Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 59. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 55. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 54. Actress Sharon Farrell is 53. Actor Clarence Gilyard ('Walker, Texas Ranger') is 44.