

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY

December 4, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:

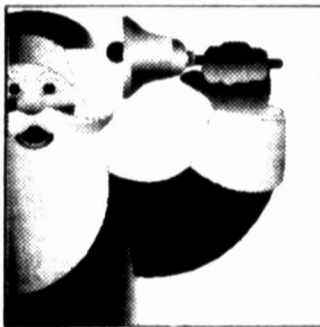


CLOUDY

TONIGHT TUESDAY
27°-30° 54°-57°

HELPING OTHERS:

Each day through the holiday season, the Herald will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate, including the Salvation Army Angel Trees and Salvation Army Kettles. If your organization has an established program to help others and would like to be included in this list, call Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.



Angel Tree locations:

- Big Spring Herald (seniors)
- Gale's Sweet Shop
- Big Spring Mall
- Wal-Mart
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center
- Community Care Hospice

Salvation Army Kettles:

- Big Spring Post Office
- Wal-Mart
- Big Spring Mall

Giving Tree

- Wells Fargo

Coats For Kids

- Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
- Big Spring Herald

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24 shopping days 'til Christmas

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High court rules in favor of Bush; state case pending

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court today set aside the Florida Supreme Court decision that had let hand-counted ballots narrow George W. Bush's lead over Al Gore. The unsigned decision sets aside the Florida rulings and means Bush's lead stands while the vice president pursues more votes in a state court contest he hopes will put him over the top.

"After reviewing the opinion of the Florida Supreme Court, we find that there is considerable uncertainty as to the precise grounds for the decision," the court wrote. Bush lawyer Fred H. Bartlit said he had not yet seen the ruling but was familiar with it. "Apparently what they said as near as we can make out is that they can't figure out what the Florida Supreme

Court based its decision on, whether Constitutional grounds or Florida state laws." The court held a dramatic argument session Friday after agreeing a week earlier to hear Bush's appeal of the Florida court ruling, which extended the deadline for reporting recount results from Nov. 14 to Nov. 26. The justices had appeared deeply divided over whether

there were grounds to overrule the state court. Bush's lawyer, Theodore Olson, argued that the Florida Supreme Court's decision to allow the extended recount "overturned the carefully enacted plan" by state legislators for resolving election disputes. He contended the state court violated the Constitution and an 1887 federal law that makes states' choice of presidential

electors binding on Congress as long as disputes were resolved under laws enacted before the election. Gore lawyer Laurence Tribe said the recount process merely was "like looking more closely at the film of a photo finish. It's nothing extraordinary." He added, "Why tell people the count if you won't count it?" Gore's advisers were

See **ELECTION**, Page 2

Retirees enjoy being able to volunteer

Editor's Note: The following article is one in a series on volunteerism in the Crossroads Area.

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Retired Volunteer Service Program (RSVP) council members Ray Stukel and J.L. Stevens use their talents to help others in their community.

Stukel and Stevens are volunteers with the Numbers Up Project, making sure the elderly have reflective house numbers that can be seen by emergency response personnel.

Originally meant as a project for Make A Difference Day held in October, the project has become an on-going endeavor and includes not only Big Spring but the surrounding communities.

"The volunteers installing numbers on the north side worked themselves to death one day putting up numbers," Stukel said. "That afternoon it snowed."

Stukel, a handyman, and Stevens, a retired carpenter, were naturally enlisted in the project.

"It's a need," Stukel said. "I enjoy doing things that help people."

"This is something we know how to do, and we have the tools to do it,"



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

J.L. Stevens, president-elect of the Retired Volunteer Senior Program council, and Ray Stukel, council member, handle a demonstration house number for Number's Up project. Stevens, a retired carpenter, and Stukel, a handyman, use their talents to help people in the community.

Stevens said.

Stukel and Stevens help to make the signs and install the numbers on the houses. If there is a problem of where to install the numbers, they figure out a way. RSVP is still taking applications from those who would like to have reflective numbers posted on their home, the men said.

Although RSVP has used its original funding for the project, the organization

has dedicated more funds to continue making sure the elderly have visible house numbers.

Stukel and Stevens encourage anyone to volunteer and use their talents to help the community.

"Personal satisfaction is the bottom line," Stukel said. "If you have a talent and you're sitting at home not using your talent, shame on you. The Lord gives us all gifts and it is shame not to use them."

Both Stukel and Stevens plans to keep using their gifts to help the community.

"I hope I am volunteering when I am 100," Stevens said.

"I am going to volunteer as long as a can," added Stukel. Anyone who would like to donate to the project or is interested in volunteering should call Nancy Jones, RSVP project director, at 264-2397.

Howard College presents 'Blues Jam 2' Tuesday

By **MARSHA JONES**
Herald Correspondent

Howard College will present "Blues Jam 2 — An Evening With the Blues," Tuesday in the Student Union Building's Fireplace Room. It is one of several events planned on campus as the semester winds to a close.

The 8 p.m. event will feature traditional and new blues music performed by Howard College students. It is open to the public and

there is no admission fee.

The 2nd annual Luminaria, always a treat for community residents as well as Howard College students, will be Thursday at 7 p.m. This year a traditional posada will also be a part of the festivities, with caroling, hot chocolate and Santa Claus. This event begins at the Student Union Building.

The Next Generation Day on Dec. 15 will find eighth-grade students from area junior highs on the community college campus.

Next Generation Day

brings eight graders together to attend break-out sessions highlighting several different career options such as law enforcement, nursing and computer network technology. Guest speakers from around the area will present their profession to the students, following motivational speaker Jason Dorsey.

Dorsey, a known speaker for public school, began his career as a teen-ager and speaks to students with their experiences in mind. The campus will be closed

Dec. 15, as all employees come together to make Next Generation Day a success, said Javier Flores, assistant dean of student services.

Off campus Howard College also plays a role in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," on Dec. 14-16. Directed by college theater instructor Clay Grizzle, this year's performance is scheduled at the Municipal Auditorium.

The community theater production will feature the

See **COLLEGE**, Page 2

Mitchell County Hospital bid process about to start

By **CARL GRAHAM**
Staff Writer

COLORADO CITY — After more than a year of consideration and planning plus a vigorous bond election, a final hurdle of seeking bids for construction of the new Mitchell County Hospital is in the works.

Bids will be advertised for on Dec. 27 and Jan. 10 and received by Jan. 25. After that time, the hospital board will award a bid to a general contractor for construction to begin around mid February.

Among qualifications set by the board were that bidders must have been in the business for at least five years, have built at least 10 projects that required Texas Department of Health licensing, have done at least

\$25 million a year in business for each of the past three years and have the ability to be 100 percent bonded.

According to architect Robert Cox of Austin, the project — which will include the hospital, inpatient wing and other features — should be completed by the end of 2001 or early 2002.

"This is a big project," said Cox. "It's a fairly complicated one as well and one of the important aspects is that the bidders get complete information on the project."

According to Cox, only about three or four "free-standing" new hospitals are built each year, making the project a highly desirable

See **HOSPITAL**, Page 2

Nuts

Entries due Tuesday for annual pecan food show

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Entries for the Howard County Pecan Food Show are due in at the county courthouse Tuesday morning, extension agent Dana Tarter noted.

"It's a fun event to go with the pecan show. The pecan show helps to showcase that industry in Howard County," said Tarter. "We'd encourage anyone who would like to enter the food show to bring their baked goods up between 8 and 10 in the morning."

Categories are cakes, pies, breads, candies and cookies. There are two divisions: adult and youth. Entry is open to any Howard County resident.

"I'm expecting 20 or 25 entries," said Tarter. "Pecans have to be an ingredient but not necessarily grown by the person who bakes the item."

Winners will be announced Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, sorting was going on this morning for the Howard County Pecan Show, which is also Tuesday.

An estimated 50 entries were accepted before the deadline, which was Friday. Exhibitors were limited to one entry of each named variety they grow.

In the pecan show, the exhibitor must be the grower and all pecans must be grown in Howard County as part of the 2000 crop.

Pecans are judged initially on a variety basis and placed accordingly. There

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Ann and Kirk McKnight handle a metal sculpture at one of the Canterbury Christmas Bazaar booths. Several hundred residents attended the fair on Saturday and browsed 33 booths.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 5:

You express unusual creativity and spirit this year. You seem to find answers where others can't. You become the idea person at work and at home. You gain financially and emotionally from your unique gifts. Others appreciate your abilities to focus on problems and to be able to project solutions. If single, your popularity might become almost unmanageable. By late summer, you might be in the mood to make important choices. If you are attached, flirting is an issue. Be especially kind to your partner. Renew your vows. ARIES makes your days dance by.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult. ARIES (March 21-April 19.)

**** The moon amplifies your personality. You have noteworthy ideas, which bring in a perspective that slants an issue in another

direction. Brainstorm with others. You create waves of energy and enthusiasm wherever you go. Strike while the iron is hot. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Use your immaculate sense of timing. Say yes when it feels right, and say no if that is what you think. An associate trusts your judgment and wants to work with you. Bosses want your ideas. Make sure you are rewarded for your resourcefulness. Tonight: Read a great book.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Aim high, and don't let anyone throw you off your course of action. Sometimes you get distracted. Others prove to be unusually resourceful and creative. Work with them. You could be delighted by the results. Tonight: Join the crowds.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Relate on a one-on-one

level, and you'll get the type of results you want. Your perspective is far different from many others. Assume responsibility. Don't back away from another. You might not exactly be sure about what to do. Think about a pivotal question. Tonight: Close your door and complete a project.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Reach out for someone at a distance. Look for better ideas and more creativity by seeking out new perspectives. Be gentle with a loved one. Your nurturing ways help this person open up to you. Take a risk and express who you are. You gain through others. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Your perspective changes because of a partner. Together you find more effective solutions. Express your caring in a way that means something to another. Choose to do nothing halfway. Your even temperament gets a superi-

ors attention. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Allow more feedback. You might not always agree with another. Use your ability to understand others, and imagine being in this person's shoes. Think carefully about a decision that involves a loved one or a vital interest. What seems great today might not be tomorrow. Tonight: Play the night away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Dig into your work. Express your natural enthusiasm and creativity. You gain through your abilities and talents. Others see you as unusually gifted. Express your thoughts in a way that another can hear. Don't hedge, though. A partner stands up for you once more. Tonight: Off to the gym.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Allow your ingenuity to emerge when dealing with funds and ideas.

Others join in, and before you know it you have a brainstorming session. Your ingenuity and sensitivity direct you in the right direction. Trust what you know. Another's suggestion wins the day. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Life is about priorities. No sign understands that better than you. Use that unusual Capricorn charm and intelligence to zero in on what is necessary financially and professionally. Don't make a judgment call. Sit down and figure out the details. Tonight: A cozy night at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Speak your mind, and another will hear. In some way or form, you need to express what you are feeling. Do not underestimate how important your ideas and feelings are to others, especially a child or loved one. Tonight: Running

errands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Do a quick budget evaluation before you start spending. In some way, you are anxious to complete your holiday errands. Yet realize that you, too, have limits. Your intuition serves you with another. Take your time, and you will make excellent choices. Tonight: Everything doesn't have to be expensive.

BORN TODAY

Hollywood legend Walt Disney (1901), performer Little Richard (1932), U.S. senator Strom Thurmond (1902)

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Congress returns under cloud

WASHINGTON (AP) — The presidential transition is the first order of business as Congress returns from a three-week recess to confront lingering disputes with the current president and uncertainty about the next one.

A House Government Reform subcommittee called a hearing today on the refusal of the General Services Administration to release \$5.3 million in transition funds to either Republican George W. Bush or Democrat Al Gore because it's still uncertain which will be sworn in as president.

Reps. Stephen Horn, R-Calif., and Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., sent a letter to the head of the GSA last week saying the money should be given immediately to Bush, and that failure to do so could impede a smooth handover of power from the Clinton administration.

Beyond the hearing, lawmakers were returning this week to a legislative schedule that provides few clues as to how they will end the ninth lame-duck session of the past half-century.

Congress has yet to complete work on four of the 13 spending bills that must be passed to operate the federal government in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Most conspicuous among them is a \$350 billion measure for labor, health and education programs that contains many of the educational priorities of the outgoing administration.

Republican congressional leaders and the White House were close to reaching agreement before the

Nov. 7 election but were sidetracked by peripheral issues. Those included GOP opposition to new workplace safety regulations and Democratic efforts to make it easier for some illegal immigrants to win permanent-resident status.

Republicans are still pressing for passage of a package of tax breaks targeted at small business, community renewal and 401(k) and IRA retirement investments. The package faces an uncertain future even though it contains a \$1 increase in the hourly minimum wage sought by Democrats.

Senate Republicans also want another shot at a long-stalled bill that would make it more difficult for people to sweep away credit card debt in bankruptcy court.

GOP leaders planned to hold a strategy meeting today.

One option is to call it quits for the year and let the new president deal with pending tax and spending issues — apparently would not be welcome off Capitol Hill.

The White House has indicated that President Clinton would not agree to extend stopgap spending into the new year.

The current measure funding agencies whose appropriations bills haven't been completed expires at midnight Tuesday.

Bush said last week that GOP congressional leaders were "plenty capable themselves of how to end this legislative session."

Should he become president, he said, "we will have a strategy to deal with the

Congress, the next Congress."

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., taking the position that Bush will become president, said over the weekend that Bush and the new Congress convening in January will need to "do a few things well and not try to rush through a big agenda."

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., are expected to discuss how to deal with what could be the first even split between the two parties in their chamber in 120 years.

Daschle has stressed that if the Senate breakdown is 50-50, Democrats should get half the seats on committees and a larger say in the legislative agenda. Republicans would still be in nominal control of the Senate if Bush wins, with Vice President Dick Cheney able to cast tie-breaking votes as Senate president.

The eight Democrats — including first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. — and two Republicans elected to their first Senate terms last month will begin orientation sessions Tuesday.

The same day, House GOP leaders will listen to members hoping to become chairman of committees and subcommittees. Republicans imposed a six-year term limit on those positions when they won control of the House in 1994, leading to a scramble this year for leadership of Banking, Armed Services, International Relations, Ways and Means and other major panels.

Holidays lose cheer on couple's income

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are senior citizens living on a fixed income. It has become harder and harder to purchase gifts or give money (which we have done in the past) to all our beloved family members. Recently a grandson called to inform us they are expecting their first child.

Instead of being happy for them, we were filled with dread, because now there will be another gift to buy!

During the year, I try to save for Christmas gifts; it's never enough. I've told my husband that we are going to have to be honest with the family. He is too embarrassed to break the news to them that we cannot give like we have in the past.

Abby, how have other senior citizens solved this problem? I lie awake nights

worrying. Believe me, that's no way to live! The holidays should be a happy time, but I don't look forward to them anymore.

WORRIED IN WELLSVILLE, OHIO

DEAR WORRIED: Yours is a problem I am asked about almost every year. One solution is to be upfront about it. One day this week, write a note to the friends and family members on your Christmas list, saying, "We are thankful for folks with whom we can be honest. We're not in a position to send Christmas gifts this year (nor do we expect any) — but please accept our love and sincere good wishes for a happy, healthy, blessed holiday."

If this seems too drastic a measure, another solution is to give one gift that can be enjoyed by the whole family, such as a game, movie coupons, or popcorn in assorted flavors.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl with a problem. A week ago, a half-sister I had never met, and whom my dad hadn't seen in 16 years, suddenly

showed up at our home. I was happy at first, but later my sister and I realized that our father paid more attention to her in one hour than he had to us in all the time since we were born.

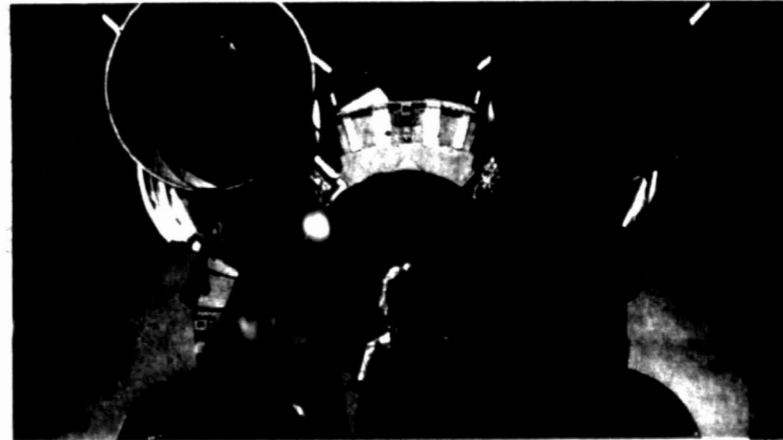
My sister and I have tried to be a part of his life, but he has never wanted to spend time with us. He tells us we are both being selfish. If what he says is true, do we have the right to be upset? Please help. — CONFUSED TEEN IN TEXAS

DEAR CONFUSED: Since your father hadn't seen your half-sister in 16 years, his reaction to her was understandable. Before you allow your resentment to get the better of you, allow yourself to get to know the girl. It's possible his reaction had something to do with guilt rather than preference. Take it slowly, and you might find you and your half-sister have a lot in common.

P.S. Although you say your father has been emotionally unavailable to you, he has been physically AND emotionally unavailable to her all these years.



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"As Neil Armstrong stepped off that ladder and onto the surface of the moon, a look came over my father that I have never been able to express in words. When he leaned forward on the edge of his old recliner, I could see his face fill with wonder, pride and awe. As I grew older, I often thought of how younger generations would never have an appreciation for what that moment meant, simply because they never experienced it. But last summer, as my family toured the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, I caught a glimpse of my 10-year-old's face. As she stood at the base of the monstrous 365-foot Saturn V rocket, I saw the same look in her eyes that I had seen in my father's 30 years earlier.

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DECEMBER 4, 2000

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Way to go Steers on a great season

Big Spring's Steers saw their 2000 football season to an end Saturday with a loss to Wichita Falls' Coyotes in the Class 4A, Division II regional semifinals.

But that loss to the state's No. 1-ranked Coyotes should in no way tarnish what was clearly a remarkable campaign for the Steers that saw them finish with an 8-5 record.

That won-loss record doesn't tell the story, however.

A mere look at the Steers' overall record doesn't show that Saturday's regional semifinal marked the first time in a decade that Big Spring had reached the third level of the school-boy football playoffs.

Just looking at the number of wins and losses also doesn't show that eight of Big Spring's games this season were played against teams that qualified for the playoffs — Sweetwater, Hereford, Abilene Wylie, Andrews, Frenship, Canyon, El Paso Riverside and Wichita Falls.

Furthermore, the record doesn't really show the dedication and character those youngsters and coaches displayed in overcoming injuries to key starters at several times during the long season.

And the record most certainly doesn't reveal the countless times the Steers collectively went back to the drawing board, refining their game.

Those were, however, all factors in a Steers season that brought a great deal of pride to our entire community.

It should also be remembered that Big Spring's presence each week of the football season wasn't just the Steers team, but the high school's cheerleaders, band and loyal fan following. All of them made an impressive showing.

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Steers and all those involved with related Big Spring High School programs on the truly remarkable season.

Once again, you've all given us another reason to be proud Big Spring is home.

OTHER VIEWS

It's time for Vice President Al Gore to move on ... The consequences for the nation could be enormous whether he succeeds or fails. Up until now, the vice president has stood on firm ground ... Today, it's Bush who's on relatively solid ground and Gore's support is evaporating; only the most partisan of his backers relish the court battles ...

Little good can come from Gore's decision to protest the Florida vote, despite the problems with Florida's election process — and those problems appear to be legion. On the other

hand, it is easy to foresee a lot of bad ... This will be painful for a life-long politician only 500 votes away from the presidency, of course, made even more painful by the fact that he won the popular vote nationwide by a fairly wide margin.

As every smart poker player knows, there's a time to fold your hand to prevent your losses from climbing.

For Al Gore, that time is now.

RENO (NEV.)
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Editor's note: The Gazette-Journal endorsed Al Gore for president.

A harbor becomes a history book

Repetition is the best way to learn anything, from multiplication tables to Aesop's fables.

One of the first things I remember repeating in the name of education was this: "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

That little poem rolled off the tongue like a jump-rope rhyme, evoking blue seas, blue skies, smooth passage. Columbus' difficult voyage across the pond became a breeze, and a steady one at that.

To flesh out the lesson, we also repeated the musical names of the Pinta, the Niña and the Santa Maria, the ships Columbus & Company sailed. In singsong we ran the three names together — the Pinta the Niña the Santa Maria — making them sound like a Hispanic law firm.

The Santa Maria, the flagship, ran aground in Hispaniola and sank.

After making it home from the historic voyage, the Pinta seems to have disappeared from history without a trace.

The Niña, however, had legs. She was Columbus'

favorite of the famous trio, a caravel vessel known for speed, shallow draught and maneuverability.

The Niña made three trips to the New World and logged at least 25,000 miles under Columbus' command.

When I heard that a historically accurate, hand-built replica Niña was to dock at Aqua Yacht Harbor on Pickwick Lake, I made a beeline.

When history cruises into shouting distance, it is important to respond.

Once upon a time, this pretty inlet on the Mississippi-Tennessee line was called State Line Boat Dock.

Fishermen launched their skiffs here. A ramp, a dock, a rope.

As Pickwick Lake grew into a swell retreat, and more people came with bigger boats, the simple dock morphed into a more upscale marina.

Today, in its latest incarnation, sailboats and fancy yachts fill the slips, and a multi-story storage facility stacks boats like firewood. An entrepreneur who made his fortune selling fiberglass bathtub and shower units built the fancy Aqua Yacht.

But never before has the harbor hosted history. And I find the juxtaposition — the Columbus Foundation's touring museum, the Niña, docked for a few days next to the marina bathtubs built — oddly appropriate.

This old world is about taking risks, seeking fortunes,

overcoming obstacles — whether you're discovering new continents or fiber-glass tabs.

It's the Niña's relatively small size that shocks me — 93.6 feet, or only about 9 inches off the best historical guess. With a cargo full of provisions, livestock and weapons, Columbus' 27-member crew had to sleep on deck.

Today's crew on the maritime museum has pipe berths below deck and a propane stove for cooking. Things don't smell as bad, since there are no cows below deck in slings meant to prevent broken legs. But life aboard the Niña is still no piece of cake — in port or on the ocean blue.

"Crew members average 9.3 days on board," John O'Meara says. "It's a lot of hard work." He's been on the Niña nine months, working seven days a week, sometimes 20 hours a day.

When the Niña's docked, it's a magnet for the curious.

From Pickwick, the Niña was headed down the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to Florida to continue its education mission. Since 1991 and the filming of the movie "1492," the Niña has visited more than 250 U.S. ports.

It was built by hand in 1988 when the Columbus Foundation hired for the task John Patrick Sarsfield, American engineer and maritime historian.

Sarsfield had been with the

Peace Corps in Brazil and learned of an archaic ship-building process there called Mediterranean Whole Moulding. In a little fishing village called Valencia, he used traditional tools — axes, adzes, handsaws and chisels — and trees from the tropical forests.

Columbus' Niña was not built from a set of plans "but from the mental template in the head of the shipwright who based the dimensions of the ship on a set of proportions," the Columbus Foundation literature explains.

On a recent Saturday, schoolchildren and old people and everyone in between hustle down a gangplank to get a close look at close quarters. The ship is small, dark, not particularly inviting.

Her wood is covered with oil and tar, "not as pretty or flashy as paint and varnish would be," O'Meara admits, but better protection. In a decade of touring, the ship is on its second set of sails.

It's the opportunity to sail, of course, that attracts young men like O'Meara, and women, too. Whenever possible, in open water, they hoist the Niña's 1,919 square feet of sails; at other times they take advantage of a six-cylinder diesel engine.

For a while, at least, they feel the rush and reach of history. Repetition, if you will, in the name of learning.



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Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849.
- RICK PERRY
Lt. Governor
State Capitol
Austin, 78701; Phone: 512-463-0001; Fax: 512-463-0326.

How important is a college degree?

In 1999, the United States Census Bureau found that the mean earnings for people over 18 years old who had not graduated from high school was \$16,053,

whereas the mean salary of those who had graduated from high school was \$23,594. For those with some college education, the median salary was \$25,686, and for people with associate degrees the number rose to \$32,468.

Those with bachelor's degrees earned an average of \$43,782; those with doctorate degrees earned an average of \$74,712; and those with master's degrees earned an average of \$52,794; professional degree holders averaged \$95,488.

Among those seeking degrees, there is a growing

trend within the nation's colleges and universities of women outnumbering men. Particularly in non-Ivy League universities, the gap between male and female students is growing.

For example, the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill reports that the student population is over 60 percent female, the University of Virginia in Charlottesville has a student population that is 53 percent female, and Stanford University in California reports that 51 percent of its students are female.

Some experts attribute this trend to the fact that more men are opting to go straight into careers after high school.

According to Claudia Goldin, an economic historian at Harvard University, "It's easier to go out and get a job now than to do the hard work and stay in college. For lots of people it's 'buy now, think later' — a mind-set that can have

severe consequences. Male college graduates earn, on average, over \$23,000 a year more than men who have only high-school diplomas, and that income disparity is growing.

"Nevertheless, men are leading the charge into the workplace — they account for 57 percent of those ages 16 to 24 in the labor force who hold only a high-school diploma."

Shawn Vogt, a student at Hamline University's College of Liberal Arts in St. Paul, Minn., says, "I know a lot of guys from my hometown who quit college to run their own store or to have a Schwan's (food delivery) route, or to do some of these jobs where, for their age, they're getting paid really well."

In recent years, however, with the phenomenal growth of the high-tech industry, more and more people are finding high-paying jobs that do not require college degrees.

Many firms, such as Cisco Systems, are hiring

students straight out of high school. These students can start out making relatively high wages with no college degree whatsoever.

Steven Trachtenberg, president of George Washington University in Washington, D.C., sees it this way: "If making money is your first goal, and if you are competent in high-paying skills, there's no reason to finish your degree. We shouldn't be surprised by that: It's demonstrated to us on a regular basis by people who sign up with the NBA or baseball players."

But what is the final verdict?

The future depends upon an educated population. Money is only one consideration.

Shouldn't scientific and artistic creativity mean more? Shouldn't advanced literacy mean more? In the final analysis, these are the things that will continue to fuel the economic engine that create national and personal wealth.



JACK ANDERSON



How To CONTACT Us

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalk@xroadstx.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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IN BRIEF

Hawks post second straight win, 91-89

Howard College's Hawks chalked up a second straight win Saturday night, edging host Casper College 91-89 in the finals of the AT&T Classic in Casper, Wyo.

The Hawks rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to post the win, improving their record to 4-6 on the season.

Freshman Derrick Tarver led the way for Howard with 26 points, while sophomore post Doug Whittler added 19 points and eight rebounds.

The Hawks now travel to Hagerstown, Md., for this weekend's Hagerstown Classic.

Lady Hawks' OT loss bigger moral victory

Howard College's Lady Hawks managed an even bigger moral victory than many knew in Saturday's 106-99 overtime loss to Trinity Valley Community College's Lady Cardinals.

The Lady Hawks were not playing the No. 13-ranked team in the nation, but were instead facing the NJCAA's No. 1-ranked team.

Quarterback Club will meet tonight

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will meet at 7 tonight in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center's meeting room.

Anyone interested in supporting the Steers football program is invited to attend.

Baseball boosters set meeting for Tuesday

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Members will discuss the upcoming season's fundraisers and select new officers.

Parents of all high school baseball players are encouraged to attend.

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

Softball boosters will meet on Thursday

The Big Spring High School Softball Booster Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Members will discuss the upcoming season.

Parents of all Lady Steers softball players are encouraged to attend.

ACS now offering Texas Golf Pass

The American Cancer Society is again offering the Texas Golf Pass that entitles holders to more than 680 rounds of golf at 289 courses throughout the state.

The passes are \$35 each and proceeds from the program benefit the Cancer Society's research, education programs and patient services efforts.

Both the Big Spring Country Club and Comanche Trail Golf Course are participating in the program and order forms are available at the two courses.

For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345.

ON THE AIR

Radio
PRO FOOTBALL
8 p.m. — Kansas City Chiefs at New England Patriots, KBST-AM 1490.

Television
PRO FOOTBALL
8 p.m. — Kansas City Chiefs at New England Patriots, ABC, Ch. 2.

Lady Steers win Brownfield tourney, Steers finish third

HERALD Staff Report

BROWNFIELD — Big Spring's Lady Steers claimed the championship of the Brownfield Lions and Rotary Invitational basketball tournament Saturday evening with 64-41 win over Sundown's Lady Roughnecks.

Big Spring's Steers had almost a good weekend, finishing third in the boys' division of the tournament with a 54-43 win over Ozona's Lions.

The Lady Steers' 23-point win was spearheaded by senior point guard Melissa Forth, who scored 16 points en route to being named the tournament's most valuable player.

Forth was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates

Christina Gwyn and Kim Wrightsil. Gwyn finished with 14 points in Saturday's game, while Wrightsil added 13 more. Brittany Bryant rounded out the double-digit scoring for the Lady Steers with 12 points.

"This was a great tournament for us," Lady Steers head coach Jimmy Avery said. "There were a lot of distractions this weekend, but we stayed focused and did what we were supposed to do."

The Lady Steers reached the tournament's title game with a 54-21 win over Morton in Friday's semifinals behind Wrightsil's game-high 14 points.

While Wrightsil was the only player to reach double figures in the

game, the Lady Steers distributed the rest of their scoring, as Melissa Flenniken had eight points, Forth and Chelsea Churchwell had seven points apiece and Gwyn had six.

The Steers, who were relegated to the third-place game with Ozona following a 62-52 loss to host Brownfield on Friday, jumped out to an early lead against the Lions and never looked back, turning a 17-20 halftime lead into a 43-30 margin going into the final eight minutes of play.

"If we'd played the first part of the fourth quarter like that Friday night, we'd probably have been playing for the championship," Steers head coach Brian Ellington said after the Steers' second win of

the season. "We just weren't aggressive enough in the fourth quarter against Brownfield, but we learned from that mistake."

Arthur Belvin and Mic Fleming led the scoring for Big Spring in both games.

Belvin scored 17 and Fleming added 11 in the loss to Brownfield, but it was Fleming's long-distance dialing in Saturday's game that wanted a long way in downing the Lions.

Fleming hit five 3-point shots and added 3-for-3 shooting at the line for a game-high 18 points on Saturday, while Belvin added 12 more.

The Steers and Lady Steers will travel to Lamesa on Tuesday with varsity games starting at 6:30 p.m.



HERALD photo/Jim Ferro
Stanton fullback Clay White (38) blows through Hamlin defenders en route to a big gain during the Buffs' 40-14 win over Hamlin's Pled Pipers in Saturday's Class 2A, Division II regional semifinal game in Colorado City. The Buffs now advance to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs where they'll take on Albany's Lions at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Sweetwater's Municipal Stadium.

Dunn's 210 yards power Tampa Bay past Cowboys

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Warrick Dunn doesn't think people will ever stop doubting his suitability to be a featured back.

Making the Pro Bowl as a rookie didn't convince naysayers, and he's not sure that rushing for a career-high 210 yards Sunday to key Tampa Bay's 27-7 victory over the Dallas Cowboys will silence skeptics, either.

"I'll probably have to deal with the questions most of my career," the 5-foot-8, 180-pound running back said. "It doesn't bother me. I've heard them all of my life."

The Bucs insist Dunn's toughness has never been an issue with them. Yet his role in the offense has diminished the past two seasons while the team has struggled to decide whether he or All-Pro fullback Mike Alstott should be the man.

The result has been that neither has emerged as the featured back the Bucs desperately need in a run-oriented offense. But with Alstott sidelined the past two weeks with a sprained knee, there's been no question about who should carry

the heaviest load.

"It's nice to finally be able to show what I can do," said Dunn, who scored on a 70-yard run on his first carry and added a 4-yard TD burst to end any chance of a Dallas comeback in the fourth quarter. "Those guys on the offensive line believe in me. They know I'm going to be the primary ball carrier and they believe if they get their guy, I'm going to do the job."

In other NFL games, it was the New York Jets 27, Indianapolis 17; Cincinnati 24, Arizona 13; Denver 38, New Orleans 23; Carolina 16, St. Louis 3; Jacksonville 48, Cleveland 0; Tennessee 15, Philadelphia 13; New York Giants 9, Washington 7; Seattle 30, Atlanta 10; Miami 33, Buffalo 6; Pittsburgh 21, Oakland 20; San Francisco 45, San Diego 17; and Green Bay 28, Chicago 6.

Kansas City is at New England on tonight.

The victory was fifth in six games for the Bucs (8-5), who feel they have to win their remaining three games to make the playoffs.

Dallas (4-9), which has dropped three straight, are assured of finishing their first season under coach Dave Campo with a losing record.

"If guys don't hurt over this, then they're not going to be with the Dallas Cowboys in the future," Campo said after the Cowboys lost three fumbles and Troy Aikman had an interception returned for a touchdown.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 80 yards on 20 attempts and scored the Cowboys' only touchdown, a 4-yard run in the third quarter.

He finished the day 13 yards shy of joining Barry Sanders as the only players to gain at least 1,000 in 10 consecutive seasons.

"Those things are good, but right now they don't mean that much," Smith said. "That we're 4-9 today makes it very sour."

Aikman and Smith both lost fumbles that killed drives deep in Tampa Bay territory. Jason Tucker fumbled the opening kickoff to set up one of the two field goals Bucs kicked.

Unbeaten Sooners still No. 1 in final regular-season poll

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP Poll	
The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college final regular season football poll, with first place votes in parentheses and records through Dec. 2	
Rank	Record
1	Oklahoma (67) 12-2
2	Miami (3) 10-1
3	Florida St. (1) 11-1
4	Washington 10-1
5	Oregon St. 10-1
6	Virginia Tech 10-1
7	Florida 10-2
8	Oregon 9-2
9	Nebraska 9-2
10	Notre Dame 9-2
11	Kansas St. 10-3
12	Texas 9-2
13	TCU 9-2
14	Purdue 8-3
15	Georgia Tech 9-2
16	Clemson 9-2
17	Michigan 8-3
18	Northwestern 8-3
19	Ohio St. 8-3
20	Auburn 9-3
21	Tennessee 8-3
22	Louisville 9-2
23	Colorado St. 9-2
24	Georgia 7-4
25	Toledo 10-1

Others receiving votes: Texas A&M 59; South Carolina 42; Wisconsin 28; Mississippi 23; Iowa St. 22; Mississippi St. 15; LSU 14; Air Force 10; Boise St. 7; N.C. State 3.

Oklahoma is still perfect, and still No. 1 in The Associated Press final regular season poll.

The Sooners (12-0) completed a perfect regular season with 27-24 over Kansas State in the Big 12 title game Saturday night, and will try to win their first national championship since 1985 by beating No. 3 Florida State in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3.

Playing in the Orange Bowl is nothing new for Oklahoma. It's just that it's been awhile 13 years since its last appearance. The Sooners were unbeaten in 1987, but lost to Miami 20-14. Overall, OU is 11-5 in Orange Bowl games, and a win over the Seminoles could result in a sixth AP national title.

The final AP media poll will be released after the game.

Oklahoma, the nation's only major unbeaten team, received 67 first-place votes and 1,768 points Sunday from the 71 sports writers and broadcasters on the AP panel.

Miami (10-1), Big East champions, remained No. 2 with three first-place votes and 1,693 points. Florida State (11-1), the ACC winners, was third with the other first-place vote and 1,640 points.

Oklahoma received three more first-place votes than it did a week ago, while Miami, which completed its season Nov. 25, lost two first-place votes.

The Hurricanes will play No. 7 Florida (10-2), the Southeastern Conference champions, in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2. The Gators beat Auburn 28-6 in the SEC title game Saturday.

The USA Today/ESPN coaches poll had the same top 3 as the AP media poll — Oklahoma, Miami and Florida State. In the coaches' poll, the Sooners picked up seven more first-place votes than they had a week ago — three from Miami and five from Florida State.

Because the Orange Bowl matchup is based on the top two teams in the final Bowl Championship Series standings, there is the possibility of split national champions if Florida State beats

It's official: Oklahoma vs. Florida State in BCS title game

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

So far, so perfect for No. 1 Oklahoma.

Not only are the Sooners playing for their first national championship since 1985, they get to do it in one of their favorite games — the Orange Bowl.

"Oklahoma traditionally has played extremely well in the Orange Bowl," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said Sunday. "Our players understand that Oklahoma plays well in the Orange Bowl, and you can bet we'll watch a bunch of those highlights."

Of Oklahoma's five national titles, three were clinched with Orange Bowl victories; the other two were accomplished with perfect records, but without playing in a bowl game. The Sooners are 11-5 in Orange

Bowls.

This time, Oklahoma (12-0) goes against No. 3 Florida State (11-1) in the Orange Bowl, the Bowl Championship Series' designated title game, on Jan. 3.

While the Sooners are back in the championship chase, Florida State seems to be in the mix every year — no matter what system college football uses.

For the fourth time in the five seasons, the Seminoles will play with the national title on the line thanks to Sunday's final BCS standings, which rated them second behind Oklahoma but ahead of Miami (10-1), which beat Florida State 27-24 on Oct. 7.

"I feel lucky, but the thing is this formula was made before the season ever started," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said of the system of

rating teams using polls, computers, schedule strength and losses.

"The formula spit this thing out that it was us, therefore I feel good about it."

The matchup creates the possibility of split national champions. The AP media poll and the coaches' poll have Oklahoma and Miami ranked 1-2. If Florida State beats Oklahoma and Miami beats Florida in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2, there's a chance for co-champions.

The AP poll's sports writers and broadcasters vote independently of the BCS, but not the coaches' poll.

"If that happens, then that will be what it is," BCS coordinator John Swofford said. "The BCS doesn't eliminate that possibility. We've known that all along. It does minimize the chances for it happening."

Bowden understands he could

share the title this season.

"It's No. 1 vs. No. 2 in the BCS and if we were to beat Oklahoma, then I think we should be No. 1 in the nation in the BCS," he said. "But that probably won't happen in the AP unless Florida beats Miami."

Miami coach Butch Davis said his team did its best to reach the BCS title game, being played in its own backyard. Instead, the Hurricanes will renew their rivalry with Florida (10-2) in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2. The teams last played in 1987.

"Regardless of how it turned out, it can't take anything away from our great season," Davis said. "We had some great games, against Florida State and then Virginia Tech. We've won nine in a row and did everything we think we could have."

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MONDAY												DEC. 4											
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	Midland	Odessa	Dallas	Dallas	Odessa	Dallas	Midland	Atlanta	Spanish	Premium	Hourville	Premium	Premium	Premium	Odessa	New York	Discovery	Atlanta	Houston				
6:30 PM	News (CC)	Cosby (CC)	Big Red Dog Washbone	Drummer Boy Christmas Snow	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC)	News Seinfeld (CC)	Fresh Prince Fresh Prince	Locura de Amor	Empower-Give Movie: Phantoms	Martial Law (CC)	Movie: The Hi-Lo Country	Called Sarge	Kiss (CC)	News John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	Pretender (CC)	Houston - Emergency				
7:30 PM	20/20 Downtown (CC)	Boston Public (CC)	Chihuly: In the Light of Je-	Without Santa	King Yes, Dear	20/20 Downtown (CC)	Titans (CC)	(05) Movie: The Goonies	Mujeres Enganadas	Tom of the Manges (CC)	Martial Law (CC)	(CC)	South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	Motorcycle Maria	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Code Blue: Fresh Faces				
8:30 PM	NFL Football: Kansas City	Aly McBeal (CC)	rusalem (CC) British	Providence (CC)	Raymond Becker (CC)	NFL Football: Kansas City	Dateline (CC)	(05) Movie: It Happened to Me	Laboratorio de Pasion	(10) Movie: Noah	WWF Raw	Universal Soldier II	Gar & Uncut Queer as Folk	Enemy (CC) Proof of Life	Hour of Healing	Investigative Reports (CC)	Avalanche-Dan.	Bull (CC)	Trauma: Life in the ER				
9:30 PM	Chiefs at New England	Mad Abt. You Nanny (CC)	Invasion Returns (CC)	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)	Tina Turner	Chiefs at New England	Third Watch (CC)	(05) Movie: I Couldn't	Cristina: Edicion Especial	Jersey Jersey	WWF War Zone	Hamburger Hill	Resurrection Extras	Eddie Izzard: Dress to Kill	News Life in World	Law & Order (CC)	Prosecutors: Justice Files	Bull (CC)	Critical Incident				
10:30 PM	Patriots (CC)	Jerry Springer (CC)	Paul McCart-	700 Club (CC)	News (.35) Late	Patriots (CC)	News (.35) Tonight	Happen to You	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	(07) Martial Law (CC)	WWF Law (CC)	Hamburger Hill	(05) Movie: Time Served	Country: The Arturo San-	Premise Pubescencia	Biography (CC)	Motorcycle Maria	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Code Blue: Fresh Faces				
11:30 PM	News Nightline	Blind Date Sudden	ney: Cavern (35) Gum	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (.37) Late Late	News (CC) Nightline	Show (CC) (.37) Late	(20) Movie: Viviane a la Medianoche	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Ducks! Un! Outdoor	Movie: Catch	Movie: Catch	(05) Movie: Six Ways to Sundry (CC)	Country: The Arturo San-	Premise Pubescencia	Biography (CC)	Motorcycle Maria	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Trauma: Life in the ER				
12:30 AM	Politically Inc. Bible Lesson	Judge-Brown Copa (CC)	Boots (CC)	Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Night (CC) Frasier	The Goonies	Marimar	Wall Disney Presents	Amer. Shooter Clark	22 (CC)	Movie: Six Ways to Sundry (CC)	Country: The Arturo San-	Premise Pubescencia	Biography (CC)	Avalanche-Dan.	..	Critical Incident				

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If you ever baby-sit him, don't expect to do much sitting."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"In storybooks, Peter Pan fights mean guys, but in real life he just makes peanut butter."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



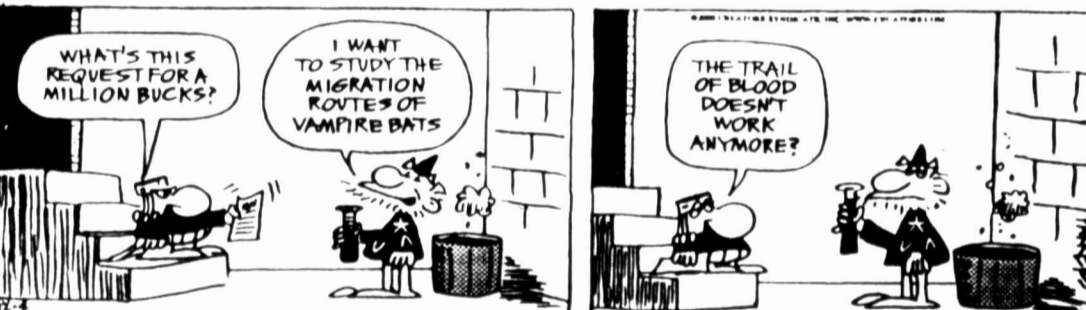
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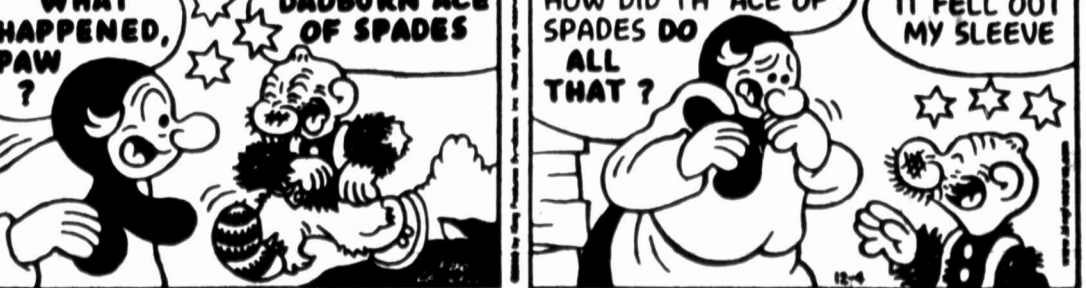
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GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Monday, Dec. 4, the 339th day of 2000. There are 27 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.
On this date:
In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.
In 1839, the Whig Party opened a national convention in Harrisburg, Pa., during which delegates nominated William Henry Harrison for president.
In 1918, President Wilson set sail for France to attend

the Versailles Peace Conference.
In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.
In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.
In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations.
In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.
In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.
In 1980, the bodies of four American churchwomen slain in El Salvador two days earlier were unearthed. (Five national guardsmen were later convicted of murdering nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel, and lay worker Jean Donovan.)
One year ago: NASA scientists continued to wait in vain for a signal from the Mars Polar Lander, raising questions about the whereabouts of NASA's \$165 million probe. (It's believed the spacecraft was destroyed after it plunged toward the Red Planet.)
Today's Birthdays:
Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 79. Game show host Wink Martindale is 66. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 63. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 58. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 58. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 52.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Pound to a pulp
- Chops up
- Final word?
- Italian eight
- Turn inside out
- Great review
- Yard-sale warning
- Spanish sauce
- Food fad
- Print size, perhaps
- Overindulging
- In a dominant position
- Bygone bargain spot
- Crimean resident
- Left bed
- Miss West
- Caspian's neighbor
- Wane
- Thaw
- Star Wars letters
- Raccoon's cousin
- False appearance
- Substantial Stetson
- Word on a door
- Mario Puzo book
- Carpenter's three-incher
- One of The Jacksons
- Start of path?
- Author Ferber
- Moises of baseball
- Ulan, Mongolia
- Thailand, once
- Escutcheon flaw
- Laurel and Mikita
- Mediocre

DOWN

- Castles' defenses
- Confused
- Work period
- Medical facility
- Fashion in the mind
- Terrible tsar?
- Ancient Briton
- In the past, in the past
- Stick around
- Passionate
- tail cocktail
- Night before
- Seine
- Lulu
- Dissimulation
- Actress Marisa
- Ph.D. exams
- Calvin of the PGA
- Clive Barker novel
- Muse of lyric poetry
- Out
- Half an African fly?
- Refinement
- "As You Like It" forest
- Contaminate
- 39 Major ISP
- Silence

By Phillip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
12/4/00

Sunday's Puzzle Solved

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42 Be concerned	53 One-point jacks in cribbage
43 Ill-smelling	54 Junior's exam
45 Leave at once!	55 Blues singer James
46 Tributes paid	56 Dodge model
49 Active starter?	57 Can opener
50 Yothers and Louise	58 Off one's feed
51 San Antonio shrine	59 In addition