

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

**MONDAY**

January 24, 2000

**WEATHER**

**Tonight:**



**PARTLY CLOUDY**

**TONIGHT** 35°-40° **TUESDAY** 50°-55°

**BSSH volunteers taking orders now for Valentine's Day**

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers are taking orders now for their annual fundraiser, selling Valentine gifts and singing telegrams. Volunteers will deliver a variety of mugs, candy, stuffed animals, balloons and plants, or sing a love song to your special someone.

Orders will be taken until Valentine's Day, but early orders are advised since the gifts tend to sell out.

For an \$8 donation to volunteer services, you can arrange delivery of a terra cotta pot containing a living ivy plant, a holiday mug filled with homemade candy, a bud vase with two cut carnations, or a stuffed animal and a small box of Russell Stover candy.

A group of vocalists will serenade your friend or loved one for a \$20 donation, choosing from a holiday repertoire of songs, visiting your Valentine at the office or even while eating lunch at a local restaurant.

While orders will be taken through Feb. 11 during business hours, they will also be taken Sunday, Feb. 13 from 1-4 p.m. to accommodate last-minute shoppers. To place an order or get more information, call 268-7535.

**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

**WEDNESDAY**  
 □ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.  
 □ Senior Circle Big Spring Mall walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.  
 □ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.  
 □ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.  
 □ Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

**THURSDAY**  
 □ Gideons International,  
 See **WHAT'S UP**, Page 2

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**Vol. 97, No. 76**

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.

**Property owners have one week left in which to pay their taxes**

By **BILL McCLELLAN**  
 News Editor

Howard County residents who haven't paid their property taxes have one more week to do so if they want to avoid a penalty.

"The deadline is Jan. 31. The 7 percent penalty begins Feb. 1," said Kathy Sayles, Howard County tax assessor-collector.

Taxpayers have the option of bringing their payment to her office in the county courthouse, or mailing it in.

"Remember, we go by the

postmark, so if you are unable to bring the payment to us, it will be considered on time as long as it is postmarked no later than Jan. 31," Sayles said.

Anyone having any questions about their bill or anyone who did not receive a property tax bill should call the tax assessor's office.

"If you are not sure of the amount or did not receive a statement, give us a call. We will be glad to give you that information so that you can send in your payment," Sayles said.

Beginning in February, the penalty on an unpaid tax bill will be 7 percent. It rises 2 percent each month — up to 9 percent in March, 11 percent in April, 13 percent in May and 15 percent in June. In July, the penalty is 18 percent, plus a 15 percent additional fee for legal activity.

That means a \$400 tax bill could grow to as much as \$895 if it went unpaid until legal action was taken.

Sayles said it's too early to calculate whether most residents are paying their bills on time.

"This is our biggest collection month," said Sayles, "but some people paid them earlier. Their bookkeeping system usually dictates when they pay."

The tax collector's office will work with taxpayers to make sure that the taxes are recorded in a timely manner.

Taxpayers older than 65 qualify for a senior citizen exemption, and Sayles urges those who have not applied for that exemption to do so.

"You need to come into the office. That exemption is applied to your taxes," she said.

And taxpayers who are not 65 or older may apply for a homestead exemption, if their house is also their residence, she said.

Howard County tax assessor/collector is responsible for bills and collections of taxes for nine taxing entities.

These are Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma cities, along with those school districts, Howard County, Howard College and Permian Basin Water District taxes are also collected through Sayles' office.

The tax assessor/collector's office number is 264-2232.



Dustin Reyes (left) and his step-father, Mac Brockington decided to drive from Midland Saturday to fish in Moss Creek Lake. Because of the closure for construction on the Moss Lake facilities, they revised their plans and decided to try the Comanche Trail Park Lake.

**City council**

**Short agenda faces officials when they convene Tuesday**

By **BILL McCLELLAN**  
 News Editor

A short agenda faces Big Spring City Council members, who convene Tuesday to consider election details and bids.

The council will determine the rate of pay for election judges and clerks for the special mayoral election, which will be held March 4. Council members approved calling for the election two weeks ago, after former mayor Tim Blackshear gave up his post by filing for the State House of Representatives' District 70 seat.

The council will also appoint election judges and create an early voting ballot board.

"This election won't be quite as expensive as the regular election on May 6 because we will be able to consolidate voting districts," City Manager Gary Fuqua said.

In the May 6 election, council seats are up in Districts 2, 4 and 6, and election boxes will have to be placed in all three districts.

In other action, the council will consider awarding a bid for the lease of a backhoe and a backhoe with an extendahoe for the utility department to use in

repairing water lines.

"This is a rebid item because there was a discrepancy in one of the bids the first time," said Fuqua. "So we've rebid the item."

Council members will also consider a request for permission to seek proposals from computer software vendors for police department software.

The meeting will open with a public hearing on the city's water and wastewater treatment plant risk management plan. It's an annual hearing, required by law.

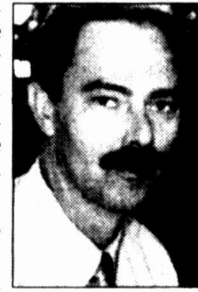
On second reading, the council will consider the following:

- An ordinance calling for an election to be held May 2 to elect a council member for District 2, District 4 and District 6;
- An ordinance for no parking on east side of Owens from 10th to E. Sixth;
- Application for Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant;
- Investment report for Dec. 31, 1999.

Also on the agenda are the city manager's report, approval of vouchers and consideration of board minutes from the Howard County Appraisal District board.

Following regular business, the council will adjourn to executive session for routine evaluation of the city manager.

Tuesday's meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers, located behind City Hall at 307 E. Fourth St.



FUQUA

**Forums scheduled to inform public of changes in MHMR benefits**

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
 Staff Writer

All family members, advocates and guardians of persons with mental retardation who receive benefits through the Home & Community-based Services are urged to attend one of four public forums about changes in that program.

The forums are scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Brownfield Middle School Auditorium; Tuesday, Feb. 1 in the Snyder Junior High School library; Thursday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room and Thursday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sweetwater Middle School Auditorium.

"We're going to be presenting to these consumers the different options we have received from the commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in making the HCS programs more

financially efficient," said Lisa Brooks, community relations director for West Texas Centers for MHMR.

HCS programs provide individuals with mental retardation options for independent living outside an institution. Brooks said West Texas Centers has about 90 clients who currently receive HCS services.

"And there are statewide waiting lists for the HCS program, because there are just a number of finite slots available," she said.

Among the services provided through the HCS program are respite care, supported home living and residential support services.

"Respite is a service that provides a temporary, alternative living site for eligible individuals who are transitioning from state school to community placement, or for individuals who need a place to stay temporarily," Brooks said.

Supported home living offers

**MHMR FORUMS**

- **WHO** — West Texas Centers for MHMR and all consumers, family members, guardians and advocates of persons with mental retardation
- **WHAT** — Public Forums on Home & Community-based Services
- **WHEN** — Jan. 27 6:30 p.m., Brownfield Middle School Auditorium; Feb. 1 6:30 p.m., Snyder Junior High School library; Feb. 10 6:30 p.m., Howard County Library community room and Feb. 17 6:30 p.m., Sweetwater Middle School Auditorium
- **MORE INFO** — 263-0007

a variety of services and supports to mentally retarded individuals living in their home of choice, she said.

And residential support gives a home environment to individuals with disabilities who may

need additional support and services," Hale said.

Karen Hale, commissioner for TDMHMR, said currently 11,000 individuals are awaiting placement into an HCS program. However, the legislative directive has been given to increase the number of consumers being served by the HCS program, while decreasing the cost involved in this program.

"TDMHMR will not enroll or continue eligibility for any individual whose individual plan of care cost exceeds the maximum specified in the program rules," Hale said in a news released that was mailed to program recipients and family members.

Hale said all individual programs which currently exceed the cost guidelines are being evaluated to determine if all available resources are being used.

"Every effort will be made to implement these changes with the least amount of disruption for the persons receiving ser-

vices," Hale said.

An option available for those 90-plus persons within the West Texas Centers include relocating into an independent living home with three other roommates, a change from the current three-person household, Brooks said.

With a decrease in funds, readjustments for individuals receiving this service may be inevitable, which is the reason for the four public forums scheduled between now and March 1, when the changes will become effective.

"The first step is the public forum, where we will give a general overview of the changes to those consumers, family members, advocates and guardians who attend. We hope these individuals will attend, so that they may be made aware of this," Brooks said.

Following the public forums, individual one-on-one sessions

See MHMR, Page 2

**New director named to head HC's distance learning program**

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
 Staff Writer

WINGS, the distance learning program at Howard College, is receiving some new equipment, and now sports a new face as well, with Shane Forrest at the helm as the



FORREST

new director of the program.

"I am really excited to be at Howard College, and I've many ideas for the future of this program," Forrest said, while monitoring the equipment expansion work within one of the classrooms.

"This expansion links us with Region 15 in San Angelo, and we will begin providing distance learning courses to high schools in Eldorado, Menard, Sterling City, Grape Creek and Wall," he said.

Actively linked with Region 18 Service Center in Midland,

the WINGS program has offered courses to high school students within the area served by that region.

This expansion allows more students access to dual-credit courses offered in high school, Forrest said.

Forrest was the vocational program supervisor at Big Spring State Hospital before assuming the director's position. He has also been an investigator for Adult Protective Services, he said.

Forrest is replacing Oneida Burgess, who helped get the

program off the ground and has now moved to the University of Texas - Permian Basin.

"That was a great opportunity for her, and we wish her well. We're pleased to have Shane Forrest on board," said interim vice president of instruction Linda Conway.

Forrest has taught government classes part time at Howard College for more than four years. And he has hands-on experience with the distance learning classroom.

"I taught a distance learning government course last semes-

ter that was seen in Junction," he said.

A Big Spring High School graduate, Forrest has a bachelor's degree from Angelo State University, and completed his master's degree at Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

"What really appeals to me about distance learning is that the most state-of-the-art technology is now available in the classroom," he said.

And although he has only a few weeks at the helm,

See HOWARD, Page 2

JAN 24 2000

## OBITUARIES

## Willis E. Einsel

Funeral service for Lt. Col. Willis E. Einsel, 65, Tiffin, Ohio, formerly of Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2000, at the Turner-Engle Funeral Home, Tiffin, Ohio, with the Rev. Dr. Robert E. Buckley officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Einsel died Saturday, Jan. 22, in Tiffin.

He was born on Dec. 12, 1934, in Tiffin. He married Lady Frances Jones on Jan. 25, 1959, in Big Spring. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State University in 1957, as a Reserve Officer Training Corp student, Willis was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He entered active duty in September 1957, for pilot training; following that training he was assigned to Combat Crew Training in the B-47 Strategic Bomber. Subsequent assignments in C-124, C-123, C-47 and B-52 aircraft resulted in the accumulation of 6000 hours of military flying.

Assignments with the Strategic Air Command encompassed 16 years of his career. Missions were flown world wide with the Military Airlift Command; he was assigned a tour of duty in Vietnam with the Tactical Air Command flying in B-12 aircraft. He also completed 27 combat missions and 309 flying hours in B-52 aircraft over Vietnam.

In addition to flying duty, he completed Academic Instructor Courses, Squadron Officers School, Air War College with the Air University and the Air Force On-Scene Commanders Course. Three years were served at the Ohio State University as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies. He was the Squadron Operations Officer of the 69th Bombardment Squadron for three years.

His awards included: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with seven Oak Leaf

Clusters, Combat Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four Clusters, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

On Oct. 1, 1985, Lt. Col. Einsel retired after completing 28 years of military service.

He assisted the cities of Abilene and Sweetwater with establishing an Emergency Management and Safety plan, and, as the local Emergency Plan Commissioner for Tiffin, Ohio, was instrumental in implementing the EMA Disaster Plan for Seneca County. He was given the "One Thousand Points of Light" award by President George Bush for his volunteer work in Seneca County. While in Texas, he contributed many hours to the Abilene Community Theatre and to the Abilene Art Museum for its Buffalo Gap Fund-Raiser. Since 1986, he served as a volunteer projectionist at the Tiffin Ritz Theatre, was a member of Tiffin Kiwanis Club and Post 169 of the American Legion. In May 1988, he was elected Republican Precinct Committeeman for Clinton Township, assisted in rewriting the zoning resolution for Clinton Township and was a member of Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Tiffin.

Survivors include his wife Lady Frances Einsel of Tiffin, Ohio; one son, David Z. Einsel of Houston; and two brothers, David W. Einsel Jr. of Tiffin, Ohio, and Henry L. Einsel, formerly of Clyde, Ohio.

Arrangements under the direction of Turner-Engle Funeral Home, Tiffin, Ohio.

## Billie Henkell

Funeral service for Billie Henkell, 70, Big Spring, was 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with Dr. Doug Shelley officiating. Graveside service will be 4:30 p.m. at Pylon Cemetery in Hermleigh.

Mrs. Henkell died Sunday, Jan. 23, 2000, at her residence following a long illness.

She was born on March 10, 1929, in Bartlett. She was the daughter of Clarence Raley and Willie Malone Raley. She married David Henkell on Jan. 13, 1942, in Snyder. She had lived in Big Spring for the last 35 years. Mrs. Henkell was a homemaker and a member of the Eastside Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, David Henkell of Big Spring, two sons, Clarence Henkell of Big Spring, and Carl Henkell of Sweetwater; two sisters, Ginny Davis of Springfield, Mo., and Ann Scofield of Fort Collins, Colo.; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Guy Farmer

Graveside service for Guy Farmer, 56, Big Spring, will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2000, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating.

Mr. Farmer died Friday, Jan. 21, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center after a long illness.

He was born on March 9, 1943, in Killeen. He was the son of Daniel Webster Farmer and Nancy Taylor Farmer. He grew up in Lubbock. He moved from Brownsfield to Big Spring in 1985. Since in Big Spring, he has made his home with his brother.

He is survived by five brothers, J.T. Farmer, Earl Farmer, both of Lubbock, Bill Farmer of Garden City, Kan., Bob Farmer and Donald Farmer, both of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Sharon Kay Massingill

Sharon Kay Massingill, 58, Big Spring, died on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2000, at her home. Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2000, at the Trinity Baptist Church with

Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on Aug. 1, 1941,

in Shawnee, Wyo., and came to Big Spring as a young girl with her family. She attended schools at Forsan and Borden County and graduated from Borden County High School. Mrs. Massingill was a homemaker.

She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include: one son, Matthew Massingill of Big Spring; one daughter, Rebecca Crane of Big Spring; her granddaughter, Megan Crane of Big Spring; a sister and brother-in-law, Charlotte and Jimmie Norman of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Massingill was preceded in death by her parents, Jess and Ahnawake (Wakie) Buchanan, one son, Michael Allen Massingill and one brother, James Buchanan.

The family suggests memorials be made to Trinity Baptist church Building Fund; 810 E. 11th Place; Big Spring.

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

## Alvin E. Baker

Funeral service for Alvin E. Baker, 87, Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2000, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dudley Mullins, pastor of East Fourth Street Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mr. Baker died Saturday, Jan. 22, in a local hospital.

He was born on April 23, 1912, in Coleman. He married Audie L. Turner of Feb. 22, 1944, in Big Spring. Mr. Baker had lived most of his life in the Big Spring area. He was a self employed carpenter for many years and was a member of the East Fourth Street Baptist Church.

Survivors include: his wife, Audie L. Baker of Big Spring; five sons, Alvin Lee Baker of Coahoma, Robert E. Baker, Nathan Baker, Jimmy Baker, and Jesse Baker, all of Big Spring; three daughters, Alice Wright, Glenda Bray and Susie Roach, all of Big Spring; one sister, Vernie Watts of Littlefield; 17 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

The family suggest memorials be made to the American Cancer Society; c/o Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121; Big Spring; 79721-2121.

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

## Ray Rackley

Graveside service for Ray Rackley, 86, Big Spring, was 11 a.m. today at the Jayton Cemetery in Jayton.

Mr. Rackley died Friday, Jan. 21, 2000, in a local hospital.

He was born on Aug. 23, 1913, in Clairmont. He married Glenn Hanna Croft in October of 1931, in Jayton. She preceded him in death on March 27, 1988. Mr. Rackley came to Big Spring and Coahoma in 1943 from California. He worked as a carpenter for most of his life. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

## HOWARD

Continued from Page 1

hectic and fast-paced as new equipment is installed, Forrest still has his eye on the future of the program as well.

"These labs were set up for a computer at every desk. The wiring is in place. Some day we may students coming to class with lap top computers," he said.

Forrest hopes to expand the program at Howard College into on-line classes, and he said he has other ideas to utilize the laboratories.

"Howard College has really talented professors, and we offer good, quality instruction. Our San Angelo and Lamesa campuses also have great staffs, and this provides us with a lot of unique opportunities," he said.

Survivors include: three nephews, L.D. Hutchinson of Rotan, Willis Hutchinson of Arlington, and Gary Rackley of Austin; and several nieces.

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

## Beulah Hall

Service for Beulah Hall, 96, Stanton, is pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home.

She died Sunday, Jan. 23, 2000, in a Stanton nursing home.

## Nita Ann Rawls

Service for Nita Ann Rawls, 35, Sand Springs, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000, at her residence following a long illness.

## MHMR

Continued from Page 1

will be scheduled between a coordinator and the consumer, family member or guardian, she said.

"That's when they will be able to discuss their specific options and what is available," she said.

Brooks said Texas is 46th in the nation for dollars spent on services for mentally retarded persons.

For more information contact West Texas Centers at 263-0007.

## WHAT'S UP

Continued from Page 1A

Big Spring Camp No. 4206, Hermans, 7 a.m.

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, American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m.

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.

## SATURDAY

Dance, 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third. Members and guests welcome.

## HOWARD

Continued from Page 1

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BIG SPRING  
AROUND THE TOWN

## BRIEFS

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF Health will be giving flu shots starting on Wednesday, Nov. 3, and every Wednesday through the winter months to those persons 18 years and older, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m. If you are on Medicare we will file. The cost to others will be \$5. For more information call 263-9775.

BAPTIST TEMPLE CHURCH WILL be having a divorce workshop starting Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. and will continue for eight consecutive Mondays.

This workshop is for any divorced, separated or widowed person and the cost is \$35 (which includes materials, workshop and refreshments). The deadline to register is Feb. 21. Call the church at 267-8287 for more information. Child care is available upon request.

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, also known as Meals on Wheels, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

SENIOR CITIZENS WHO HAVE witnessed the effects of childhood diseases are needed to staff a new volunteer program that will promote immunizations.

Volunteers 55 and older are sought for the effort, to be known as the Seniors for Childhood Immunization Program. RSVP volunteers will visit new mothers at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and remind them of the importance of the immunizations.

To find out more about the program or to volunteer, call 264-2397.

Internet rumors causes problems for black schools

FORT WORTH (AP) — Rumors spread via an erroneous e-mail are hurting seven historically black Texas colleges and universities, officials say.

The e-mail, which apparently began circulating in August, says 14 black institutions, including seven in Texas, "will close due to lack of funds."

The Texas institutions listed are Huston-Tillotson College, Jarvis Christian College, Paul Quinn College, Southwestern Christian College, Texas College, Texas Southern University and Wiley College.

"It's a lot of foolishness," Jack

Evans Sr., president of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "It is not correct. There is no truth in it whatsoever."

Worried parents, prospective students and alumni have swamped the schools with phone calls. The e-mail has been passed along so many times that officials say they cannot trace its source.

College officials suspect the e-mail is an attempt to attack Texas Gov. George W. Bush. The e-mail blames Bush for so-called financial problems at the schools and tells readers not to vote for him in the presidential election.

Bush spokesman Mike Jones said the governor's office has heard about the e-mail, and he said it is unfortunate that people are being deceived, either accidentally or on purpose.

The negative publicity has hurt the black institutions, college officials said.

"If prospective students are hearing this, that's an impediment in recruitment," said Lamore Carter, vice president of development at Texas College in Tyler. "We have 106 years of uninterrupted service to the community."

Keith Shelton, who teaches mass communication law at the University of North Texas, said the public will have to learn about the Internet and what they can believe and not believe by trial and error.

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MYERS & SMITH  
FUNERAL HOME  
& CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Charles Fierro died Friday, Funeral Mass was at 10:00 AM Monday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Billie Henkell, 70, died Sunday. Services will be at 2:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 4:30 PM Monday at Pylon Cemetery in Hermleigh, Texas.

Guy Farmer, 56, died Friday. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Wednesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Nita Ann Rawls 35, died Saturday. Services are pending in National City, Calif.

NALLEY-PICKLE  
& WELCH  
Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory

906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Alvin E. Baker, 87, died Saturday. Services will be 2:00 PM Tuesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Sharon Kay Massingill, 58, died Sunday. Services will be 10:00 AM Tuesday at Trinity Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ray Rackley, 86, died Friday. Graveside services were at 11:00 AM Monday at Jayton Cemetery, Jayton, Texas.

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BIG SPRING MOVIE HOTLINE For showtimes call 263-2479

DUNLAPS Your Fashion Headquarters 111 E. Marcy 267-8283

Scenic Mountain Medical Center 1601 W. 11th Place 263-1211

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

Tired of being bound by sin?  
Jesus can break the bonds of...  
• drugs • gangs • alcohol • loneliness  
• depression • spouse abuse • broken homes  
A simple act of faith WILL set you FREE!

SPECIAL REVIVAL SERVICES  
Sunday, January 23  
10:30 am & 6:00 pm  
Monday thru Wednesday  
January 24-26  
7:00 pm Nightly

Evangelist Eric Apodaca

THE POTTER'S HOUSE  
Christian Fellowship  
301 E. 2nd Street & Johnson  
Big Spring • Info: 264-0819  
EVERYONE WELCOME! • NURSERY PROVIDED

Pizza Inn.  
Special Events

Tuesday Night Buffet Senior Special  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
\$3.99 Buffet (Senior Discount - 60 and over)

Wednesday Night Buffet 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Kids Eat Free - with every adult buffet purchase

Thursday Nights 5 - 10 p.m. 50'S NIGHT  
\$6.99 large pizza, 99¢ salads, 45¢ drinks, and other low, low prices. Dine in only

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Night Buffets  
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# Thousands without electricity as ice storm grips Southeastern U.S.

ATLANTA (AP) — Rain and freezing temperatures spread a coat of ice across parts of Georgia on Sunday, knocking out electrical service to more than a half-million customers.

Many of those households and businesses could be without power until at least Tuesday as crews struggle over slippery roads to reach downed lines and ice-coated tree limbs continue to snap, pulling down more.

"This is the worst storm since Hurricane Opal came through in 1996, and it took six days to get power fully restored for that one," said Georgia Power spokeswoman Becky Blaylock. "If it keeps raining and it freezes again ... we could be looking at more people without power. We're in for a long haul."

Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes declared a state of emergency Sunday for 20 northern counties, and the Red Cross opened eight shelters around the state for people who had no heat.

Snow and freezing rain also fell in other parts of the southern Appalachians, and locally heavy rain fell across coastal areas of Georgia and the Carolinas as the storm pushed eastward and out to sea. Up to 3 inches of snow fell in North Carolina.

The rain had been forecast to end late Saturday in Georgia but was still falling Sunday afternoon. Temperatures in the Atlanta area didn't warm above freezing until the middle of the day.

Ice accumulated a half-inch thick on trees in parts of northern Georgia, and

the weight of the ice on power lines pulled down utility poles.

More than 340,000 home and business customers of Georgia Power lost service statewide, 290,000 of them in the metropolitan Atlanta area, Ms. Blaylock said. At least 175,000 customers of electric membership corporations also were blacked out.

Hundreds of utility repair crews were put to work in Georgia.

Georgia Power, which serves 1.8 million customers, restored service to about 140,000 homes and businesses early Sunday evening, said company spokeswoman Lisa Frederick.

"It's just the sheer volume and massive nature of the problem that makes us go from one spot to the next to the next. We fix one, and another tree

breaks, and causes another outage," said Pat Kerley of the Jackson Electric Membership Corp.

North Carolina's major utilities reported approximately 20,000 customers without electricity Sunday after parts of that state got a mixture of sleet, rain and snow. However, Carolina Power & Light spokeswoman Sally Ramey said not all of the outages could be blamed on the weather.

Fallen branches and power lines closed about 20 roads in northern Georgia, transportation department spokeswoman Vicki Gavalas said.

"If my neighborhood is any indication, they're snapping like matchsticks," she said.

Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport remained open, but many

flights were delayed or canceled as crews tried to de-ice the planes.

Late Saturday, a U.S. Airways jet that had landed at North Carolina's Charlotte-Douglas International Airport slid onto a grassy area as it turned onto a taxiway. No injuries were reported.

In central Tennessee, where 3.5 inches of snow fell Saturday, a de-icing truck nicked the wing of a Northwest Airlines DC-9 at Nashville International Airport. No one was injured, said Northwest spokeswoman Mary Beth Schubert.

Parts of South Carolina got up to 6 inches of snow late Saturday, and traffic on parts of Interstate 85 came to a standstill in several spots because of slippery pavement and accidents.

## Grandmothers hope to see Elian before leaving

NEW YORK (AP) — The grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez said today they are hopeful that a meeting can be arranged, allowing them to see their grandson before they return to Cuba.

The boy's maternal grandmother, Raquel Rodriguez, and paternal grandmother, Mariela Quintana, said in an interview on the "Today" show that they asked Attorney General Janet Reno to arrange a meeting. They said they were waiting for her answer.

Pressed on what Reno told them, Mrs. Quintana replied, "She said she'll try and see."

Elian, 6, was rescued from an inner tube on Thanksgiving Day after the boat in which he had left Cuba capsized. His mother, her boyfriend and nine others perished. Since then the boy has been at the center of a political storm.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has ordered the boy returned to Cuba. His great-uncle has filed suit to stop the INS, and lawmakers in Congress plan an

attempt this week to declare Elian a U.S. citizen. If such legislation becomes law, the boy no longer would be under INS jurisdiction.

Ms. Rodriguez asked members of Congress not to give the boy U.S. citizenship and to let him return to Cuba.

"It will be more painful if he gets the citizenship," she said, speaking in Spanish through an interpreter. "I'm asking the Congress people and people of the United States that have supported us to stop all this. Please, don't make us suffer any longer."

Although they said they have not spoken to the boy in five days, Mrs. Quintana said the child told her over the telephone that "he's crazy to go back to Cuba."

"He misses everything there. His school, his classmates, everybody — his father's love. To be able to hug and kiss his father. He tells us every day," she said.

Ms. Rodriguez denied that her daughter wanted to come to the United States and have Elian

live here. She said she was pressured to get on the raft by her boyfriend, "a very violent person."

The grandmothers attended a prayer service at Riverside Church on Sunday where they wiped away tears and blew kisses to the 2,000 worshippers who gathered to pray for the boy's return to Cuba. They were given a standing ovation at the service but did not speak.

The two women arrived in New York on Friday and met with the attorney general in Washington on Saturday. They were scheduled to leave New York today, said Randy Naylor, a spokesman for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. said. The church group sponsored their trip.

Asked Sunday about their itinerary, Naylor said: "They have no itinerary." Today, a message on the church group's answering machine said, the grandmothers "continue to hope to see their grandson before their expected return home to Cuba later today."

In Miami Sunday, Cuban-

Americans who support having the boy returned to their father urged peaceful protests.

Rosa Garmendia said people like her are not in the minority.

"If you look around the country and in Miami, most Cuban-Americans are against the embargo, and they are for this kid being with his father, but there's no voice, and nobody who speaks out," Garmendia said.

Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush, speaking on ABC's "This Week" Sunday, said granting Elian citizenship "would be a wonderful gesture."

He added that the boy's father, who is in Cuba, should come to the United States.

"A couple of weeks I would think would be reasonable so that the man could get a taste of freedom, so the man could understand the same emotions and the same sentiment that evidently the boy's mother felt," Bush said. "I mean, the mother was trying to escape to freedom."

## TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE — Rejected by his wife and the Jehovah's Witnesses who had been his only friends since adolescence, Billy George Hughes Jr. headed out on the roads of the South to find himself in early 1976.

Three months and a string of petty larcenies later, Hughes found himself driving along Interstate 10 near Sealy in a 1975 Ford LTD that was months overdue at the rental agency. He had a stolen credit card, a pistol and police lights in his rearview mirror.

Nearly a quarter-century and two capital murder trials later, Hughes is to be executed tonight for fatally shooting Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Mark A. Frederick on April 4, 1976.

Frederick and his rookie partner had pulled Hughes over, believing correctly that he matched the description of a man who tried to use a stolen credit card at a Houston-area hotel earlier that night.

Hughes, 47 and fourth in seniority among Texas' 458 death row convicts, claims he was reaching for his wallet when the officers shot at him without provocation.

AMARILLO — After spending three days in Northwest Texas Hospital's coronary care unit, Dallas City Councilman Al Lipscomb says he is "definitely" ready for his federal trial to resume.

Closing arguments and jury deliberations tentatively are set for Tuesday. Lipscomb is charged with 65 counts of bribery and conspiracy.

The 74-year-old civil rights leader suffered shortness of breath and heart palpitations Friday, moments before closing arguments were to begin. Paramedics took him on a stretcher from the J. Marvin Jones Federal Building and Courthouse.

Judge Joe Kendall expects a progress report on Lipscomb from defense attorneys sometime today.

As Lipscomb left the hospital shortly after 7 p.m. Sunday, he hugged his nurse and thanked her for "everything. You saved my life."

SAN ANTONIO — One Amarillo businessman wants to see South Texans drinking groundwater piped more than 600 miles from the Panhandle to the area's driest cities.

T. Boone Pickens sent a letter to the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group on Jan. 4 proposing to send 200,000 acre-feet of water a year, enough for about 400,000 households, from the Panhandle's Roberts County.

"We just added it to our list of new items to be considered," Evelyn Bonavita, chairwoman of the water planning group, said of Pickens' plan.

"It's just one of more than 55 options we are looking at. I'm not ruling it out, and I'm not ruling it in," Ms. Bonavita told the San Antonio Express-News.

Last week, reports surfaced that Pickens had quietly acquired the water rights to tens of thousands of acres in the Panhandle, including his own 24,000-acre ranch.

DALLAS — Police said they are awaiting forensic evidence in the death of an infant who was found lifeless on the ground outside the door of his parent's North Dallas apartment.

More than six weeks have passed since the 24-year-old mother told police that someone broke into her apartment and killed her newborn on Dec. 8.

But police said they are awaiting results on tests on evidence collected from the apartment before they proceed in the investigation, said Sgt. Fred Rich, a child-abuse unit supervisor. He also tells The Dallas Morning News that, "At this stage, everybody is a suspect and we can't rule out anybody."

Detectives also want to clear up apparent discrepancies in accounts given by the baby's mother and father about what happened the night of the child's death. Police said they plan to re-interview the couple but have not had the opportunity.

The couple, who have retained an attorney, could not be reached to comment.

## Candidates round up final votes in Iowa, look ahead

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — On the eve of Iowa's caucuses, Republican and Democratic presidential candidates canvassed churches and national talk shows Sunday, scouring this snow-crusted state for last-minute support even as they began looking ahead to contests in New Hampshire and beyond.

"This is the first step in several steps of the journey," Bill Bradley, the former New Jersey senator who trails Vice President Al Gore in Democratic polls, said on CBS.

Entering the first election contest of Campaign 2000, Republican George W. Bush and Gore held wide leads in polls of voters who planned to visit schools, civic clubs, fire stations and other sites today to support one of eight major contestants.

The underdog candidates, all resigned to losing, were shooting for face-saving finishes and Iowa's true reward: Momentum for New Hampshire's Feb. 1 primary.

"This is a marathon, not a sprint," said Republican Steve Forbes on NBC's "Meet the

Press."

The footrace in Iowa, a test of political organization, favors the national front-runners. A Des Moines Sunday Register poll of 1,200 likely caucus-goers showed Gore leading Bradley among Democrats 56 percent to 28 percent. Bush led Forbes 43 percent to 20 percent in the Jan. 16-21 survey, which had an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Bradley is in danger of finishing worse than expected in a contest that traditionally punishes candidates who fail to meet expectations.

His latest poll rating was beneath the intentionally-low threshold his advisers set as a measure of accomplishment: The 31 percent showing by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., in a second-place finish behind then-President Jimmy Carter in the 1980 caucuses.

With the rest of the GOP field in single digits, Forbes has long said he is the conservative alternative to Bush. The argument would carry greater weight if, after pouring millions of dollars into Iowa since his

failed 1996 bid, Forbes fares better than the new poll suggests — 23 points behind Bush.

The polls show that about one in 10 voters are undecided, giving the candidates incentive to campaign hard Sunday.

"The only thing I know to do is to encourage our folks to get out and vote. We need as big a vote as possible," Bush said between campaign stops.

In a lengthy interview with ABC, Bush struggled with his explanation for supporting a sales tax increase in Texas after making a no-tax pledge. The second-term governor said he had qualified the promise by also pledging to reform education funding in the state, an effort that led to the proposal.

Dismissing the issue, Bush said "There's pledges all the time" and reviewed a record as governor that included two major tax cuts.

He also continued to flesh out his views on abortion, a critical issue to many GOP caucus-goers. Asked about the topic for the fourth day, he predicted that Texas would outlaw first-trimester abortions if the

Supreme Court reversed itself and let states impose strict anti-abortion laws — a position Bush says the court should take.

Maintaining a caucus tradition, several campaigns had supporters papering churches and their parking lots with leaflets. Religious conservatives represent a third of likely caucus-goers and are more likely than most voters to attend the sessions.

Though Forbes is expected to get a lion's share of the conservative vote, former ambassador Alan Keyes, Washington activist Gary Bauer and Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah are carving up the religious base. Keyes, Bauer and Hatch are likely competing for third place; finishing lower could doom their candidacies.

As the candidates stumped, aides fine-tuned plans to get supporters to the caucus sites. Last-minute mailings criticized opponents and offered incentives to vote. A Bush flier included two "W" stickers for supporters to show unity at caucus sites.

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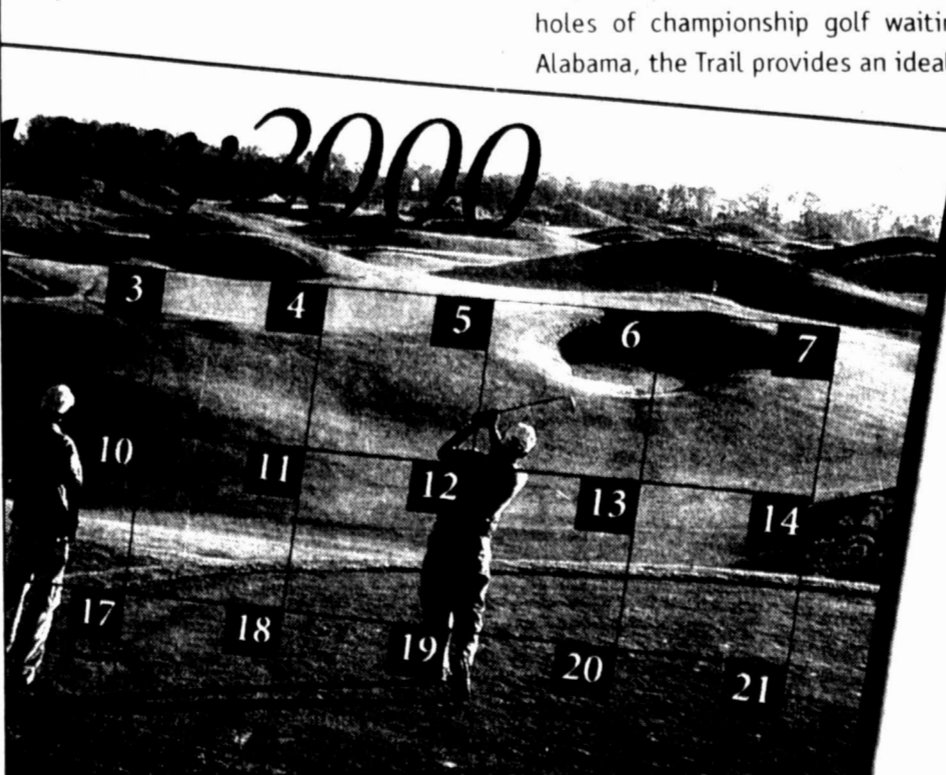
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# EDITORIAL

*"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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Editor  
**Debbie Jensen**  
Features Editor  
**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# It may be time to consider our water resources

You don't have to look hard to notice that Texas is in a drought. That lack of rainfall that has beset West Texas for several years now, is catching up to the rest of the state.

All across Texas, water is a big concern. In our area alone, Abilene, Colorado City, San Angelo, west Odessa and other folks have all tried to address the problem in some way. Most cities, in fact, and many out-of-city residents who rely on wells, are exploring their options.

Starting today, people in Dallas and 19 surrounding cities are being asked by Dallas Water Utilities to voluntarily conserve water.

At times like these, we are grateful for those in our community who had the foresight to help form the Colorado River Municipal Water District. Because of the CRMWD, we aren't in a position of having to worry that we will run out of water yet.

But that brings up an interesting question, and one we all need to consider. At what point do we start becoming concerned about our water usage? Doesn't it make sense that conservation of water is important for us as well?

We think so. Water is crucial to survival anywhere, and in parched West Texas, where rainfall is far too infrequent, it is a resource that is difficult to come by.

It may be time for us to consider what we can do here in Howard County to conserve water voluntarily, of course. For while we can be appreciative of the situation we have put ourselves in, all we need to do to be reminded of how things "could be" is to look at our neighboring communities.

Water is our most precious resource. We must not forget that.

## YOUR VIEWS

### TO THE EDITOR:

We wish to express to the community our appreciation for their support by visiting our third annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights.

We were delighted with the number of visitors passing through, which made it what we consider a great success. We estimated between 17,000-20,000 visitors during the period from Dec. 4-31.

We had visitors from all over Texas, seven countries and 25 states, namely Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and Wyoming. The seven countries were Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Canada, China, Germany and Japan.

The walking trail was really utilized this year by hundreds of visitors that were able to see our lighted archways on both bridges, plus other sculptures along the way.

Visitors expressed their delight of the beauty and expansion of the festival.

We hope with the help of lot more volunteers to expand even more. Money and manpower are the two necessary ingredients to making an event such as this a success. We need all kinds of volunteers, need men with pickups and trailers to transport all material from storage to park, and then back to storage when event is over.

Need marshals to walk the trail nightly, need troubleshooters nightly to check lights for blacked out areas. Need volunteers to serve on various committees, all ways

need a bank of names for greeting. So, if you enjoyed our lights this past year please consider helping us in December. Our thanks to the groups, organizations and individuals that volunteered as greeters.

Our grateful appreciation to those that donated time, material and finances this year: Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Dora Roberts Foundation, Higginbotham-Bartlett, Wal-Mart, Dale Worthan, the Jim Blacketer family, Ladd and Betty Smith, Juana Osborn, Elber Carby, Morrison Company, Choate Well Service, McMahon Concrete Co., Coca-Cola, and Lee's Rentals.

We had a week of entertainment by various groups, individuals and choirs and we extended our appreciation to the Big Spring High School Band Ensemble, Rhapsody Singers, Robert Pruitt, St. Thomas Catholic Church choir, and Rayburn and Gwen Tyler. If you missed hearing one of these volunteers, you missed a great opportunity of music and song.

Our thanks to the Wilderness Camp inmates, it would be almost impossible for us to have this even without them. Also, to Bobby McDonald, who stayed right with me through this whole process; he helped more than anyone knows. Thanks, little buddy. Thanks to my committee members for all your fine help.

Should you be interested in helping us in any area, please call 263-4607 and your name will be put on a list to contact. You might like to serve on a committee and we would be delighted to have all the help we can get. This is a big project and we need many volunteers.

PAT SIMMONS  
BIG SPRING

# The Writer's Art: Like coconuts and kings

Rita Kempley, a feature writer for The Washington Post, turned out a top-notch piece last month. She set out to interview actor Matt Damon, but he proved to be a tough subject. He measured his answers with salt spoons and turned aside every question about his love life. Kempley sighed: "He's about as easy to crack as a coconut."

Now there was a simile for you. It followed all the guidelines. It was compact. It relied upon a familiar object. It had a nice swing to it.

Let me cite another beauty. The novelist Tom Wolfe contributed an article to the Sunday New York Times Magazine about sculptor Frederick Hart.

After his phenomenal successes at Washington's National Cathedral and the Vietnam memorial, Hart moved to a mansion in Virginia's horse country. "He stocked the place with tweeds, twills, tack, and benchmade

boots; grew a beard like the king of diamonds; and rode to the hounds..."

It is a fair assumption that just about everyone has seen a standard pack of playing cards. Wolfe had looked intently at the honors cards. When he saw Frederick Hart a year ago, he saw a beard like the beard on the king of diamonds. This is how the good writers do it.

Wolfe had another neat simile in "A Man in Full," when he described Charlie Croker's appearance at a press conference after having a knee replacement. "He sat there panting and red in the face, with his bad leg, the right leg, stiff as a 'length of lumber.'"

Columnist Deroy Murdock wrote a column about the Republicans' feeble effort to pass a tax cut. After Labor Day, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott "folded like a beach chair." The GOP's bill would have reduced most income tax rates by only 1 percent over 10 years. "This plan is as bold as a mouse at a cat show."

Sportswriters have more opportunities for colorful writing than news reporters have. Paul Daugherty of The Cincinnati Enquirer wrote a delightful column last November, not about the doubtful pleasures of covering the Bengals, but about the real

pleasures of traveling with the team. In Seattle he slipped away for a drive up Queen Anne Hill. "Below, downtown Seattle seemed to levitate in a foggy shroud, its buildings like bumps in a linen tablecloth."

Tim Sullivan, one of Daugherty's stablemates at the Enquirer, hailed the election of Phil Niekro to baseball's Hall of Fame. The knuckleball artist kept pitching until he was 48, and four times led the National League in complete games and innings pitched. When he had the knuckler working, "the ball wobbled toward the strike zone like a drunken moth."

Mike Hambree, a sports-writer for The Greenville (S.C.) News, went to Talladega, Ala., in October to cover the Winston 500 Cup race. Driver Dale Earnhardt took the lead against a big field with four laps to go. "A parking lot of cars followed him to the finish, and positions changed like diapers in a crowded nursery."

Let me make one more bow to the scribes of sport: Thomas Boswell of The Washington Post ranks among the best in the country. He turns a phrase as if he were turning it on a lathe. Last September he derided most of the major league umpires for their bad calls and their image of arrogance, but he felt that individual umpires were not

entirely at fault. They were poorly led by their union president, Richie Phillips, "a man who would file a grievance against the sunrise and sue a rainbow over the size of the pot of gold."

Susan Paynter, a columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, contributed a thoughtful piece a year ago on a dustup that developed in Washington, D.C. The city's ombudsman, a white man, regretted that municipal appropriations were so "niggardly." The adjective was properly used (stingy, begrudging), but it provoked a storm. "Before firing off a word," said Paynter, "we should check to see if it's loaded." The city employee immediately explained and apologized for the misunderstanding, "but rumors spread like an oil spill." Nice. Very nice.

Jean Lemmon, editor in chief of Better Homes & Gardens, turned out a nice line this past June. "Before I knew it," she wrote, "summers whistled by like a fast train through a small town, and I'd missed them."

There you have it. You, too, can turn phrases and coin similes. Just look at parking lots and playing cards, and coconuts and knuckleballs, and store the images for the right time.



JAMES J. KILPATRICK



MARGULIES  
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# First census, next census not the same

Two hundred ten years ago on March 1, 1790, Congress passed the Census Act. It had little choice. The Constitution, ratified the previous year, required that an "enumeration (census) shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States and within every subsequent term of ten years..."

Whereas today the need for a census seems obvious, in 1790 it was initiated to determine the apportionment of representatives among the states. On the one hand, such head counting was deemed essential for a representative democracy, but on the other hand, only a minority of those people counted could participate in elections.

Excluded from balloting were women, children and slaves. Furthermore, each state could and did excluded many men for a variety of reasons. The census made for an equitable distribution of power by state, but clearly not by individual.

Northern pressure resulted in slaves being counted as three-fifths of a person, thereby skewing the population figures downward in the South. Though in 1790, slavery was prevalent in every state except Massachusetts.

With the end of the Civil War and passage of the 14th Amendment, freed slaves became whole in the eyes of the census takers, and this fact alone was responsible for population increases between 1860 and 1870, in a South whose population was dramatically reduced by war. Even so, the increases were small. Not so in the North. Only the rise of the West finally brought a balance to the old North-South antagonisms.

Today, dramatic shifts in population are once again changing the political picture, and this time the shift is entirely south of the Mason-Dixon line — assuming that line is extended to the Pacific Ocean. The two-decade span from 1970 to 1990 showed a net shift of 29 seats in the House of Representatives to the Sunbelt states, the loss coming primarily from the Northeast.

It was a significant shift in power, yet perhaps more important is the dominating potential of just one state: California. With 52 congressmen, this one mega-state has the same voting power as the 21 smallest states put together. What Founding Father anticipated this occurrence?

Now the 2000 Census is about to begin, and we may expect more of the same sort of population shifts.

The good news is that populations from states as diverse as California, Texas and Florida will have the net result of turning congressional thinking into a melting-pot mentality, and that has always been good for the nation.



JACK ANDERSON

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7 p.m. — Los Ar...  
at Utah Jazz, TBS...

### IN BRIEF

#### Softball boosters select officers for new season

The Big Spring Softball Boosters Club held an organizational meeting last week and selected new officers.

Woody Jumper will serve as the group's president, while Tim Cain is vice-president and Jerri Fulgham serves as secretary-treasurer.

Members also discussed the possibility of purchasing a pitching machine and wind screen.

The boosters meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

#### Coahoma powerlifters compete at Monahans

Four athletes from Coahoma managed placing finishes in their divisions at the Sandhills Powerlifting Meet in Monahans.

Roxanne Gomez finished third in her division with a total weight of 580 pounds.

Her showing, coupled with Fort Stockton's dominance in the girls' field allowed the Bulldogettes to finish second in the team standings.

The Bulldogs finished ninth in the boys' team standings behind the lead of J.C. Watts, who was third in the 165-pound class with total lifts of 980 pounds.

Danny Barbee finished fourth in the 148-pound class with lifts totaling 910 pounds, while Brandon Wyatt was fourth in the 181-pound class, his lifts totaling 920 pounds.

#### Boys basketball boosters set meeting for Friday

The Big Spring Boys Basketball Boosters Club has scheduled its next meeting for 5:15 p.m. Friday at Big Spring Junior High School.

Parents of all Big Spring High School boys' basketball players and others interested in the program are urged to attend.

#### Baseball boosters slate next meeting for Jan. 24

The Big Spring Steers Baseball Booster Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

Members will turn in completed ads for the program and outfield fence signs and plan their annual hot dog supper.

For more information, call Jim Clements at 267-1069 after 6 p.m.

#### National Little League meeting set for Feb. 3

The National Little League of Big Spring will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at Allan's Furniture.

Officers for the league will be elected during that meeting.

For more information, call Jim Wilson at 263-0062 or Jerry Baker at 263-3242.

### AREA GAMES

#### TODAY JUCO BASKETBALL

**6 p.m.**  
• Howard College Lady Hawks at Odessa College Lady Wranglers.  
**8 p.m.**  
• Howard College Hawks at Odessa College Wranglers.

### ON THE AIR

#### Radio JUCO BASKETBALL

**Women**  
**6 p.m.** — Howard College Lady Hawks at Odessa College Lady Wranglers, KBG-AM 1400.  
**Men**  
**8 p.m.** — Howard College Hawks at Odessa College Wranglers, KBST-AM 1490.

#### Television COLLEGE BASKETBALL

**Men**  
**6 p.m.** — Connecticut at Syracuse, ESPN, Ch. 30.  
**8 p.m.** — Colorado at Kansas, ESPN, Ch. 30.  
**11 p.m.** — Colorado State at Utah, ESPN, Ch. 30.  
**NBA**  
**7 p.m.** — Los Angeles Lakers at Utah Jazz, TBS, Ch. 11.

## Titans finally make good on 20-year-old promise

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Bum Phillips made the promise. Twenty seasons later, Jeff Fisher and Steve McNair finally fulfilled it.

It took three cities, two decades, one name change and enough failures to make even the most hardy fans cringe, but the Tennessee Titans finally "kicked the door in" to the Super Bowl.

Losing no more, the Titans defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars 33-14 in the AFC championship game Sunday to help owner Bud Adams become the last of the original eight AFL owners to make it to the NFL title game.

The Titans (16-3) will play the NFC champion St. Louis Rams next Sunday in a rematch of Tennessee's 24-21 victory on Oct. 31. The Rams are early 7-point favorites.

"I've prepared for a lot of things over

the years — I didn't prepare for this," Fisher said. "For 40 years, Mr. Adams has been trying to get there. Forty years. This is what it's all about."

Tennessee got there by forcing six turnovers from the Jaguars (15-3), who finished with the league's best regular-season record but also with one fatal flaw — their inability to beat the Titans in three meetings.

McNair was the centerpiece of the historic victory. Playing with a toe so sore it hurt to touch, he became a Super Bowl quarterback by scrambling, breaking tackles and running his way to 91 yards and two touchdowns.

He threw for another 112 yards and enters the Super Bowl feeling like the travails were worth it.

"Looking back, there are a lot of difficult things I've been through to make

this moment special," McNair said.

The same could be said for the franchise as a whole.

It was after the 1979 season that Phillips promised fans in Houston that next year, the Oilers would "kick the damn door in" after a pair of heart-breaking losses to the Pittsburgh Steelers in consecutive AFC title games.

Instead, there were 20 seasons of mediocrity and indifference. As attendance slipped in the aging AstroDome, Adams started looking for a new home.

He found it in 1997, but even that wasn't much of a move. Still playing as the Oilers, Adams' team suffered through a year in front of lukewarm fans in Memphis, then another in creaky Vanderbilt Stadium.

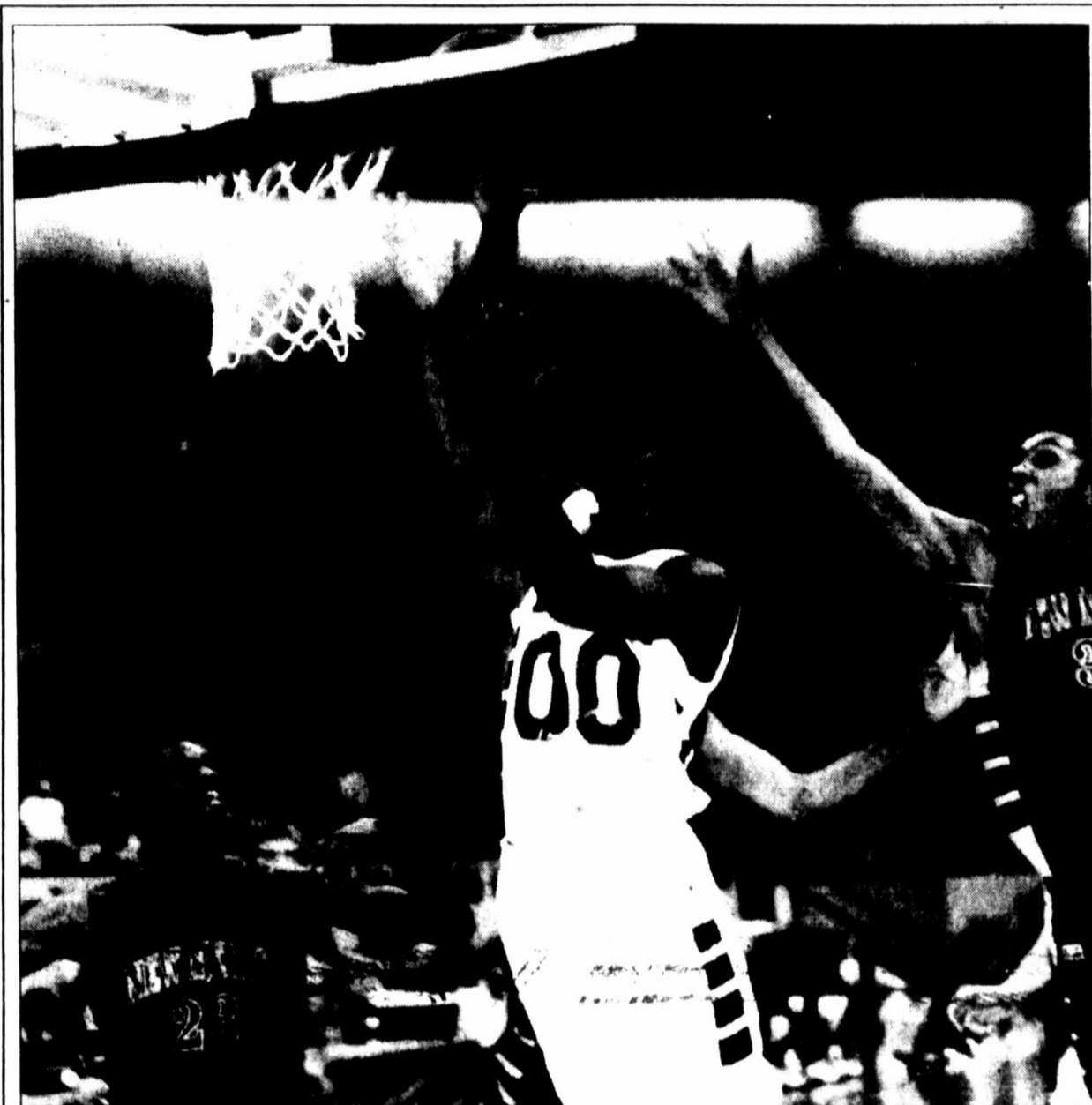
This season, the team got its own stadium, a new name and a new attitude to

go with it. The Titans finished second in the AFC Central to Jacksonville, but won three straight playoff games to become the sixth wild-card team to make the Super Bowl.

"It's about time," said Adams, 76. "I'm getting pretty old. I didn't want to go to the Super Bowl in a wheelchair."

The game was decided during a span of 4:28 in the third quarter in which the Titans turned a 14-10 deficit into a 26-14 lead.

The momentum-shifting play came when McNair broke the tackle of Jaguars linebacker Kevin Hardy to complete a 15-yard pass to Eddie George. A 15-yard penalty for roughing the passer got tacked on and two plays later, Jaguars cornerback Fernando Bryant got called for pass interference at the Jacksonville 6.



Howard College's Derrick Franklin (00) splits three New Mexico Junior College defenders to score two of his 14 points during the Hawks' 78-63 win over the Thunderbirds. Franklin and his teammates travel to Odessa tonight where they'll take on Odessa College's Wranglers. Action begins at 6 when the conference-leading Lady Hawks take on OC's Lady Wranglers.

## Cincinnati stays No. 1, Tar Heel streak ends

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati remained the runaway No. 1 in the AP poll today, while North Carolina's consecutive streak in the Top 25 — the second longest in college basketball history — ended.

The Bearcats (18-1), who easily beat Memphis and Marquette last week, were on top of the poll for the third straight week and eighth overall this season, receiving 66 of 70 first-place votes from a national media panel.

The Tar Heels (11-8), who lost to Virginia and Florida State last week to extend their losing streak to four games, dropped out of the rankings from No. 21. It is the first time since the pre-season poll of 1990-91, a stretch of 172 consecutive polls, that North Carolina was not ranked.

Last week's Top 25 put the Tar Heels second alone on the consecutive poll streak, one better than their own run from 1972-1982. The record is UCLA's 221 consecutive from 1966-1980.

Kentucky had a run of 164 consecutive polls ended last month. The longest current streak belongs to Arizona which has been in 83 straight. Stanford and Duke are tied for second at 66, runs that started with the pre-season poll of 1996-97.

Fourteen ranked teams lost a total of 17 games last week and that was reflected in only Cincinnati and No. 20 Vanderbilt having the same places as last week and three teams falling out of the Top 25.

Stanford (15-1), which was No. 1 for three weeks this season, received two first-place votes and moved up one spot to No. 2.

Duke, which has won 15 straight after opening the season with two losses, jumped from fifth to No. 3 after setting the Atlantic Coast Conference record with 28 consecutive regular-season victories.

Syracuse (15-0), the lone unbeaten team in Division I, moved from sixth to No. 4. Arizona (16-3), which followed a win at UCLA with a loss at Southern California, dropped from second to fifth. Both Syracuse and Arizona received a first-place vote.

Connecticut, the pre-season No. 1, moved up two spots to sixth and was followed by Auburn, Ohio State, Michigan State and Florida.

Tennessee led the Second Ten and was followed by Kansas, Tulsa, Indiana, Oklahoma State, Kentucky, Texas, Oklahoma, Utah and Vanderbilt.

## Unbeaten teams tumble in Big 12 men's basketball chase

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

On an unkind weekend for favorites, leaving home with a perfect conference record turned out to be a bad idea in the Big 12.

Hot shooters and hostile, fired-up crowds left Iowa State, No. 12 Oklahoma State and No. 8 Kansas all feeling victimized on Saturday.

Iowa State saw its school-record winning streak die a hard death just short of 14, losing to No. 17 Oklahoma 80-75 in double overtime in Norman.

At Texas A&M, the Aggies beat a ranked opponent for the first time since 1987 by topping Oklahoma State 64-59.

At Missouri, the Jayhawks were not merely beaten. They were routed by the Tigers 81-59. It was Kansas' worst defeat since 1990.

Elsewhere in a full slate of Big 12 games on Saturday, Nebraska beat Baylor 69-55, Colorado downed fading Kansas State 78-70 and No. 14 Texas beat Texas Tech 72-59 and became the Big 12's only road team to go home a winner on

the day.

At the end of the day, Iowa State, Kansas and Texas all shared the best conference record at 4-1.

Oklahoma State, which started four seniors against Texas A&M's four freshmen, is 3-1. Several of the 5,563 fans at Reed Arena stomped over the press table to celebrate with A&M players.

The last time A&M defeated a ranked team was a victory over No. 15 TCU in the first round of the 1987 Southwest Conference Tournament. It was probably their biggest win since upsetting fifth-ranked Texas in 1982.

"That shouldn't happen to us," said Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton. "But that's what makes basketball a great game. Those young players, they are going to continue to get better. They are going to have off days, too. Today they played very well."

Freshman Bernard King led the charge with 17 points and nine rebounds. Fellow rookie Jamaal Gilchrist added 12 points and seven assists as Texas A&M played their fourth ranked opponent in five games.

"It's been brutal," said coach Melvin Watkins. "But also I think we've grown up some."

Clarence Gilbert, the Big 12's hottest shooter of late, scored 27 points for Missouri before leaving with an ankle injury with about 6 minutes to go.

Kansas has lost the last four times it brought a top-10 team into the Hearnest Center.

Gilbert hit 7 of 10 3-pointers and enjoyed rubbing it in as Kansas' 3-point specialists Luke Axtell and Jeff Boschee retreated to their lockerroom.

Kansas' Kenny Gregory, who led the Jayhawks with 15 points, questioned his team's toughness and heart.

"It's not about talent," Gregory said. "It's about who wants it more and who wants to play the hardest."

Eduardo Najera scored seven of his 25 points in overtime for Oklahoma as Iowa State's winning streak ended after 13 games.

The Cyclones outscored Oklahoma 21-7 in the final 6 minutes of regulation to force the overtime. Marcus Fizer, who came into the game leading the Big 12 in

scoring, had 20 points but did not score in the overtime.

"We had our chances and didn't capitalize on them," Iowa State coach Larry Eustachy said. "I thought our team really made some great plays down the stretch to even make it a game."

Kimani Ffriend had 21 points and 19 rebounds to lead Nebraska past Baylor, which along with Texas Tech is winless in conference play. It was the fourth time this season and the third straight outing Ffriend has been in double figures with points and rebounds.

Kansas State squandered several opportunities before losing its fourth in a row. Guard Jaquay Walls had 32 points for Colorado, which outscored the Wildcats by 19 points at the line.

"This game was totally decided at the foul line," said Kansas State coach Tom Asbury. "We put them on the foul line and we didn't go to the foul line."

At Lubbock, Chris Mihm had 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead Texas past Texas Tech. The Red Raiders, with 6-foot-10 Andy Ellis out with a shoulder injury, had only three players taller than 6-7.

## St. Louis offense finds just enough to win NFC title

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Maybe nobody can shut down the St. Louis Rams for a full game.

The NFL's most dynamic offense was dead in the water Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' dominating defense. No big plays were to be had for 55 minutes.

But this is a team of unshakable faith and unbending resolution. And they found a way: Kurt Warner's 30-yard strike to a leaping Ricky Proehl down the left sideline for an 11-6 victory in the NFC championship game.

"He is the long-lost receiver," NFL MVP Warner said of the man whose catch lifted St. Louis (15-3) into the Super Bowl against Tennessee. "We've got so much talent that he becomes a situation guy. But we know we can count on him when the chips are down."

Rarely were the chips down like this in the Rams' magical season. Their Midwest Express offense, which led the league with 526 points (third most in league history), had sputtered, particularly when near the end zone. Warner, whose 41 touchdown passes placed him with Dan Marino as the only quarterbacks to surpass 40 in a season, was picked off three times. He was hurried, harried and hunting for just the right connection.

"We just didn't finish drives," Warner said.

They finished this one, started when Bucs rookie Shaun King was picked off by another rookie, Dre' Bly, at midfield. Proehl sped down the sideline and made the biggest catch of his 10-year career.

"I'm the guy they're always trying to get rid of," said Proehl, who made six receptions for 100 yards and his first TD of the season. "I'm the guy they are always trying to replace. You know, 'There's 100 Ricky Proehls out there.' I beg to differ."

The Bucs (12-6) probably do, as well. While they were putting the clamps on stars Warner, Marshall Faulk — the Offensive Player of the Year with a record 2,429 total yards who gained only 44 yards rushing and 5 yards receiving — and

Isaac Bruce with their quick, physical defense, they couldn't stop Proehl or rookie Torry Holt (seven receptions, 68 yards).

And they couldn't get into the end zone, managing only Martin Gramatica's field goals of 25 and 23 yards.

Still, it appeared to be enough, thanks to the monstrous defensive effort.

"We brought them into our zone, we brought them into our misery," said Warren Sapp, the Defensive Player of the Year, "and we had them down 6-5 and just kept battling ... and it came down to one play."

That one play got the Rams into their second Super Bowl; they beat Tampa Bay 9-0 20 years ago for the NFC crown, then fell to Pittsburgh for the NFL title. The Bucs have never reached the Super Bowl.

"We always felt like we had the capability to shut this offense down," Sapp added. "We had plenty of opportunities to put this ballclub away."

But the Bucs don't have the same killer instinct on offense as they do defensively. Even when they staged a last-ditch drive, King took two of his five sacks before misfiring on his final three passes — including one that was ruled incomplete after a replay review.

Plus, the Rams got a strong effort from their unheralded defense, which yielded only 203 yards and picked up a safety when Pro Bowl center Tony Mayberry's snap to King in a shotgun sailed high. King scrambled back to knock it out of the end zone.

"Nobody gives our defense the credit," Faulk said. "Coming into this game, they were all taking about the Tampa Bay defense. Our defense held every time."

The offense, which also got Jeff Wilkins' 24-yard field goal, will need a better performance in Atlanta next Sunday. The Titans handed the Rams their first loss of the season, 24-21 in Nashville, in Game 7. Tennessee won the AFC crown in Jacksonville 33-14, but opened as 8-point underdogs.

"We know we're in for just as tough a game against the

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SPRING CITY ROOFING Johnny Flores Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All types of repairs. Work guaranteed!! Free Estimates 267-1110

### SEPTIC REPAIR/INSTALLATION

B&R SEPTIC Septic Tanks, Grease, Rent-a-Potty. 267-3547 or 393-5439.

### SKIN CARE

MI CARA SKIN CARE Facial Treatment Green peel-NO ACID Waxing lips, legs, etc Permanent Make up By Appointment only 263-6603 1808 Scurry

### TREE TRIMMING

LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe 915-267-8317

### WATERCRAFT

Experienced Tree Pruning and Removal. FREE ESTIMATES! Call 263-0260

### WATERCRAFT

Tree Trimming Rototilling Hydromulching Fescue Grass LEE LANDSCAPING 263-5638

### WEST CENTERS

WEST CENTERS now full-time and part-time Direct Care Staff. School Diploma required. Full time \$517.85 b/wkly (\$ annually), exc. benefits, part time \$6.47 per Applications me obtained at 409 R.E.O.E.

### DOMINO'S PIZZA

Part time drivers inside help needed in person at: 2202 G Drivers - Flatbed We Pay For Experience! • \$1,000 SIGN BONUS! • Quality Home Tirm • Late Model Equip CDL-A 3 mo's O ECK 1 800-611-6636 www.eckmiller.cc Sunday Recruiter

### CONSERVATION CAREERS

Forest Rangers • Game Warden maintenance, etc. N necessary. Now hire info call 1-800-280- ext. 9463 8am-10p days www.cnjobhelp.c

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST TEXAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

BIG SPRING, TEXAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING EXISTS FOR A HEAD NURSE IN OR/PACU AT THE BIG SPRING, TEXAS FACILITY. PROVIDES FIRST LINE SUPERVISION OF THE NURSING STAFF ASSIGNED TO THOSE AREAS. ASSISTS WITH ALL COMPONENTS OF PERI-OPERATIVE CARE IN SURGICAL AND/OR DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES. EXCELLENT FEDERAL BENEFIT PACKAGE INCLUDING NEGOTIABLE SALARY, VACATION AND SICK LEAVE, FAMILY LEAVE, RETIREMENT HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE, UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, ADDITIONAL PAY FOR SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION. PHONE OR WRITE: WALTER A. DICKERSON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE (05) WEST TEXAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM 300 VETERANS BLVD. BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720 (915) 264-4828 1-800-472-1365 EXT. 7015

### Career Opportunity

Are you interested in changing careers? Established growing company looking for enthusiastic, energetic candidate to manage impeccably maintained retirement community for active senior adults. No experience necessary-background in property management helpful. Candidate must possess the following qualifications: enjoy senior adults, ability to provide leadership to 25 team members, computer skills helpful, high energy and positive attitude. Competitive salary with great benefits: health insurance, flexible spending option, profit sharing and 401(k), vacation and holidays. Career opportunity is located in Big Spring, Texas. Fax resume to Tim Tallman at (281) 648-5367.

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### WESTERN CONTAINER CORPORATION

Western Container Corporation is looking for career-minded professional individuals to fill our entry level positions. The successful candidate will have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED, no criminal history in the past five years, and a solid work or school history. Most importantly, these individuals must have a can-do attitude and work well in an environment of respect and dignity. The entry level positions are on nights where we routinely work 12 hour shifts for a minimum of 36 hours per week. Pay begins at \$9.00/hr with a \$.50/hr shift differential. Advancement to \$12.00/hr. is available. If you are interested in hearing more about our company and placing an application, please come to HANGAR 25, 1911 Apron Drive in the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark, entrance door is on the FRONT street side on: THURSDAY, JAN 27, 5:30 P.M. Serious Applicants: Please bring a copy of your High School diploma or GED and two letters of reference. We will not be able to accept applications without those requirements.

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MONDAY

JAN. 24

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their programming for Monday, Jan 24. Columns include KMID, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, USA, SCIFI, LIFE, TLC, and Learning Ch.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



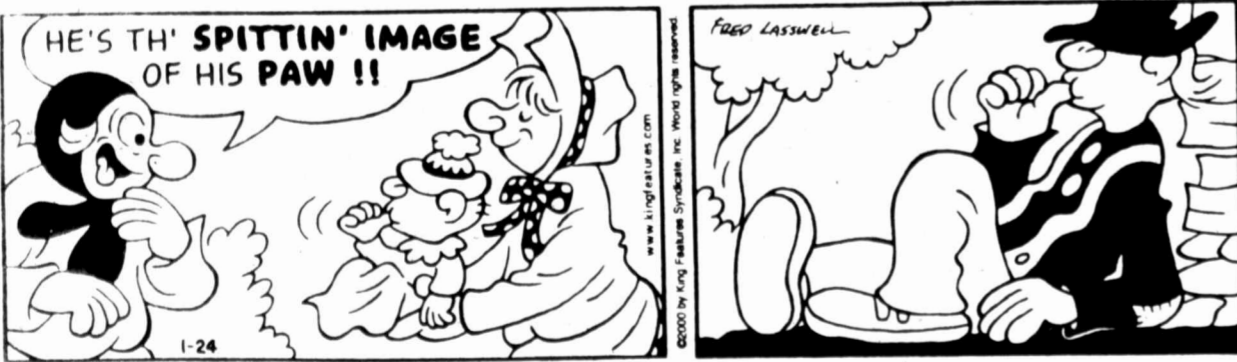
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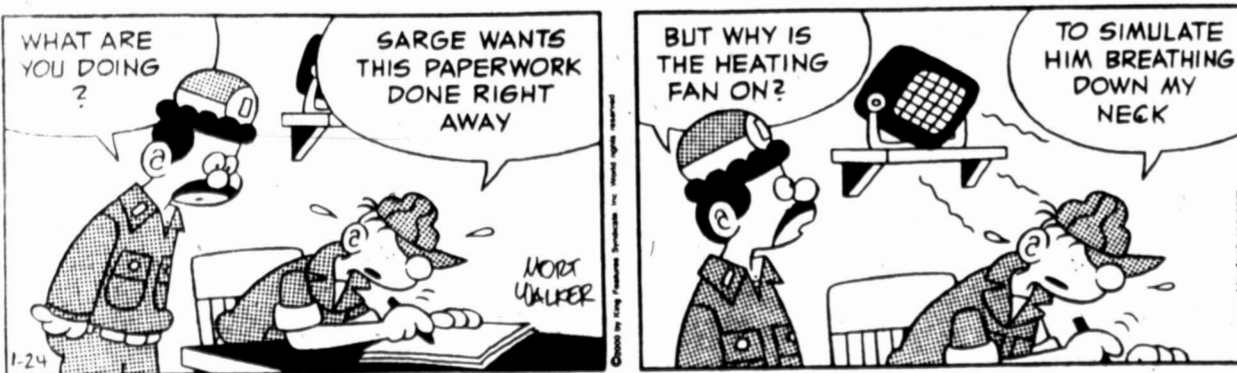
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY

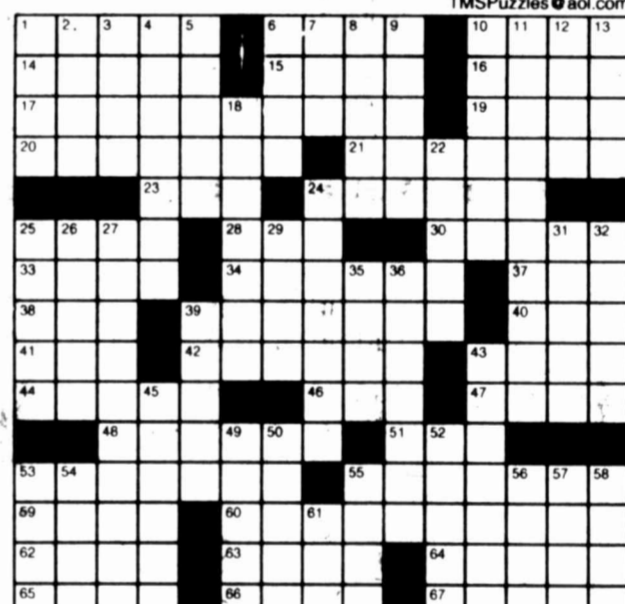


THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2000. There are 342 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Salon treatments, for short 6 Bridge hand 10 Fundamentals 14 One more time 15 Talon 16 Pit-bull biter 17 Pat Sajak's cohort 19 Support bar 20 Canadian province 21 Item 23 Aft. 24 Empty cases 25 Contend successfully 28 Easter item 30 Abrasive tools 33 Module 34 Container with a spout 37 Attila, e.g. 38 Q-U connection 39 Overly nosy 40 Samuel's mentor 41 Part of a min. 42 Be present at 43 Property record 44 "Frome" 46 Glide on snow 47 Church section 48 Mel of the NFL Hall of Fame 51 Howl 53 Greek 55 Voted in 59 Jai 60 Creamy liquid 62 Portion of humanity 63 "The Ring of the Nibelung" character 64 Acrylic fiber 65 Wapitis 66 Performing couples 67 Hammer heads



By Stanley B. Whitten, Highland, IL

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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- DOWN 1 Peacock constellation 2 Alaska's first governor 3 Declaim loudly 4 Islamic tower 5 Type of drum 6 Reverberate 7 Boxing great 8 Beelzebub 9 Pipsqueak 10 Second-largest continent 11 Family outcast 12 Provide with a roof 13 Bargain basement event 18 Surfboard mishap 22 Small mountain lakes 24 Most unsightly 25 Blasphemy 26 Opening 27 Extremely dark 29 Encircle 31 Whippers 32 Maliciously derogatory 35 Hit on the head 36 Out loud 39 Slender boat with pointed ends 43 Toddler minding 45 Brothers in arms 49 Single 50 Former Indian leader 52 Fabler of yore 53 Fabled loser 54 Airline to Tel Aviv 55 Greek letters 56 Bulrush 57 Bus. sch. subj. 58 Hibernation chambers 61 Maiden's last words?

Big Spring Herald advertisement. Reflecting a Proud Texas Community. 915-263-7331 (Main Switchboard) 915-263-7335 (Circulation Calls Only) (Fax) 915-264-7205. Staff list: Chuck Williams, John H. Walker, Edwin Vela, Mark Shedy, Tony Hernandez, Dianne Marquez, Publisher, Managing Editor, Advertising Sales Manager, Circulation Manager, Production Manager, Business Office Manager. Office Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, Texas Press Association and Southern Newspaper Publishers Association. Published afternoons Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Christmas day. All materials copyrighted. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-68.

California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1924, the Russian city of St. Petersburg was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. It has since been renamed St. Petersburg.

In 1942, a special court of inquiry into America's lack of preparedness for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor placed much of the blame on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

In 1943, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1965, Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1972, the Supreme Court struck down laws that denied welfare benefits to people who had lived in a state for less than a year.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was put to death in Florida's electric chair.

In 1993, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall died in Bethesda, Md., at age 84.

Ten years ago: The House voted 390-25 to override President Bush's veto of legislation protecting Chinese students from deportation. Bush prevailed in a Senate vote the next day.

Five years ago: President Clinton appealed for common ground as he delivered his second State of the Union address, this time before a Republican-led Congress. The prosecution gave its opening statement at the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

One year ago: House prosecutors interviewed Monica Lewinsky, a move that triggered fresh partisan convulsions in President Clinton's impeachment trial. Olympic leaders recommended the expulsion of six International Olympic Committee members in response to allegations of payoffs by host cities in their successful bids for the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney and 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ernest Borgnine is 83. Evangelist Oral Roberts is 82. Actor Marvin Kaplan ("Top Cat") is 73. Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 64. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 61. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 59. Singer Aaron Neville is 59. Actor Michael Ontkean is 54.