

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

SUNDAY

December 26, 1999

WEATHER

Today:



TODAY 52°-55° TONIGHT 27°-30°

Tax assistance volunteers are needed for class

Volunteers are needed for the income tax assistance program. A training class by the Internal Revenue Service will take place at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, 1901 Simler Drive, Monday, Jan. 10 through Friday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m.-noon each day. Volunteers who attend the training and pass a test given by the IRS will provide free tax assistance on a volunteer basis during February and March to senior citizens and needy persons. Call Dorothy Kennemur, 398-5522 or the senior center, 267-1628, for more information.

WHAT'S UP...

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.

THURSDAY

Gideon's International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.
Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.
Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

FRIDAY

Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.
AMBUCS, noon, Brandin' Iron Restaurant.
Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

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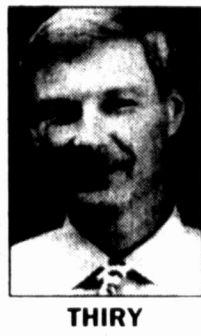
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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Cause for celebration: Big Spring YMCA reaches its goal of \$834,000

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Big Spring YMCA reached its goal and has raised 100 percent of the \$834,000 for remodeling projects just a few days shy of a solid year of fundraising, new membership programs and grant writing.



THIRY

"This is wonderful news, and I really have to thank the people on my project board who helped make this possible," said YMCA Executive Director Pete Thiry. Thiry said 98 percent of the total remodeling project cost has been collected, and two additional pledges are expected early next year. "This will complete our multi-faceted renovation project, and we anticipate that being finalized with the locker room renovation within January," he said. Men's and women's locker rooms will be remodeled completely, he said, and the women's area will triple in size. "We're going to completely redo everything in both locker rooms. We will move non-supporting walls to increase space, install new plumbing, showers, lockers and carpet. It will be a totally new look with all brand new furnishings," Thiry said. The locker room renovation is the final project in a series of projects that began in January 1999 and touched nearly every area of the 40-year-old building. From a new Fitness Center to an aerobic room that doubled in size, to a large child care center

and an expanded parking lot, the YMCA has under gone serious remodeling efforts to create a more modern facility this year, he said. The center also began offering different programs such as a Personal Fitness Program that included some computer fitness software, he said. "Our membership increased by 20 percent this year, and while that's good, I'm just not content with that. I hope to see that increase this next year as well, when the remodeling is complete," he said. The entire front area of the

YMCA was also remodeled, with a new exterior facade and a new lobby area that serves the public in a more efficient manner, he said. A meeting room was created just south of the lobby for YMCA board meetings as well as for other occasions. A child care area was moved to the east portion of the building, and expanded to include more room for the children, as well as better equipment and decoration, he said. And the Fitness Center, a

See YMCA, Page 2A

Thousands see Festival of Lights

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

From all of the world — Brazil, Argentina, Japan — and across the United States, thousands of people are taking in the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park this holiday season.

"It's always neat to see where our visitors come from and to see the families come together at this time of the year. They have a wonderful time," said Pat Simmons, Festival of Lights coordinator.

Those who haven't had the opportunity to see the display, or who would like to go again, have one week left. The display will be lit through Friday night. Hours are 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

"We've had people from Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Alaska, Minnesota — just so many different states, I'd hate to start trying to name them. We've probably had visitors from 50 percent of the states," Simmons said.

Visitors can either drive through the park or walk the trail at night. Last night (Thursday) we had almost 60 walking through."

Those who go through are welcome to make a donation, which ensures the display will be put up again the following year.

"If it is a quarter, a dollar or whatever, it can be used to expand the display and to pay our electric bill," Simmons said.

"We had 627 go through it Thursday night," Simmons said. "We have had a good



Pam Stephens, left, and Pat Simmons prepare to greet visitors at the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park. Some 10,000 to 12,000 people have seen the extensive display at the park this year.

number going through the archway, walking down the trail at night. Last night (Thursday) we had almost 60 walking through."

Those who go through are welcome to make a donation, which ensures the display will be put up again the following year.

"If it is a quarter, a dollar or whatever, it can be used to expand the display and to pay our electric bill," Simmons said.

"We had 627 go through it Thursday night," Simmons said. "We have had a good

vandalism have been relatively few this year, she noted.

"We have missed a few extension cords. Our biggest problem has been with little urchins taking bulbs here and there, which of course knocks out a whole string of lights. But it hasn't been bad this year. I think they know the eyes of the people are upon them," Simmons said. "My thinking is if someone is caught doing some of that out here, I would ask the judge to have them (the vandals) help us. They could be

See LIGHTS, Page 2A

Talkin trash

City puts out extra containers to help residents dispense with mounting holiday refuse

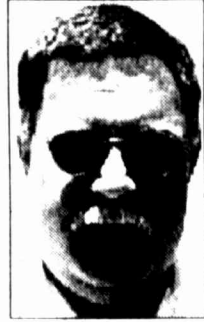
LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

If you have trouble cramming all that holiday waste in your trash container after Christmas, there is a solution. The City of Big Spring has set out two trash containers for local residents to dispense their extra debris.

"Last year, the alley dumpsters were overloaded with boxes and filled with blowing trash," said Howard Shivers, solid waste superintendent for the City of Big Spring. "This year we added few extra cans to help cut down on the blowing trash."

The city has placed one trash container at Coronado Plaza and one at the Big Spring Mall. Residents are welcome to use these bins to dispose of their extra trash this season.

The containers will be used to dispense all types of trash for the public until the second day of the New Year. The city will then turn the containers into recycling bins, and the bins will permanently stay at their current sites.



SHIVERS

"After Jan. 2, the containers will be used only as recycling bins," Shivers said.

According to Shivers, the city will not be picking up waste on Monday. The city will resume collecting trash on Tuesday. The city will also not be picking up trash on New Year's Eve.

The City of Big Spring landfill will be closed today and will reopen Monday at 8 a.m.

Due to the dry weather, Howard county is currently under a burn ban that prohibits any combustible material outside an enclosure designed to contain all flames and/or sparks, including campfires.

Christmas trees can be disposed at the landfill or the compost facility for free. Shivers asks that all ornaments be removed before disposal.

The city recycles the Christmas trees by grinding them into mulch and selling it for compost.

"The Christmas trees brought to us will be ground up for mulch," Shivers said. "The mulch can be purchased from the compost facility."

"We will have a lot of work after Christmas and New Years, and we will be running from sunup to sundown to catch up," Shivers said. "If you have a sanitation problem or questions for us please call us at 264-2383 and we will be out there to work on the problem."

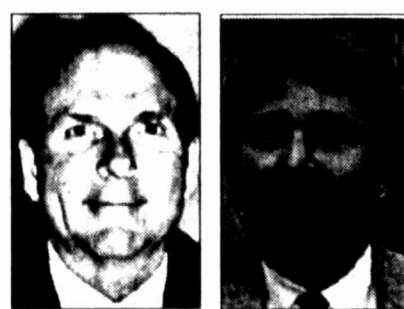
Health care services in Big Spring pass Y2K 'checkups'

Editor's Note: The following is the fourth in a series of articles explaining how local entities are preparing for Y2K. Coming Monday — how Howard County officials are addressing the problem.

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

The VA Medical Center, Big Spring State Hospital and Scenic Mountain Medical Center began preparing for Y2K compliance months ago, and emergency generators and support systems are in place, ready for any eventuality.

"We are ready, absolutely ready. We've been preparing for months and months and months, because when you're in the business of taking care of people, there's a lot more



BROWN

MOUGHON

involved than just computers," said VA Medical Center executive director Cary Brown.

"We have tested 100 percent of all our equipment in the hospital and everything has tested Y2K compliant," he said.

A system-wide Emergency Operating Center will be fully staffed in every veteran's hospital across the nation on New Year's Eve, he said.

And each EOC has a last-

minute checklist that will be implemented as the old year comes to a close.

"Then, on New Year's Eve at about 10:30 p.m., additional staff, including me, will be here as long as we are needed. We will monitor everything and continue monitoring for three or four days into the new year," Brown said.

The VA hospital has backup systems for all utilities in the event of a disaster, and emergency generators will be operating on New Year's Eve, he said.

"We will have the emergency generators turned on, just in case we need them, but we will not be switched over. We just want them up and running," he said.

The VA hospital has contracted with the Big Spring State Hospital in the event of an actu-



al emergency. Should the need arise, BSSH patients requiring special medical treatment will be transported to the VA Medical Center.

"We have an agreement with Big Spring State Hospital to have space, one wing of one floor in fact, for any patients they have that require acute medical treatment," Brown said.

Ed Moughon, BSSH executive director, said the hospital is ready for the new year, and they anticipate no problems

with any systems.

"We have tested all our computer systems and even our embedded systems such as elevators, and everything we have is Y2K complaint," Moughon said.

BSSH also has generators for patient units, and has a contract with a local company that will supply more generators as needed on an emergency basis, he said.

"We have all our systems and our supplies in good shape. If we should need them, we have enough medication and enough water and enough food for a week, or more. We are very prepared," Moughon said.

All computers that did not pass the Y2K compliance test were replaced, he said, though

See Y2K, Page 2A

City, county leaders find use for building's rubble

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

The Permian Building might not grace the skyline of Big Spring anymore, but it will continue to serve the city and Howard County in a very useful purpose.

"We did not want to fill up the landfill with the rubble from the building," City of Big Spring Building Official Kenny Davis said. "We are going to use the rubble to fill up some draws that is washing out some of the roads."

The city plans to use the rub-

ble to fill some low spaces in the area of 24th and Arroyo, and in the area near North Birdwell lane to help stop the erosion of those roads.

"We currently have Midwest Wrecking Company dumping the rubble from the building in the gully east of the Clyde McMahon place," said Davis.

According to Davis, Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua originally thought up the project and together with County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore came up with the site

See RUBBLE, Page 2A



Rubble from the Permian Building is being used to fill in some low places around the city and prevent erosion. The county has provided equipment to assist in the project. Midwest Wrecking is demolishing the old building and hauling the debris to the fill-in sites.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

DECEMBER 26 1999

OBITUARIES

Charles V. Moore

Charles V. Moore, 39, of Big Spring, died at 4:20 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Betty Crenshaw

Betty Crenshaw, 77, of Big Spring, died at 6:44 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 25, 1999, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sgt. John Stowers

Sgt. John Stowers, 38, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1999, in Ruidoso Downs, N.M. Services are 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 1999, at First Baptist Church with Rev. Eddie Tubbs, pastor of First Baptist Church, and Malcolm Pinton, chaplain of Big Spring Police Department, officiating. Interment will be in Trinity Memorial Park.



Mr. Stowers was born on March 11, 1961, at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene. He married Elizabeth Norwood on May 25, 1989 in Big Spring, where he had lived since 1982.

He joined the Big Spring Police Department in 1987 and had been promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 1993 he was named officer of the year and had been active in Special Olympics and the Adopt A Cop program.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Stowers of Big Spring; two sons, John Albert "Shawn" Stowers III of Lubbock and Brandon Stowers of Big Spring; his mother, Gay Smith of Big Spring; two brothers, Gregory Stowers of Grapevine and Lt. J.G. Mikel Smith of Kailui, Hawaii; three aunts; and one uncle.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Albert Stowers, and one son, Timothy Stowers. Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

Asta McGuire Allen

Asta McGuire Allen, 81, formerly of Garden City, died Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999, at

Leisure Lodge in Lampasas. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 1999, at Garden City Cemetery with Rev. Bob Hopkins officiating.

Mrs. Allen was born Feb. 23, 1918 in Colorado City. She worked for the USDA as the ASCS office manager in Garden City for 40 years. She lived in Garden City from 1956 to 1996, then moved to Hondo, then Lampasas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Allen, in 1957.

Survivors include two nieces, Betty Isaack of Horseshoe Bay and Susan Zerr of Hondo.

Services are under the direction of Briggs-Gamel-Wilcox Funeral Home.

Viola Chandler

Viola Chandler, 71, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 25, 1999, at her residence. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Shirley June Underwood Deal

Shirley June Underwood Deal, 53, loving mother and friend, left her home to be with her heavenly Father on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1999.

Services will be Monday, Dec. 27, 1999, at 3:30 p.m. at Tate Springs Baptist Church, 4201 Little Rd., in Arlington, Texas. Graveside services will immediately follow at Moore Memorial Gardens, 1219 N. Davis Dr. in Arlington.

Mrs. Deal was born Sept. 5, 1946 in Big Spring, Texas. She was preceded in death by her mother and father and her beloved husband, Richard Deal.

Survivors included her two beloved sons, David Deal and Lance Deal of Mansfield, Texas; a sister, Marie Hahn; and brothers Tom Underwood and Dewey Thames of Texas.

Paid obituary

YMCA

Continued from Page 1A

\$195,000 project, brought state-of-the-art equipment into a thoroughly modern area, he said.

"We did all this through matching grants and challenges," Thiry said.

He said many grants were written to secure the funds for the projects, and he credited Lee Corson, city planner, with her assistance in writing the grants.

A six-man campaign leader board helped with the planning and promoting end of the projects as well. Board members are Murray Murphy, James Welch, Larry McLellan, Mike Thomas, Troyce Wolfe and Randy Hillman, Thiry said.

"We've got a lot done and our contractor, Johnston Construction, has also been very cooperative," he said.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

the ones to check the lights and replace bulbs and all each night.

Most people don't understand the effort that goes into the project, Simmons said.

"A lot of people seem to think it just happens. If people could see and know what went into this, they would know it doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of work."

Despite all the effort it takes to erect the lights, the line up volunteers and check the lights each night, Simmons is already thinking ahead.

"I am looking forward next year because we got some good ideas. I want to go into the heart of the park and get organizations and businesses to adopt portions of the park and be responsible — using our guidelines — for the displays there," she said. "Also, when we had the consultant out, she said don't leave things in the same place each year, so we are

going to move some displays around."

Simmons said the project would be impossible without the many volunteers she relies on, but added that she always is in need of more. Two individuals who have been especially dedicated to the project are Bobby McDonald ("my right-hand man") and electrician Tom Corwin ("when we run into electrical problems, I call Tom and he comes as fast as he can.")

"It's just been wonderful. We still have a week left and we would invite everyone to come out and see the displays. Bring the entire family, and have a good time," said Simmons.

Y2K

Continued from Page 1A

few of the hospital's computers failed.

"Most of our computers are new enough that we only had to replace about half a dozen," he said.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center also has generators available, and officials with the hospital formed a Y2K task force in the spring of 1999, according to Cesar Payen, informational system specialist.

Payen and Jay Hodges, chief operating officer, said every system within the hospital has been tested four times, and all hardware and software has been upgraded.

"And we have upgraded all hardware and software in our biomedical equipment, CT scanners and EKG machines, as well as all monitor and bedside monitors and IV pumps — every piece of equipment has been checked," Payen said.

A task force team will be at the hospital about 10:30 p.m. New Year's Eve, and other critical personnel will be on call, Hodges said.

"We have a call-in tree in place, and we have elaborate contingency plans. We are confident and ready to go," Hodges said.

RUBBLE

Continued from Page 1A

near 24th and Arroyo.

Later, County Commissioner Gary Simer came up with the site near North Birdwell lane.

In a joint venture with the county, the city asked Midwest to haul the rubble to the sites.

"The county is providing the dozer that Midwest will use to push the rubble into the draw," he said.

The Arroyo and Birdwell sites are priority according to Davis, but due to the Christmas holidays, the dozer operators for the county are on vacation, so the city is currently filling a gully east of the Clyde McMahon place.

"We can not hold Midwest up because they are working on the time line that we gave them, so we needed to give them a place to dump the rubble," he said. "After the Christmas holidays, we will start working on those two sites."

Midwest is currently salvaging the metal in the basement of the Permian Building for scrap metal. Once the metal is salvaged, Midwest will knock down the tower and use the rubble to fill in the basement.

According to Davis, the removal of the metal will help stabilize the rubble once it is dumped into the basement. Metal can rust and degrade, causing the rubble to shift.

The city plans to eventually turn the site that once held the Permian Building into a park.

Singer, actor, composer Tito Guizar dies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tito Guizar, a pioneer of Mexican music and film, died Friday morning while visiting his son's home in San Antonio. He was 91.

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Guizar died of complications from heart problems and pneumonia, said Jerry Leyva of the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office.

Born Federico Guizar y Tolentino on April 8, 1908, in Guadalajara, Mexico, Guizar appeared in more than 20 films and television shows starting in the 1930s. Most recently, he performed in the Spanish soap opera "La Usurpadora."

He portrayed himself in "The Big Broadcast of 1938," starring Bob Hope, W.C. Fields, Dorothy Lamour and Martha Raye. In 1947, he appeared with Roy Rogers on the TV Western "On the Old Spanish Trail."

Guizar was perhaps the first Mexican singer star to cross over to United States audiences. During the 1930s, he performed in a weekly bilingual radio program, "Tito Guizar and His Guitar," which was broadcast nationwide on CBS.

"Most of all, what is most important, is that he was the first to do crossover, singing songs in Spanish and English," his daughter, Lilia Guizar de Inelan, said in a phone interview. "He was the very first Mexican entertainer to appear in Carnegie Hall."

Earlier this year, Guizar received the Golden Eagle award from the Hispanic group Nosotros, given to artists who reflect with dignity the image of Hispanic people.

Guizar also was honored this month with Los Angeles Music Week's L.A. Music Award.

An idol in Mexico, Guizar's remains are being flown to Mexico City, where he lived, for a funeral set for Monday. The family says the Mexican government is arranging for the service. Besides Ms. Guizar, he is survived by another daughter, Nina; a son, Tito Jr.; and six grandchildren.

Secret Santa remembers he didn't always have cash to spare

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Every Christmas for 20 years, the city's "Secret Santa" has wandered the streets handing \$100 bills to those who seem in need.

He was giving out cash on to people standing on street corners, waiting for buses, shopping in grocery stores, buying gas.

Now a successful businessman, he went to Nick and Betty's Cafe, where Nick used to let him run a tab when times weren't so good. He gave waitress Kim Hoy \$300 — one bill for her, and one for each of her children.

"I can't handle this," Hoy said through tears. "This is the first Christmas without my mom. I wasn't looking forward to it."

The man says he usually gives away \$50,000, and estimated he was dispensing about \$85,000 this year. His keeps his identity secret, in the custom of a "Secret Santa."

"I don't even know that man," said 69-year-old Jerry Brooks, who received \$100 as he shopped for a scarf in a thrift store. "I can't believe that. I don't know where he came from, but if he doesn't live to be 500, I'll eat my hat."

As the man continued his tradition this year, he paused to remember why it began.

It was 1971 in Houston, Miss. He was homeless and hungry, and the owner of the Dixie Diner bought him breakfast — while saving his dignity.

The man had been working as

a salesman for a small company that suddenly went out of business. Left without a paycheck, he lived in his car for eight days until running out of gas and food.

Desperate, he walked into Ted Horn's diner, ordered a big breakfast and tried to think of a way to get away without paying.

Horn, who was his own cook, waiter and cashier, took note of the man's plight. He walked behind the man, reached down as if he'd dropped something and handed him \$20.

The man ran as fast as he could, pushed his car to the gas station and got out of town.

On the road, though, he thought about what Horn had done.

This year, he asked a friend to help him find Horn, and went back down to Houston.

He walked into Horn's home to find him holding a magazine article about Kansas City's "Secret Santa." Horn, 81, knew the man in the article was the person he'd helped many years ago.

"I'm that guy who was there 28 years ago," the man said. Horn nodded.

He asked Horn what he thought that \$20 bill was worth today.

"Probably like \$10,000," Horn said. A good number, the man said, and handed him an envelope. Inside was \$10,000.

"Good God," whispered Horn, who is caring for a wife with Alzheimer's disease after battling cancer and other ailments.

David Horn, his son, was astounded. "For this man to come down and do this for my father — it's almost more than we can bear," he said.

The man and Horn then went downtown and had lunch, and soon, his giving ways began again. Waitresses and cooks cried out in joy.

Then he went to a laundry, to a drive-in, to the barber cutting hair where Horn's diner used to be, leaving a trail of cash everywhere.

Texas farmers divided over genetically modified crops

DALLAS (AP) — The growth of genetically modified crops from the agricultural lab to the world's farms has sparked a debate. Opposition largely has come from the European Union, where activist groups, retailers and consumers want mandatory labeling of foods containing genetically engineered products.

And although the U.S. government has not determined that biotech foods are harmful, the stakes in the debate are high for growers in Texas, where more than half of the corn, soybeans and cotton comes from genetically altered seed.

"I'll do whatever is necessary to make our product agreeable to the consumer," said Harlan Huffman, who farms with his wife, Hope, and son, Kevin, near McGregor in Central Texas.

Companies such as Monsanto and DuPont have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to develop seeds with traits that protect plants from pests, herbicides and pesticides. As a result, farmers now rely upon biotech strains of corn, cotton and soybeans that help reduce costs of fighting weeds and pests.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SUNDAY
•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.

•NA 8 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager no.).

MONDAY
•TOPS Club (Take off pound sensibly), weigh-in 5 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m., College Heights Christian church, 21st and Goliad.

•Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.

•Alzheimer's support group, 7 p.m., Canterbury South, 1700 N. Lancaster, first Mondays of each month. Call Galynn Gamble at 263-1271.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager no.).

•Alzheimer's support group, 6:30 p.m., Marcy House, 2301 Wasson. Call 268-9041.

•Association of Retarded Citizens of Howard County meet 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at 806 E. Third Street, the HARC bingo building. Call 264-0674 for more information.

•Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 409 Rannels, Clyde Alsop Building. AMI meeting to follow. For more information call 263-0027 or 267-7220.

POLICE

Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between noon Friday and noon Saturday:

•DONALD MYRICK, 45, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

•ADA HUTCHESON, 33, was arrested on local warrants.

•BOYCE HORTON, 41, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

•FORGERY was reported in the 1700 block of E. Third.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF TO A VEHICLE was reported in the 3800 block of Calvin, the 2100 block of Grace, the 3300 block of Cornell, and at two residences in the 4200 block of Parkway.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 4200 block of Edwards, the 4000 block of Connally, the 500 block of W. Fifth, the 4200 block of Parkway, the 1300 block of Gregg and the 2600 block of Dow.

•DRAG RACING was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium.

•DISTURBANCE/FIGHT was reported at Fourth and Bell.

•MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported at 18th and Goliad.

•MINOR ACCIDENTS were reported at 700 W. IH 20, the 2000 block of Gregg, 15th and Gregg and the 400 block of E. Fourth.

•HARASSMENT was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg.

•DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter, the 1300 block of Robin, the 100 block of Airbase Road, the 2900 block of W. Hwy. 80 and the 1800 block of Gregg.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 400 block of Douglas.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-4233

Dr. Hank Thompson, 77, died Thursday. Services will be 11 AM, Monday at First United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends in Garrett Hall immediately following the service. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends 6 to 8 PM, Sunday at Myers & Smith.

Sgt. John Stowers, 38, died Wednesday. Services will be 4:00 PM, Monday at First Baptist Church. Burial with full honors by the B.S.P.D. Honor Guard will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Charles V. Moore, 39, died Thursday. Services are pending.

Betty Crenshaw, 77, died Saturday. Services are pending.

Big Spring Herald
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Study indicates Hispanics less likely to get financial aid than whites

DALLAS (AP) — Hispanic college students are less likely to get financial aid than white counterparts, even though Hispanics are three times likelier to be poor, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau study.

The study found that 59 percent of 6.8 million white full-time college students received some type of financial aid in the 1993-94 school year. Among 783,000 Hispanic students, 57 percent received aid, as did 77 percent of 1 million black students.

Income disparities between white

and Hispanic families suggest that Hispanics would be likelier to receive aid for college, said Jennifer Day, a Census Bureau demographer and the report's primary author.

"Financial aid is a lot about knowing the system," Ms. Day said. "Whether they just don't know the system or don't have as many scholarships, I don't know."

The findings indicate a communication gap between Hispanic students and financial aid sources, said Antonio Flores, president of the Hispanic

Association of Colleges and Universities in San Antonio.

"Many Hispanic families are not even aware of the availability of financial aid," Flores said. "They don't even apply, though they would be eligible."

Steve Murdock, the data center's director, said Hispanics may be less likely to receive aid than whites despite lower incomes because, "they're much less likely to be in a position to ask for it."

Many Hispanic college students are the first in their families to pursue

higher education and know little about paying for college, he said. Many either forego college or end up attending community colleges.

"For many of them, just filling out a financial aid form — which seems like no big deal — is extremely threatening," said Flores, whose group represents 230 institutions that together enroll two-thirds of the nation's Hispanic college students. "Much of the money really goes unused."

Kenneth Redd, director of higher education research for the USA Group

Foundation in Indianapolis, said, "A lot of Hispanic students go to schools that are closer to their homes. They cut down on their costs that way."

Flores said his association is encouraging its members to work with high schools and students so that everyone is better educated about financial-aid options.

"Society as a whole needs to reach out to schools and communities," he said. "There needs to be a more coherent effort to distribute that information."

Parker County has dubious title of leading ticket hot spot

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parker County was apparently little more than a blur along the highway to thousands of travelers last year.

The Texas Department of Public Safety issued 11,049 tickets last year, giving the county the dubious title of the leading speeding ticket hot spot in the state.

Over the past three years, DPS officers wrote 29,001 tickets in the county just west of Fort Worth. Law enforcers say the

tickets go mainly to the fast-moving motorists trying to get to and from the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Other counties rounding out the top five ticket hot spots last year are Hunt, Hidalgo, Harris and Montgomery, according to a computer-assisted analysis of DPS-issued speeding tickets conducted by the Scripps Howard Austin Bureau.

Most of those counties have major highways — interstates 10, 20, 30 and 45 — running through them, which con-

tributes to their high-ticket tallies, spokeswoman Tela Mange said.

Statewide, DPS troopers issued 500,232 speeding tickets last year. That was 26,908 more than in 1997 and 93,162 more than in 1996, the analysis showed.

More tickets are being issued because more drivers are on the road, officials said.

In 1990, there were about 11 million licensed drivers in Texas. There are now between 13.5 million and 14 million

licensed drivers, Ms. Mange said.

Insurance company officials are concerned about the rise in speeding tickets issued in Texas.

"When that happens, you see more accidents and more fatalities," said Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Services. "That makes us particularly concerned as the holiday season is coming up and more people will be getting on the roads to visit family."

Mother told authorities she let her child drink alcohol

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mother of a 16-month-old boy who was legally drunk when he tumbled down a flight of stairs at an apartment complex saw the toddler take sips of vodka and gin, according to authorities.

Latrece Deane, 33, of Euless later told authorities, "He wants what his mama wants. What am I supposed to do about it?"

She also demanded to know whether she was "supposed to just stop drinking because her son keeps taking her drink," Child Protective Services case

worker Lisa Lambert said in court documents.

Ms. Deane, who was arrested Sunday and charged with injury to a child, was half-clothed, intoxicated and unconscious when police showed up at her apartment late Saturday night.

The toddler's blood-alcohol level was .126, well above the legal limit of 0.08 percent. The woman's three other children — a 13-year-old boy and two sisters, ages 12 and 15 — also were intoxicated when police arrived at the complex about 16 miles northwest of Dallas.

The 13-year-old's blood alcohol

content was .160, and cocaine was detected in his system, according to court files.

The two boys were taken to a hospital and released.

The two girls were not drunk enough to require medical attention, according to court documents.

All four children are now in the custody of state Child Protective Services.

Ms. Deane and her husband appeared before a judge Wednesday at the Tarrant County Justice Center in Fort Worth. The court extended the state's temporary custody of the four children and assigned a

case worker to the family.

Several neighbors told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Ms. Deane and some friends were having a party Saturday.

It's not uncommon for children to consume alcohol during the holiday season, but it's usually not on purpose, said Beth Solomon, a spokeswoman with Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth.

"The parents have a holiday party, they leave the cleaning up to the next day and a toddler finds a drink and finishes it off," she said. "It's one of the holiday dangers we warn about."

Commission orders city of Fort Worth to compensate firefighters' families

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth must provide benefits to the families of two firefighters who died while battling a church blaze as volunteers for another city, a board has ruled.

The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission said it found a Fort Worth Fire Department regulation that

requires firefighters to protect the public at all times, opening the door for compensation to the families.

Fort Worth's pension board in March voted against providing full death benefits for the families of Phillip Dean and Brian Collins because the men were volunteering for the River Oaks

Fire Department when they died Feb. 15. Sansom Park fireman Garry Sanders also died trying to save the Precious Faith Temple in Lake Worth.

Despite the commission's ruling, Fort Worth spokesman Pat Svacina said, "The city still feels like the firemen were working for River Oaks and

therefore it's River Oaks' responsibility to provide coverage for injury or death."

The ruling, which Fort Worth officials can appeal, comes after Democratic state Sen. Mike Moncrief offered in March to mediate the pension dispute among the cities of Fort Worth, Lake Worth and River Oaks.

Democrats criticize student prayer referendum on GOP ballot as a cheap rally ploy

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Democrats criticized a non-binding prayer referendum on the Republican primary ballot as a "cheap advertising ploy" to rally right-wing supporters, the state's Democratic Party leader said.

"Many Texans are deeply committed to their religious faiths and spiritual convictions but they do not condone the exploitation of religion for cheap political gain," said state Democratic chair Molly Beth Malcom.

State Republican officials decided to put the nonbinding Texas Religious Freedom Referendum on their party's March 14 primary ballot.

The referendum asks, "Shall student initiated prayer be allowed at a school sporting event?"

It is in response to student court rulings banning recent circuit court ruling banning student-led prayer before football games.

State GOP Chairwoman Susan Weddington has said the ballot measure gives voters a chance to express their "outrage" over the court rulings.

"This referendum is about freedom," said Republican Party spokesman Robert Black. "Right now, an activist federal judiciary is attempting to bar Texas students from voluntarily praying at football games. Republicans think it's important that Texans are able to voice their opinion on this

issue. "We find it somewhat disturbing that the Democratic Party does not want Texans to voice their opinion on an important issue like this," Black said.

Ms. Malcom said the ballot measure gives the impression Republicans have a monopoly over religion even though most Democrats support the right of students to initiate prayer at school activities.

"The Republican ballot initiative is a slap in the face of religious freedom and spirituality," Ms. Malcom said.

State election laws allow political parties to put non-binding questions on their primary ballots. The religious referendum will be the last item on the GOP ballot.

Student-led prayers at football games became a national issue after a lawsuit challenged the practice in the Santa Fe school district in Galveston County.

The case resulted in a federal circuit court ruling banning the practice in three states. The U.S. Supreme Court has said it would decide whether public school districts can allow such prayer.

Republican presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush and state Attorney General John Cornyn have filed briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the student-led prayer.

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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

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EDITORIAL

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

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

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OUR VIEWS

Common sense is the key to surviving Y2K

We are fast approaching the year 2000, one of the most anticipated events we can recall. All through 1999, we have heard "the last sale of the century!" or "final blowout of the 1990s!" We suspect that next month, those advertisements will tout the "first" of 2000. And it's not just in advertising, of course. We've seen the "last" of this and that, ranging from celebrations to the final pro football or basketball games.

Overshadowing all of this is the so-called Y2K bug. Literally billions have been spent by governments, businesses and individuals in preparation for the change from 1999 to 2000. What the Y2K "glitch" is, is the inability of some computers and computerized systems to correctly recognize dates after 1999. How many printed items, for instance, can you recall that already had a 1 and a 9 in the date, followed by two blanks? Many products have microchips in them that have been programmed to process only the last two digits of a year. Therefore, when we get to 2000, some computers are going to read that as 1900.

That's essentially what all of this is about. But this world of ours is pretty date-reliant when you think about it. We're so automated that certain functions run by date, paychecks are sent out by date, bills are sent out on certain days of the month. What happens when the year changes to 2000?

Well, relax. Use common sense first of all. Businesses and governments have preparing for the Y2K bug for years now. Locally, the school districts, city, county, hospitals, fire, police, emergency medical services have checked and double-checked their systems to make sure they won't fail at midnight Friday. It's the same throughout the nation. Airlines, trains, buses, the stock market — on and on and on.

Does that mean there won't be a problem? No, there are bound to be a few, mostly, we suppose, with home appliances. Some VCRs and personal computers will fail to operate correctly, or at all. Hopefully by now if you have a computer, you've used Internet sources of your Internet provider to run a check and make sure everything will be fine. And if your equipment was purchased in the last few years, don't worry, it was probably made to be Y2K compliant at the factory.

How do we cope with any problems? With a little patience, that's all. We live in a technological world. If there are problems, they'll be of a temporary nature. Any problems Y2K presents can be quickly corrected. There's certainly no need for panic.

One caution though. Riding the shirttails of Y2K are a number of unscrupulous individuals trying to profit from the scare. One of the scams we've heard recently is someone calling people on the telephone, posing as a bank officer, and saying he needs your account number to check to make sure everything is Y2K compliant. Then, of course, he cleans out your account.

Use common sense. Don't give out your bank account number, Social Security number or credit card numbers over the phone. If you are unsure of someone calling you about something, ask for a phone number. If it is supposed to be your bank or another business, hang up and call them back. If you are still suspicious, call the police or sheriff's department.

Y2K won't be a major problem if we have patience with one another and work through any problems. It's a challenging and exciting time as we move into the year 2000. Let's start it off sensibly.

Computers are vastly overrated machines

I killed my computer last weekend. Well, I didn't shoot it or smash it, but I zapped the hard disk and erased every stinking little kilobyte of whatever it is that lurks on hard disks. It's about the fourth time I've done it.

These glorified type-writer/filing cabinet/calculator we call computers are vastly overrated machines. And so is the Internet. I will be glad to be done with them when I retire. What other machine requires software that comes on one little disk accompanied by a book of instructions the size of Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire"? By the time you learn how to use it, you've negated whatever time the software saves you in doing the task the old-fashioned way.



CHARLEY REESE

At least your fountain pen will not suddenly freeze up on you, and nothing you put on paper is going to erase itself or hide in some ethereal closet where you can't find it. I'm convinced that the computer/software industry is built, like most industries on the gullibility of postmodern Americans.

Oh sure, you can send free e-mail provided you buy a computer and the software and pay an Internet-access fee of \$20 a month. Hey, postcards only cost 21 cents, and nobody but the postman and the recipient will read them. You can make your own airline reservations with the Internet. Well, whoopee-do. You can do that with one telephone call. In fact, if you make your one call to a travel agent, that person can make your airline and hotel reservations and even arrange taxi rides to and from the airport. Try doing that on the Internet.

I heard Al Gore, who claims (falsely, of course) to have invented the Internet, say that children now have a world of

information at their fingertips. Hey Al, they always have had that ever since public libraries were established, and there are lot fewer pedophiles and other perverts at the library than there are on the Internet. In fact, the only Internet industry making a profit is the pornography industry. As for all that information, just remember there is one bit of computer jargon that is true, and that is GIGO — garbage in, garbage out. Word processors no more create writers than paper and pencils do. What word processors and the Internet do is to make it easier for cranks, perverts, crackpots, vegetarians, animal-rights activists and other assorted oddballs to clutter up your computer with their ranting and their fantasies, most of which are sick and libelous.

I've also noticed that, since the advent of computers, politicians come loaded with charts, bar graphs and statistics all printed out in color. Sports commentators have become intolerable now that they have these computerized databases.

Who cares if a particular pitcher, since 1984, hasn't thrown a strike on a 3-2 count in the last half of the ninth inning while there was a full moon and the wind was out of the east.

Like copiers, computers have caused an excessive use of paper. I used to be on the long list of people who were informed when the sports editor went on vacation. Well, I not only didn't care when he went on vacation, I didn't even care if he came back. I had no connection with the sports department.

When folks had to make copies with carbon paper, they were darn careful who got copies. But when the copier came along, people had a tendency to copy everybody with everything because it was so easy to push the button.

Now, in these so-called paperless offices, whole forests are destroyed because people print out everything, even stuff they leave on the printer to collect dust and four or five generations of dust mites. Computers are tree killers. They deserve delation.

REX BABIN THE SACRAMENTO BEE

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS



The virtues of an old millhouse

The old millhouse that rests on rock legs right beside my regular house has become my people gauge.

I can tell a lot about someone just by the way he or she reacts to it.

"Did you have that moved here?" one appreciative visitor asked.

"When are you going to tear it down?" said another.

"What is that old shack?" a guileless child asked.

"Are you restoring it?" a hopeful adult ventured, one eyebrow raised.

Some see history, others an eyesore. Some see vanishing Americana, others scrap lumber. If this neighborhood were the kind to have covenants, the millhouse wouldn't make the cut.

The millhouse is one of two main reasons I bought this place, with the little river that runs beside it the other. (There are also varying opinions on the river, which tends to shrink to rivulet size during drought. But I say a riverbed is better than no potential for water at all.)

I had great plans for using the old building. I envisioned hosting millhouse parties, all lit romantically by a single

light bulb dangling on its cord from a beam. It would be a Norman-Rockwell-meets-Martha-Stewart kind of setting. People would dance all night to Patti Austin's "Love Letters." At midnight, Joe Cumming would blow his saxophone, and neighbors would be drawn to their porches to listen.

Or maybe it wouldn't be a party place at all. Maybe I'd set up my office in one rough-hewn corner and write by the light streaming in through the windows. Late in the afternoon, interesting people would stop by to debate politics and literature. By day an office, by evening a salon. Sort of like the Algonquin, except in a rural environment.

We would be pithy, cool and cruel, and say barbish things like T.S. Eliot said of Henry James: "He has a mind so fine no idea could violate it."

If I had stuck to schedule, I might be planning my Millennium Millhouse Bash or roasting Reynolds Price. Hundreds would be clamoring for invitations.

I don't want to give the wrong impression. This is not one of those swell, quaint, North Georgia mountain millhouses with a water wheel. There was a water-powered mill at this site once, but it burned down long ago. The current old millhouse was built in the 1920s and, as long as it operated, used a gasoline engine.

Still, I think it's beautiful, in a tired sort of way. Its gray

boards have been warped by weather and time, and the windows are askew, as if they were never meant to fit their holes.

The building looks like it came from the set of that "Popeye" movie Robert Altman made, a prop listing to port ever so slightly. (That movie, by the way, can claim the most brilliant bit of casting ever: Shelley Duvall as Olive Oyl.)

It took me about two years to clear out the millhouse. The previous owner had used it as a shop and left it full of scrap metal, planks, electrical paraphernalia and worthless widdies.

It has taken me the past three years to fill it up again.

At last count, in my millhouse, there were 12 sheets of Sheetrock, 11 cans of paint, 10 fishing poles, nine sacks of nails, eight unhung pictures, seven old doors, six mystery boxes, five moldy chairs, four hornet's nests, three vacuum cleaners, two bicycles and one vintage stove.

Friends who need to store something inevitably think of me and the millhouse, which, after all, is just sitting there useless. I oblige, because, well, that hopeless shack is full of worthless junk anyhow.

But one day, when I'm 80, I'll crank up the music so loud you'll hear it in Conyers, Ga. Just like Jay Gatsby, I'll be watching from a secretive distance as merry men and girls come and go like moths.



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LINCOLN, I Trying to save farms, Midwes makers are sch next week to tr their efforts. The Midwes Crisis Forum i Wednesday in Lawmakers ar attend from N Missouri, Min Dakota, South I Some other stat represented. The number is decreasing small operation unable to compe "Farmers do out — they wa

Experts

BOSTON (AP) are working behavior patter with Alzheimer wander from tl disappear. As life span baby boomers e age, the numbe ferling from th disease is predic the current 4 m lion over 40 ya the Alzheimer's About 32,000 patients escape care facilities.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him 'Immanuel' which means GOD WITH US." — Isaiah 7:14 — Matthew 1:23

IF HEADLINES ARE ANY INDICATION...

...it looks like WE NEED 'GOD WITH US' NOW MORE THAN EVER.

A Blessed Christmas to you and your family.

Desperate family grateful for Ellensburg's help

ELLENSBURG, Wash. (AP) — A few days ago, Christina Garcia and her two young children were in a strange new town and a tough place — broke, without any possessions and sharing the same bed in a relative's home.

Garcia no longer feels like a stranger in this Central Washington city, thanks to an outpouring of charity that has put her family back on its feet.

"I couldn't believe it," Garcia said. "We just moved here. We didn't know anybody, and we didn't have anything. I can't believe all the kind people here trying to help us."

Garcia, 24, had already written off the holidays. She didn't have the heart to tell her chil-

dren, Joshua and Tiffany, that there would be no Christmas.

She said her struggle began more than two months ago when her then-husband took everything the family owned and abandoned her and her children in Del Rio.

The only ones to whom she could turn were her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Carmelo Hernandez, who live in Ellensburg. But they could offer only a place to live.

Garcia resolved to bring her young children to Ellensburg and start a new life. The family arrived Nov. 3 and settled into their new home, but without furniture, clothing or food.

Garcia and her children all slept in the same bed. To keep

warm at night, the kids often struggled over the only blanket the family owned.

Things began to turn around when Garcia found a job. Her paycheck helped cover food, but was too small to buy necessities most take for granted.

After struggling for more than a month, she sought help from Allied People Offering Year-Round Outreach (APOYO), a local organization which helps indigent Hispanic families.

After word of the family's plight was published in the Ellensburg Daily Record newspaper on Wednesday, APOYO's telephone rang incessantly.

Dozens of local residents called to offer furniture, food,

clothing, and even Christmas gifts for the children.

Garcia was amazed at the response.

"Christmas is about giving and all the people here have given us a Christmas," she said. "There are now presents under the tree. Before, there was nothing."

The family also was awaiting a delivery of donated beds, a table, couch, food, clothing and household supplies.

"Thank you, Ellensburg," Garcia said. "I don't know what else to say. There's no words to express how I feel."

"I came here and said we're going to start life over. You are helping us do just that," she said.

Arrests spark concern about largely unguarded U.S.-Canadian border

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Recent arrests at the U.S.-Canadian border of those with alleged ties to Algerian extremist groups have cast the largely unpatrolled, 3,987-mile line in a new light.

Some U.S. law enforcement officials and experts say trust between the two countries may be fostering a vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

The unguarded stretches often allow easy passage for smugglers — and raise the possibility of terrorists slipping through, too.

"You can't blow up anything in the United States if you can't get in here," said Phillip Stern, an international private investigator and security consultant in New York.

Authorities say recent arrests in Washington state and Vermont show terrorists can set their sights on the United States after first finding a haven in Canada.

In the first case, an Algerian man is charged with bringing bomb-making materials into the United States. In the second, authorities have detained two people, an Algerian with a false passport and a Canadian woman accused of having ties to Algerian extremist groups.

Other illicit activity is common. The stretch of the border in upstate New York and New England is a hotbed of smuggling in both directions.

People, drugs and cash are the primary southbound cargo, while liquor and cigarettes are the northbound contraband of choice.

Border Patrol spokesman Ed Duda said aliens from more than 100 countries have been caught trying to illegally enter the United States.

Officials realize many illegal immigrants still get across — but they have no idea how many.

"We catch as many as we can," Duda said. "There is no iron curtain up here and there are no land mines."

There are checkpoints on

main roads between the United States and Canada, but there is no fence along the border. In many locations people can cross unchecked on back roads, walk through fields or take boats across rivers or lakes. The Border Patrol has remote sensors in some locations, but their staffing levels make it impossible for them to cover the length of the border.

Now law enforcement officials in the United States and Canada fear the trust that allows the border to go largely unpatrolled has made the United States vulnerable to terrorist attack.

American law enforcement agencies are working with their counterparts in Canada and Europe to learn more about the background of Ahmed Ressam, 32, the man arrested in Washington after bomb components were found in the trunk of his car. He is believed to have ties to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi exile accused of directing the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa last year.

Federal prosecutors in Vermont have linked Canadian Lucia Garofalo to the Algerian Islamic League. The organization was founded by Mourad Dhina, an Algerian whom prosecutors describe as an arms merchant who sends weapons to terrorist organizations. Dhina, a physician, denies the connection.

Ms. Garofalo, 35, and Bouabide Chamchi, 20, were arrested Sunday night at Beecher Falls, Vt., when they tried to enter the United States by car.

The Washington and Vermont cases have not been linked. Still, in response, the Border Patrol and Customs Service have put extra agents to work along both the Canadian and Mexican borders.

"It's a reality check for every one, not just speaking as a Border Patrol agent but as a civilian," said Bob Tripi, deputy chief patrol agent in Houlton, Maine.

Midwestern state lawmakers try to save family farms

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Trying to save small family farms, Midwestern state lawmakers are scheduled to meet next week to try to coordinate their efforts.

The Midwest Farm Price Crisis Forum is scheduled for Wednesday in Omaha, Neb. Lawmakers are scheduled to attend from Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas. Some other states also may be represented.

The number of family farms is decreasing nationwide as small operations find they are unable to compete.

"Farmers don't want hand-outs — they want to get a fair

price in the open market and support themselves," said South Dakota state Sen. Frank Kloucek. "A family farm ought to be able to support a family."

Some farmers have long said that they were being pushed out of business because a handful of giant corporations did not have to disclose the prices they paid for livestock, which meant that the market could not dictate prices.

In the livestock and poultry industries, for example, four large companies in each sector slaughter four out of five beef cattle, three out of four sheep, three out of five hogs and half of all chickens, according to a recent University of Missouri

study.

More than 60 percent of the flour milling and 80 percent of the soybean crushing also is controlled by four firms.

Critics say Congress and the Clinton administration have let large corporations stretch the limits of antitrust laws to the detriment of family farmers.

The issue had languished for years because of strong opposition from the packing industry until pork prices collapsed last winter and five states began work on legislation requiring that prices be disclosed.

Sen. Cap Dierks, chairman of the Nebraska Legislature's Agriculture Committee, said meatpackers tried to subvert

those efforts by playing states against each other.

"They said, 'You can't do that — you'll be an island out there,'" Dierks said. "They said they'd quit buying cattle and hogs from us."

But after Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri adopted such laws, Congress adopted a federal price-reporting legislation to make the practice uniform.

"We all got involved with it," Dierks said.

"We're living proof that you can do something if you put your mind to it."

The forum is being coordinated by the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb.

Experts examine patterns among wandering Alzheimer's patients

BOSTON (AP) — Researchers are working to determine behavior patterns among those with Alzheimer's disease who wander from their homes and disappear.

As life spans increase and baby boomers edge toward old age, the number of people suffering from the degenerative disease is predicted to rise from the current 4 million to 14 million over 40 years, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

About 32,000 Alzheimer's patients escape U.S. homes or care facilities each year, said

Robert Koester, a Virginia researcher who studies the habits of Alzheimer's patients. Searches for those with dementia make up 12 percent of search and rescue operations in the Mid-Atlantic states, he said.

If Alzheimer's patients aren't found within 24 hours, their survival rate drops to 46 percent.

With the projected rise in patients, experts say finding a patterns among the wanderers is critical.

"Really, it's a time bomb," said Nina Silverstein, a

University of Massachusetts researcher who also studies wanderers. "On the level of society, I really do believe there's been denial."

Among the similarities Koester's study found among 100 disappearances:

— The Alzheimer's patients didn't call out for help or respond to shouts.

— About 67 percent of them crossed over roads or paths, and continued in a straight line until they couldn't go any further.

When wandering patients

died, it was usually because they couldn't go any farther. Many were found in creek or drainage areas, or deeply entangled in briars or bushes.

Searchers sometimes find bodies in areas so densely packed that dogs can pass within feet of them without finding a scent, said Gerald Flaherty, of the state's Alzheimer's Association chapter.

"They're very, very frightened and they're trying to find a place to hide and they go into places that are terribly dangerous," he told The Boston Globe.

DEC 26 1999

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center receives high marks from leading independent accreditation organization, again.

Scenic Mountain has just received a 92% score from JCAHO, the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations. The JCAHO score recognizes the quality and professionalism offered right here in Big Spring at Scenic Mountain.

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We at Scenic Mountain Medical Center are proud to have received such a superior score from JCAHO. The high ranking supports what more and more of our patients and their family members are telling us — that quality health care is right here, close to home at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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 JCAHO is an independent, not-for-profit organization whose members include the American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association. They conduct on-site surveys looking at all aspects of a healthcare organization's operation and care giving before they award an accreditation score.

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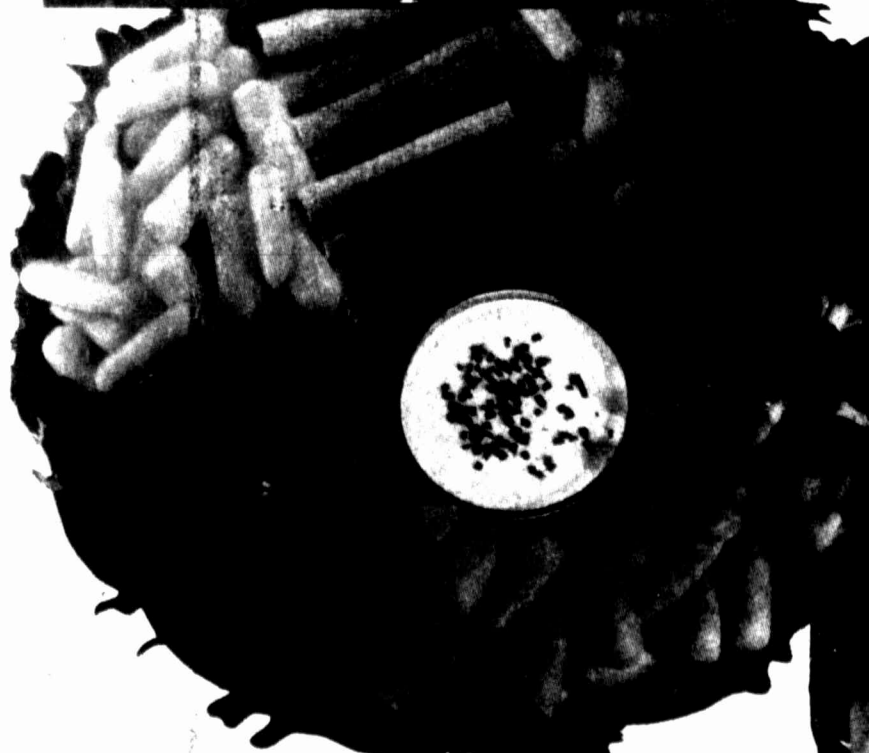


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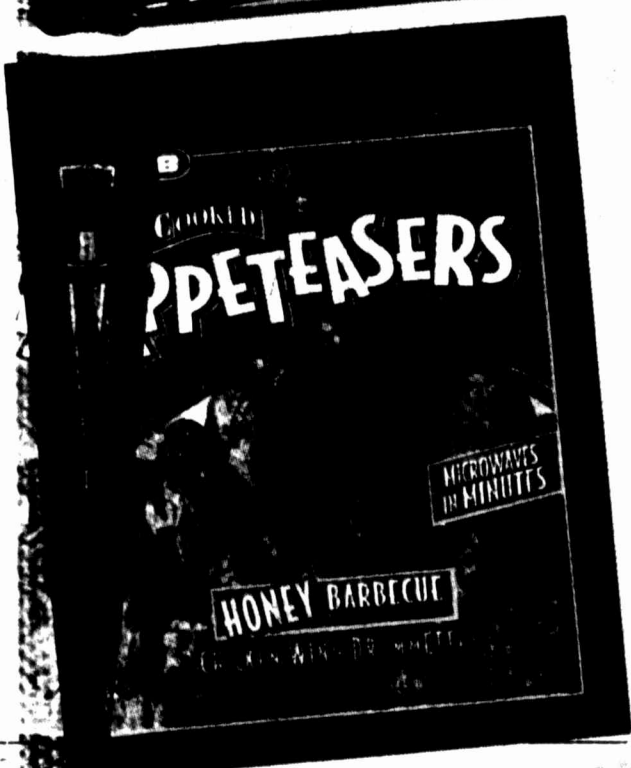
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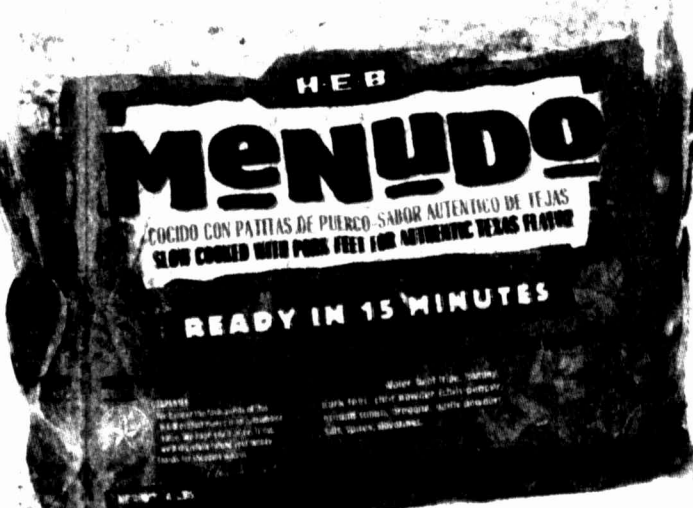
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 All stores will close at 10 p.m. on Friday, December 31. We will be open on Saturday, January 1 at 6 a.m. on regular store hours.

IN BRIEF

High school tournaments get under way this week

All eight high schools in the Herald's Crossroads Area take to the hardwoods this week in basketball tournament action.

In girl's play, Class 4A Big Spring will be in the Abilene Invitational while Class 2A's Coahoma is in the Caprock Classic in Lubbock, Stanton is in the Midland Christian Invitational and Forsan is in the Sterling City Invitational.

Class A's Garden City, Grady and Sands are also in the Sterling City tournament, while Borden County will play in the always-tough Slaton Invitational.

In boy's play, Big Spring is in the Caprock Classic in Lubbock while Coahoma is in the 67th Reagan County Invitational, Stanton is in the Midland Christian tourney and Forsan is at Sterling City.

Other schools in the Sterling City tournament include Garden City, Grady and Sands, while Borden County is in the Sundown Invitational.

All tournaments are scheduled to run Tuesday through Thursday.

Cancer Society offering Texas Golf Pass again

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

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

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

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

YMCA registering players for 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 (915) 795-2238.

Early deadlines

Because of early deadlines, scores from games played Saturday are not included in today's paper.

ON THE AIR

Television

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Noon — Regional coverage, Fox

Noon — Jacksonville Jaguars at Tennessee Titans, CBS.

3 p.m. — Green Bay Packers at Tampa Bay Bucs, Fox.

7:15 p.m. — Washington Redskins at San Francisco 49ers, ESPN.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

8 p.m. — Dallas Mavericks at Sacramento Kings, Fox Sports Net.

Texas Tech lures Art Briles from Stephenville to coach backs

STEPHENVILLE (AP) — Art Briles, one of the most successful Texas high school football coaches of the 1990s, is leaving Stephenville High School to join the Texas Tech coaching staff.

New Tech head coach Mike Leach announced Thursday he has hired Briles to coach the Red Raiders' running backs.

"This is a great opportunity for us at Texas Tech to have Art Briles as part of the family," Leach said in a statement. "His accomplishments speak for themselves. Four state titles and numerous offensive records are awful hard to ignore."

Briles, 44, leaves Stephenville

after 12 years, in which he coached the Yellow Jackets to four state titles and 11 straight playoff appearances. The titles came back to back in 1993-94 and again in 1998-99. This year's team beat Port Neches-Groves 28-18 to cap an unbeaten season and seal its Class 4A Division II title.

The Yellow Jackets went 135-29-2 under Briles' direction. In a 16-year career as a head high school football coach, he compiled a 172-42-4 record and 13 playoff appearances. He also is president-elect of the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Telephone calls to Briles' Stephenville home went unanswered Thursday. However, he said in the Tech statement that the occasion is bittersweet.

"I am so thankful for our time at Stephenville and for being a Texas high school coach," he said. "At the same time, I'm looking forward to new challenges and the opportunity of coaching in Big 12 Conference football."

Still unclear is whether his son, Kendal Briles, will stay in Stephenville for his senior year. The junior quarterbacked the Yellow Jackets to this year's title.

Briles has an older daughter, Jancy, who already is a sophomore at Texas Tech. Another daughter, Staley, is an eighth-grader in a Stephenville junior high school.

He was a receiver at the University of Houston from 1974-77, where he learned under another offensive innovator, Bill Yeoman. That influence was evident in his use of multiple formations, four- and five-receiver sets and a pro-style balanced offense.

"I hope I am passing on to other players what I learned from him," Briles told the Houston Chronicle recently,

referring to Yeoman's influence. "I thought football was a game you just went out and played until I started watching video with him. Then I figured out there is a method to the madness. There is a reason why you do things."

Stephenville has set a national standard under Briles, gaining 8,614 total yards in 1998 to break a 46-year-old record set by Sugar Land.

His team of 1994 ranks third all-time nationally in total yards, behind Sugar Land's 1953 team, and the 1993 team ranks fourth. This year's team racked up more than 7,000 total yards.

Cowboys' chances now appear slim, none

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jake Delhomme got his first chance, Mike Ditka apparently will get another chance, and the Dallas Cowboys might have no chance.

Delhomme, playing in his first NFL regular-season game, passed for two touchdowns and ran for one as the New Orleans Saints beat the Cowboys 31-24 on Friday.

After the game, Ditka said he will be back to coach the Saints (3-12) another year despite three straight losing seasons.

"I'll be back," Ditka said. "I've said that all the way, all along."

Dallas, which needed to win its last two games to guarantee a playoff berth, had its fate taken from its own hands.

"Right now, we're playing for pride," Cowboys coach Chan Gailey said of his 7-8 team. "That's what we're lining up playing for and that's not a lot of fun."

Delhomme, who played in the NFL Europe the last two years but had never even suited up since the Saints re-signed him four weeks ago, showed poise and a strong arm.

"We had nothing to lose," Delhomme said. "We just came out and played relaxed. We were joking in the huddle the whole game. That's what was fun about it."

Delhomme's first NFL pass was tipped at the line of scrimmage and intercepted, and he also lost a fumble when blindsided in the third quarter.

Fred Weary returned Emmitt Smith's fumble 58 yards to put the Saints up for good, and Keith Mitchell and Mark Fields teamed up for an interception in the end zone that clinched victory.

"I think we did well overall," Mitchell said. "And we got a young guy like Jake to step it up for us. We just needed somebody to come in and make it happen, really want it and just get out there and go for it. It was great."

New Orleans, which beat the Cowboys 22-3 last season, led in 10 of its 12 losses this season, but failed to hold on. The most productive outing previously was a 24-6 victory over San Francisco. Against Baltimore last week, New Orleans scored eight points and had just eight first downs.

"It feels great to have an offense that can put some points on the board," Saints cornerback Fred Weary said.

The Saints led 10-7 at the half on Doug Brien's 32-yard field goal and Delhomme's 8-yard touchdown pass to Keith Poole. Dallas' only first-half score came on Smith's 1-yard run.

The Cowboys went ahead 17-10 in the third quarter on Jason Tucker's 20-yard reception and



Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman was the best-known signal caller on the field Saturday, but New Orleans' Jake Delhomme was the most effective, leading the hapless Saints to a 31-24 upset win over the punchless Cowboys.

Eddie Murray's 33-yard field goal. New Orleans tied it twice more — 17-17 when Delhomme hit Eddie Kennison for a 51-yard touchdown, and 24-24 when Delhomme ran for a 4-yard score.

Then the Saints defense stepped up as cornerback Fred Weary grabbed Smith's fumble and returned it 58 yards to make it 31-24.

"They haven't played well all

season," Cowboys defensive back Darren Woodson said. "We didn't know the quarterback. We figured he wouldn't be that good. But he was."

New Orleans, victimized by long passes this year, held on this time as Mitchell batted Troy Aikman's pass in the end zone into Fields' hands with less than a minute left.

Aikman was 23-of-39 for 246 yards and two touchdowns,

with two interceptions. Smith finished with 110 yards on 23 carries.

The Cowboys had 11 penalties, including a holding call that nullified what would have been a 97-yard kickoff return by Tucker in the first quarter.

The Saints have not sold out a game in the 70,000-seat Superdome this year, and only

See **COWBOYS**, Page 10A

1999 banner year for Texans

DALLAS (AP) — Whenever there were great moments in sports in 1999, Texans were usually making them.

There was Austin's Lance Armstrong riding to an emotional victory in the Tour de France and Dallas' Michael Johnson adding the 400-meter world record to the 200-meter mark he set at the 1996 Olympics.

There was Mia Hamm, who grew up in Wichita Falls, leading the U.S. women's soccer team to its first World Cup title and Dallas native Justin Leonard sinking the putt that gave the Texan-filled U.S. Ryder Cup team a tremendous comeback victory.

There were three team titles in major pro sports, including an unprecedented NHL-NBA double. Much to the delight of Texans, the losing team in all three championships hailed from New York.

Almost lost in the celebrations was the new WBA bantamweight champion, Fort Worth's Paulie Ayala. The little guy took the belt from Johnny Tapia in June, then won his first title defense four months later with a unanimous decision in his hometown.

Unfortunately, not all the news was good. The annual bonfire at Texas A&M toppled in darkness, killing 12 and putting the nearly century-old tradition under scrutiny. Several Aggie football players and many fans were in tears eight days later after pulling out a 20-16 victory over archrival Texas.

Former SMU golfer Payne Stewart was flying to Dallas for business, then Houston for the Tour Championship when his plane went off course and crashed, killing Stewart and five others. A memorial service at the course in The Woodlands began under a morning fog and featured a bagpipe player eerily emerging from the mist.

Other notable deaths this year included the bizarre suicide by Katrina Price, a former basketball star at Stephen F. Austin and Waco LaVega High; and the drug overdose by former Dallas Cowboys star Mark Tuinei.

See **TEXANS**, Page 10A

Jacksonville vs. Tennessee: Much less than meets the eye

By **DAVE GOLDBERG**
AP Football Writer

Never mind that Jacksonville lost 20-19 at home to Tennessee.

Never mind that the Jaguars lead the Titans by two games in the AFC Central with two games to go and need only one victory to clinch the division.

Never mind that to get home field for the AFC playoffs, the tiebreakers mandate that the Jaguars need a win over Cincinnati — not the Titans — a week later.

The Jaguars are still favored by three points in their game in Nashville on Sunday. It makes sense, up to a point.

The Jags are the better team, although they've beaten no one with a winning record. They're coming off a lethargic 24-14 win in Cleveland and will be looking to sharpen their game for the playoffs.

But the Titans have the same incentive.

And although they're 11-3, they have a win over St. Louis, the NFC's equivalent of the Jaguars. They've never lost a game in Adelphia Coliseum, where they're 7-0, and they've got Jevon Kearse, who might not just be the league's defensive rookie of the year, but its defensive player of the year, too.

Hard call.

JAGUARS, 20-19

Kansas City (plus 3) at Seattle

Despite four straight losses, the Seahawks can take control of the AFC West with a win. Free fall. CHIEFS, 16-15

Green Bay (plus 3) at Tampa Bay

Tony Dungy thinks the Bucs will bounce back from the Oakland debacle. He's usually right about such things. BUCS, 24-16

Minnesota (minus 3) at New York Giants

Except for Randy Moss, the

Giants match up pretty well against the Vikings. And Randy's making mistakes these days. GIANTS, 27-23

New York Jets (plus 4) at Miami (Monday night)

The Jets won 28-20 in the Meadowlands two weeks ago. And they're still playing hard. JETS, 6-3

Chicago (plus 10) at St. Louis

Tough call. Do the Rams let up against the feisty Bears now that they've clinched all they can clinch? A little. RAMS, 24-15

Buffalo (minus 3) at New England

Go with playoff incentive. BILLS, 23-10

Carolina (minus 3) at Pittsburgh

Go with playoff incentive. PANTHERS, 18-6

Indianapolis (minus 13) at Cleveland

Go with home-field incentive. COLTS, 37-11

Washington (minus 7) at San Francisco

Go with playoff incentive. REDSKINS, 42-22

See **PRO PICKS**, Page 10A

Bowl scores

Scores from Christmas included in today's paper because of early start

All Times CST (Subject to change)

Saturday, Dec. 18 Las Vegas Bowl

At Las Vegas

Payout: \$1.2 million

Heritage Bowl

At Atlanta

Hampton 24, South 14

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Mobile Alabama Bowl

Payout: \$750,000

Texas Christian

Saturday, Dec. 25

Blue-Gray Classic

At Montgomery, Ala.

Gray vs. Blue, 11 a.m.

Alaha Bowl

At Honolulu

Payout: \$800,000

Arizona State (6-5)

5, 2:30 p.m. (ABC)

Oahu Bowl

At Honolulu

Payout: \$800,000

Oregon State (7-4)

7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 27

Motor City Bowl

At Pontiac, Mich.

Payout: \$750,000

Marshall (12-0) vs. 3, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Alamo Bowl

At San Antonio

Payout: \$1.2 million

Texas A&M (8-3) vs. 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Music City Bowl

At Nashville, Tenn.

Payout: \$750,000

Kentucky (6-5) vs. 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl

At San Diego

Payout: \$1.8 million

Kansas State (11-1)

(7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 30

Humanitarian Bowl

At Boise, Idaho

Payout: \$750,000

Boise State (9-3) vs. 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Microtec.com Bowl

At Miami

Payout: \$750,000

Virginia (7-4) vs. 11 p.m. (TBS)

Peach Bowl

At Atlanta

Payout: \$1.6 million

Mississippi State (1-5), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 31

Insight.com Bowl

At Tucson, Ariz.

Payout: \$750,000

Boston College (8-3)

5, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl

At El Paso, Texas

Payout: \$1 million

Oregon (8-3) vs. 11 p.m. (CBS)

Chicago (dream team)"

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Three retir

Michael Jorda

Wayne Gretzky

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PRO PICKS

Continued from Page 8A

Cincinnati (plus 7) at Baltimore
Go with playoff incentive.
RAVENS 31-26

Oakland (minus 3) at San Diego
Go with... never mind.
RAIDERS, 20-3

Arizona (plus 2) at Atlanta
Arizona has incentive... sort of.
CARDINALS, 17-6

Last week: 10-5 (spread); 11-4 (straight up).
Season: 103-108-7 (spread); 135-83 (straight up).

TEXANS

Continued from Page 8A

Injuries took several other Texas stars out of action. Charles Barkley and Michael Irvin, two of the most colorful personalities on Texas teams, had their season ruined early and possibly their careers, too. Barkley already planned to call it quits and Irvin may have to because of a neck injury.

Hakeem Olajuwon is out with a hernia and Sean Elliott is trying to battle back from a kidney transplant he received from his brother.

Two coaching icons also bowed out.

Don Haskins, the Texas-El Paso coach whose all-black starting lineup beat all-white Kentucky in the 1966 NCAA finals, walked away after 38 seasons and an induction in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Spike Dykes handed over the reins of the Texas Tech football team after 13 seasons and a school-record 82 wins.

The year ended with the troubling tale of Dallas Mavericks rookie Leon Smith, a 19-year-old who jumped from a ward of the state of Illinois to NBA millionaire. In the last month, he's attacked a friend in Dallas and an ex-girlfriend in Chicago, spent time in institutions and been in and out of police custody.

But sports is supposed to be about games — and championships.

To better understand how special 1999 was in that sense, consider that the entire decade of the '80s featured no team titles and this year had three. Better yet, the glory was spread like a Southwest Airlines route: San Antonio, Dallas and Houston.

The San Antonio Spurs won the lockout-shortened NBA season, but there's no asterisk by their title. There is one interesting footnote: they're the first ABA holdover to win an NBA crown.

The Dallas Stars capped a tremendous regular season by winning the first Stanley Cup in franchise history. Folks in Buffalo are still crying "no goal" over the title-winning shot by Brett Hull in triple overtime of Game 6. Hull says whenever people ask him whether the goal was legal, he smiles and flashes his championship ring.

The Houston Comets, the only team ever crowned WNBA champions, won the first two with Kim Perrot as their starting point guard. They won No. 3 for No. 10, dedicating this one to her memory less than a month after she died of a rare form of cancer.

Texas teams came up short in baseball, but at least a Texan stood tall at the end.

Katy's Roger Clemens, who spurned his home-state teams by going to the New York Yankees, somewhat justified his decision with a great outing in the final game of the World Series.

The Astros and Rangers did make the playoffs for a second straight year, but both were ousted in the first round. Maybe the next century will have an 1-45 World Series.

The Dallas Cowboys had a mostly forgettable 1999, starting with an embarrassing home playoff loss Jan. 2. Their current season showed early promise, but has been deflated by injuries.

The best NFL news in Texas actually came from Houston, where Bob McNair finally lassoed an expansion team.

The Texans, as they're likely to be called, cost \$700 million and won't start playing until 2002, when a new stadium in the Astrodome parking lot will be ready.

Stadiums also were big news in 1999.

On opening day of the NBA season, San Antonio residents kept their franchise from leaving town by voting for a new arena. But Houstonians — tapped out after committing tax dollars to baseball and football facilities — rejected an arena for the Rockets and Comets.

The Astros' new stadium opens in a few months. The Astrodome's replacement will be called Enron Field, a name that costs the energy giant \$100 million over 30 years.

In Dallas, American Airlines agreed to pay \$150 million over 30 years for naming rights to the new home of the Stars and Mavericks. That building opens in 2001.

Big dollars have come to be expected in sports. Signings like Craig Biggio's recent three-year, \$28 million contract that makes him the highest-paid player in Astros history barely make a ripple.

The Rockets traded for Scottie Pippen, signed him to a five-year, \$67 million deal and less than 10 months later he was traded to Portland. Houston also pulled off a three-team, 11-player trade that's the largest in NBA history to get Steve Francis, the No. 2 pick in the summer draft.

The Rangers also became wheeler-dealers, sending Juan Gonzalez to Detroit in a nine-player deal after deciding they weren't going to pay him the astronomical price he wants when his contract expires after the 2000 season. A few days later, Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez was named AL MVP, an honor Gonzalez won two of the previous three years.

The Rangers and Astros shared a nice moment this summer when Nolan Ryan was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Although the strikeout and no-hit king wears a Rangers hat on his plaque, he owns the Astros' Class AA affiliate that will be starting in Round Rock in 2000.

The first major sports event of the new millennium will kick off shortly after 10 a.m. Jan. 1 when Texas plays former Southwest Conference rival Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl.

THE CHRONOLOGY:

A chronology of major Texas sports events in 1999:

Jan. 1 — Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams closes his college career as Texas beats Mississippi State 38-11 in the Cotton Bowl. ... Texas A&M battles to the end, but Ohio State wins the Sugar Bowl 24-14.

Jan. 2 — Arizona beats Dallas 20-7, knocking the Cowboys out of the playoffs in the first round and ending Chan Gailey's first season as head coach.

Jan. 5 — Nolan Ryan, who played for the Rangers and Astros, is voted into the baseball Hall of Fame.

Jan. 18 — Katrina Price, a former basketball star at Stephen F. Austin whose career was set back by the demise of the ABL, commits suicide in Nacogdoches. ... TCU football coach Dennis Franchione receives a seven-year contract reportedly worth

up to \$900,000 a year. Jan. 21 — The Mavericks and Spurs begin training camp after the NBA lockout finally ends. The Rockets cancel the first practice, which was supposed to follow the announcement of Scottie Pippen's arrival. The next day, the Rockets sign Pippen to a five-year, \$67.2 million contract.

Feb. 3 — Texas' 28-player football recruiting class is hailed the nation's best.

Feb. 22 — Houston Comets guard Kim Perrot says she will begin treatment for a cancerous brain tumor that spread from her lungs. ... An MRI reveals that Astros outfielder Moises Alou has torn his anterior cruciate ligament and likely will miss most or all of the season.

March 4 — Harry Miller quits as Baylor basketball coach following a 6-24 season.

March 23 — Dave Bliss, the former SMU basketball coach who became the winningest coach in New Mexico history, is hired by Baylor.

April 5 — The Rangers lose their home opener against Detroit 11-5.

April 6 — The Houston Astros start their final season at the Astrodome by beating the Chicago Cubs 4-2.

April 11 — The Dallas Stars set a club record with their 50th win this season, 6-2 over Los Angeles.

April 17 — The New Orleans Saints choose Texas' Ricky Williams in the first round of the NFL draft with the No. 5 pick.

April 18 — Julie Krone, the winningest female jockey and the only one to ever take a Triple Crown race, races for the last time at Lone Star Park.

May 2 — Stuart Appleby wins the Shell Houston Open at 9-under, 279.

May 6 — Former Dallas Cowboys star Mark Tuinei, who played on three Super Bowl champions, dies at age 39. His death is later ruled a heroin overdose.

May 16 — Loren Roberts beats Steve Pate on the first sudden-death playoff hole to win the Byron Nelson Classic.

May 23 — Olin Browne's 4-under 66 gives him a one-stroke victory at the Colonial.

June 12 — Scott Goodyear wins the Longhorn 500 at the Texas Motor Speedway.

June 20 — In a game that began the night before, Brett Hull scores in the third overtime as the Dallas Stars outlast the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 to win the franchise's first Stanley Cup.

June 25 — The San Antonio Spurs edge the New York Knicks 78-77 in Game 5 to win their first NBA championship.

June 26 — Fort Worth's Paulie Ayala takes the WBA bantamweight title from Johnny Tapia with a unanimous decision in Las Vegas. Ayala later defends his title before hometown fans.

July 21 — Spurs forward Sean Elliott reveals he needs a kidney transplant. His brother donates a kidney and he undergoes surgery Aug. 16.

July 25 — Austin cyclist Lance Armstrong, after recovering from cancer, wins the Tour de France.

Aug. 6 — Southern Methodist says it has found potential recruiting irregularities in its football program and suspends an assistant coach.

Aug. 19 — Houston Comets point guard Kim Perrot dies of cancer.

Aug. 22 — UT golfer David Gossett wins the U.S. Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach, Calif.

Aug. 24 — Hall of Fame basketball coach Don Haskins retires after 38 seasons with Texas-El Paso.

Aug. 25 — Stephanie Vega of Santa Fe decides not to lead classmates in prayer before high school football games, fearing her role in a constitutional battle could get her expelled.

Aug. 26 — Michael Johnson sets

the 400-meter world record of 43.18 in winning the gold medal at the World Championships in Seville, Spain, shattering the 11-year-old mark of 43.29 held by Butch Reynolds.

Aug. 27 — Steve Francis, the second player chosen in June's NBA draft, goes to the Houston Rockets in a three-way, 11-player, three-draft pick deal that's the largest in NBA history. Also involved are the Vancouver Grizzlies and Orlando Magic.

Sept. 11 — In a bizarre 27-24 loss to UNLV, Baylor chooses a running play instead of having the quarterback take a victory-sealing knee in the final seconds. The Bears fumble and the Rebels return it for the game-winning touchdown.

Sept. 14 — The Dallas Cowboys learn that Leon Lett will be suspended for a total of eight games for violation of the league's substance-abuse policy.

Sept. 26 — Justin Leonard's dramatic putt gives the U.S. Ryder Cup a comeback victory, making a champion of captain Ben Crenshaw.

Oct. 2 — The Rockets trade seven-time All-Star Scottie Pippen to Portland for six reserves.

Oct. 3 — The Houston Astros say goodbye to the Astrodome with a 9-4 regular-season victory over the Dodgers.

Oct. 6 — The NFL awards its newest franchise to Houston instead of Los Angeles. Businessman Bob McNair offers to pay \$700 million for the franchise. The team will begin in 2002.

Oct. 9 — The Rangers are swept by the Yankees for the second straight year and the Astros are eliminated by the Braves for a second straight year.

Oct. 10 — Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin awkwardly twists his neck as he's tackled following the 750th reception of his career. Philadelphia fans cheer as he's taken from the field. He later goes on injured reserve, possibly ending his career.

Oct. 11 — Conference USA presidents approve the addition of Texas Christian to the league in all sports, passing over WAC rival Southern Methodist.

Oct. 24 — Houston Rockets forward Charles Barkley, who already had announced that this season was his last, ruptures a tendon in his knee, effectively ending his career in Philadelphia, where it began 16 years ago.

Oct. 25 — Pro golfer Payne Stewart, a Southern Methodist alumnus, and five others die when their plane bound for Dallas veers off course for four hours and crashes into a South Dakota pasture.

Oct. 31 — Tiger Woods closes

with a 2-under 69 to win the Tour Championship at Champions Golf Club in Houston, his seventh victory in 10 tournaments. Many players honor Stewart by wearing his trademark knickers.

Nov. 2 — Bexar County voters handily approve a new arena for the San Antonio Spurs, while Harris County voters reject a new building to replace the Houston Rockets' aging Compaq Center. ... The Texas Rangers trade Juan Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP, to the Detroit Tigers in a nine-player deal. ... The Spurs and Mavericks win their season openers; the Rockets lose.

Nov. 14 — Dallas Mavericks rookie Leon Smith is placed in a psychiatric ward after police find him overdosed on aspirin and wearing green paint on his face. On Dec. 2, he's arrested in Chicago on charges he threatened his former girlfriend with a gun. The next day, he's accused of ramming a car belonging to his ex-girlfriend's mother and smashing out the windows.

Nov. 15 — The U.S. Supreme Court agrees to decide next year whether public schools can let students lead group prayers at high school football games. The issue stems from a Santa Fe, Texas, case.

Nov. 18 — A 40-foot stack of logs being assembled for Texas A&M's annual bonfire collapses, killing 12 and injuring more than two dozen more. ... Texas' Ivan Rodriguez wins the American League's Most Valuable Player award, becoming just the ninth catcher in either league to win baseball's top individual honor.

Nov. 20 — Texas Tech football coach Spike Dykes retires following a 38-28 victory over Oklahoma. In 16 seasons, he won a school-record 82 games. On Dec. 9, the Red Raiders give Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mike Leach a five-year contract.

Nov. 26 — With flags at half-staff and "Amazing Grace" played at halftime, No. 24 Texas A&M beats No. 7 Texas 20-16 amid mourning for the bonfire victims.

Dec. 4 — Nebraska takes out three losses worth of frustration against Texas for a 22-6 victory in the Big 12 championship in San Antonio.

Dec. 8 — Southern Methodist announces that it has fired an assistant football coach accused of violating NCAA recruiting rules. Officials also impose sanctions on the football program, including cutting eight scholarships over the next two years.

Dec. 9 — Craig Biggio agrees to a three-year, \$28 million contract extension that makes the seven-time All-Star the highest-paid player

in Astros history. Dec. 11 — Junior Cedric Benson rushes for five touchdowns, leading Midland Lee to a 42-21 victory over Aldine Eisenhower for the Rebels' 23rd straight victory and their second straight Class 5A Division I title. In other finals, Texas City beats Hereford 27-14 for the 4A Division I title, Texarkana Liberty-Eylau beats Mathis 49-6 for the 3A Division I title, Mart beats Boyd 40-7 for the 2A Division I title and Gordon beats Groom 54-35 for the six-man title.

Dec. 19 — Stephenville, led by coach's son Kendal Briles at quarterback, wins a second straight Class 4A Division II title and the fourth championship of the decade with a 28-18 victory over Port Neches-Groves. Bartlett wins its third 1A title of the 1990s with a 35-6 victory over Aspermont and Celina wins its third title of the '90s with a 38-7 victory over Elysian Fields. Sealy is denied a fifth 3A title as Commerce wins the Division II final 17-10 and Garland wins the 5A Division II title 37-25 over Katy.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 8A

47,835 tickets sold for the Christmas Eve game. Actual attendance was at least 10,000 lower than that, but for a change the small crowd had a good time and stayed to the end.

Notes: With the loss, the Cowboys failed to assure a 29th winning season in 40 years. ... The Saints are suffering through their 28th non-winning season in 33 years. ... Every Saints home game this year has been blacked out locally. The last time the Saints sold out a game was Dec. 6, 1998, against the Cowboys. ... New Orleans played its 501st game on Friday. Including playoffs the Saints have compiled a record of 192-304-5.

Saints 31, Cowboys 24
Dallas 0 7 17 0-24
Norleans 10 0 7 14-31
First Quarter
NO—FG Bren 32, 4:25
NO—Poole 8 pass from Delhomme (Brien kick), 1:38
Second Quarter
Dal—E. Smith 1 run (Murray kick), 10:36
Third Quarter
Dal—Tucker 20 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 10:34
Dal—FG Murray 33, 5:56
NO—Kennon 51 pass from Delhomme (Brien kick), 5:10
Dal—LeFleur 3 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 0:06
Fourth Quarter
NO—Delhomme 4 run (Brien kick), 11:16
NO—Waters 58 fumble return (Brien kick), 9:59
A—47,835.

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Chok
By DALE McFEA
Scripps Howard

THREE RIVE time their paren fizzled over wh are in the hog or a group of kid Callahan Unit of State Park had a dozen of the odor close.

By tour's end, spotted a goodly park's furry and ings.

The park — a and a half drive Corpus Christi Rivers — is teem turkey, javelina, and sundry other easily viewed fr foot or from the p tour bus.

In addition to th attraction, a 26, avior, there's a s lake — a kiddie p — stocked with and catfish. Seve fish-holding buo marked with buo casting distance lines and severa ties.

Both the Sout Callijham units of clean and well r far as I can see, staying overnight rough it in your rent a cabin in a community sh restrooms. Eith point is to experi sunrise performan mative.

The wildlife spec Canyon is partic ular now and for t al months, when o atures provide camping and vie this peak perio movement.

The deer, in pa magnificent. And better-than-averag duction is a bonus — And here's a k drop-tine buck the one of the car renewed the inter raphers and natur rule, the animals point photographs

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Choke Canyon State Park: Getting a good, close look at wildlife

By DALE McFEATHERS
Scripps Howard

THREE RIVERS — By the time their parents' debate had fizzled over whether javelina are in the hog or rodent family, a group of kids touring the Callahan Unit of Choke Canyon State Park had seen at least a dozen of the odorous animals up close.

By tour's end, the group had spotted a goodly portion of the park's furry and feathered offerings.

The park — about an hour and a half drive from south Corpus Christi near Three Rivers — is teeming with deer, turkey, javelina, bobwhite quail and sundry other avian species, easily viewed from a car, on foot or from the park's open-air tour bus.

In addition to the park's main attraction, a 26,000-acre reservoir, there's a smaller no-boat lake — a kiddie pond if you will — stocked with bass, bluegill and catfish. Several submerged fish-holding brush piles are marked with buoys within easy casting distance from shorelines and several earthen jet-ties.

Both the South Shore and Callahan units of the park are clean and well maintained as far as I can see. I recommend staying overnight. You can rough it in your own tent or rent a cabin in a campsite with community showers and restrooms. Either way, the point is to experience both the sunrise performance and sunset matinee.

The wildlife show at Choke Canyon is particularly spectacular now and for the next several months, when cooler temperatures provide comfortable camping and viewing during this peak period of animal movement.

The deer, in particular, are magnificent. And this year's better-than-average antler production is a bonus.

And here's a kicker: a big drop-tine buck that feeds near one of the campsites has renewed the interest of photographers and nature lovers. As a rule, the animals rarely disappoint photographers and kids.

Despite the big buck's brazen demeanor, two recent visits to the park have resulted in only vicarious brushes with the 16-point monster for me. Wildlife photographer Glenn Hayes assured me the chances of a third snub are unlikely. Don't go by my luck.

Some would argue that referring to Choke Canyon's wildlife as wild is a stretch. Some visitors say the park falls somewhere between a petting zoo and a true wilderness. Many of the whitetail deer and javelina are shamelessly tame, conditioned to munch on human-scattered corn kernels for breakfast and supper.

It's true, the rattle of corn in a bucket rings like a dinner bell

to a segment of Choke Canyon's wildlife. The routine began to draw Choke Canyon's abundant wildlife into view in an attempt to boost visitation. In time, park rangers were directed to stop feeding the animals.

But the public was given no such mandate and a tradition was born.

Does this throw off the balance of nature? I don't think so. The animals haven't lost the ability to forage on their own. And as far as losing their fear of man, my guess is this would only be a problem if they left the park.

Why would they do that?

Though an argument could be made that the animals have lost some of their dignity and mys-

tic qualities. That crossed my mind when I practically had to nudge a doe with my bumper while negotiating a particularly popular stretch of park road.

Indeed, a visitor's search is brief for a roadside thick with deer and javelina looking for a handout.

But my feelings about dignity lost perished when I stared into the eyes of a thick-necked 10-point buck in a meadow at 20 paces.

How often does this happen? As often as you visit Choke Canyon.

Make no mistake, the animals are wild, just not as wary. Come the rut, park rangers advise visitors to be aware of the deer's powerful sex drive, when

instinctual aggression and raging hormones replace the allure of deer corn.

The mating season for deer at Choke Canyon has begun and runs roughly three weeks.

Before the rut, it's not unusual to spot a half dozen young bucks feeding together. For now though, the bucks are solitary unless they're fighting.

Now is a good time to see a couple of dueling bucks vying for the affections of a doe.

This display is better viewed from a distance, as are the antics of any lusty bucks.

This distance policy also is recommended for javelina viewing, particularly when it comes to protective sows with piglets. And another thing, javelina do

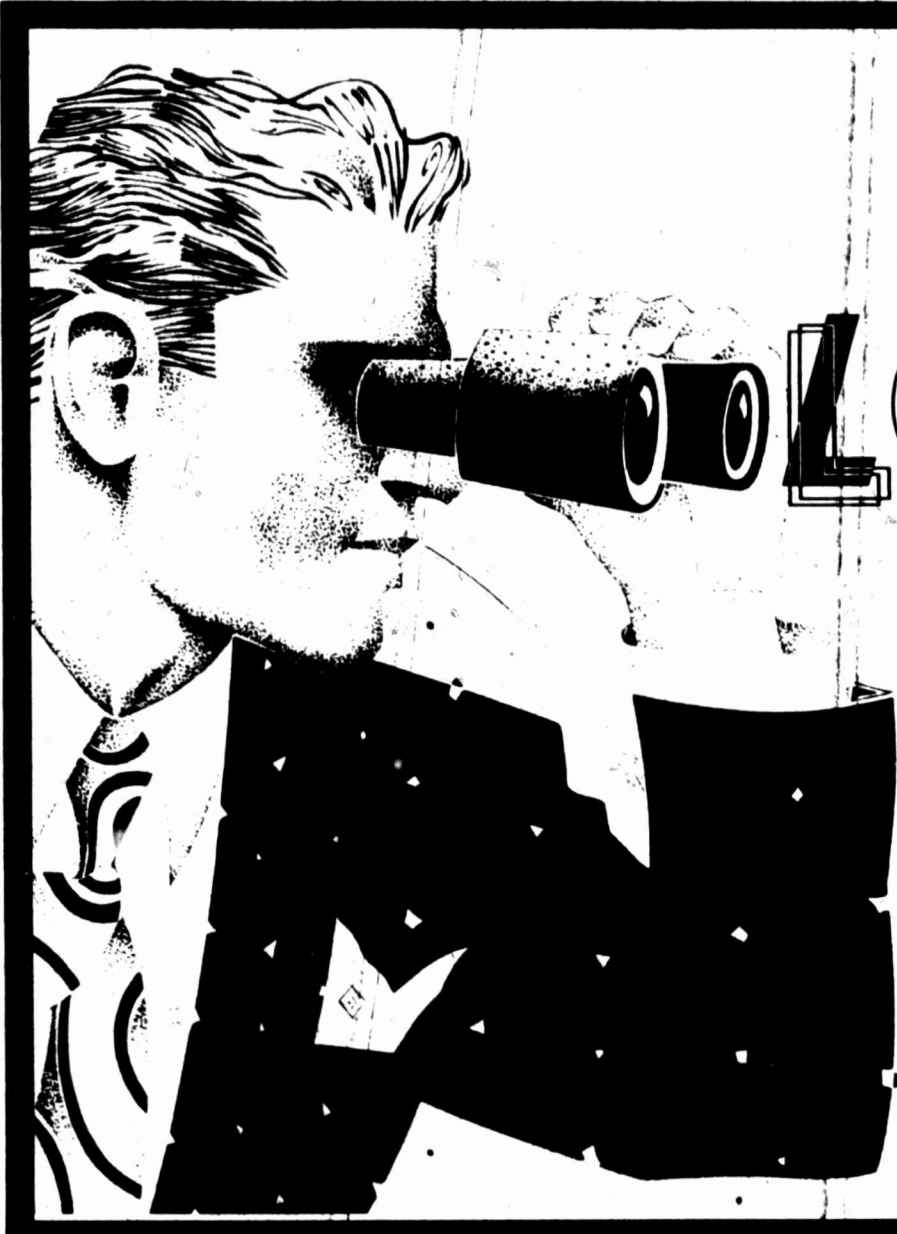
not like dogs, which should be kept on a lease.

No matter how you feel about the semi-domestication of wild animals, Choke Canyon is one of the few places families can get more than a fleeting glimpse of South Texas' native wildlife in their natural habitat, more or less. The fascination in your child's eyes should dismiss any misgivings you might have.

Bring a camera.

Incidentally, javelina are neither hogs nor rodents. They are of the family tayassuidae. Swine are in the suidae family and rodents are classified in the rodentia family.

(Distributed by The Associated Press)



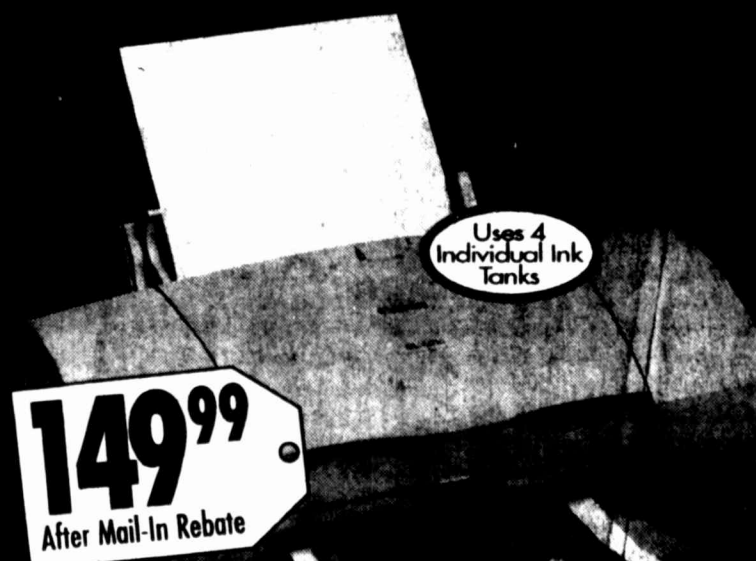
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◆Christopher Columbus is honored on different days in different parts of the world. In the U.S., Columbus Day is Oct. 12.

Got an item?

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

A colorful century

Big Spring and the Crossroads area have, by anyone's standards, experienced some strange, difficult and wonderful times throughout the 1900s. From oil and land boom and bust, political figures, scandals and community successes, it has been a colorful 100 years.

Here is a sample of the work of contributor Nancy Koger, which fills a special tabloid section, "A Look Back," to be inserted into Wednesday's Herald. In words and pictures, it offers a glimpse at 100 years gone by.

The "turn of the century" in 1900 was awaited with as much anticipation and anxiety as we await "the new millennium."

Records of local happenings come from the weekly "Enterprise," published from 1898-1911. The final issue of the decade, December 31, 1909, had a front page topped by large advertisements from local banks assuring people that the banking laws safeguarded their money in the banks.

The most notable change of the second decade for Big Springs was an undocumented one: sometime around 1916 the city dropped the "s" and became Big Spring. Interest in social issues was evident in many directions. In 1910, after many years as a "wet" county, Howard County voted "dry." It continued to vote alcohol beverages illegal through the decade, anticipating the nationwide prohibition in 1918.

By April 1926, Howard County's first oil well was in production, and on Feb. 3, 1928, the Dora Roberts well No. 1 came in and flowed at 175 barrels per hour.

The first paving contract in the history of Big Spring was signed in 1926. At the same time, electric lights were installed along the main thoroughfares, and a new water system with eight-inch mains and convenient fire-plugs was authorized, at the cost of \$30,000.

While the nation began the 1930s in a financial funk caused by the Stock Market crash of '29, in Howard County oil partly mollified the situation.

The decade was given a glittering start with the opening of the 15-story Settles Hotel, built at a cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000 by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Settles, who had made their fortune from oil royalties on their ranch.

In mid-September 1939, during a game against the Mineral Wells Resorters, Big Spring dedicated the new \$30,000 stadium, called Highland Park Field.

In the early 1940s, Big Spring officials were concerned with a rise in juvenile crime; police showed over 1,400 arrests in 1943. The types of juvenile crimes were becoming more serious as well. In 1942, some youths spent the night in jail after "escapades," which were not described. Later that year an 11-year-old confessed to 15 burglaries, and in another year "youths were charged with car theft and burglary."

In 1959, Sirloin steak was 69 cents per pound, canned peas were 10 cents each or two cans for 15 cents, three pounds of hamburger \$1.

In 1956, on a day that included a series of

deaths in car and plane crashes, a mechanic at Webb Air Force was taxiing a plane toward a hangar and for some inexplicable reason, decided he could fly it.

The sergeant-mechanic managed to get the plane airborne and piloted it for more than an hour as personnel at the Webb tower attempted to "talk him down" to a landing.

In the process, the would-be pilot lost control of the jet trainer and plummeted to earth, crashing only yards from the Cosden refinery complex northeast of the city.

Nov. 1 of 1964 was the last night the old Jet Drive-In Theater opened for business on U.S. Highway 87, offering its patrons "McHale's Navy." The theater opened later at a new location on Wasson Road.

When the Eighties began, the national debt was \$914,000,000,000, the average salary in the U.S. was \$15,757, inflation was in double digits, and President Carter was attempting to negotiate the release of American hostages taken from our embassy in Tehran by Shiite Muslim followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini.

A lack of health care for many Americans was not the only problem area in 1989. The national debt had risen beyond the \$2,000,000,000,000 which had taken the nation's collective breath away in 1986.

In 1995, a grass fire consumed 600 acres near the Fina refinery. Department of Public Safety Trooper Troy Hogue was killed; Levy Lee Edmondson Jr. was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to prison for the crime. A rabies outbreak, with 53 confirmed cases, led to eradication measures. Howard County voters turned down a new jail building, and the Wright Fibers project was abandoned.

At right, above, this advertisement for a photography studio in the 1969 Big Spring High School yearbook was an imitation of the turbulent times. At right, friends and family of the Birdwell family are pictured in a surrey, in front of the YMCA building in the early part of this century.

Photos courtesy the Heritage Museum



At left, a Fourth of July parade through downtown Big Spring in 1917 drew hundreds of patriotic citizens waving flags and dressed in red, white and blue.



Faith in God and love of music have kept Williams family together

By VALERIE AVERY
Big Spring State Hospital

Every Sunday afternoon, Van and Shirley Kountze pack Van's guitar and head south to Ackerly for an afternoon of music with Shirley's 84-year-old father, Covie Williams.

Sometimes, Covie's wife of 63 years, Murlie, joins in on vocals.

For the next hour, the family picks and plays as they have done for most of their lives.

As they play, sheet music is shelved, and no words are spoken. Shirley Kountze's hands move effortlessly across the ebony and ivory keys, as the two men in her life — her husband and her father — know instinctively where they're all going with their music.

"We just love them, and we love to play," Shirley Kountze

said of her weekly trips to Ackerly. "Daddy just loves to play. This is our special time together and something he enjoys doing. When we're all together, we sing a lot."

Their bond and unspoken respect for each other speaks volumes above the plunking of gospel and country music that they've collaborated on for most of their lives.

As Shirley turns around and drinks in her father — his eyes sparkling bright when he's playing — the admiration and love she has for her dad are evident.

On a recent Thursday, the three along with friend, Jim Burkett, entertained patients at Big Spring State Hospital as they have done faithfully for the past 30-odd years at the annual patient Christmas party. Unbeknownst to the patients and staff members,



Covie Williams strums his guitar in the background while his daughter, Shirley Kountze, plays piano recently at Christmas party at the Big Spring State Hospital. The Ackerly family of musicians has entertained at the party for more than 30 years.

who danced or drummed their fingertips on tabletops to the beat, the evening was bitter-sweet.

Covie's health has left family members wondering whether this would be his last hospital Christmas party, which has become a tradition for the Williams family.

"That gives me chill bumps just thinking about that," Shirley Kountze said of the day when her father can no longer play the guitar. "I pray about that a lot. I just praise God that he got to play this year. I remember last year, when we left the state hospital, we said that that would be Daddy's last one. And he's still picking away."

"We always say as long as he can pick 'Under the Double Eagle' he's just fine," Shirley Kountze said. "He can still do that. And we praise God for

that."

Murlie Williams first laid eyes on her husband-to-be nearly 70 years ago when he was playing in a band in the community near her home of Flowers Grove.

"He was the best looking guy around," she said. "He really was nice looking."

Covie Williams is still one of the best looking men around. His youthful features haven't surfaced for many years, but when he picks up the guitar and starts playing, his face transforms into the man who played countless dances as a young bachelor.

He cocks his head, listening to his daughter and son-in-law play and joins in naturally.

The couple raised three girls: Shirley Kountze of Lubbock,

See WILLIAMS, Page 2B

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ANNIVERSARIES

Nichols



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT NICHOLS THEN AND NOW



Robert and June Nichols will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at their home in Knott on Friday, Dec. 31 from 4 to 6 p.m., hosted by their children. He was born in Big Spring, and she was born in Vealmoor as June Jackson. They met in October of 1948 while June was visiting her cousins in Knott. They were married on Dec. 31, 1949, in the home of Cecial Rhodes, pastor of the Westside Baptist Church.

The couple have five children, Bruce, Janette, Keith, Martin, all of the Knott-Ackerly area, and Ann of Odessa. They

also have 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have lived in Knott their entire 50 years of marriage. Currently, he is retired after 43 years of farming, and she is a homemaker. They are affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Ackerly. They members of the Farmer's Union, and the American Christian Farmers. They enjoy dominoes, card games, raising watermelons and peas for friends. This was their comment of their 50 years of marriage, "We have been blessed by God's grace, love and mercy."

WILLIAMS

Continued from Page 1B

Wanda Chapman of Lamesa; and Dorothy Harry of Bridgeport on the family farm in Ackerly. They instilled strong principles based on Christian influences and a love for family and music in their offspring.

Early on, Mrs. Williams introduced her three daughters to music. They all took piano lessons — first in Lamesa and later in Big Spring — and her only wish was that they'd be schoolteachers or musicians. "They're all accomplished musicians," she said. "And so are my grandchildren."

Music was an instrumental part of their household, one that she believes helped her family thrive when others had trouble. "I tell people that they haven't lived until they've lived with people taking music in their house for 10 years," she said.

One room was set aside with a piano, and every day, each daughter took her assigned practice time on the bench for an hour. Murlie Williams said she never had to nag or prod them into fine-tuning their skills.

"They never fussed with me or with each other," Murlie Williams said. "We never had any trouble with our children. When Sunday came, they knew they were going to church."

There was a time, though when Harry decided she wasn't going to play anymore.

"A bunch of her friends all took music, and they quit," Murlie Williams said. "Well, she said, she'd quit. She said, 'I'm not going to study music any more.' I didn't know what to do, but when her hour came to play, I had her go in there. She would sit on the piano bench. I'd listen and she didn't play a lick. And when her hour was up, she'd come out."

"My husband said to let her quit. Well, this went on for a month. She saw I was determined, and eventually one day she started playing. Do you know that to this day she tells me that she is so glad I didn't let her quit? She tells me that, and that makes me so proud."

Harry eventually earned a master's degree in music.

All photos must be picked up within 30 days or they will be discarded!

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ODDS-N-ENDS

SANFORD, Fla. (AP) — Three strippers who strutted and fretted in the nude for a performance of Shakespeare's "MacBeth" have been fined \$100 each for violating a local anti-nudity law.

The dancers performed in May at Club Juana in Casselberry, Fla., where city and county laws ban stage nudity except in "bona fide" theatrical performances.

Steven Mason, an attorney for the dancers, argued that such a ban violates constitutional free speech guarantees.

But last week, Seminole County Judge John Sloop declined to dismiss the charges against the women, and all three pleaded no contest.

Club owner Mike Pinter, who was charged with organizing and promoting the performance, also entered a no-contest plea on Tuesday and was fined \$500.

Two of the dancers have sued the city to challenge its law, while two other dancers are challenging the county's ordinance. A decision on whether the lawsuits can proceed could come as early as this week.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Just in time for Christmas: a long-range, missile-capable submarine from the former Soviet Union.

Asking price for the sub, listed on the online auction site eBay, is a cool \$1 million.

The diesel-powered vessel commissioned in 1965 — named Juliett by NATO during the Cold War — is up for bids until Dec. 29.

Plenty of other offbeat items have been auctioned previously on eBay, including a recent offer for a 1956 six-cylinder locomotive for \$30,000, company spokesman Kevin Pursglove said Tuesday.

But this is the first submarine. By early Tuesday evening, no offers had been made for the sub, posted for sale Dec. 19 by Helsinki, Finland-based Oy Sub-Expo Ltd. The company purchased the vessel, which originally targeted U.S. aircraft carrier groups, in 1994 from the Russian Ministry of Defense.

The Florida city of St. Petersburg wants its port to be rid of the 2,400-ton vessel because it no longer makes money as a tourist attraction and has been sinking into debt.

City council member Bill Foster laughed upon hearing about the auction.

"eBay is a great thing. I bought a Gameboy off there last week," Foster said.

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — The Erie County Democratic Party is hoping a little name recognition will help its candidate sink his Republican rival's re-election bid.

John Paul Jones, 34, a lawyer from Millcreek Township, said he won't formally announce his candidacy for the 49th state Senate district until early January. But he may want to consider a campaign slogan that borrows his namesake's famous quote: "I have not yet begun to fight."

Jones will be running against incumbent Jane Earl, who is seeking a second term.

Jones shares his name with the man who is considered the "father of the U.S. Navy," gaining a place in history during a pivotal 1779 battle off the coast of England, when he outmaneuvered two British vessels and captured them while his own ship was sinking.

Murlie Williams says proudly.

When the family gathers for Christmas in the Williams home, they eat, play cards and congregate around the piano. It's a picture that strikes images of "The Andy Griffith Show."

"We just sit around and talk," Shirley Kountze said. "We've always been a real, close family. I'm just so thankful for our family. I'm glad such strong Christian families surround us."

Kountze and her husband, Van, play the guitar and piano every Sunday afternoon at a Lubbock nursing home. Then they drive south on U.S. Highway 87 to Ackerly for an afternoon of music with Shirley's parents.

It's a sacrifice Van Kountze makes that his wife deeply appreciates. "He contributes so much to this," Shirley Kountze said. "A lot of husbands would not give up their football on Sunday afternoons on TV and be as patient as he is. I thank God for him every day."

"There will be a lot of times when we'll get finished playing something, and Daddy will ask to play it again, and he just presses on."

When Covie Williams slowly packs up his guitar, he begins rubbing his fingers, telling those within earshot that they "hurt real bad."

Covie Williams has never been ill a day in his life, which Shirley Kountze attributes to a healthy lifestyle. The Family Consumer Sciences teacher at O'Donnell High School tells her students that their choice of lifestyle keeps a person healthy.

She also adds that a healthy hobby can help. "I think music keeps anybody going. It's a joy to the soul."

A. R. Baluch, M.D.
Diplomate American Board of Internal Medicine

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STORK CLUB

Ryleigh Jade Fryar, girl, Dec. 12, 1999, 6:09 a.m., five pounds 15 1/2 ounces and 18 1/2 inches long; parents are Jay and Michelle Fryar of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Roland and Sara Fryar of Luther, and Roy and Cheryl New of Big Spring.

Great-grandparents are Ernestine Childers of Sand Springs, Willie Grant of Coahoma, and J.W. Fryar of Big Spring.

Great-great-grandmother is Hattie Mae Childers of Elmendorf.

Paid announcement

Aubrey Nicole Parum, girl, Dec. 14, 1999, 12:14 p.m., seven pounds eight ounces and 21 3/4 inches long; parents are Russell and Stacey Parum of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Nancy and Jimmie Wood of Big Spring, and Wayne and Yvonne Parum of Wolforth.

Great-grandparents are Bud and Lorene Rasco of Levelland, Odessa Wood and Allene Hamner, both of Big Spring.

Brother is Brett Griffin, and sisters are Erin Griffin and Faith Parum.

Paid announcement

Trinity Michal Tidwell, girl, Nov. 11, 1999, 12:23 p.m., eight pounds eight ounces and 19 inches long; parents are Chad and Jaime Tidwell, Grand Prairie.

Grandparents are Andrea Paul, Big Spring; Michael Paul of Abilene; and Chuck and Dot Tidwell of Sand Springs.

Paid announcement

Drew Julio Rocha, boy, Dec. 6, 1999, 4:39 p.m., eight pounds three ounces and 18 1/2 inches long; parents are Lydia Esqueda and Julio Cesar Rocha.

Paid announcement

Tyler James Daniel, boy, Dec. 10, 1999, 2:29 p.m., eight pounds 10 ounces and 19 inches long.

Grandparents are James and Mary Daniel of Cedar Hill, George and Sally Baskin of Humble, and Bill and Linda Davis of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Paid announcement

Dallas Ray Hensley, boy, Dec. 21, 1999, 11:51, five pounds 12 1/2 ounces and 20 inches long; mother is Brandi Hensley.

Grandparents are Jeanie and Tim Barman of Bakersfield, Calif., and Bill Hensley of Sterling, Colo.

Paid announcement

Gabriela Anne Gomez, girl, Dec. 16, 1999, 5:55 p.m., eight pounds four ounces and 21 1/4 inches long; parents are Roy and Raye Anne Gomez.

Grandparents are Pat Clayton and Juana Silva, both of Big Spring, and Barry and Marketa Willis of Sweetwater.

Paid announcement

Katherine Lorene Turman, girl, Dec. 15, 1999, 8:57 p.m., eight pounds 5 1/2 ounces and 21 inches long; mother is Patricia Turman.

Grandparents are John and Patsy Turman.

Paid announcement

Raegan Gayle Deel, girl, Dec. 15, 1999, 11:52 a.m., seven pounds 10 1/2 ounces and 20 inches long; parents are Jim and Jolene Deel.

Grandparents are Geneva and Ronald Stacy of Odessa, Jim and Wilma McNutt and Darrell and Wanda Deel, all of Big Spring.

Paid announcement

Raven Miguel Holguin, boy, Dec. 14, 1999, 2:06 p.m., nine pounds and 22 inches long; parents are Ruben and Brandi Holguin.

Grandparents are Ramon and Sue Holguin of Forsan, and Jim and Betty Nelson of Big Spring.

IN THE MILITARY GETTING ENGAGED

Brian J. Willberg, son of Sam and Betty Willberg of Big Spring, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program on Dec. 16.

Willberg attended Howard College and is currently scheduled for enlistment in the regular Air Force on May 10. Upon successfully completing the Air Force's six week basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training in the aeromedical career field.

Azure L. Miller and Keith Gregory Aronson, both of Austin, will exchange wedding vows April 1, 2000, in Austin with the Rev. Tom Carrol of Lakeway Church officiating.

She is the daughter of Robert D. Miller and Mary Miller of Big Spring, and Linda M. Miller of Fredericksburg. He is the grandson of Idelle McElvy of New Braunfels.

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Where do old cowboys go?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Saddle up, pardner, it's Saturday morning with the breakfast buckaroos.

Wearing Stetsons, pearl-buttoned shirts, horseshoe-sized belt buckles and spurs that jingle, jangle, jingle, cowboy actors of yesteryear mosey on over to Big Jim's Restaurant each week to shoot the breeze and reminisce about the golden age of TV and movie Westerns.

They are known as the Reel Cowboys breakfast club.

Several dozen usually show up for the two-hour gathering in the banquet room of the San Fernando Valley restaurant, a bargain-priced meat-and-potatoes place where a portrait of John Wayne hangs over the cash register.

There's an enthusiastic "Howdy!" and a tip of the hat for newcomers invited to sit on down a spell and listen to the rugged character actors and behind-the-camera figures. There is also a little guitar and banjo picking with a campfire song thrown in.

"This is more fun than staying at home watching college football," says country music producer Sheldon Altfield.

Among the members is 67-year-old Robert Aaron Stephens, whose TV credits include "Dukes of Hazzard" and "Little House on the Prairie" as well as movies like "Every Which Way But Loose." Recently he appeared in a TV commercial for Viagra.

There's also Jon Locke ("Gunsmoke"), "Wagon Train" and "Laramie"), Joe Cranston ("Wyatt Earp" and "Bronco"), Buffalo Bill lookalike Mike Masters ("Wild West" and "Bonanza"), Morgan Woodward ("Dallas") and veteran bad guy Mike Reynolds, who claims to have shot everyone from Ernest Borgnine to Kevin Costner.

All are vaguely familiar faces to baby boomers raised on Westerns during their television heyday. And some are carrying resumes, publicity photos and scrapbooks just in case. But mostly they are there to share stories.

Masters, the only Reel Cowboy who actually owns a horse, tells of an incident during on-location filming for a low-budget movie when Jay Silverheels — Tonto on TV's "The Lone Ranger" — performed a rain dance.

"Later it started to rain. We had three or four days of solid rain and it shut us down," Masters recalls. "The producer, I forget who he was, came by and asked, 'Who was the Indian who did the rain dance?' We told him, and he said, 'Send that (expletive) home.'"

HBO is airing the movie "The About Mary" an music show, "Re

"We have to most of our sub: caught up in either out of the television at David Baldwin, president at HB the determinati that this is no which to invest i programming dol

HBO's partner showing the sam it normally air: night, perhaps audience home Year's Eve. It i moment by c overnight mara 2000."

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PLANO (AP) restaurant custo a \$35,000 bottle eatery's owner w the bottle.

A patron of Th upscale restaur: ban north Dall ordered the 19 Chateau Haut-E brate a year of go

"I opened up poured him a t said, 'It's no good it,'" restaurant g er Rick Stein told Dallas on Tuesda;

Stein then pou the wine for oth All agreed it had

Restaurant c Wamstead agree wine back at no c

The customer the bottle asked t not to reveal his said. Restaurant they hope their in pany will cover t

Networks have varied plans for New Year's Eve coverage

NEW YORK (AP) — It only seems like Emily Litella, the late Gilda Radner's befuddled "Saturday Night Live" character, was in charge of programming on New Year's Eve for the Discovery Network.

You can almost hear her talking: "What's all this I'm hearing about the Y2K bugs?"

Discovery is devoting its evening to Y2K bugs — the creepy, crawling kind. It will air documentaries on ants, bloodsucking parasites, cannibal mites, tarantulas and locust swarms. As midnight approaches, Discovery will be talking about how bugs found on corpses can reveal when a person died.

Gross!!
"It just sort of popped out of a brainstorming session in our scheduling department," said Dan Salerno, Discovery's vice president of programming. "We thought it would be a fun way to approach it."

TV networks are marking the big night in many different ways. While ABC and CNN are spending millions for teletone-like coverage of the new millennium, other networks, like HBO, have basically concluded that it's not worth doing anything special since most people have other things to do besides watch TV.

And, as Discovery proves, gimmicks abound: Viewers will be treated to New Year's marathons featuring the Jetsons, Andy Griffith and Jason of "Friday the 13th" fame.

The children's cable network, Nickelodeon, started talking about what to do on New Year's Eve two years ago. Executives thought about throwing a big party, but then decided on a more sober approach and will air a film with children all over the world talking about their hopes for a new millennium.

"To ignore it and treat it like just another day doesn't feel right to me," said Herb Scannell, Nickelodeon's president. "Doing something special feels like the right thing to do."

As might be expected, Nick's Viacom partner, MTV, is throwing a big party. MTV is also equipping a "Fly 2K" party plane and sending contest winners to Cairo, Rome, Paris and London and back to New York City.

HBO is airing typical fare: the movie "There's Something About Mary" and reruns of its music show, "Reverb."

"We have to assume that most of our subscriber base is caught up in the moment, either out of the house or out of the television audience," said David Baldwin, a senior vice president at HBO. "Early on, the determination was made that this is not a night in which to invest an awful lot of programming dollars."

HBO's partner, Cinemax, is showing the same adult movies it normally airs on a Friday night, perhaps locking in an audience home alone on New Year's Eve. It is seizing the moment by dubbing the overnight marathon, "Sex Pi 2000."

Here are some other TV millennium plans. All times are EST:

—ABC's Peter Jennings may soon be remembered as the

Jerry Lewis of millennium coverage, for his stamina if not his jokes. He's scheduled to anchor ABC's 24-hour broadcast that starts at 5 a.m. on New Year's Eve from the new "Good Morning America" studio in Times Square. ABC's plans, the most extensive of the broadcast networks, have been in the works for much of the past decade. Dick Clark will help count down the millennium.

—CBS will air a special prime-time edition of David Letterman's "Late Show." At 10 p.m., it airs the three-hour "America's Millennium" from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. CBS News broadcasts one-minute inserts each hour from 11 a.m. to midnight.

—After news updates all day, Tom Brokaw and Katie Couric anchor NBC's "The Millennium," a news and entertainment special from 9 to 11 p.m. with concert appearances by Sting, Aretha Franklin and Gloria Estefan. Following local news and a Jay Leno monologue, Brokaw and Couric return to stay on the air until 3:30 a.m.

—CNN is airing 100 consecutive hours of Y2K coverage, starting at 5 a.m. on Dec. 31 and continuing until Tuesday, Jan. 4. Mixed in with news reports will be more than 50 features evaluating the events of the last 1000 years.

—PBS's 25-hour special begins at 4:45 a.m. and will span the world, showing Maori warriors on a mountaintop in New Zealand, Nelson Mandela at Robben Prison Island off Cape Town, love songs from the Taj Mahal in India and a camera's view from the South Pole.

—Brit Hume and Paula Zahn anchor the "Fox 2000" special from 11 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., with news reports from locations like New York, London and Moscow and also from Roswell, N.M. The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Neville Brothers perform. Fox News Channel has 23 hours of live Y2K coverage starting at 5 a.m.

—Pax TV airs a 24-hour international entertainment special starting at 6 a.m., focusing on live performances and celebrations from 156 countries. Aerosmith, the Bee Gees, Spice Girls, Sting and Santana are among the performers.

—Starting at 6 p.m., The Movie Channel's "Y2K Go Away" marathon presents eight movies in the "Friday the 13th" series consecutively. The last one, "Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan," begins at 4:50 a.m.

—Showtime's "End of the World Marathon" includes the movies, "Hard Rain" and "Deep Impact." At midnight, the 1998 remake of "Godzilla" airs.

—TBS airs 33 consecutive episodes of "The Andy Griffith Show" starting at 6:30 a.m. and ending at midnight, when the station loses the rights to broadcast the program that's been on its schedule for 22 years.

—Finally, for an animated view of the future, The Cartoon Network airs every episode of "The Jetsons," starting at 10 a.m. on Dec. 30 and finishing at the stroke of midnight, the dawn of a new millennium.

WHO'S WHO

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's most recent graduating class, which graduated Dec. 11, in Fort Worth, included Benjamin Herrera of Coahoma, who received a diploma and graduate diploma in Theology. He is the son of Luis and Carmen Herrera of Coahoma. Herrera is married to Barbara D. Herrera.

They are currently awaiting appointment as missionaries to Mexico with the International Mission Board.

Robb Dean, executive director of Finance and Treasury at North Harris Montgomery Community College District, has been named National Outstanding Business Officer by the Community College Business Officers Organization.

Dean is a graduate of Big Spring High School and was a Business student at Howard College.

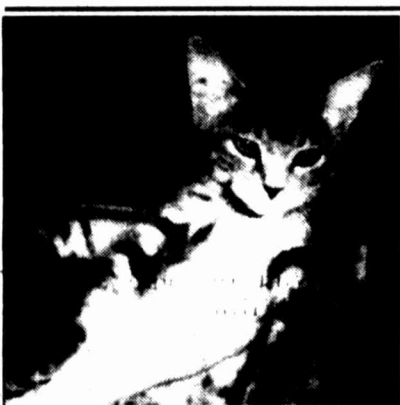
With this award comes a \$500 scholarship to a student in North Harris Montgomery Community College District in Dean's name.

He is the son of Bob and Betty Dean of Big Spring.



DEAN

HUMANE SOCIETY



Pictured: Sammy — DSH, grey tabby, neutered male, 6 months old.

Special Note: All dogs and cats presently available for adoption at the shelter have received their vaccinations, including rabies.

Taggett — Neutered male, 7 months old, solid black.

Elmer — Neutered male, 6 months old, grey and white.

Mist — Neutered male, 6 months old, grey.

Britin — Grey and brown male tabby, neutered, 7 months old.

Violin — Brown and white male tabby, 6 months old, neutered.

Fancy — Tortoiseshell, spayed female, 1 year old plus.

Ellen — Black DSH, spayed female, 1 year old plus.

Frida — Grey female tabby, spayed, 2 years old plus.

Zena — Black and white DLH female, spayed, 1 year old plus.

These, plus many more dogs and cats are awaiting adoption. Adoption fees for dogs are just \$60 and cats are \$50. This includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, wormings and rabies shots. Also covers feline leukemia tests for cats. All pets come with a two-week trial period. Call the shelter at 267-7832 for more information.

NEWCOMERS

Newcomers recently welcomed by Joy Fortenberry and the Newcomer Greeting Service.

Beth Cole, Kansas City, Kan. She is a paralegal for the Federal Correctional Institution.

Rod and Jennifer Walton and daughter Alexis, Dimmitt. He is employed by Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

John and Carlita Leonardi, Longmont, Colo. He is retired from IBM, and she is retired from Longmont City Government.

Ted Wilson, Greenwood. He is the associate pastor and youth minister of First United Methodist Church.

Alex and Gladys Duncan, Payson, Ariz. He is retired.

Juan Jr. and Julia Levario, Big Lake. He works for Marathon Oil Co.

Jarrod Richardson and son Alexis, Odessa. He is employed by Cornell Corrections.

ON THE MENU

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
MONDAY-CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
TUESDAY-Enchiladas, rice, beans, salad, milk/cornbread, cookies.

WEDNESDAY-Stew, cauliflower/peas, fruited gelatin, salad, milk/cornbread, pie.

THURSDAY-Pork chops, sweet potatoes, green beans, salad, milk/rolls, fruit.

FRIDAY-Roast, potatoes, blackeye peas, salad, milk/rolls, cake.

Take time out...
READ!

Tobacco Tax Increase

If you smoke, take note that there will be a tobacco tax increase effective January 1, 2000.

Take advantage of this coupon, for a limited time.

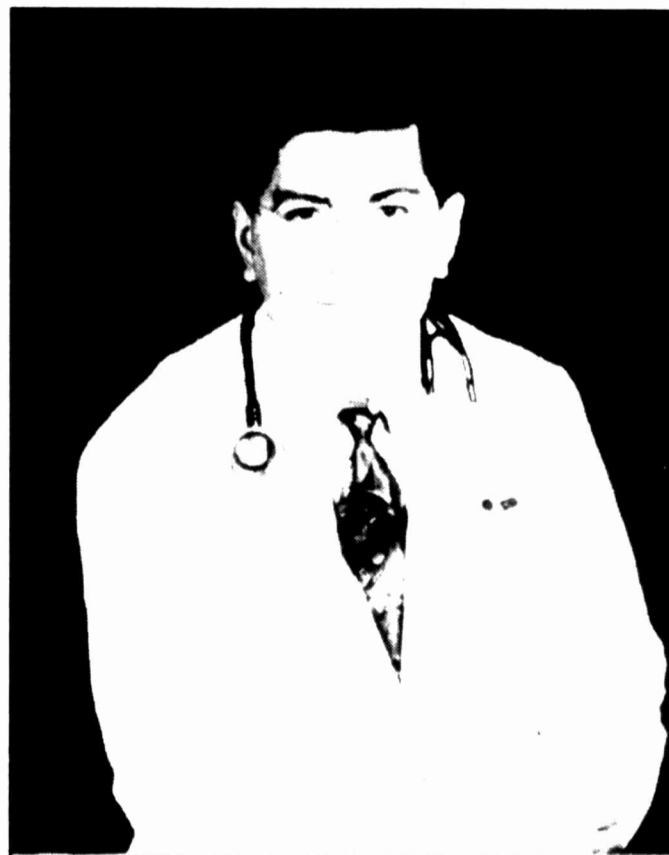
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Coupon May Not Be Mechanically Reproduced, Doubled Or Combined With Any Other Offer

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Patron sends back \$35,000 wine

PLANO (AP) — When a restaurant customer sent back a \$35,000 bottle of wine, the eatery's owner was left holding the bottle.

A patron of Three Forks, an upscale restaurant in suburban north Dallas, recently ordered the 1926 bottle of Chateau Haut-Brion to celebrate a year of good business.

"I opened up the wine, poured him a taste, and he said, 'It's no good. I don't want it,'" restaurant general manager Rick Stein told KDFW-TV in Dallas on Tuesday.

Stein then poured glasses of the wine for other customers. All agreed it had turned bad.

Restaurant owner Dale Wamstead agreed to take the wine back at no cost.

The customer who ordered the bottle asked the restaurant not to reveal his name, Stein said. Restaurant officials said they hope their insurance company will cover the loss.

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DECEMBER 26 1999

BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call John M. Walker, 263-7397, Ext. 230, or leave a voice mail.

Page 4B
Sunday, Dec. 26, 1999

Texas businesses preparing for potential millennium-bug fallout

DALLAS (AP) — You're driving back from a New Year's Eve party. A drunken driver rear-ends you and a resulting neck injury sends you to the emergency room.

But a hang-up with your health insurance delays treatment. The insurance company doesn't recognize your ID number because of a Y2K computer glitch. You're forced to endure the pain of torn neck ligaments before doctors can treat you.

Can you sue the insurer for undue emotional and physical distress as a result of a delay in treatment caused by — of all things — a Y2K bug? This was just one of many scenarios

federal and state legislators considered when they drafted legislation that protects businesses from lawsuits born of unforeseen computer glitches.

In July, President Clinton signed into law a time-limited piece of legislation — the Y2K Act. It seeks to prevent frivolous year 2000 lawsuits from clogging court dockets by requiring a 90-day, out-of-court mediation period between businesses and consumers, and by absolving companies of liability if they take proactive measures to warn consumers.

The act does preserve the right to sue — if the person or company fails to obtain complete relief within the 90-

day mediation period or suffers real injury as the result of a malfunction.

In other words, if your insurance company really couldn't process your ID number, you might have a case.

In Texas, business representatives are gearing up for potential lawsuits related to the 2000 computer dilemma: Because older computers were built to record years with only two digits, the fear is that many computers will mistakenly view "00" as the year 1900 and shut down.

Earlier this year, Texas lawmakers passed their own legislation limiting legal liability for businesses that try to fix Y2K glitches.

The law says sellers and manufacturers who make efforts to notify consumers of potential problems and offer low-cost solutions before harm occurs would be protected.

"This puts in place a mechanism ... to proactively solve any problems before the turn of the millennium without the dockets clogging up," said state Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano.

The law calls for a cooling-off period before filing a lawsuit, allowing both parties a chance to work out a solution.

Overcharging for Y2K solutions also would be prohibited.

Most Y2K problems, except for

wrongful death, bodily injury or workers' compensation claims, are covered.

"In general, the legislation encourages vendors to provide low-cost solutions to the Y2K bug and establish a blueprint for Y2K problems, with a goal to solve these problems without litigation," said Ralph Wayne, president of the Texas Civil Justice League, a business-backed group that supports limiting lawsuits.

Computer companies throughout Texas have been working on the legal aspect of Y2K for about half the decade, convening teams of experts to work out potential pitfalls and identify areas where they are vulnerable to lawsuits.

Sonic 2000 drive-in to be built along FM 700

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

It won't be long before Big Spring will have a second Sonic Drive-In — this one located on FM 700 at the site of the former Elk's Lodge.

"We plan on being open there about the first of March if there are no delays," said Bill Calobreves, who will manage the eatery.

Demolition of the Elk's Lodge took place Wednesday, and construction of the new Sonic is to begin after the first of the year.

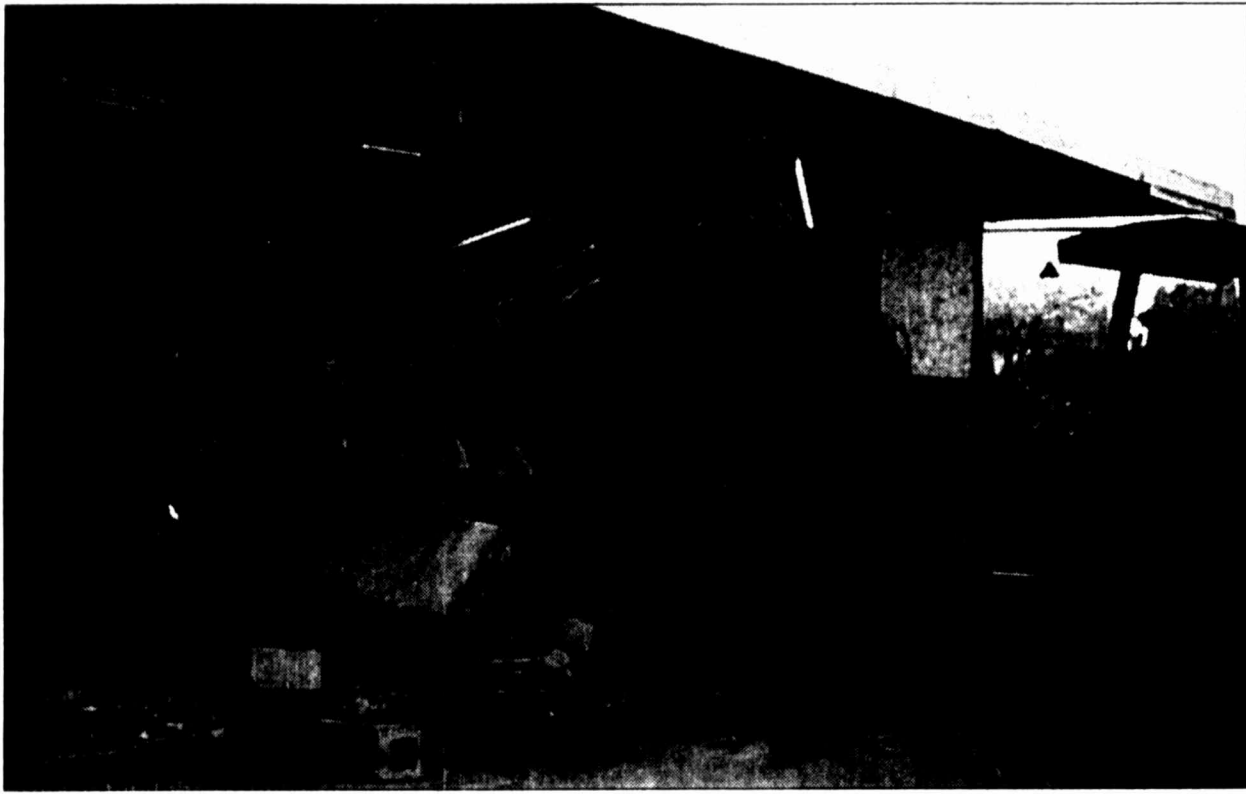
"This will be one of the new 2000 Sonics, with new architecture, the latest equipment. Everything will be state of the art," said Calobreves, assistant manager at the Gregg Street Sonic. "They've done an update on this one and made look like the new Sonics as much as possible, but the new one will be built that way."

That means there will be 33 stalls with the capacity to expand, two handicapped stalls, an enhanced speaker system and the most modern computer equipment.

"It will be real well landscaped. We want to try to make it as nice a family environment as we possibly can," said Calobreves.

Once the fast food restaurant is constructed, it will go through an inspection before it is opened.

"Sonic has a lot of criteria you have to meet in order to be



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant
The former Elk's Lodge is being torn down to make way for a new Sonic Drive-In, which should be open sometime in March. Bill Calobreves will manage the eatery, with Mike Abusaab as supervisor and primary owner.

open. Everything has to be ready. The landscaping has to be completely finished," said Calobreves. "Everything has to be brought up to their standards. Then we'll run through some pre-opening trials."

The new store also offers some job opportunity.

"The main hangup right now is hiring people. I need an assistant manager in the worst

way," he said. "There is some opportunity to be had here. Sonic doesn't like to keep their assistant managers as assistants. They like to make them managers."

Special offers and a grand opening will help promote the new store once construction is completed, Calobreves said.

"We'll have a lot of hoopla to go with it."

The eatery will feature the same quick service and the traditional Sonic menu of burgers, hotdogs, shakes, fries, onion rings and more.

James McComb will remain as manager of the Gregg Street location. Mike Abusaab, supervisor and primary owner of the Gregg Street Sonic and will assume the same duties at the FM 700 location.

IPOs

Analysts believe good times will keep on rolling for initial public offerings

DALLAS (AP) — Even though he wasn't an employee or an investor, Merritt Belisle watched with interest as cable-TV company Charter debuted in the stock market in November.

Belisle was curious because the company he founded — Classic Communications, a cable rival to Charter — was about to go public, and he wanted to know if the timing was right.

"Once we saw Charter going up (50 percent the first day), we were keenly aware of their success," Belisle recalled recently with a chuckle. Classic debuted Dec. 8 on the Nasdaq stock market at an offer price of \$25, closed its first day of trading at \$30.31 a share and traded this week in the \$32 to \$33 range.

Classic's figures are nothing flashy, even downright dull when compared with Internet issues that doubled or tripled their first day. But Belisle considers the IPO a success, raising more than \$180 million for debt reduction and acquisition funds.

Classic was the ninth Austin company to go public this year. From the capital city to the Dallas-area telecom corridor, technology entrepreneurs hope the hot market for IPOs lasts.

Consultants and analysts who track initial public offerings see no end in sight for the IPO boom.

"This IPO market is on an upswing, and I don't see anything tripping it up short of recession or a major downturn in the (stock) market," said Gail Bronson, senior analyst at IPO Monitor.

John Bain, a telecommunications analyst with Hoak Bredlove Wesneski & Co. in Dallas, said the elimination of tax shelters has left securities as the major way Americans build wealth, helping funnel billions into the stock market. He said he believes it would take a major, unexpected event such

as war to shock the market.

There are contrarians, such as Randall Roth, an analyst at Renaissance IPO Fund in Greenwich, Conn. "There's a bit of a piling-on phenomenon," he said. "Companies are coming out of the woodwork to file for IPOs."

An indication of future strength among IPOs is the huge amount of investment recently by venture capitalists — private funding is usually a precursor to offering stock for sale to the public.

According to a survey by consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, venture capitalists lavished \$21 billion on companies in the first nine months of 1999, including \$9 billion in the third quarter, compared with \$14 billion for all of 1998.

Ninety percent of the recipients are startup technology companies, according to Kirk Walden, who heads the consulting company's venture-capital practice from his Austin office.

Venture capitalists, along with the company founders, are looking to recover their investment and make a profit by selling shares to the public, and doing it more quickly than ever, further fueling the IPO craze.

Five years ago, Walden figures, venture capitalists hoped to recover their investment in four or five years. Now, he says, some set 18-month timetables.

Many new listings are traded thinly, leading to tremendous volatility. Just this past week, shares in Dallas-based Internet America Inc. soared more than 150 percent one day after skidding to their lowest level since the company went public last year. The company said it had no explanation for the price gyrations.

Some analysts suggest run-ups in new stocks such as Internet America — which gives away its product for free

See IPOs, Page 5B

El-Lissy to take on national eradication role

Special to the Herald

Osama El-Lissy, program director for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, will take on a national role in the effort to eradicate cotton's No. 1 pest.

Already sought out by programs throughout the United States for his expertise, El-Lissy will become the national boll weevil eradication coordinator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the USDA agency charged with supporting the nation's eradication programs.

He will assume his new duties Jan. 1, but will remain in Texas for several weeks to help prepare for the first full-season

phase in the state's five newest zones, the Western High Plains, the Northwest Plains, the Permian Basin, the Northern Rolling Plains and the El Paso/Trans Pecos, all of which completed a fall diapause program this year.

El-Lissy stressed that his new role should not be a cause of concern for Texas cotton producers.

"Nothing will change," he said. "The program will continue just as it has."

He said zone personnel are well versed in program protocols, and the foundation's regularly scheduled training before programs resume activity in the spring will help ensure the program's success.

El-Lissy will continue to be

available to consult with the Texas program whenever he is needed, said Lindy Patton, executive director of the foundation.

"We will be forever grateful for the hard work and dedication Osama has provided this state's eradication program," Patton said. "He continues to be committed to the program and fortunately will still be in a position to do whatever is necessary to help the program succeed."

Woody Anderson, chairman of the foundation board, also reassured growers the change would not be a major concern for the continuation of the state's eradication efforts.

"The board is working to develop a plan to make sure we have the proper structure and

staff to provide a smooth transition as we begin year 2000 program operations," Anderson said.

El-Lissy joined the TBWEF in 1994 as program director after helping lead the successful eradication program in Arizona from 1986-1991 and served as interim director of the foundation in 1997. He was instrumental in developing and organizing the Texas program, the largest and most diverse eradication program in U.S. history.

"We are sorry to see Osama leave but understand his decision," Anderson said. "He will have a greater role in eradication efforts nationwide but will still be available to our program, so the overall effort will benefit."

Master Gardener program slated to begin on Jan. 18

Howard County Extension Service will be sponsoring a new program, Master Gardener, beginning January 18, 2000. The Master Gardener program is a volunteer education program conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.



DAVID KNIGHT

Master Gardeners can be anyone that has a love for horticulture and is willing to help others learn about horticulture.

Master Gardeners will be trained at a local level on the following topics: plant science; soils and fertility; plant diseases; entomology; vegetable and pecans; turf management; weed identification and con-

trol; home landscape and design; and woody ornamentals just to name a few.

Specialists with the Texas A&M University will provide the trainings over a three to four month period.

Approximately 50 hours of training along with resource manuals will be provided. Once you have completed the course work you will be certified as a Master Gardener. After certification, each Master Gardener will be asked to assist with some project related to horticulture for a minimum of 50 hours.

The cost of the program is \$50 per person to offset the cost of resource manuals and supplies needed for the course. For additional information regarding the Master Gardener program or to sign up for the program contact the County Extension office at 264-2236 by Monday, January 3, 2000. A limited number of participants will be accepted.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Tina Flores and Jason Flores do some last-minute shopping in Suggs Hallmark. After Christmas sales are under way, with today traditionally being one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

Truck safety group says Lone Star state led nation in deaths

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas led the nation in truck-related accident deaths in 1998 for the third year in a row, according to a truck safety advocacy group.

A report by the California-based Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) said Texas had 477 truck-related accident deaths last year. California was second with 378.

Texas' ranking is directly related to its size and increased congestion on its roadways, the group said.

Texas also ranked first in children killed in truck crashes with 56 and first in the number of truckers killed in on-the-job crashes with 93.

After several high-profile crashes this year in the Houston area, a state trucking association has joined with the Texas Department of Transportation to launch a safety campaign in that city. Officials hope to expand it to other cities next spring.

The campaign will focus on public education, highway engineering and law enforcement. Billboards and radio and television announcements will be used to tell the public about the dangers of driving in a tractor-trailer rig's blind spot. The state also will produce a safety video.

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PUBLIC RECORDS

Justice of the Peace
Bonnie Green
Precinct 1, Phase 1
Bad Checks/Warrants Issued

The addresses listed are the last known addresses. Names on this list remain until all fines have been paid. If any problems with this list, please call 264-2226.

- Aguilar, John C., 6701 Eastridge Rd. No. 303, Odessa
- Aisbough, Donald Ray, 600 Runnels or 4202 Muir, Big Spring
- Brown, Robbie D., 515 N. 10th, Lamesa
- Cansino, Virginia Louisa, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring
- Castillo, Arnie, 6304 Walter Road, Big Spring
- Cruz, Caesar Santa, P.O. Box 344, Van Horn
- Dillon, Julie Ann, 443 W. 14th, Colorado City
- Flores, Tony Jr., 2000 Runnels, Big Spring
- Garcia, Ricky, 500 25th St., Snyder
- Greco, Benjamin, 2609 Wasson No. 38, Big Spring
- Griggs, Pink, P.O. Box 706, Coahoma
- Guevara, Yvette, 405 E. 11th, Big Spring
- Harris, Ruby, 907 Ave. S. Apt. 502, Lubbock
- Hataway, Bobby G. Jr., 3012 Austin Ave., Snyder
- Kemper, Clint Wade, Hc 76, box 27C or 404 Boatler, Big Spring
- Kennedy, Charles Dean, 4824 E. 20th St., Joplin, Mo.
- Kent, Cynthia, P.O. Box 3, Big Spring
- Kirby, Lanny Dale, 3407 Old Colorado City Hwy, Big Spring
- Kirby, Mark, 1104 Delmar, Midland
- Lathers, Glen, 2074 Lcr 252, Colorado City
- Lopez, Michael, 520 N. Ave. A, Kermit
- Mendez, Michael David, Rt. 1, Box 291, Coahoma or 109 Gollad, Big Spring
- Morris, Quinton D., P.O. Box 183, Loraine
- Padron, Abram, 927 N. A or Hcr 3, box 76, Brownfield
- Pearce, Deborah, P.O. Box 2981, Big Spring
- Resendez, Guadalupe, 945 Clifford, Odessa
- Rivas, Dahlia Ann, 407 S. Oak, Stanton
- Rivera, Isabel, 2521 Albrook, Big Spring
- Rivera, Krishna N., 2020 Mattie Woods Lane, Colorado City
- Robbins, Brad, 3101 41st St., Snyder
- Roberts, Doris P., 3303 Auburn, Big Spring
- Robertson, Caleb L., 1715 Hailey, Apt. 101, Sweetwater
- Rodriguez, Dalma, 707 N. Ninth St., Lamesa
- Rodriguez, Elida, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
- Rodriguez, Fred JR., 1511 Sunsel, Big Spring
- Rodriguez, George C., 409 1/2 E. Ave. B, Sweetwater
- Rodriguez, Gloria, 3313 Cuthbert, Midland
- Rodriguez, Mary Ann, 8415 N. I-20 Service Road, Big Spring
- Rodriguez, Daniel V., 3304 W. Hwy 80, Apt. 29, Big Spring or P.O. Box 955, Stanton
- Rodriguez, Joel, 1601 E. Third, Big Spring
- Rosales, Chris, P.O. Box 216, Odonnell
- Ross, Lorraine, 2517 Gunter, Big Spring
- Rubio, Tiffany, 400 E. 20th, Big Spring
- Rudd, Matt A., 17059 Hwy 46 W. Lot 35, Spring Branch
- Ruiz, Jennifer, P.O. Box 484, Colorado City
- Ruiz, Lorenzo T., P.O. Box 31, Lamesa
- Runnels, Brad Mark, 6414 E. County Road 75, Midland
- Salinas, Elizabeth, 1303 N. First St., Lamesa
- Sanchez, Debbie, 538 Westover No. 260, Big Spring
- Sanchez, Reynaldo, 2601 N. A Street

Apt No 149, Midland
Sanders, Randolph K. II, 460 Grenway Road, Kingsford Heights

- Selvera, Joey, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder
- Sena, Jeannine, 6 Eagle Place, Roswell, N.M.
- Simmons, Tonya, 3306 S. Co. Rd. No. 1206, Midland
- Simpson, Patricia, 3527 102nd St., Lubbock
- Smith, Rosemary, 711 E. 15th, Big Spring
- Solis, Sallie, 538 Westover No. 215, Big Spring
- Torres, Christine, 2101 Lakeview Circle No. 109, Lewisville
- Urbe, G. Gina, P.O. Box 123, Big Spring
- Velasquez, Vita L., 2023 W. Sixth Street, Big Spring
- Viasana, Elizabeth R., 203 N.W. Third, Big Spring
- Vidalas, Shawn, 1205 N. Lincoln, Odessa
- Villareal, Paul, 206 Southwest Ave. N, Seminole
- Waldie, Eilene, 4503 Versailles Dr., Midland
- Waldo, Dwight, 3405 East Highway 350, Big Spring
- Walker, Dan A., P.O. Box 672, Forsan
- Walker, Dorothy Faye, 4625 Crockett Ave., Midland
- Washburn, Shawn, 139 Normal Ave. Apt. D11, Kutztown, Pa.
- Webb, Shelli D., 2402 E. Marcy Dr., Big Spring
- Welch, JB, 3311 Scr 1206, Midland
- Woodfin, Anna E., 2609 Wasson No. 38, Big Spring
- Yanez, Lucia C., P.O. Box 1393, Lamesa

Howard County Clerk's Office

Marriage Licenses:

- Jeremy G. Blount, 19, and Kimberly L. Tubbs, 17
- Homero Luna Alvarado, 23, and Valania Marie Marquez, 22
- James Clarence Ringaner, 67, and Emma Anderson Pitts, 71
- Lester Claude Duffer, 19, and Rebecca Leann Overton, 19
- Eddie Glen Williams, 37, and Tina Calderon, 21

Court Records:

- Revocation of probation & imposition of sentence. Juan Cantu, David Warren
- Probated judgment fail to leave information after accident. Mark Molina \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
- Judgment & sentence reckless driving. Kyle Coker \$200 fine and \$199.25 court cost
- Probated judgment DWI. Susie R. Martinez \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Brandon Wayne Martin \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Maria Montez \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Gary Frank Anderson \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Alejandro Franco \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Emma Sanchez Harvath \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Francie Candice Smith \$500 fine and 180 days in jail. Jose E. Sotelo \$500 fine and 180 days in jail. James W. Leiffer Jr \$750 fine and 180 days in jail. Oscar Cervantes Jr \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Rickey Lee Mann \$750 fine and 180 days in jail. Joey Woods \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Jaime Lopez Munoz \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Juan Rizo \$1,500 fine and 180 days in jail. Olivia C. Edmonson \$750 fine and 180 days in jail
- Probated judgment possession of marijuana under two ounces. Raylene Anglin \$300 fine and 180 days in jail. Benjamin Moore \$300 fine and 180 days in jail
- Judgment & sentence DWI. Michael Wayne Scott (2nd offense) \$1,000 fine, \$275.25 court cost and 45 days in jail
- Judgment & sentence DWLS. Angela Rodriguez \$250 fine, \$199.25 court cost and 3 days in jail
- Probated judgment criminal mischief over \$50 but less than \$500. Joey Lee Woods \$100 fine and 180 days in jail

Probated judgment display fictitious motor vehicle inspection certificate. Julio Luna \$250 fine and 180 days in jail

- Order of dismissal. Matthew Yeats, Lehebron Farr Jr., Mark A. Molina, Jennifer Seltzer, Robert "Bobby" Friend, Jose Ramjo, Roberto Payan, John Paul Nichols, Van Houston Smith, Samuel Waggoner Jr., Claude Davis Trawek, Bobby Glen Ruth, Robert Micael Ripp, Paul Henry Wolfe, Bethany S. Collins
- Probated judgment fail to identify. Lionso Lee Jimenez III \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
- Probated judgment possession marijuana with intent to deliver. Ben Edward Moore \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
- Probated judgment DWLS. Joseph Yanez \$300 fine and 180 days in jail. Boyce Lee Horton \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
- Probated judgment DWLI. Jaime Hernandez \$250 fine and 180 days in jail. Boyce Lee Horton \$250 fine and 180 days in jail. Hector Castro \$250 fine and 180 days in jail. Chris Alcantar \$250 fine and 180 days in jail. Joy Chandler Aldridge \$100 fine and 180 days in jail. Phillip Wheat \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
- Probated judgment fail to identify. Thomas William Murphy \$250 fine and 180 days in jail
- Judgment & sentence evading arrest/detention. Klaus Hugo Quernheim \$250 fine, \$260.25 court cost and 60 days in jail. Timothy Dale Talor \$95.75 fine and \$184.25 court cost
- Judgment & sentence possession of marijuana under two ounces. Patrick W. Rios \$300 fine, \$260.25 court cost and 30 days in jail. Terry Alan Collins \$300 fine, \$260.25 court cost and 14 days in jail. Terry Alan Collins \$300 fine, \$260.25 court cost and 14 days in jail

Deeds:

- Warranty deed with vendor's lien. grantor CT Closing Services Corp grantee: Joe Michael and Evangline Nieto
- property: lot 12, blk. 2, Jordan Park Estates No. 1, a subdivision out of a 7.88 acre tract in section 45, blk. 32 filed: Dec. 2, 1999
- grantor: Michael L. Seal grantee: Billy O. and Rebecca M. Rawls
- property: lot 13, blk. 11, Washington Place Addition filed: Dec. 6, 1999
- grantor: Russell Wayne Parum and Stacy Parum grantee: Timothy Edward Stewart and Cheryl Jean Stewart
- property: lot 30, blk. 26, College Park Estates filed: Dec. 6, 1999
- grantor: Robert M. Akin and Kay Akin grantee: Theresa Tarleton
- property: the south 57' of lot 8, blk. 2, Muir Heights Addition filed: Dec. 6, 1999
- grantor: Marion Hays and Charline Hays grantee: Jack and Elaine Hill
- property: lots 13-16 and the south 18' of lot 17, blk. 18, Original Town of Coahoma filed: Dec. 7, 1999
- grantor: Charles and Martha Peugh grantee: Four Seasons Siding and Insulation, Inc.
- property: lot 15, blk. 4, Highland Park Addition filed: Dec. 7, 1999
- grantor: Arlene Balinao and Giovanni Cuatrecasas grantee: Craig Olson and Jackie Olson
- property: lot 7, blk. 1, Highland South Addition No. 1 filed: Dec. 8, 1999
- grantor: John Eric Gilliam and Molly

Rae Gilliam grantee: Ron Phillips

- property: a 5.0 acre tract of land, more or less, out of the southwest 1/4 of section 34, blk. 32 filed: Dec. 9, 1999
- grantor: David and Betty Grant grantee: Jesse Good
- property: lot 14, blk. 1, Wasson Place Addition filed: Dec. 10, 1999
- Warranty Deed. grantor: Pete Rosenbaum grantee: Manuel and Norma Hilario
- property: lot 5, blk. 18, Monticello Addition filed: Dec. 1, 1999
- grantor: Bradley C. and Judy K. Ewing grantee: CT Closing Services Corp
- property: lot 12, blk. 2, Jordan Park Estates No. 1, a subdivision out of a 7.88 acre tract in section 45, blk. 32 filed: Dec. 2, 1999
- grantor: Susan Smith grantee: Chuck Rosenbaum
- property: all of lots 3-4, blk. 22, Subdivision C, Fairview Heights Addition filed: Dec. 3, 1999
- grantor: Belinda Herrera grantee: Mike Herrera
- property: the north 1/2 of a 3.21 acre tract of land out of the southwest 1/4 of section 34, blk. 32 filed: Dec. 3, 1999
- grantor: Billie June Atchison, Lana Sue Atchison Drake, Gary Don Atchison grantee: Atchison Family Trust
- property: all of our undivided mineral and/or royalty and/or overriding royalty interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals in, under and that may be produced from real property located in Howard County filed: Dec. 6, 1999
- grantor: Danny Ray Cleiman and Marsha Cleiman grantee: Deane B. Lasater and Donna B. Lasater
- property: lots 3-5, blk. 13, South Haven Addition filed: Dec. 6, 1999
- grantor: Willie T. and Oneta McDaniel grantee: Ethel G. Wakefield
- property: lot 8, blk. 5, Indianola Addition filed: Dec. 6, 1999
- grantor: Frank and China Long grantee: A.E. Kelley
- property: the north 1/3 of the southwest 1/4 of blk. 43, College Heights Addition filed: Dec. 7, 1999
- grantor: Frank and China Long grantee: A.E. Kelley
- property: lot 5, blk. 38, Cole & Strayhorn Addition filed: Dec. 7, 1999
- grantor: Margaret B. Atwell grantee: Margaret Atwell Living Trust
- property: lot 15, blk. 1, Ridgelea

Terrace Addition filed: Dec. 8, 1999

- grantor: Bonnie Gay Gurley Webb grantee: Scott Emerson
- property: two tracts of land out of section 43, blk. 32 filed: Dec. 8, 1999
- grantor: Lynn Balze Gannaway grantee: Donna Lee Gannaway
- property: a 6 acre tract out of the northwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of section 8, blk. 31 filed: Dec. 8, 1999
- grantor: Phillip Eugene Gibson and Deanna Kay Garrett Lucas grantee: Patrick L. and Jennifer L. Carnahan
- property: the south 1/2 of lot 2 and all of lot 3, blk. 2, Clawson subdivision, Coahoma filed: Dec. 8, 1999
- grantor: Dolores Grover grantee: Kevin L. and Juanita P. Ritz
- property: all of lot 10, blk. 5, Avon Village Addition filed: Dec. 9, 1999
- grantor: Mildred Murphy grantee: Jessie Z. Cosillos
- property: all of lot 5, blk. 107, Original Town of Big Spring filed: Dec. 10, 1999
- grantor: Andrew M. Cuomo grantee: Juanita Rodriguez
- property: all of lot 14, blk. 9, College Park Estates filed: Dec. 10, 1999
- grantor: Andrew M. Cuomo grantee: Carletta M. Lewis
- property: all of lot 2, blk. 1, Amended plat of Muir Heights Addition filed: Dec. 10, 1999
- grantor: Raymond D. Lucas and William C. Lucas grantee: Curtis Wells
- property: lot 18, blk. 2, Muir Heights Addition filed: Dec. 10, 1999
- grantor: Lee Roy Hunt Jr. grantee: Ben and Dixie Anderson
- property: the north 1.0 acre of a 6.0 acre tract in the west part of section 31 filed: Dec. 10, 1999
- grantor: Roy Lee Pierce and Katrina Pierce grantee: Lee Roy Hunt Jr.
- property: the north 1.0 acre of a 6.0 acre tract in the west part of section 31 filed: Dec. 10, 1999

11th District Court:

- Divorce: Sharon Sue Lyssy vs. Sean Christopher Lyssy
- Accounts, notes & contracts: Springer Financial Group, Inc vs. Don and Ricky Robertson
- Texas Bearing Company vs. Mike's Big Spring Bearing & Supplies, a partnership, and Mike Mendez and William King, individually

Norwest Bank Texas, N.A. vs. Johan C. Dinkelmann, D.C.

- Norwest Bank Texas, N.A. vs. Open Boli Farm, Inc
- Family: Herlinda C. Franco vs. Fernando Franco
- Andrea J. Schneider vs. Tracy Ward Brazier
- Michelle E. Quernheim vs. Christopher Scott Holmes
- Lisa Jean Chavarria vs. James Brown
- Others: Seizure of certain contraband vs. Kim Stambaugh

IPOs

Continued from Page 4B

are signs the IPO market has become irrational. As for Classic Communications, it was founded in 1992 and grew by acquiring about 20 cable operators outside metropolitan areas in the middle of the country. Along with competitors such as Charter, which is backed by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen, Classic hopes to offer lucrative high-speed Internet access in addition to cable TV. Belisle, the chief executive and co-founder, said the lessons he learned from going public include the importance of strong underwriters — Classic's bid was led by Goldman, Sachs & Co. — and good lawyers and accountants. Although encouraged when rival Charter's IPO did so well, Belisle insists his company wasn't trying to time the market. "We believed we had a good business plan," he said. "Fortunately for Classic, the demand for cable stocks is very strong and the supply isn't very large" because of recent mergers. Investors weren't troubled that Classic has been losing money. Last year, it posted a \$30.8 million loss on sales of \$69.8 million — but revenue grew 14.4 percent. "Certainly lack of profits or even the potential for profits has not been a concern," said Bain, the Dallas analyst. "It's nothing to see companies trading at 100 to 200 times revenue."

1999 Employee of the year! Lisa Hobbs

Norwest salutes Lisa Hobbs for being selected as Employee of the Year. Your friends and colleagues at Norwest congratulate you for achieving your goals in providing To The Nth Degree® service. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to Norwest Bank and the Big Spring community.

To The Nth Degree® Big Spring 400 Main Street 268-6203

END OF GAME NOTICE

HURRY AND SCRATCH 'EM. BEFORE WE DO.

Come January 30, 2000, three Texas Lottery instant games will close — Super Lucky 7's, Coyote Cash and Break The Bank. You have until July 28, 2000, to redeem any winning tickets for these games. You can win up to \$50,000 playing Super Lucky 7's, win up to \$10,000 playing Coyote Cash and win up to \$30,000 playing Break The Bank. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

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

1989 Yugo good motor & transmission. Needs work. \$500. Call 263-1964

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.

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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

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

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

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HELP WANTED

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

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Therapist Tech II \$661/mo. 2-Part Time Qualified applicants must be mature, flexible, energetic and enjoy being active. Either certified life guards or able to become certified. Must be able to work in a mental health treatment environment with patients of all ages. Previous experience working with youth or persons with mental retardation a plus, but not required. Must be able to make decisions and exercise good judgment, interact and communicate in both oral and written communications. Will work with qualified applicants around a school schedule. Apply at: Human Resources Department Big Spring State Hospital 1901 N. Lames Hwy. Big Spring, Texas (915) 268-7256

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 "Hi Touch". Salary is commensurate to experience and full benefits 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.

HELP WANTED

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

Wanted F/T help 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.

We need 10 experienced drivers that want to run hard and make a hand. We offer new Petes/Freightliners and base pay .30 cpm to start. Paid weekly/all benefits. Serious inquiries only. Call Owen: 888-659-4514

Can you sing 'I'll be home for Christmas'? Teams start up to **42¢** Top Day 45¢

Plus 6¢ for all miles over 15,000 in a month

\$1,000 Sign on Bonus For Exp. Company Drivers

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1-800-338-6428

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MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE Position are now available for full-time and part-time L/VN. 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.

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HELP WANTED

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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.

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.

HELP WANTED

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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 1-20 & Midway Rd. • B.S. or call 1-800-729-4645

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

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Sets apart
- Christmas songs
- Carbon
- Tie
- Twelve-year-olds, e.g.
- Make less dense
- French state
- Letters on many cars
- Saltwater lake of Asia
- Small landmasses
- Spanish painter Joan
- Kind of whiskey
- "Norma"
- Power, in brief
- Squirmy catch
- Adroit, generally
- Break up
- Golden Roman lady?
- Takes charge of
- Partly
- Recesses
- Off. computer system
- Hades river
- Brian, once of
- Best of
- Normal meats
- Lacquered metalware
- Brazilian dances
- Large casks
- Rock box?
- South of France
- Speaks well
- Struck with heavy blows
- Thread: pref.
- Bermuda
- Verdugo and others
- SRO crowd

DOWN

- Mile High Center architect
- Alphabetizes
- Shaquille of the NBA
- State-run gambling
- Chopping tool
- Even score
- Best of
- Bun seeds
- "Born of the Bayou"
- Altar of stars
- Aviary
- Extend too far
- Acadian city in Louisiana
- Lacking a fashion sense
- Suffered sickness
- Most lofty
- Pursue an inquiry
- Frets
- Musical sweet potato
- Ice fall
- Naked
- Product identification
- Endorse
- Refuges
- Frees from obligation
- Worthless nonsense
- Dancing Fred's sister
- Facets
- Musial or Freberg
- Computer connection
- Greek letter
- Cry for help
- Soccer player
- Hamm
- Fellow

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	K	E	S	P	E	L	E	C	B	E	R	
A	D	E	L	E	L	A	O	S	A	L	I	A	
C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	S	T	O	C	O	R
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A	L	O	E	F	L	U	E	A	C	R	E	S	
B	E	N	D	L	O	T	S	R	I	N	D	S	

By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY
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'Let's induce labor' heard more often today than in previous years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maureen Lederer wanted her husband at her side when she gave birth to their third child, but he had a must-do business trip the week the baby was due.

Her doctor's reaction: The baby's ready, so instead of waiting a few more days for nature to take its course, let's induce labor.

"It worked beautifully," said Lederer, as the now-4-month-old Caitlin cooed in the background at their Fairfax, Va., home. "It took six hours from start to finish."

Whoever heard of a conveniently timed birth?

For a growing number of women, the stereotypical late-night mad dash to the hospital is a thing of the past. The proportion of women undergoing induced labor doubled in the 1990s, to 18.4 percent of all births in 1997, the latest data

available.

There are clear medical reasons to induce labor, such as pregnancy-induced high blood pressure or diabetes, or pregnancies that extend past 42 weeks.

But choosing a birth date can be important for other reasons, say doctors and many moms-to-be. It's not just busy schedules. Maybe the mother wants her private physician instead of whoever's on call at night. Maybe long-distance relatives must come care for other children while she's hospitalized.

Often, the baby has grown so large that waiting the last weeks of pregnancy could mean risking a Caesarean section.

"There are a lot of social issues that do have some validity other than 'I'm just really tired of being pregnant,'" said Dr. Janice Bacon of the University of South Carolina.

"We do it for the patient's convenience on occasion. Under managed care, I think we're doing it for the doctors' convenience too."

Dr. Hunter Tashman, obstetrics, Inova Fair Oaks

"We do it for the patient's convenience on occasion. Under managed care, I think we're doing it for the doctors' convenience too," added Lederer's physician, Dr. Hunter Tashman, obstetrics chairman at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax.

That doesn't mean frivolously picking dates. For example, don't expect induced millennial babies on New Year's Eve, says the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology — the holiday is not a valid reason.

Whatever the time of year, doctors don't like late-night, weekend deliveries. As inductions have risen, weekend births have dropped. Tuesday is the day most U.S. births occur. Indeed, scheduled births could be particularly important for small offices where the same doctor who delivers a 4 a.m. baby must see other patients starting at 9, Bacon said. "It puts other patients at risk if you're tired all the time."

But overall, "we're a little less intimidated by inductions today, and so are the patients,"

Tashman said. After all, where once doctors depended solely on intravenous drugs, there now are easier-to-use gels or tablets for certain steps, and sophisticated monitors alert if induced contractions strain baby or mother.

Tashman considers inducing particularly important to help women expecting large babies avoid C-sections. He cites a woman who had had two previous C-sections because of large babies, but delivered her third baby vaginally because he induced labor about two weeks early.

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology generally recommends elective inductions occur no sooner than 39 weeks of pregnancy. But discuss with your doctor what criteria he or she uses to ensure baby and mother are ready, Bacon advises. The baby's age

is particularly important to ensure lungs are fully developed.

To induce, the woman's cervix must be soft and dilated enough for labor. Sometimes it already is. Other times the hormones oxytocin or prostaglandin, or the medicine misoprostol, help ready the cervix.

Readying the cervix can spur contractions, but often women need increasing doses of oxytocin — a synthetic version of the hormone the body produces in increasing amounts during natural labor — to stimulate contractions.

Some women say induced contractions are more painful. Natural contractions vary in intensity, while induced contractions are more intense — and thus usually cut two to three hours off labor, Bacon said.

Mom-only DNA may be influenced by dad after all, new analysis indicates

WASHINGTON (AP) — A type of DNA long thought to be inherited only from mothers may be influenced by dad after all, a new analysis indicates.

If proven true, scientists may have to rethink some basic beliefs about the timing of human evolution.

Estimates of when humans migrated into Asia and Europe and even the age of "Eve," the earliest common female ancestor, are based on the changes in mitochondrial DNA, which was

assumed to come only from mothers.

But a report in the journal Science casts doubt on that assumption.

"Many inferences about the pattern and tempo of human evolution and (mitochondrial DNA) evolution have been based on the assumption of clonal inheritance. These inferences will now have to be reconsidered," conclude the researchers led by Philip Awadalla of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

DNA is the large molecule in each cell that contains the genetic instructions for its development.

DNA in the cell nucleus combines material from both mother and father, providing the offspring with traits from both parents.

However, there is also DNA in the mitochondria, the energy-producing portions of the cell, and that had been thought to come from the mother alone.

Knowing the rate at which DNA tends to change, anthropologists have used this DNA to calculate when human populations separated and estimate how long ago there was a single original human "mother," whom they call Eve.

If it turns out that DNA from mothers and fathers are combining in mitochondria, those dates will have to be recalculated. Awadalla's report is based on a sta-

tistical analysis of how often specific mutations in mitochondrial DNA tended to occur together.

The results indicated possible mixing of paternal and maternal influences in studies of four out of five groups of humans and one group of chimpanzees tested.

Because eggs destroy sperm after fertilization, how male DNA could be arriving in the mitochondria remains a mystery.

USDA wants to allow soy meat alternatives in future school lunches

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government wants to put more soy and less meat in federally subsidized school lunches in hope of cutting the fat. The question is whether kids will still eat them.

The Agriculture Department, which approved yogurt as a meat substitute in 1997, is expected to decide early next year whether to drop its restrictions on how much soy can be used in meals. Under current rules, soy only can be a food additive and only in amounts of less than 30 percent.

In addition to allowing meatless entrees — tofu-stuffed ravioli is one menu possibility — the change also would let schools increase the amount of soy that they blend into burgers, tacos and other fare.

Market research sponsored by the United Soybean Board indicated the 26 million children who participate in the school lunch program would accept soy products.

Kids, however, are notoriously finicky consumers, said Lincoln Pierce, director of nutrition programs for the Grand Junction, Colo., schools.

"If you tell kids there's soy in it, they don't seem to like it as well," Pierce said. "In blind tests they approve of it, but their heads haven't caught up with their taste buds."

President Reagan's budget crunchers tried to make tofu a meat substitute nearly two decades ago — at the same time they tried to reclassify ketchup as a vegetable — but they beat a hasty retreat when the idea became a lightning rod for opponents of his spending cuts. USDA officials deny their motive now is to save money, arguing instead that soy is a good source of protein.

"Its time has come," Shirley Watkins, USDA's undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, said. "I think people are more receptive than

they would have been five or 10 years ago."

USDA approved yogurt as a meat substitute in 1997.

Livestock producers have expressed concern about the move, but schools like it because they are having trouble complying with limits the government imposed in 1994 on the fat content of meals.

And for the fast-growing soy industry, the \$6 billion school lunch program offers a vast new market and a way to introduce families to the expanding array of new, better-tasting products developed in recent years.

Schools have cut the amount of cheese in pizzas and the number of meat balls they serve with spaghetti, but they still struggle to stay under USDA's weekly fat limit. Some have tried offering beef patties made with pruned puree, only to have kids turn up their noses at what became known around the lunchroom as "prune burgers."

Livestock producers argue that children won't get sufficient protein or enough iron and zinc if they eat less meat, and they're also worried that a high soy content will give meat a bad reputation.

"If we're going to have soy-type proteins in these products they ought to be edible, so people don't get a bad experience that will relate into a bad beef experience," said Chandler Keys of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

A standard soyburger, which contains no meat, would have 3 grams of fat — compared to 16 in a beef patty — and a significant amount of calcium. But the soyburger would have a third less protein than the beef patty and less iron.

Celeste Peggs, executive director of West Virginia's Child Nutrition Office, said she worries that more children will become anemic if schools cut back on meat.

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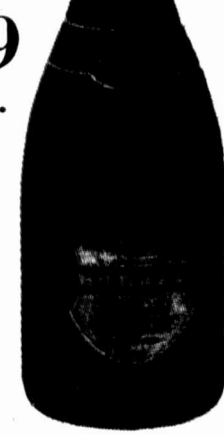
\$5⁵⁹
Ea.

Ballatore
Gran
Spumante
750 ml Btl.



\$19⁹⁹
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Cuvee
750 ml Btl.



\$7⁹⁹
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Spumante
Champagne
750 ml Btl.



\$8⁹⁹
Ea.

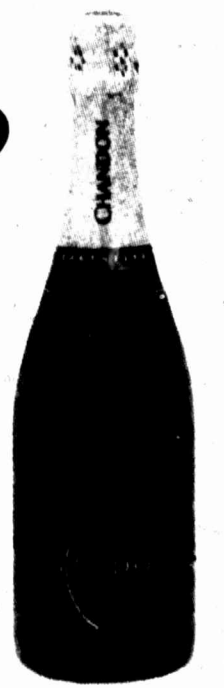
Domaine
Ste. Michelle
Sparkling
Wine

750 ml Btl., Brut,
Extra Dry Or
Blanc De Blanc
Or
Cavit Wine
1.5 L. Btl.
Merlot Or
Pinot Grigio



\$10⁹⁹
Ea.

Chandon
Brut
Fresco
750 ml Btl.



\$7³⁷
Ea.

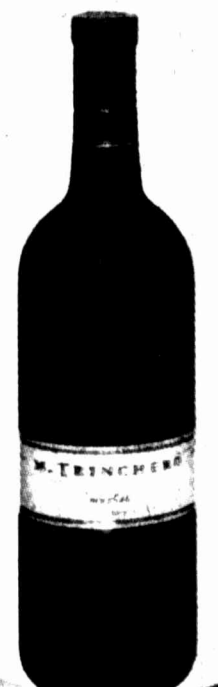
Spirit
Ridge
Wine
750 ml Btl.,
Chardonnay
Or Cabernet
Sauvignon



\$9⁷⁹
Ea.

M.
Trinchero
Coastal
Wine

750 ml Btl.
Chardonnay
Or Merlot



\$8²⁹
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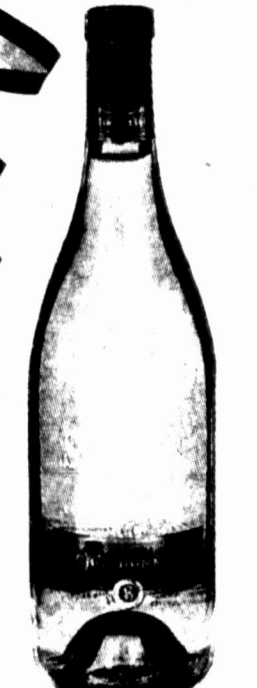
2⁹⁹
For **\$3**

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Asti Spumante
187 ml Btl.



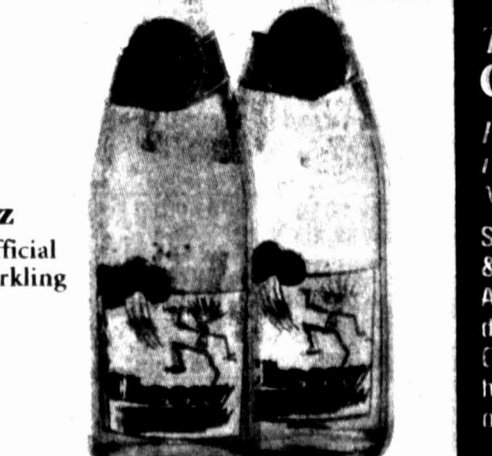
\$4³⁹
Ea.

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