

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

December 28, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT
24°-27°

WEDNESDAY
62°-66°

Volunteers sought for income tax training assistance

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...

TODAY

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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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.

Howard Countians need to start thinking about paying their taxes

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

As the clock ticks away the remainder of 1999, tax season looms just behind the New Year's door, and the Jan. 31 property tax deadline approaches.



STURDIVANT

"We've been really busy right up until the holidays. And taxpayers have until Jan. 31 to pay their taxes without penalty, but if they are hoping to pay them by the end of the year, they have until Friday," said Kathy Sayles, Howard County tax assessor/collector.

Property tax bills were mailed in October, and taxpayers have an option of mailing their payments into Sayles' office, or paying them in person.

"If you haven't received your statement, or if you have any questions, come down to the office now so that we have a month to correct any problems," Sayles said.

Once the Jan. 31 deadline has passed, penalties and interest will be added to the total tax bill, beginning at 7 percent and increasing 2 percent each month the bill remains unpaid.

"In Feb. the penalty is 7 percent. Then it goes up to 9 percent in March, 11 percent in April, 13 percent in May and in June the penalties and interest go to 15 percent," she said.

In July, taxes are assessed an additional penalty, as well as attorney fees, she said.

Sayles said many taxpayers elect to have their taxes paid before the end of the year, while others wait until January.

And her office works with the taxpayers, to make sure that the taxes are recorded in a timely manner, she said.

"We go by the postmark if they mail it in. If the postmark is Dec. 31, and we didn't receive it until Jan. 3, we'll show on the receipt that it was paid Dec. 31, although there will be two dates, another for the day it was received," she said.

Those taxpayers older than 65 qualify for a senior citizen exemption, and Sayles urges

See TAXES, Page 2

Donations something to bark about for holidays

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

The cats and dogs of the Big Spring Humane Society were not forgotten this holiday season as local residents donated to the Big Spring Herald, KBST, and KBTS 94.3 humane society food drive.

"I estimate more than 4,000 pounds of dry food, several cases of can food, and a couple of special bags of treats were donated to us," said Nicolle Gibson, a KBST employee.

According to Gibson, a large amount of donations to the drive were received by the radio station on Thursday and Christmas eve.

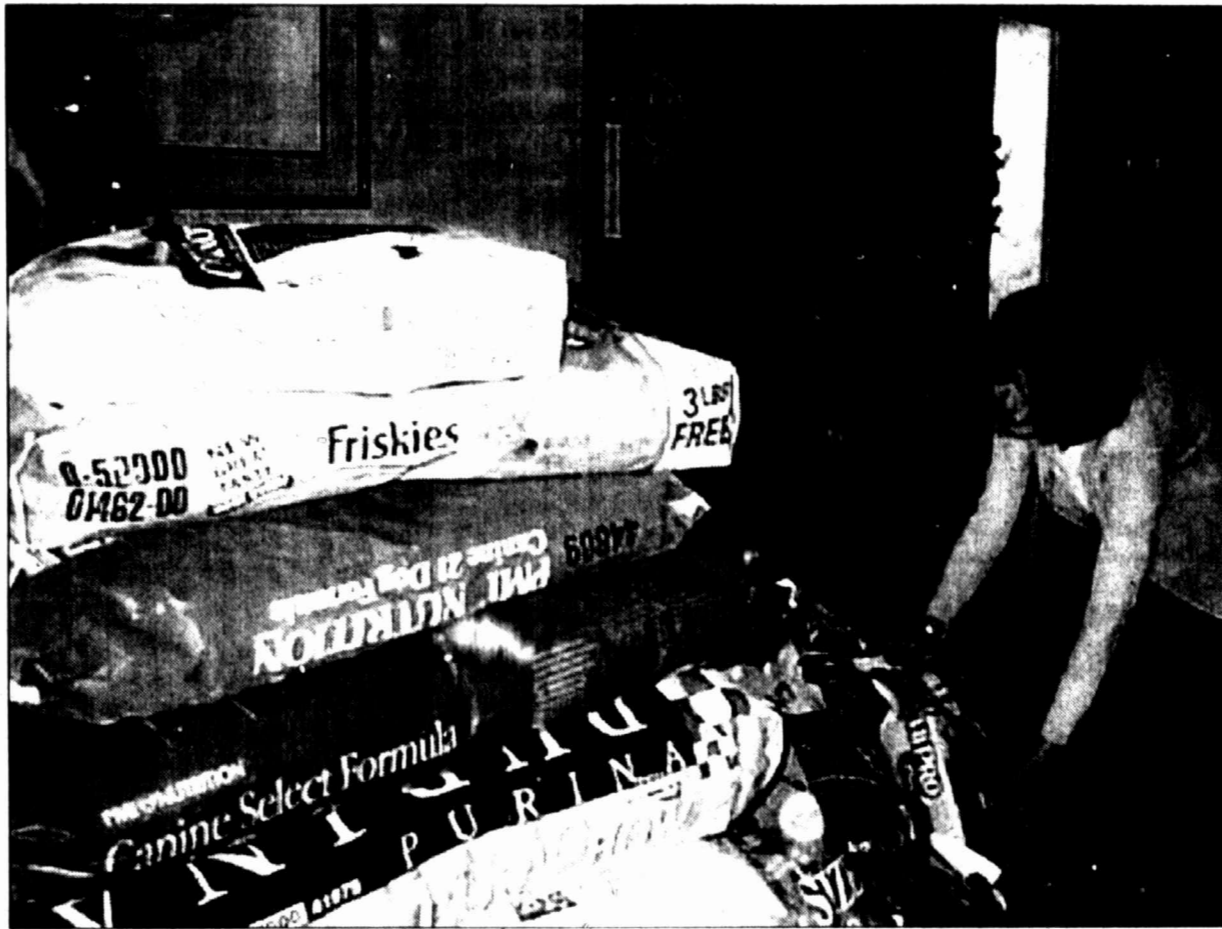
Those who brought their donations to the radio station were given a free CD for their contributions.

"I gave away about 60 CD's," Gibson said. "Many people just dropped off their donation and did not ask for the CD."

Dry food bags that contained up to 50 pounds of food were donated by many residents, and they did not stop with just donating food. Some residents also donated doggie treats and even cat litter for the humane society animals.

"One little boy around 12 years old spent his allowance to buy food," said Gibson. "He said he wanted to buy food for the kitties and puppies who need it."

"We had an eight-year old boy whose puppy just died," said Francesca Smith an KBST employee. "He wanted to donate food to the puppies and



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Brenda Bodine, left, and Cynthia Weeks stack some of the dog and cat food that was collected at KBST AM-FM radio station in a drive to benefit the Big Spring Humane Society. The station and the Herald teamed up to hold the drive during the holidays.

kitties." Not all donations were made by two-legged beings, and one donation of a 50 pound bag of dry dog food was made by a four-footed philanthropist.

A note posted to one of the donated dry dog food bags said, "donated by April, Crystal and Blacky, a black lab and proud graduate of the Big Spring Humane Society."

More than 4,300 pounds of dry food is expected to be delivered to the humane society this week.

"This year we will be deliver-

ing the donations to the humane society," Gibson said. "Because of the vandalism to the humane society, they can not pick up the donations."

The humane society was recently vandalized, and an estimated \$30,000 dollars of damaged was done to three vehicles and several sections of the fencing area around the humane society.

Volunteers with the humane society are continuing with the program to collect cans from donors who can not personally donate at the shelter.

"The community has been very responsive," said board member Margaret Lloyd. "People who feel compassion for the humane society but who may not be able to give money can contribute with their aluminum cans."

For those wishing to donate cans, you can donate at the humane society. To have your collected cans picked up by humane society volunteers, please call 267-7832 or 267-5646. Please call 267-7832 to learn more about collecting cans to support the shelter.

Sniffles

Flu, colds cause misery through area

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Pharmacists and physicians are seeing a record number of patients suffering from upper respiratory infections and influenza this holiday season.

"We've been really busy, all last week up until Christmas, and it hasn't slowed down this week either," said Larry McLellan, a pharmacist with Professional Pharmacy.

McLellan said several factors are contributing to the upper respiratory symptoms he's seeing in patients this week.

A dry, dusty environment coupled with dust storms not usual this time of year, plus viral infections, seem to be taking a toll on local residents of all ages, he said.

"Lots of people want to be healthy at this time of year, so we see more people going to the doctor and taking medicine," McLellan said.

And with certain symptoms, healthy individuals who do not take contra-indicated medication such as antidepressants, heart or blood pressure medications — may

See SICK, Page 2

Local law enforcement assures that all is 10-4 with Y2K

Editor's Note: The following is the sixth in a series of articles explaining how local entities are preparing for Y2K. Coming Wednesday — how utilities are addressing the problem.

LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

As the clock steadily ticks to 2000, law enforcement personnel are confident they are prepared to react to problems that might arise out of Y2K.

"We have the manpower, and have arranged scheduling to make sure we are covered," said Lonnie Smith, chief of police for the Big Spring Police Department.

According to Smith, the police department has canceled all vacation for New Year's weekend and will have more staff on duty. Anyone off on those days will be on standby status.

The Howard County Sheriff's Department will have extra personnel on duty that weekend, according to Chief Deputy Kerry Fritz.

Sgt. Lawrence Meadors, Department of Public Safety trooper out of Big Spring, said DPS personnel statewide will be ready to react if any problems arise as a result of Y2K.

"We don't anticipate any problems but everyone will be available if needed. Those who aren't actually on shift will be available if called."

Internally wise, both the

police department and the sheriff's department feel confident their equipment is ready for the new year.

"Everything is in good shape for the police department, all computers are Y2K compliant," said the director of finance for the City of Big Spring, Tom Ferguson.

"We started testing city wide for Y2K about two years ago," he said. "Everything has been tested, and we are not anticipating any problems."

According to Ferguson, all the computer systems including hardware and software plus other equipment that could be Y2K sensitive has been tested for compliancy.

"Anything that was not Y2K compliant, we found whatever was necessary to make it compliant," he said.

According to Fritz, no equipment was needed to be replaced in sheriff's department. All equipment was tested and found to be Y2K ready.

"The new vehicles we have purchased for the city police over the past few years have computer equipment with chips that could be Y2K sensitive," Ferguson said. "We contacted the manufactures, Ford and Chevrolet, and they said the vehicles are Y2K compliant."

If a Y2K bug does effect some of the vehicles, the police department has enough older vehicles for back up.

"We have an emergency back-up generator in the police station and one in the radio tower, so radio communication will be kept up," Smith said.

"The courthouse generator is in good shape and is tested once



a week," Fritz said. "The required equipment is hardwired into the generator, and we will have radio communica-

tion." According to Fritz, the sheriff's department has continued a manual filing system. If any problems occur, they can find hard copies by hand, if needed.

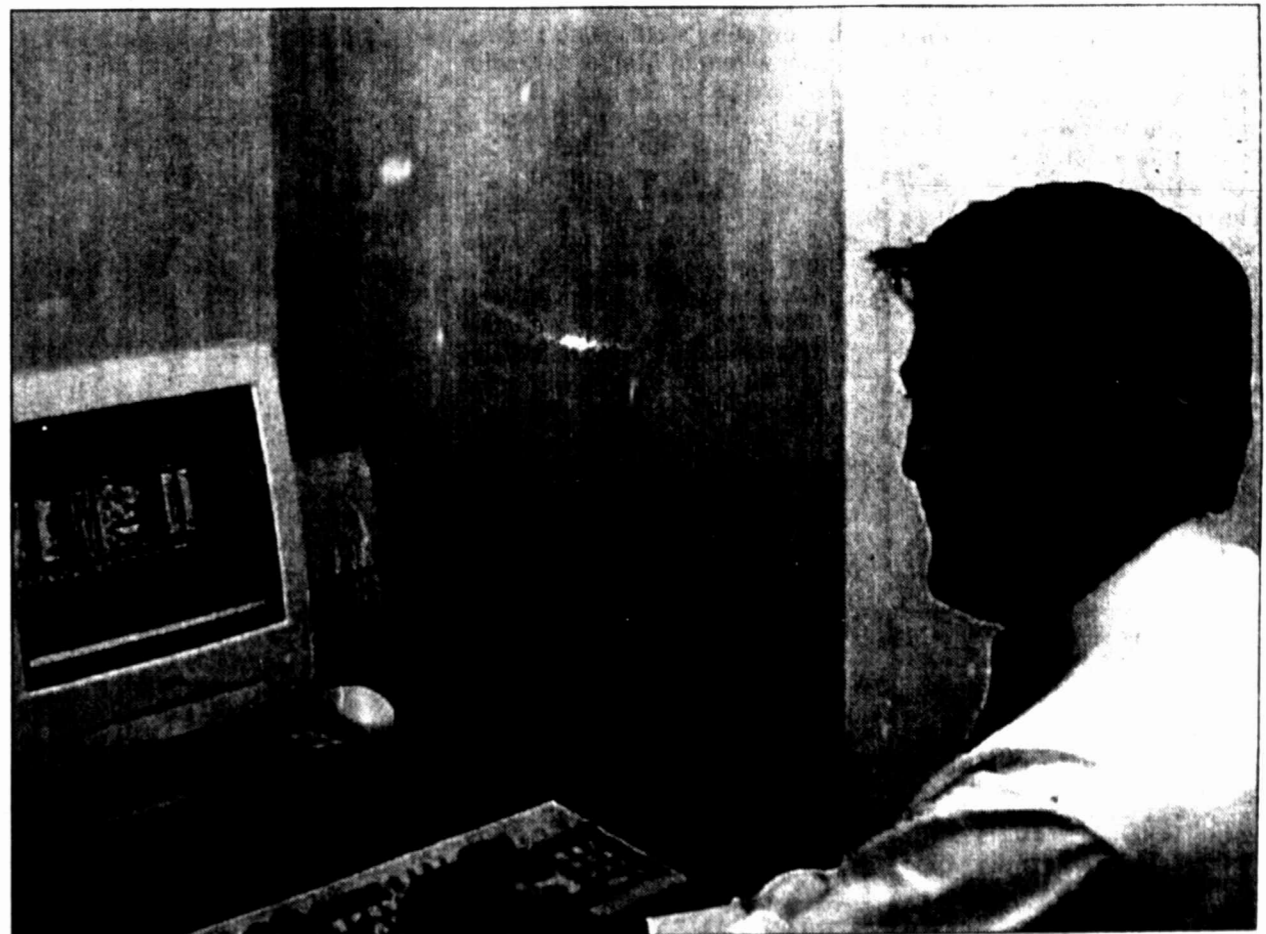
Smith cautions the public not to panic and start hoarding supplies that could cause shortages. Shortages could in turn could cause prices to go up.

"Do not stay up to midnight

and immediately turn on electrical equipment such as computers to see if they are working," Smith said.

The DPS is targeting the weekend especially, but not so much from a computer-related problems that might occur, but to crack down on what is one of the worst traffic times — New

See Y2K, Page 2



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

According to Howard County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Kerry Fritz, the department has continued a manual filing system. If any problems occur, they can find hard copies by hand if needed. "We will be offering the same service we always do," Fritz said.

DECEMBER 28 1999

Weapons, explosives material found at home of American Airlines employee

GRAPEVINE (AP) — An American Airlines employee was behind bars in North Texas after police said they found a cache of assault rifles and bomb-making material at his home — along with white supremacist and anti-government literature.

Jere Wayne Haney, 42, of Grapevine, was arrested late Monday on suspicion of having components of explosives, a third-degree felony, police said.

Using a search warrant, investigators spent several hours going through Haney's one bedroom apartment. They found a

50-pound bag of ammonium nitrate, which has the potential to fuel an explosion equal to a box of dynamite, said Grapevine police spokesman Bob Murphy.

"That would be the big-bang component," Murphy told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Police also found a dozen weapons, including four assault-style rifles, and 62 boxes of ammunition. There was also a "fairly large quantity" of white supremacist and anti-government literature in the apartment, including a "how-to" bomb making book, Murphy

said.

No bombs were completed or were in the process of being completed in the apartment, according to the newspaper.

Haney was expected to be arraigned today.

The FBI has been called in to help with the investigation, in part, because Haney is an airline employee, and also because of heightened awareness about possible Year 2000-related acts of terrorism.

Investigators were notified about Haney after police at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Dallas-Fort Airport said

they pulled him over in his car Monday morning for running a stop sign.

After he was then arrested on suspicion of driving with a suspended license, Haney was found to be carrying 67 small bottles of alcohol, the type used by airlines, officials said.

Haney was taken to the airport Department of Public Safety headquarters, and during an interview with investigators, consented to let them search his home for other bottles that possibly were stolen.

When they arrived at his home, the airport officers said

they saw "contraband that was not part of the case they were working," according to Capt. Steve Deel of the airport DPS.

The officers called Grapevine police, who obtained a search-and-arrest warrant for Haney's home.

American Airlines officials said that they do employment background checks routinely if a person's position gives them access to a secured area. Criminal background checks were not started until about five years ago when the laws were changed to allow the airline industry to do them, said Laura

Mayo, a spokeswoman for American.

Information was unavailable as to how long Haney has worked for the airline and whether a criminal background check was done on him.

Tarrant County criminal court records show that Haney has been arrested several times since 1995, including suspicion of two counts carrying of a weapon unlawfully and one count of assault with bodily injury.

There were also two counts of driving while intoxicated, one of which is pending.

Texans taking 2000 changeover in stride so far

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

According to stores and banks statewide, Texans like Ben Brosch appear to be in the majority, counting down to 2000 eve without hoarding much in the way of food, supplies or cash.

"Nope, not in the least bit," Brosch said as he ate lunch with his teen-age son, Philip. Brosch's itinerary Monday included a north Houston mall stop and a trip to the doctor's office with his daughter. Squirreling away staples are not on his to-do list.

"I can't see where (the Y2K bug) is going to affect me to where I have to go down and buy extra water," Brosch said.

Supermarkets, banks and gas stations across Texas have not reported many spikes in business this month. The lack of activity suggests Texans are

confident that any problems caused by changeover to 2000 — which some computers may read as 1900 and malfunction — won't be major.

Business is up at grocer HEB, which has stores from the Louisiana border to Midland and from Waco down to Brownsville, but spokesman Mike de la Garza said Y2K fears appear to have little to do with it.

"It seems to us a great many people are staying home this (New Year's Eve), so we're gearing up for another heavy week of sales," de la Garza said, referring to the Christmas rush last week for the largest Texas-based store chain.

"There has been a mild run on water, and we're seeing that occur across the company, but nothing in terms of panic buying," de la Garza added, saying that increased water sales pale

in comparison to those during hurricane warnings or other emergencies.

Big State bottled water has not seen business pick up as 1999 winds down, general manager Don Camp said in Houston.

"I think it's all a joke," Camp said.

Banks also were reporting business as usual Monday.

"I've just been talking to three of our busiest branches here in Amarillo, and business actually has been a little slower," said Stan Callahan, executive vice president for Amarillo National Bank.

"We're making sure our ATMs have plenty of cash in them. So far, it's been a total non-event."

Banks have assured depositors there is no need to withdraw excessive sums of cash. On its Web site, Chase Bank of

Texas advises customers to withdraw only what they normally would for a holiday weekend.

For those who want their greenbacks on hand, Chase spokesman David Byford said his branches across Texas are ready to comply.

"We will monitor usage, and we'll have stocks of things like paper (money)," Byford said.

For those who aren't convinced their power service will be Y2-OK, generators are the ticket. Will Dierks, owner of Small Engine Supply in Humble, said he sold generators in bunches a year ago amid news reports about the computer bug.

"I have an ample supply, but I'm getting a number of phone calls as we get down to the wire," Dierks said. "I've got a dozen, and I fully expect to sell them by week's end."

Passengers in bus crash warned driver to slow down, says chaperone

HOUSTON (AP) — The driver in a bus crash that killed three people was warned by passengers to slow down, according to a church group chaperone who, along with his family, survived the accident.

David Sumlin, 34, of Houston, said 72-year-old Robert Gene Hawthorn was driving the charter bus confidently and had both hands on the steering wheel when he hit a patch of ice west of Canon City, Colo.

"The back end of the bus fishtailed first, and it alarmed pretty much everyone on the bus," said Sumlin, who talked to reporters Monday at a Houston hospital, where he is being treated for injuries suffered in the Dec. 21 crash.

Moments later, after a second fishtail, Sumlin said the entire busload of teens "was yelling at the driver, 'Slow down,'" according to the Houston Chronicle.

His comments coincide with a preliminary report on the accident — released Monday by the National Transportation Safety Board — that said several passengers indicated the bus was going too fast just before it rolled down the Colorado mountainside.

Hawthorn, who died in the crash, was driving one bus in a caravan of vehicles taking teenagers from two Houston churches home to Texas after a ski holiday at Crested Butte.

Christopher Scarberry, 17, and Matthew Donat, 16, also were also killed.

Investigators and witnesses said Hawthorn, an experienced driver who has driven the mountainous route several times before, lost control of the bus while descending a steep, icy hill.

Report: Medicaid transport scheme thrives in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston has become a hub for van operators who illegally cruise low-rent apartment complexes soliciting Medicaid-eligible patients for doctors and dentists, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday.

There is nothing wrong with transport services that take indigent patients to appointments with Medicaid providers. But those who solicit patients for doctors, dentists and optometrists in return for a per-patient fee — are breaking the law.

"I would have expected this to be an urban problem in other areas such as Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin," said Aurora LeBrun, head of Medicaid fraud investigations for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. "But the problem appears to be almost exclusively centered in Harris County."

More than 100 such cases have been investigated in Harris County the past few years, the Chronicle reported, while only a handful have shown up in other Texas cities, records show.

Medicaid allows medical providers to pay for patients' transportation to clinics, but state and federal laws prohibit fees based on the number of patients delivered.

Ms. LeBrun recounted a case in which four siblings received Medicaid-funded glasses with identical prescriptions. "I seriously doubt all four children required the same lens prescription," she told the newspaper.

But officials haven't filed any criminal cases involving Medicaid "headhunting" in recent years, explaining that they are difficult to prosecute because the cash-only deals come with little documentation.

One Houston-area driver acknowledged that she regularly delivers youngsters — some as young as 3 — to dental clinics for \$10-\$30 per patient. She said she receives additional fees for delivering the children for eye and medical exams.

"It's just a regular job, like everybody else's job, except you have to be picking up people and dropping them off," said the headhunter, who was not named by the Chronicle.

The woman added that she offers a fast-food meal as an incentive to their parents.

A Medicaid provider who paid to solicit patients in the past said he discontinued the practice after being warned it was illegal.

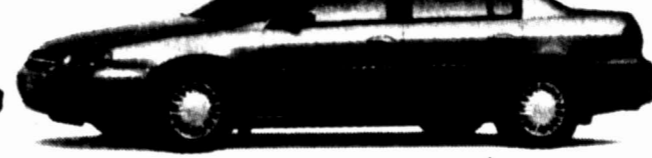
"I knew there were others out there doing it, and if you don't go along with the pack you won't get any business," said E.B. Denton, a Houston optometrist.

The End Is Near.



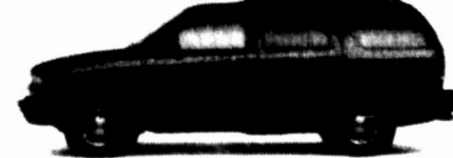
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There's no all-clear for Y2K bugs after Jan. 1 passes, experts warn

NEW YORK (AP) — Y2K computer worries won't go away this weekend, even if nothing goes wrong. Glitches are likely weeks, even months, into the new year. And a few may linger until 2001 and beyond.

The Gartner Group, a technology consulting firm, estimates only 10 percent of all Y2K failures will occur during the first two weeks of January.

Yet an Associated Press poll taken earlier this month found that only 16 percent of respondents think Y2K problems will last more than two weeks. And the number who think the problems will be confined to less than a few days has increased from 22 percent to 36 percent. Most Y2K planners are aware

that Jan. 1 is no magic date, but they fear a quiet weekend might leave the public with a false sense of security.

"There is too much focus on New Year's weekend," said Bruce McConnell, director of the International Y2K Cooperation Center. "If you think that the only time to worry about the Y2K bug is on Jan. 1, then you're underestimating the problem."

Besides having new problems appear later in the year, glitches that strike on Jan. 1 might go unnoticed initially, even after employees return to work and restart computers. The full effects might not be felt until smaller glitches compound and disrupt business supply chains.

Several weeks must pass, McConnell said, "to have a good idea just how big an event Y2K is."

Ron Weikers, a Philadelphia attorney specializing in Y2K litigation, warned companies not to declare victory right away. Such statements, he said, could come back to haunt them.

Still, New Year's Day weekend will be a peak period for Y2K problems, and most major companies and government agencies will be watching their systems closely. John Koskinen, President Clinton's top Y2K adviser, will preside over a \$50 million crisis center built for this weekend.

If there are any problems involving embedded chips that

control power plants and other major equipment, Koskinen said, they would most likely strike around Jan. 1.

Beyond that, most glitches will probably be administrative, causing inconveniences such as incorrect billing — but no catastrophe. And they'll be more manageable because they won't hit all at once.

The government has identified three crucial time periods:

- Dec. 31, when the rest of the world celebrates the new year;
- Jan. 1, when the new year arrives in the United States; and
- Jan. 3, the first business day, when systems experience peak usage.

Koskinen's group will also

look for trouble on Feb. 29, because some computers might not recognize 2000 as a leap year. Even Dec. 31, 2000, could be problematic because some computers might not be expecting 366 days next year.

The Y2K problem stems from a long-standing practice of using only two digits to represent a year in computer programs and embedded chips. Left uncorrected, "00" might appear as 1900, throwing off systems that control power, phones and billing.

In an AP telephone poll of 1,010 people, taken Dec. 15-19, the most frequently mentioned concern was the power supply, mentioned by a third, followed by banking and financial ser-

vices, the transportation system, phone systems and food distribution. The poll's margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Jan. 1 is not necessarily the first time a computer will encounter 2000, and some problems already have appeared.

A few years ago, some merchants began having trouble with credit cards expiring in 2000. In early October, some federal computers needed repair because Oct. 1 starts the federal fiscal year.

And in a twist from Maine, model 2000 cars were incorrectly marked horseless carriages — the designation that the state uses for pre-1916 vintage vehicles.

Cigarette makers ask federal court to dismiss government's lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cigarette makers asked a federal court Monday to dismiss the federal government's lawsuit seeking billions of dollars for the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses.

The government has no claim under federal law and is trying to ignore settlements the industry reached with all 50 states, tobacco industry lawyers said in papers filed in U.S. District Court.

"The government is asserting causes of action for Medicare recovery that have never been recognized by any court before,

that it has never asserted before, that it has publicly stated it does not have, and that it has to this date never asserted against anyone other than this group of defendants," the industry's lawyers said.

The Justice Department's lawsuit alleges the companies conspired since the 1950s to defraud and mislead the public about the dangers of smoking.

When the lawsuit was filed in September, Attorney General Janet Reno said federal health plans spend more than \$20 billion a year treating smoking-related illnesses, which take

400,000 lives a year in this country.

Asked for reaction to the industry's motion Monday, Justice Department spokeswoman Kara Peterman said, "We will respond in court." The government's response is due Feb. 25.

The tobacco industry's filing said Reno acknowledged in April 1997 that the government lacked authority to sue the companies. Reno has said she was talking only about the state-administered Medicaid program.

The state lawsuits involved

Medicaid payments the states made for health care for the poor. The federal suit involves Medicare for the elderly and military and veterans' health insurance paid directly by the federal government.

When the Justice Department sued the industry in September, it also closed, without bringing charges, a nearly 5-year-old investigation of whether tobacco companies lied to Congress or regulatory agencies about the addictiveness of nicotine.

The industry's lawyers said Monday the civil lawsuit was "based on precisely the same

allegations that the government has determined do not permit it to maintain a criminal ... action."

Much of the non-financial relief the federal government seeks already is required by the industry's settlements with the 50 states, the companies' lawyers said.

"The tobacco industry of today is much, much different from the one portrayed in the government's lawsuit," said an industry news release. "The settlements with the states in 1997 and 1998 established a comprehensive regulatory framework

that the Justice Department is simply ignoring."

The industry's legal papers said the government's lawsuit did not show a likelihood of future violations, as required under the federal anti-racketeering law that is the basis for part of the lawsuit.

The papers were filed by lawyers for Philip Morris Inc., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co., Lorillard Tobacco Co., British American Tobacco Ltd., the Council for Tobacco Research-USA and the Tobacco Institute.

Scientist weaved around security, Los Alamos expert says in hearing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A computer security expert says a fired Los Alamos lab scientist accused of transferring classified weapons data engaged in a concerted effort to bypass the facility's safeguards.

In testimony on Monday at a bail hearing for Wen Ho Lee, Cheryl L. Wampler said Lee had transmitted unclassified information to foreign countries that revealed two lab computer logins and passwords that could be viewed by any hacker on the Internet.

Lee is scheduled to be back in court today in a continued effort to ask a federal judge to reconsider whether he should remain behind bars without bail until trial.

Lee is charged with 59 counts under the Atomic Energy and Espionage Acts.

The charges allege transfer of classified material from secure to unsecure computers and to computer tapes, seven of which remain missing. The defense contends the tapes were destroyed.

The indictment does not accuse Lee of passing classified information to any foreign government.

A magistrate denied bond two weeks ago for Taiwanese-born Lee, 60, a naturalized U.S. citizen,

who has pleaded innocent. It could be up to a year before Lee's trial begins.

Outside the federal courthouse Monday, supporters rallied with signs reading "Free Wen Ho Lee" and "Justice for All." They say the government is trying to make him a scapegoat for the government's security shortcomings.

Wampler also testified that, in 1993, a security program that looks for suspicious activity flagged Lee for moving information from secure areas to unsecure areas. She said that the woman who reviews such flags incorrectly decided the actions were a necessary part of the changeover to a new computer system and ignored the warning.

It took Lee 40 hours over several months in 1993 and 1994 to download the files, which he declassified by putting in areas that could be reached by people inside the lab without property security clearance or hackers, Wampler said.

Her testimony was similar to that of a lab official who testified at Lee's arraignment.

Since Lee's firing, lab personnel have twice shut down the unsecured computer system to erase classified files Lee transferred, Wampler said.

'Puffy' Combs faces weapons possession charge after shooting

NEW YORK (AP) — Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs has been released on bail after spending a day behind bars for weapons possession in the wake of a shooting at a Times Square dance club.

Combs was arrested Monday after police allegedly found a stolen pistol in his car as he and actress-singer Jennifer Lopez left Club NY where two men and a woman were wounded in the 2 a.m. shooting.

"I do not own a gun," a weary Combs told reporters after being arraigned on weapons charges late Monday. "I do not carry a gun. The charges and allegations against me are 100 percent false."

Combs was released on \$10,000 bail and ordered back in court on Feb. 14.

Lopez was also arrested, but prosecutors dropped charges against her "based on the evaluation of the evidence," said Wayne Brison, a spokesman for the Manhattan district attorney's office.

Two of the victims were in stable condition Monday, and the third refused medical attention.

Police said the shots were fired by 19-year-old Jamal Barrow, a fellow rapper who was found outside the club with a pistol. He was charged with three counts of attempted murder and was being held pending arraignment.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Bogdanos said a witness reported that both Barrow and Combs pulled out guns during a dispute inside the club.

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<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>MISSES', PETITES' & WOMEN'S HOLIDAY TOPS, PANTS, SKIRTS</p> <p>Seasonal fabrics in a variety of colors. Reg. 28.00-40.00 SALE 14.00-20.00</p>	<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>ENTIRE STOCK LADIES' BOOTS BY CANDIE'S & MIA</p> <p>Plus, Prima Royal and more. Reg. 40.00-78.00, SALE 20.00-39.00 Excludes Dr. Martens</p>	<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>ENTIRE STOCK MEN'S FLANNEL BOXERS & LOUNGE PANTS</p> <p>Every style, every brand! Stock up priced. Reg. 12.00-26.00, SALE 6.00-13.00</p>
<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>MISSES' & PETITES' REDUCED SAG HARBOR CAREER SEPARATES</p> <p>WHEN YOU TAKE AN EXTRA 33% OFF</p> <p>Orig. 28.00-54.00, then 20.99-39.99 NOW 14.06-26.79</p>	<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>DISCONTINUED ATHLETIC SHOES BY NIKE, REEBOK, MORE</p> <p>Entire stock of discontinued styles for men, women and children. Reg. 35.00-80.00, SALE 17.50-40.00</p>	<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>ENTIRE STOCK CHRISTMAS GIFTS & ACCESSORIES</p> <p>Get ready for next year at this low price. Selection varies. Reg. 8.00-35.00, SALE 4.00-17.50</p>
<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>JUNIORS' REDUCED SOCIAL OCCASION DRESSES</p> <p>WHEN YOU TAKE AN EXTRA 33% OFF</p> <p>Orig. 14.00-89.00, then 28.99-65.99 NOW 19.42-44.21</p>	<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>MEN'S & YOUNG MEN'S TOPS & LONG-SLEEVED SWEATERS</p> <p>Variety of top styles, including fleece. Reg. 25.00-135.00, SALE 12.50-67.50 Excludes departmental items</p>	<p>SAVE 50%</p> <p>REDUCED FASHION SEPARATES FOR GIRLS' 7-16 & BOYS' 8-20</p> <p>WHEN YOU TAKE AN EXTRA 33% OFF</p> <p>Orig. 12.50-30.00, then 8.99-21.99 NOW 6.02-14.73</p>


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25

SPORTS EXTRA

BOWLING SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 25
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Utah (9-3) vs. Fresno State (8-4), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Heritage Bowl
At Atlanta
Hampton (7-4) vs. SWAC champion, 11:30 a.m. (NBC)
Wednesday, Dec. 22
Mobile Alabama Bowl
Payoff: \$780,000
Texas Christian (7-4) vs. East Carolina (9-2), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Saturday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Gray vs. Blue, 11 a.m. (ABC)
Alpha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payoff: \$800,000
Arizona State (6-5) vs. Wake Forest (6-5), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Oahu Bowl
At Honolulu
Payoff: \$800,000
Oregon State (7-4) vs. Hawaii (8-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payoff: \$750,000
Marshall (12-0) vs. Brigham Young (8-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Texas A&M (8-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payoff: \$750,000
Kentucky (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payoff: \$1.8 million
Kansas State (10-1) vs. Washington (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 30
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payoff: \$750,000
Boise State (9-3) vs. Louisville (7-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN2)
Micropro.com Bowl
At Miami
Payoff: \$750,000
Virginia (7-4) vs. Illinois (7-4), 6 p.m. (TBS)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payoff: \$1.6 million
Mississippi State (9-2) vs. Clemson (6-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 31
Inlight.com Bowl
At Tucson, Ariz.
Payoff: \$750,000
Boston College (8-3) vs. Colorado (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payoff: \$1.1 million
Oregon (8-3) vs. Minnesota (8-3), 1:15 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Colorado State (8-3) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payoff: \$1.1 million
Mississippi (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payoff: \$1.9 million
Georgia (7-4) vs. Purdue (7-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
Payoff: \$2.5 million
At Dallas
Texas (9-4) vs. Arkansas (7-4), 10 a.m. (FOX)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payoff: \$1.1 million
Georgia Tech (8-3) vs. Miami (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (NBC)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payoff: \$3.8 million
Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-2), 10 a.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payoff: \$12 million
Stanford (8-3) vs. Wisconsin (9-2), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payoff: \$11.3 million
Michigan (9-2) vs. Alabama (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sunday, Jan. 2
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payoff: \$11.3 million
Nebraska (11-1) vs. Tennessee (9-2), 7 p.m. (ABC)
Tuesday, Jan. 4
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payoff: \$11.3 million
Florida State (11-0) vs. Virginia Tech (11-0), 7 p.m. (ABC)

NFL STANDINGS

American Conference East: Indianapolis 13 2 0 .867 417 302; Buffalo 10 5 0 .667 289 223; Miami 9 6 0 .600 311 215; N.Y. Jets 9 6 0 .467 289 300; New England 7 8 0 .467 279 281; Carolina 7 8 0 .467 279 281.

WOMEN'S SCORES

East: American Int. 81, Philadelphia 69; Boston 87, Delaware Valley 60; Virginia 83, Siena 43. Midwest: Notre Dame 74, Southern Cal 59; Rio Grande 67, TN-State 42; Shreveport 86, Aberdeen-Broadway 48.

Motor City Bowl win gives Marshall undefeated season

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Doug Chapman and his Marshall teammates were playing for an undefeated season and to earn some respect. They got the perfect record, and the Thundering Herd might get the respect. Chapman scored three touchdowns and Marshall's defense did the rest as the No. 11 Thundering Herd beat BYU 21-3 in the Motor City Bowl on Monday. Chapman rushed for 133 yards, ran for two TDs and hooked up on a pass play with Chad Pennington for another as Marshall (13-0) remained one of three unbeaten Division I teams in the country. But this is nothing new. During Chapman's four years, Marshall has a 50-4 record. The Herd went 15-0 in 1996, winning the Division I-AA championship. The school moved up to Division I the following season, and the Herd is 35-4 since then. "Fifty is a nice round number," Chapman said. "It doesn't always work out like that. Fifty wins! No matter what happens, nobody will ever be able to take that away from this group."

Woods AP's Athlete of Year for second time in three years

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
The next time Tiger Woods says that he only plays to win, pay close attention. After working for nearly 18 months to get comfortable with his new swing, Woods unleashed one of the most dominant golf seasons in the second half of the 20th century and left his peers wondering how much better he can get. He won nine of his last 13 tournaments and earned \$7.6 million worldwide. Perhaps the best statement of his supremacy is this: Woods won more PGA Tour events in the final five months of the season (6) than any other player won in an entire season this decade.

On Monday, Woods was named The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year in a close vote over Lance Armstrong. "It's great to be selected, very humbling to be part of that," said Woods, who won the award for the second time in three years. "A lot of great athletes have won this award." Woods received 29 first-place votes and 144 points from AP member newspapers and broadcast outlets. Armstrong, who overcame testicular cancer to win the Tour de France, had 31 first-place votes and finished with 130 points. Cy Young award winner Pedro Martinez of the Boston Red Sox finished third with 45 points, followed by John Elway

and Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne. Rounding out the top 10 were: Andre Agassi, Tim Duncan, Payne Stewart, Sammy Sosa and quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Kurt Warner, who tied for 10th. The U.S. women's World Cup soccer team was named the AP Female Athletes of the Year last week and also won for story of the year. Woods became only the seventh man — and second golfer — to win AP Athlete of the Year twice since it began in 1931. The others were Don Budge, Byron Nelson, Sandy Koufax, Carl Lewis, Joe Montana and Michael Jordan. Jordan is the only three-time winner. Woods, who turns 24 on

Motor City Bowl win gives Marshall undefeated season

Thursday, figures to have at least 20 more years to match or surpass Jordan. At this rate, the only thing capable of stopping him is a career-threatening injury or loss of desire. "He's not even close to how good he can get," Davis Love III said after finishing second to Woods in the Tour Championship. "He's going to be good for a long, long time." Woods won this award for what he did in a short period of time. Heading into the PGA Championship, the final major of the year, David Duval was still No. 1 in the world rankings. But Woods won at Medinah for his second major, then really separated himself from the rest of the sport.

In observance of the New Year, these Financial Institutions will be closed Saturday, Jan. 1, 2000 and will observe these special hours on Friday, Dec. 31st.

Norwest Closing 3 pm Dec. 31	Citizens Federal Credit Union Closing 1 pm Dec. 31	Education Employees Federal Credit Union Closed Fri., Dec. 31
First Bank of West Texas Closing 4 pm Dec. 31	Government Employees Federal Credit Union Closed Fri., Dec. 31st	T&P Federal Credit Union Closing at 1 pm Fri., Dec. 31
American State Bank Observing normal business hours Fri. Dec. 31	The Electric Utilities Federal Credit Union Closing Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 30 & 31	First Big Spring Banking Center Observing regular business hours Fri. Dec. 31st
State Hospital Federal Credit Union Closing at 1:30 pm Fri. Dec. 31	Cosden Federal Credit Union Closing at 12 Noon Dec. 31	

The December 31 paper will be delivered as a morning product. Phone hours will be 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
For Circulation Call 263-7335
We at the Herald wish you a Happy Holiday!

They move they create a vacuum said. "I have a balcony to get a here." Three All-players — Short and defensive issue with as A&M is or linebacker-

set when I heard it." Penn State is defend it off y I die." A&M and o mystery the kicking minimize give up big vacuum said. (3 in Big 12) disappoints to Texas Nebraska. The seales, closing as a week bonfire log ad and 27 have the lamodome. or quarter- noted that won a bowl ears. Their ory was in Michigan been real We want o eniors."

las to play- they would their outlook s game. Bailey said. think know you do ay in that nt players scenarios. this as a win, they go ome. ne game." e to worry s happened ory about

New Year's Holiday Office Hours and Advertising Deadlines for the Big Spring Herald
The Big Spring Herald offices will be closed December 31 and will reopen for business at 7:30 a.m. Monday, January 3.
Advertising Deadlines
Friday, December 31.....Wednesday, 12 NOON
Sunday, January 2.....Thursday, 12 NOON
Monday, January 3.....Thursday, 3 p.m.
Classified Deadlines
Friday, December 31.....Thursday, 12 NOON
Sunday, January 2.....Thursday, 3 p.m.
(NO TOO LATES FOR SUNDAY)
Monday, January 3.....Thursday, 4:30 p.m.
Circulation Phones
The December 31 paper will be delivered as a morning product. Phone hours will be 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
For Circulation Call 263-7335
We at the Herald wish you a Happy Holiday!

TUESDAY

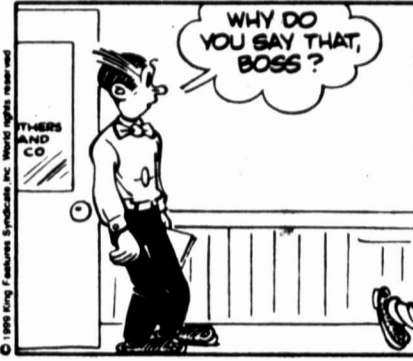
DEC. 28

	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	USA (30)	SCFI (31)	LIFE (40)	TLC (41)
6	News (CC)	Home Imp. Judge Judy	Creatures Antiques	Who's Boss? Random Acts	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News (CC) Seinfeld	Fresh Prince	Sonadoras	Movie: Oliver & Company	Walters (CC)	The Joy Luck Club (CC)	Rugrats Movie (CC)	Accused (CC)	News John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	ER (CC)	JAG (CC)	Sentinel (CC)	Intimate Portrait (CC)	How'd They Do That?
7	Spin City (CC) Oh Grow Up	Ally (CC) 70s Show	Y2K-Writer	Random Acts	JAG (CC)	Spin City (CC) Oh Grow Up	Just Shoot Me 3rd Rock-Sun	(05) Movie: Gladiator	Nunca Te Ovidare	(CC) Fantasia/2000	Life of the Judds	Hoop Life	Movie: Gloria (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	On the Inside	NBA Basketball: Boston	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Sentinel (CC)	Chicago Hope (CC)	Trauma: Life in the ER	
8	Dharma-Greg Sports Night	RSVP-Party	Frontline (CC)	Random Acts	60 Minutes II (CC)	Dharma-Greg Sports Night	Will & Grace 3rd Rock-Sun	DateLine (CC)	Tres Mujeres	Nonsense 3: The	Movie: The Game (CC)	Beggars and Choosers	Rude Awaken: Linc's (CC)	Sopranos (CC)	Richard Roberts	Investigative Reports (CC)	FBI Files	Kings (CC) Inside NBA	Movie: Highlander (CC)	Sentinel (CC)	Movie: Final Justice (CC)	Science of Sex-Aim
9	Kids Rights (CC)	Mad Ad. You Harry (CC)	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	Braddock: Missing in	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Noah (CC)	Dallas (CC)	(10) Movie: Naked Lies	Barry Levinson on	Sopranos (CC)	News Life in Word	Law & Order (CC)	On the Inside	Movie: Heart of Dragon	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Pottergeist: The Legacy	Golden Girls Golden Girls	Trauma: Life in the ER
10	News (CC) Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	Braddock: Missing in	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Noah (CC)	Dallas (CC)	(10) Movie: Naked Lies	Barry Levinson on	Sopranos (CC)	News Life in Word	Law & Order (CC)	On the Inside	Movie: Heart of Dragon	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Pottergeist: The Legacy	Golden Girls Golden Girls	Trauma: Life in the ER
11	Politically Inc. Cheers	Newsradio Unhappily	Rock & Roll (CC)	Who's Boss? Random Acts	Show (CC) (37) Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	Action III (25) Movie:	Viviana a la Medianoche	Zorro (CC) Micky Mouse	Dukes of Hazzard (CC)	(45) Movie: son: Funny is Money	Norman Jewi-	Reverb	Faith Pleases God	Biography (CC)	New Detectives	Movie: The Young	Six Stalkings (CC)	Fri. the 13th Series	Designing Unusual	Science of Sex
12	JAM (12:06) Gunsmoke	Cope (CC) Hollywood	Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) Grace Under	(12:06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	Forced Vengeance	Gordy y Flaca El Biallazo	Wall Disney Presents	Nonsense 3: The	Hard Bountty	Movie: The Future	Norman Jewi-	Reverb	Light of the Southwest	Investigative Reports (CC)	FBI Files	Movie: The Young	New York Undercover	Sentinel (CC)	Mysteries Cornish	Science of Sex-Aim

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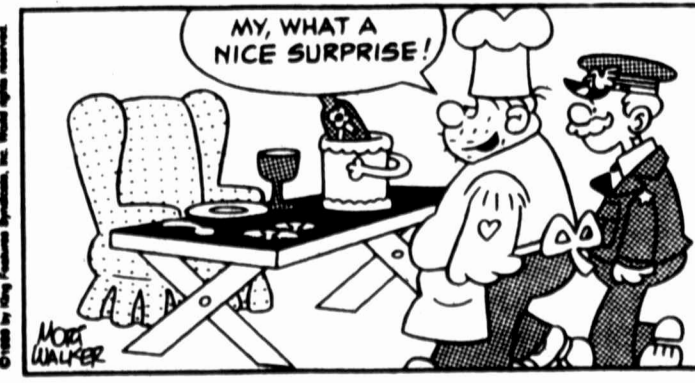
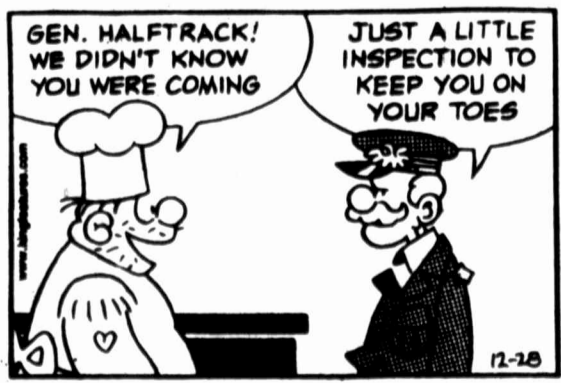
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 1999. There are

three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 28, 1917, the New York Evening Mail published a facetious essay by H.L. Mencken on the history of the bathtub in America. Mencken claimed, for example, that

Millard Fillmore was the first president to have a bathtub installed in the White House.

On this date: In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first U.S. vice president to resign, leaving over differences with President Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state in the Union.

In 1856, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, the 28th U.S. president, was born in Staunton, Va.

In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand, premiered in Paris.

In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris.

In 1944, the musical "On the Town" opened on Broadway.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the "Pledge of Allegiance."

In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag, Archipelago," an expose of the Soviet prison system.

In 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American "test-tube baby," was born in Norfolk, Va.

Ten years ago: Alexander Dubcek, former Czechoslovak Communist leader deposed in 1968 in a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion, was named chairman of the country's parliament.

Five years ago: CIA Director R. James Woolsey resigned, ending a tenure shadowed by the Aldrich Ames spy scandal. President Clinton nominated Dan Glickman as agriculture secretary, succeeding Mike Espy.

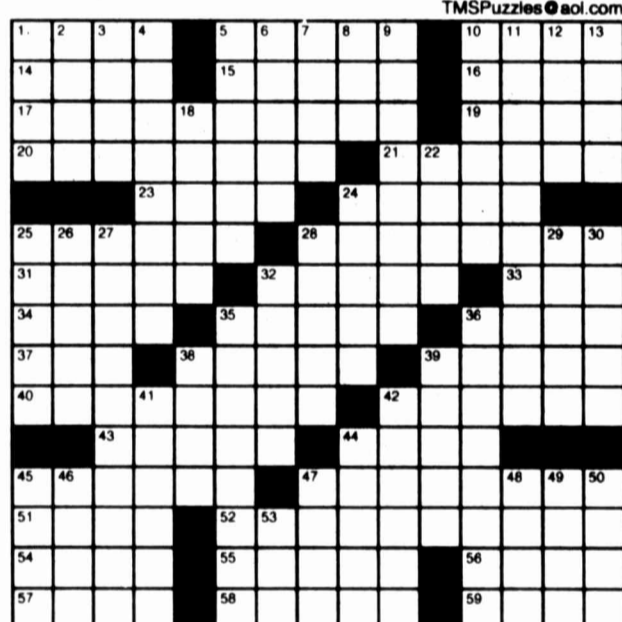
One year ago: American warplanes exchanged missile fire with Iraqi air defenses, and President Clinton said there would be no letup in American and British pressure on Saddam Hussein. Four people were killed, two missing and presumed dead, when fierce gales struck during an Australian yacht race.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lou Jacobi is 86. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pop Staples is 85. Bandleader Johnny Otis is 78. Former UAW union president Owen Bieber is 70. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 65. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 61. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 53. Rock singer-musician Alex Chilton (The Box Tops; Big Star) is 49. Actor Denzel Washington is 45. Country singer Joe Diffie is 41. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 41. Actor Chad McQueen is 39.

Thought for Today: "When you are right, no one remembers; when you are wrong, no one forgets." — Irish proverb.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- Racetrack shape
 - Use boiling water
 - Genesis victim
 - Costa
 - Mormon leader
 - Josip Broz
 - What Ford has in ads, with "A"
 - R&B singer James
 - Makes more tempting
 - Prepared, as parmesan
 - Cryptic character
 - Idaho's capital
 - Daybreak song
 - Bible book
 - Flaky, layered rock
 - Ladd or Lane
 - Shell-game item
 - Trigger treats
 - Bishops of Rome
 - Sibilant sound
 - Screw holder
 - Prongs
 - Apollo's birthplace
 - Animal under a howdah
 - Alliegance
 - Arlidge of network sports
 - Harebrained
 - Small nightclub
 - Handguns
 - Dressing gown
 - Chubby one
 - Privy to
 - Classic violin
 - "Daring"
 - Speech in writing
 - Nylon cousin
 - Grade sch.



- DOWN
- Globes
 - Opinion
 - French play part
 - Pitchout passes
 - Calm
 - Country singer Patsy
 - Throws in
 - Director Spike
 - Coerces
 - Relaxed
 - Something hard to swallow
 - End of cigar?
 - Demand for service
 - Musical exercise piece
 - La gauge
 - Highland hillsides
 - United
 - Company on the move?
 - Swinger's guidelines?
 - Lab tube
 - Stupely with drink
 - Part
 - "Divine Poems" poet
 - Musical lounge
 - Microwave-safe
 - Thunder god
 - Put off
 - Powerful
 - Gradual increase in visibility
 - Same again
 - Londoner, for short
 - Actress
 - Skye leitch
 - Stick it out
 - Banister
 - French Ms.
 - Long and lean
 - Thurman of "Batman and Robin"

Monday's Puzzle Solved



BIG SPRING Herald

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