

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY

December 13, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:

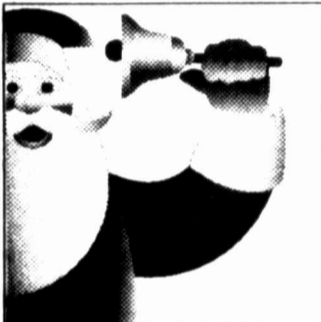


PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT THURSDAY
27°-30° 53°-57°

HELPING OTHERS:

Each day through the holiday season, the *Herald* will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate. 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)
- Big Spring Mall
- SMMC
- 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
- Comet Cleaners on FM 700
- Klassic Kleaners on Gregg Street

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12 shopping days 'til Christmas

Vol. 98, No. 37

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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.

Gore expected to concede tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore decided Wednesday to concede the country's overtime election, aides said, clearing the way for George W. Bush to become 43rd president and leader of a nation sharply divided along political lines. The vice president acted after a split Supreme Court ruled against recounts in contested Florida.

Two senior advisers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gore would officially drop out in a

nationally televised address at 9 p.m. EST. "The race is over," said one official after speaking with the vice president. "We're done."

Gore made the decision 12 hours after the U.S. Supreme Court, as divided as the nation, ruled 5-4 against the vice president's bid to recount thousands of ballots in Florida. Gore had sought the recount in hopes he could overturn Bush's 537-vote victory margin in the state whose 25 electoral votes will settle the election.

"The vice president has directed the recount committee to suspend activities," campaign chairman William Daley said in a written statement that effectively ended an unbearably

close election 36 tumultuous days after the nation voted. Gore topped his Republican rival by more than 300,000 votes out of 103 million ballots cast nationwide. But Florida's electoral votes, to be cast on Dec. 18 and counted on Jan. 6, would give Bush a total of 271 electoral votes to Gore's 267.

Bush was in Texas, savoring his hard-earned triumph in private, as if to give Gore all the room he needed for a graceful exit. The governor waved to reporters as he strode into the Capitol in Austin at midmorning but merely smiled in answer to questions about the develop-

See **ELECTION**, Page 2A



GORE

Local officials: Election provides an educational experience for all

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Features Editor

As the presidential election draws to an end five weeks after it began, local community leaders said the historic process has been difficult, but educational for the country.

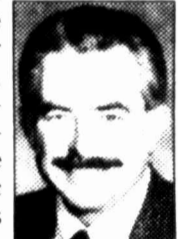
"We've learned that it's

important when you go in to cast a ballot that you should do it properly," said Tommy Tune, an assistant professor of history and government at Howard College. "Elections are an imperfect science, no different than any other."

Johnny Lou Avery, a local businesswoman and political activist, called the process "a civics lesson for us all."

"Now the issue has been settled; now we will move

See **RESPONSE**, Page 2A



TUNE

Dolls went, went, went at auction

Event raised almost \$4,600

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Features Editor

Colorfully dressed dolls in everything from frills and lace to hiking boots brought in nearly \$4,600 for the Salvation Army on Tuesday.

A doll auction and luncheon brought about 100 people — 45 of them bidders to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum East Room. Auctioneer Robert Pruitt, who has been donating his time to the event for several years, kept the action lively and teased the audience to drive bids higher.

"This is a fun deal," said Pruitt, who was assisted by Bennie Davis in auctioning 70 dolls in just over an hour. "This is more people than I have seen at one of these in years."

"It was very lively, a good time," said Maj. Jo Alexander of the Salvation Army. "He's a great auctioneer and makes it such fun for everybody. All of the money goes toward our Christmas programs, and



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Bennie Davis of Spring City Auction, who along with auctioneer Robert Pruitt volunteered for Tuesday's Salvation Army Doll Auction, holds a clown doll up for bidders to see as Maj. Jo Alexander looks on. The dolls went for \$25 to \$250 and together raised almost \$4,600.

this is certainly a fun way to raise money."

At the end, officials estimated the auction's take as \$4,595, which will go toward

funding the Salvation Army's holiday programs for the local needy.

John Walker, chairman of the Salvation Army advisory

board, called community support for the doll auction "tremendous," noting that

See **AUCTION**, Page 2A

Christian Women's Fellowship helps Angels spread their wings

By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

Christian Women's Fellowship with the First Christian Church adopted 16 senior Angels at the *Herald* on Monday and brought back gifts for them Tuesday.

They are among a number of civic and church organizations and individuals who have adopted children or senior Angels by purchasing gifts and returning them to special Salvation Army trees located throughout Big Spring.

"I've been collecting clothes from friends and had a lot of lotion, bath jells, panty hose and other items," said Dolores LeVier, who has been adopting Angels for years. "I've had a garage full of items. In fact, I'm still going to be taking clothes to the Salvation Army."

The women included an assortment of items for the seniors they adopted and included a gift certificate for each.

"I work at Isaiah 58, and I

See **ANGELS**, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Andrea Medlin

Jane Daugheteel, left, and Barbara Ervin, representatives of Women's Christian Fellowship, select senior Angels from the Angel Tree located at the *Big Spring Herald*.

Community Christmas play begins three-night run Thursday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The first performance of the Community Christmas play "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will begin on Thursday for the general public.

"The play tries to bring out the true spirit of Christmas and not just about the stuff we receive," said Clay Grizzle, director. "The message arises at the end of the play with an uplifting and humorous turn. It is going to be great fun."

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. at the

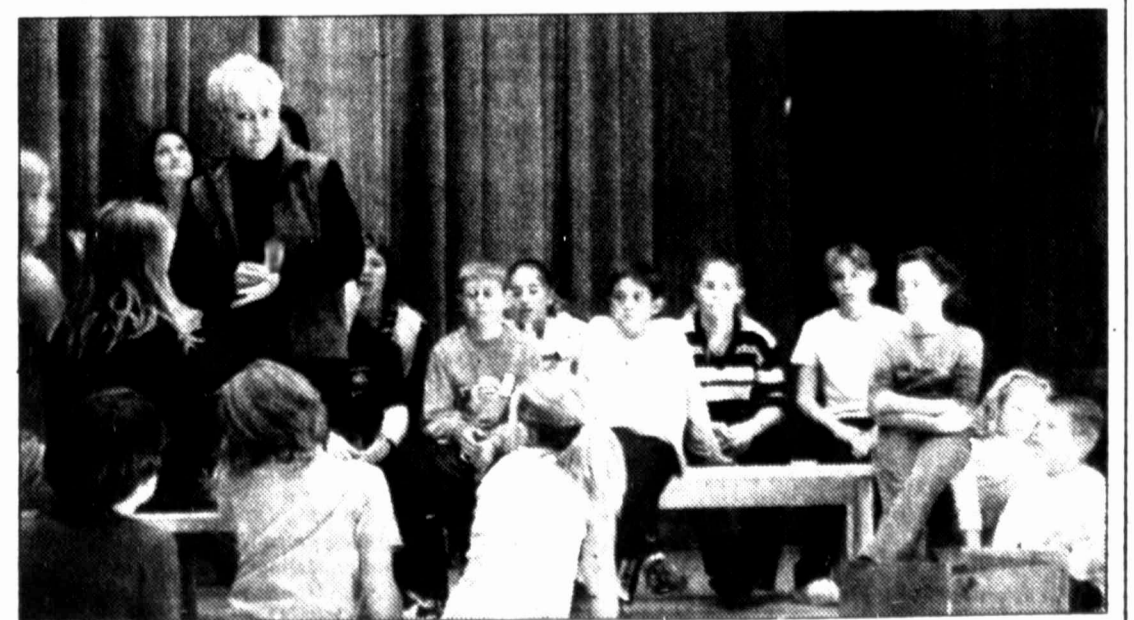
Municipal Auditorium. Admission is free although a donation box will be available. Additional performances are Friday and Saturday, also at 8.

According to Grizzle the cast of 40 includes 30 children under the age of 16, many of whom have never performed for an audience.

The cast includes Dee Fryar, Cody Carnes, Rachel Loftis, Ryan Hughey, Zack Dawson and Samantha Boehringer as the Herdman Kids.

Kyle Briggs, Jessi Tipton, Kelli Warrington, Brinnen Pierce, Jordan Herrod, Kelsie Battle, Dillon Phernetton, Danielle Jeter, Spencer Briggs, Cameron Hughey, Whitney Ussery, William Currie, Mathew

See **PLAY**, Page 2A



Courtesy photo

Mary Thompson instructs a Sunday school class during practice for the community Christmas play "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. The play will run nightly through Saturday. Admission is free.

OBITUARIES

Donald Reaves

Funeral service for Donald Reaves, 69, Palm Bay, Fla., formerly of Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000, at his residence.

Armando Rodriguez

Armando Rodriguez Sr., 46, of Big Spring, passed away at 3:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a short illness.



A vigil for the deceased will be 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with Ismae Rubio and Theresa Rocha officiating.

Funeral mass will be 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor officiating. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Armando was born on March 26, 1954, in Big Spring. He grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1974. He had worked at Phillips Tire Company for 15 years retiring due to his health.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Rodriguez of Big Spring; three sons; Armando Rodriguez Jr. of Fort Worth, Jonathan Ray Rodriguez and Kevin Rodriguez both of Big Spring; two step-children; Alex Moreno and Crystal Nicole Rodriguez both of Big Spring; his parents, Eliazar Rodriguez Sr. and Esperanza Rodriguez of Big Spring; two brothers, Eliazar Rodriguez Jr. and Samuel Rodriguez Sr., both of Big Spring.

Pallbearers will be: Raul Rubio, Chico Rubio, Ismael Rubio, Luis G. Moreno, Ernie Moreno and Benito Rubio Jr. Honorary pallbearers are: Juan T. Moreno Sr., Raymond Lopez, Robert Gonzales, Rafael Mendez, Diego Olague and Jesse Herrera.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

HELPING

Continued from Page 1A

American Cancer Society

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

Donnie Reaves, 69, died Tuesday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Armando Rodriguez Sr., 46, died Monday. Vigil services are 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass is 3:00 PM, Thursday at Sacred Heart Church. Burial will be Mount Olive Cemetery.

Big Spring Herald
ISSN 0746-6811
USPS 0055-940
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The Herald is a member of the
Associated Press, Audit Bureau of
Circulation, American Newspaper
Association and West Texas Press.
Periodicals postage paid at Big
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POSTMASTER: Send changes of
address to: Big Spring Herald, P.O.
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Memorial Tree:

• Merle Norman, Big Spring Mall
For more information, call (915) 683-6374.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

Providing Christmas presents for children of inmates

• Cookie Elliot, 263-3326

ICE

Continued from Page 1A

the roads," Smith said. "The delay in the work schedule helped out a lot."

Area students had a chance to get a few extra hours of sleep as several local school districts and Howard College canceled classes for today because of icy conditions. Many businesses also canceled or delayed their work schedule.

"We have been real fortunate," Smith said. "We have not had to respond to any usually alarms or had any power outages."

Icy rural roads have kept Howard County sheriff's deputies busy responding to numerous accidents.

According to Sheriff Bill Jennings, 10 automobile accidents were reported in the county, including numerous rollovers.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) workers were out early this morning sanding icy roads, bridges and overpasses.

"We have been out sanding all the overpasses, bridges and along Interstate 20," said Art Barrow, area engineer for TxDOT. "We are preparing for the same sort of weather for tomorrow."

Barrow said the department may try to sand overpasses before dusk in preparation of another what could be icy conditions on Thursday morning.

Residents may see a more water running down the streets this weekend as Jim Piper, distribution and collection supervisor for the city of Big Spring, and his work crews expect several water line breaks when the weather warms.

"We are expecting more water line breaks when the weather warms up," he said. "What happens when the weather is cold like this for two or four days is the ground contracts and puts pressure on the pipe. Once the weather warms up the ground expands and releases that pressure. That is when we see line breaks."

Piper said there is no way to estimate the number of water line breaks that might occur, but plans to be busy this weekend.

PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

Gonzales, Ginger Simpson, Thad Loftis, Berklie Pierce, Elizabeth Stutz, Macy Briggs, Lauren Bryant, Nita Cotton, Samantha Plumlee comprise the Sunday School class.

Mary Thompson, Vents Allyn, Morgan Long, Brandon Gressett as the Bradley Family, Cheryl Shults, Mary Lou Traczyk, Margie Myers, Becky Crane, Linda Battle, the Rev. Steve Stutz, Dane Richardson and Ricky

ALLAN'S FURNITURE
Best Prices in West Texas
202 Scurry PH. 267-6278
Big Spring, Texas

Simpson as the Church Members, Greg Nelson and Jennifer Hodges portray the firefighters/paramedics.

The technical and production crew is Stephanie Guzman, Brianna Fryar, Karol Smith, Robert Loftis, Michael Loftis, Rusty Carthel and Grizzle.

AUCTION

Continued from Page 1A

the event was dropped two years ago for lack of interest.

This year's auction was held at noon to encourage local service clubs to hold their meetings in conjunction with the event.

"The Tuesday Rotary Club and Kiwanis joined with community members to help ensure a better Christmas for those less fortunate in our community," Walker said.

Dolls sold for prices ranging between \$30 and \$250 each. The top seller was out-fitted in blue frills and lace, and purchased by Robinson Drilling.

Bidding wars were common as Pruitt goaded the audience with good-natured jibes.

"The longer you wait, the more it costs," he advised, later taunting, "come on you tightwads."

Drawing much interest were a set of twins in red velvet capes, a backpacker complete with tiny accessories and several brides wearing white trains and veils. Whether a Steer cheerleader in gold and black, or a glamour girl in a fur-trimmed dressing gown, each doll had a personality all her own.

"These dolls have such intricate, delicate work on them," Alexander said. "Obviously a lot of time and effort went in to dressing them."

In the end, every doll was sold, although some were donated immediately back to the Salvation Army to be sold again or given to a child for Christmas.

ANGELS

Continued from Page 1A

have seen so many people who need so much help," she said. "I know how much they will appreciate this."

The women also have a collection of new toys they will be taking to the Salvation Army and were to adopt four youth Angels today.

"We've allotted about \$100 for each of them," said LeVier.

LeVier said a Salvation Army worker had told her years ago about the great need, so she adopted two Angels at that time. She eventually brought up the idea to the Christian Women's Fellowship, which until this year has adopted between five and 10 Angels.

"This year we just had a blast in adopting 16 of these senior Angels," she said with a laugh. "We had a lot of fun. And we aren't through yet."

A number of Angels are still available. A tree containing the names of children will be up through the weekend at Big Spring Mall, and the tree at the Big Spring Herald will be picked up Friday. At last count, there were almost 40 senior citizen Angels that still had not been adopted.

BIG SPRING HERALD
Reflecting a Proud Texas Community
915-263-7331 (Main Switchboard) 915-263-7335 (Circulation Calls Only)
(Fax) 915-264-7205
John H. Walker Publisher.....Ext. 250
John A. Moseley Managing Editor.....Ext. 230
Edwin Vela Advertising Sales Manager.....Ext. 225
Jeremy H. Westerfield Circulation Manager.....Ext. 240
Tony Hernandez Production Manager.....Ext. 256
Dianne Marquez Business Office Manager.....Ext. 255
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 1431-48.

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

"We'd encourage everyone to get those in as soon as possible, either by returning them to the place of business where they picked them up or to the Salvation Army," said Maj. Ron Alexander.

RESPONSE

Continued from Page 1A

on," she said. "Our country will pull together. This can't help but make the election process better."

Avery said she expected people to take more interest in future elections, and added she hoped the voting irregularities in Florida would generate support for computerized voting.

Ben Bancroft, a local attorney and civic leader, said it is unfortunate that whoever takes the White House in January may do so under a cloud.

"A large portion of the country will probably believe the 'real' winner was the other candidate," he said. But Gov. George Bush, as the presumed "winner," is likely to draw people together after the first few months if he does a good job, Bancroft added.

"It was not George W. Bush's fault the election was close, and people will recognize that," he said, "and they will support him as president."

Tune said one outcome of the extended election process could be exploration of the Electoral College system. While some have called for an end to that method of choosing a president, Tune said it would require a Constitutional amendment — unlikely to be supported by the required three-fourths vote of the states.

Electing a president on popular vote, he added, could result in some of the same recount drama that has been played out in Florida, only on a much larger scale.

"Any Electoral College reform would most likely occur at the state level," Tune said. In the future, some states may change the way they apportion electors, he said.

The Electoral College, Tune said, is necessary.

"It gives us a resolution."

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1A

Republican running mate Dick Cheney was in Washington, meeting with

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 4-1-9

Cash 5: 13-14-18-22-30

Lottery numbers are unofficial until confirmed by the state lottery commission.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois and other GOP lawmakers, part of a transition to power that now could begin in earnest.

Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, speaking for the Republican camp, had said Tuesday night that Bush and Cheney were "very pleased and gratified" by the court's ruling. That was an understatement of historic proportions given the furor since Election Day — a saga of counts, recounts, lawsuits by the dozens and two trips to the highest court in the land.

Bush's inauguration on Jan. 20 would give Republicans greater control over the government than at any time since Dwight Eisenhower sat in the White House. The GOP retained control of the House in the November elections.

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

AT&T	21 1/4 + 1/4
Archer-Daniels	12 1/2 - 1/4
Atmos Energy	21 1/2 + 1/4
BP AMOCO	49 1/2 + 1/4
Chevron Corp	82 1/2 + 1/4
Compaq	18.90 - 1.87
Cornell	3 1/2 + 1/4
Dell	21 1/2 - 1/4
Du Pont	43 1/2 + 1/4
Exxon Mobil	87 1/2 + 1/4
Halliburton	38 1/2 + 1/4
IFCO Systems	4 1/2
IBM	94 1/2 + 1/4
Intel Corp	36 1/2 - 1/4
NUV	8 1/2 + 1/4
Patterson Ener	30 1/2
Pepsico Inc	48 1/2 + 1/4
Phillips Petro	54 1/2 + 1/4
SBC Comms	53 1/2 + 1/4
Sears Roebuck	35.59 - 0.18
Texaco Inc	60 1/2 + 1/4
Texas Instrument	49 1/2 - 3/4
TXU	40 1/2 + 1/4
Total Fina	66 1/2 + 1/4
Unocal Corp	36 1/2 + 1/4
Wal-Mart	51 1/2 + 1/4
Wal-Mart/Mexico	23 - 23 1/2
AMCAP	17.91 - 0.11
Europacific	32.07 - 0.06
Prime Rate	9.50 %
Gold	269.40-271.40
Silver	4.63-4.68

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Tuesday until 8 a.m. today:

• THEFT was reported at the police department, 2300

block of Wasson, 400 block of Birdwell, the 1000 block of Birdwell where one Hitachi VCR worth \$150 was reported stolen, the 900 block of Gregg where one gray granite child's grave marker with lamb engraving worth \$189 was reported stolen, the 500 block of Hillside where one boy's 21 speed maroon Mongoose bicycle with black strips in lighting shape worth \$150 was reported stolen.

• ASSAULT FAMILY/VIOLENCE was reported in the 2500 block of Gunter.

• DISTURBANCE/FIGHT was reported in the 1200 block of Lloyd.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:

1:05 a.m. — 600 block of Linda, trauma call, one patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

10:46 a.m. — 900 block of Abrams, medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

12:04 p.m. — 500 block of Birdwell, medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

2:35 p.m. — 2000 block of Gregg, traffic accident, service refused.

5:48 p.m. — 2500 block of Gunter, trauma call, one patient transported to SMMC.

4:15 p.m. — 4200 block of Muir, trauma call, one patient transported to SMMC.

6:45 p.m. — 4900 block of Parkway, medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

9:36 p.m. — 100 block of Gregg, traffic accident, service refused.

10:15 p.m. — IH 20 mile marker 179, traffic accident, one patient transported to SMMC.

11:23 p.m. — IH 20 mile marker 180, traffic accident, service refused.

11:14 p.m. — IH 20 mile marker 174, traffic accident, one patient transported to SMMC.

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14th annual drive-through nativity to open Thursday along Lancaster

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Frosty weather or not, the annual drive-through nativity sponsored by the First Church of the Nazarene will open Thursday at 6:30 and run through 9:30 each night through Sunday.

The event, in its 14th year, draws thousands of people to the parking lot at 1400 Lancaster.

"We are hoping the weather will be clearing up some by then," said Greg Simpson, associate pastor of the church. "We do this each year to remind people of the reason for the season. We want to keep Christ as the main focus for Christmas."

The drive-through nativity

tells the story of the life of Christ from the prophecy of his birth through his death and resurrection. Visitors receive a cassette tape or compact disc to play in the car stereo while they drive through the 17 different scenes.

"We had around 6,500 people come through here last year and we anticipate as many this year," said Simpson. "Even if the weather is a little cold they will be in their cars with their heaters on. It's the actors outside that will be the ones getting cold."

About 150 actors in costume act out the story with the help of a few live animals to make it seem more real. The sets are lighted and handpainted.

Volunteers hand out col-

oring books for the children under 5 years of age. As usual, there is no fee but everyone is asked to bring a can of food for the needy. Donations can also be given at the end of the drive-through.

"We will have someone at the last scene that will be taking up the cassette tapes or compact discs and anyone wishing to make a donation may do so at that time," said Simpson.

According to Simpson, the waiting line may get long during peak periods but he urges everyone to be patient and make it a fun evening.

The best way to enter the line for the nativity is from the west on Martin Luther King, turning south on Lancaster.



Youth pastor Greg Simpson adjusts lights on the entrance sign to the Live Drive-Through Nativity at First Church of the Nazarene Tuesday afternoon. The church is preparing for the opening Thursday night of the event, which draws thousands of visitors each year.

Big Spring City Council approves \$1.7 million in capital equipment bids

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring City Council approved some \$1.7 million in equipment bids Tuesday, worked out an agreement with the county and posted some no parking hours near the junior high and YMCA.

Bids approved ranged from a \$250,000 fire



BOGARD

truck to a \$13,981 six-cylinder pickup and almost everything in between — \$207,500 for two sanitation trucks, \$181,000 for a Caterpillar track loader, \$145,632 for two ambulances, \$122,019 for a street sweeper, \$105,832 for a sewer jet and \$89,605 for five police sedans. The list included a dump truck, flatbed trucks and at least seven pickups.

In a related matter, the council approved a lease-purchase method of financing for the equipment.

Safety concerns at Big Spring Junior High and the YMCA led council members to approve an ordinance banning parking from 10th to Sixth Street on Owens from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:45 until 4 p.m. — with some stipulations.

"The council changed the ordinance to read that it will be enforced only while school is in session, so during the summer and weekends those hours would not apply," said Emma Bogard, assistant city manager. "They also changed the

afternoon time from 4:30 until 4 p.m. There are a number of athletic events scheduled in the afternoon and moving the time up would allow people to park there for those."

Last month, Howard County Commissioners Court approved a code enforcement program for the county, setting up guidelines for property owners that are designed to prevent hazardous situations. In relation to that, the council on Tuesday approved an interlocal agreement with

the county to provide for a code enforcement officer. That officer will be city employee David Pompey.

Council members unanimously voted against a program of credits in lieu of rent when a business or industry makes improvements to city-owned property at McMahon-Wrinkle Airport.

"It was defeated in order to study it more closely," said Bogard.

"There was some talk of tabling it, but it was decided to vote against it at this

time until further work can be done on it."

In other business, the council approved:

- an antenna lease agreement with Texas Telecommunications,
- a renewal contract with Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce for operation of the Dora Roberts Civic Center,
- city holidays for Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1,
- a contract for the county to provide on-site sewage facility services to the city, inspections and the like.

Big Spring man found guilty of sexual assault, receives life prison sentence

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Abel Trevino of Big Spring was found guilty of sexual assault of a 43-year-old woman by an all-male jury Tuesday and sentenced to two life terms by District Judge Robert H. Moore III.

The prosecution called just four witnesses to the stand during the two-hour

trial in 118th District Court. The defense rested its case without calling any witnesses on Trevino's behalf.

Moore, noting Trevino's two prior felony convictions, had no other choice but to return a mandatory life sentence.

Trevino had previously been convicted of murder in Howard County in July of 1975 and for sexual assault of a child in 1989 in Kleberg

County. Robin Orr, assistant district attorney, was pleased with the trial's outcome.

"I am very satisfied with the verdict," said Orr. "I thought that the assault victim was a very compelling witness. The jurors could see from her demeanor that she was telling the truth about being sexually assaulted."

She was one of four wit-

nesses called to testify by Orr on behalf of the prosecution.

The victim testified that she and the defendant had once lived together but had been split up for over a year.

She said the defendant was persistent in trying to re-establish the relationship with her, doing things for her such as mowing the grass and working on her

automobile.

She testified that she was involved in a relationship with another man younger than her and that the defendant was jealous and infuriated at her for turning down his attempts at reconciling.

On the night of the assault, the defendant had come to visit her and asked her to come with him to "drive around the block to talk and get a soda," he

said.

Instead, he drove her to his house where began to hit her repeatedly and then sexually assaulted her, she testified.

She said she didn't report the incident for several days afterward because of fear of him.

Trevino was represented by local attorney Don Richard.

Rylander changes use policy for gas taxes

AUSTIN (AP) — Questions about Texas' gasoline tax revenues have prompted State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander to put a halt to using some of those dollars on administrative costs and return them to the state's highway and public school funds.

Rylander announced the new policy after a recent Senate report called for a review of her office's practices related to the gas tax money.

The comptroller said Tuesday that the criticisms were part of an ongoing feud between her office and the Department of Transportation, which wants more tax revenue earmarked for roads.

Rylander also said the criticisms were timed to coincide with an audit she will release next month calling for major overhauls at the highway agency, which has an annual budget of \$4.5 billion.

"This audit is going to expose inefficiencies at TxDOT. It's going to call for reorganizations and a reduction in force," she said.

Sen. Jon Lindsay, R-Houston, issued the report about the gas tax spending in Rylander's office.

He said he was unfamiliar with the Rylander-Transportation Department feud and that his findings were not influenced by Rylander's report.

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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.

John H. Walker
Publisher

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Doll auction response was truly special

Big Spring take a bow. Once again our community has proven to be a special place — a hometown with a heart that responds to those in need.

At a time when many believe they simply can't get around to doing everything they need to do, Big Spring residents continued a tradition of giving of themselves Tuesday by making the Salvation Army's Doll Dressing Contest and Auction nothing short of a resounding success.

The doll auction, resumed following a one-year hiatus, surpassed even the loftiest expectations held by members of the Salvation Army Advisory Council.

Prior to Tuesday's noon auction in the East Room at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, John H. Walker surveyed the 70 dolls which had been clothed by local residents and indicated he would consider his year's tenure as the council's chairman a success if the auction raised \$2,500.

When auctioneer Robert Pruitt of Spring City Auction had finished his entertaining banter with bidders, however, those 70 dolls had raised more than \$4,600 the Salvation Army will use to make sure the needy in our community have an enjoyable Christmas.

Clearly dozens of people deserve kudos for their involvement — from those advisory council members who made the decision to resume the contest and auction, to those who decorated the dolls, members of the Big Spring Rotary and Kiwanis clubs that scheduled their meetings for the week to coincide with the auction, Pruitt for volunteering his services and those who answered the call as auction buyers.

All of them deserve recognition and our collective thanks.

As a result of their efforts, a great many families in Big Spring and Howard County that might have been forced to endure a less than joyous Yuletide will experience the true spirit of Christmas.

We can think of little that could speak better of our community.

OTHER VIEWS

Readers may recall the alert in this space that the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission was considering a rule that would require homeowners to use ozone-eating air conditioners that would add hundreds of dollars more. Apparently, many people protested that proposal because it was removed from the agency's plan to clean up the air over Houston.

The plan approved by TNRCC last week will cover an eight county region including Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties. It calls for large cuts in emissions at industrial plants, reduced speed limits and a ban on the use of diesel equipment during morning hours.

Gov. George W. Bush must submit the plan to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval by the end of the year. Without the plan, there was a risk of losing important federal highway funding. The EPA has until October to either approve the plan or implement a federal plan.

Because our East Texas region is under the threat of being classified as a

nonattainment area, its instructive to see what kind of measures are being taken in Houston. Speed limits will be lowered to 55 mph in the area effective May 1, 2002.

There will be a requirement for stricter tailpipe emissions tests. Houston-area industrial plants will be required to reduce their smog-causing nitrogen-oxide releases by an average of 90 percent, which may not be feasible and will be extremely expensive.

There will be a morning ban on the use of diesel construction equipment during part of the year, the sale of cleaner diesel fuel, and the retirement or replacement of off-highway diesel equipment. The restrictions will take effect at staggered intervals through 2007.

Had the requirement for modified air conditioners been put into the Houston plan, it would have affected all areas to the east of Interstate 35. However, there were many valid arguments against this unproven technology. Thus, Texas who protested this provision can claim victory for stopping TNRCC from making a bad decision.

Imagine a child without Christmas

Once again, we find ourselves up against a nasty deadline.

You see, Tuesday was the deadline for adopting the Angels on the Salvation Army's Angel Trees. Sadly, there are many left hanging.

But we as a community have another chance. The deadline has been extended until Friday. We have another 48 hours or so to come through and ensure that those less fortunate members of our community have a Christmas this year.

Since I first arrived in Big Spring on Dec. 1, 1991, I have always been impressed with the compassion within this community ... with the willingness of her people to dig deep and help others less fortunate.

Once again, it's time for us to dig deep ... only now, there's little time left.

Close your eyes and picture a child ... a child all excited about the holidays and the prospect of Christmas because all they have seen and heard and read for the past few weeks — at school, on the television, on the radio and in the newspaper — has dealt with Santa Claus and Christmas gifts and toys and special holiday meals and treats.

But the stark reality is that deep down — and sadly enough for some, maybe it's not so deep down — that this particular child knows there won't be any such Christmas ... at least not for them.

The home they live in is barren of decorations ... there is no tree and there certainly aren't any presents or brightly wrapped packages.

Their mom and dad, if they are lucky enough to have both a mom and dad at home, work hard for their money. They fight to pay the bills, to keep the old car running and to try to do their very best to provide warm clothes, a warm home and nourishing food for their children.

Sadly enough, Christmas gifts, holiday meals and shiny ornaments just don't have a place in a budget stretched to the limit every pay day.

The child knows their mom and dad loves them ... they know they care ... but they wonder why it is they can't have something special at Christmas like all of their little friends.

Remember that child I asked you to picture? Now ... imagine it is your child or grandchild.

Now, back to reality.

Because you are luckier than some, your child and family won't go without this holiday season, will they?

You'll do everything within your power ... every day ... the Good Lord will allow you to do ... to make certain little Susie and lit-

tle Johnny have everything it is they have wished for these past few weeks.

I know, because when I became a grandfather, I promised myself that if there was any way on God's green Earth that if I could do it, I would for Miranda. Having been blessed with Andrew as well, I feel that way even more strongly.

Miranda and Andrew will have a wonderful Christmas. No, they won't get everything they want, but they will get more than enough.

But there are Mirandas and Andrews and Susies and Johnnys in Big Spring who won't get anything unless you and I adopt an Angel from those left on the trees around town.

Unless we do that, there won't be any Christmas morning excitement with paper being ripped away as packages are opened.

There won't be any "oohs" and "aahs" as they discover what Santa brought them.

For those children, the stark reality that there may well be no such thing as Santa Claus will break through the holiday facade they have been forced to live with.

Can you imagine a child getting up on Christmas morning and there being nothing for them? I can't imagine that of Miranda or Andrew and the mere thought of a child without Christmas brings tears to my eyes.

Christmas should be a wonderful time of the year for children. It's a time of

lights and parades and toys and candy canes and memories that will last a lifetime.

Won't you help give a child less fortunate than your own — or your grandchildren or great-grandchildren — the opportunity to experience a child's Christmas?

What gift could you give that could be as wonderful as one that would put a smile on a child's face or bring that wonderful child's giggle that makes us all smile and feel like laughing ... and what thought could be worse than knowing that unless you do something, a child somewhere in Big Spring will get up on Christmas morning ... hoping against hope, but knowing all too well that there'll be no Christmas for them.

And on that day of all days, what could be worse than a child without Christmas?

Today, go adopt one of the remaining Angels ... but don't wait for tomorrow, because we're running out of them.

Even if you've already adopted an Angel, adopt another if you can afford it and help make the difference in the life of a child.

Give them that smile and that laugh — but more importantly, give them that very special gift of being able to view Christmas through the eyes of a child.

Please ... time is slipping away and we're running out of tomorrows.

(John H. Walker is publisher of the Herald.)



JOHN H. WALKER



"AND, OF COURSE, THE NEXT PRESIDENT GETS TO DEAL WITH THIS ..."

ADDRESSES

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President
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- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
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703 Hart Office Building
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Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
U.S. Representative
17th District
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Washington, 20515.
Phone: 202-225-6605.
- **HON. GEORGE W. BUSH**
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849.

Star on Gail Mountain shines bright

You can see it from 15 miles away. It appears as just a light above the horizon at first, but as you get closer you begin to see it is a star. And you smile.

This is the seventh year that the star has shined over the small community of Gail, the county seat of Borden County. The star is lighted the day after thanksgiving.

"Everybody gathers at the courthouse about 5 o'clock in the afternoon," says Verna Adcock, publisher of the local newspaper. "There's singing and refreshments and everything is decorated. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus talk to children.

Then about 7 o'clock the star is turned on and we stand around and sing Christmas carols. It's exciting and fun because so many people come here for the lighting of the star. It's kind of a homecoming."

County Commissioner Buck Lemons has an old tractor that he brings to town.

"It's all lighted up and pulls a trailer with hay on it and people take hay rides around the courthouse square."

The star on the mountain is maintained by contributions. People can either buy a sponsorship or bulb in memory of someone. The names of the sponsors and the people being remembered are printed in the paper. The star remains lighted 24 hours a day until January 1. It's also lighted at Easter.

Sarah Sharp and her husband Ross arrange many activities around the star. Seven years ago, some

friends of theirs saw a lighted star in El Paso and told them it would be great to have a star on Gail mountain.

Ross, an electrician at the school, talked to the electric company and made sure they could get power to the site. Concrete people from Post came down and poured a slab to stabilize the base of the star. Ross designed the star on his computer and bought the steel tubing to build it.

"We laid that thing out in my backyard and welded it together. We built it in three pieces so we could haul it up that steep, mountain road on a trailer. We put it together once we got it up on the mountain."

The star is 20 feet across, 20 feet tall and has 742 light bulbs.

"Every year, little kids and adults have to climb that mountain to replace bulbs," says Sarah. "Sometimes there's as

many as 600 that have burned out or have been damaged by hail or cows. It's really a community effort."

Extremely high winds have blown down the star twice. The mountain, owned by Delmo and Martha Pearce, is 300 feet higher than the land below.

"A lot of people tell us they get the Christmas spirit when they see the star," says Sarah.

Ross says the first thing he does every morning is look at the star through his kitchen window.

"On cold, foggy, wintry mornings when the sun really doesn't shine, the star gives off a real warm glow. It really kinda warms your heart. I get goose bumps just thinkin' about it. It's just really special to us."

People from nearby communities drive to Gail to see the star. They think if the star is bright, everything's all right.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH



Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

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Congress works on details of spending bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional negotiators were down to the last few sticking points as they approached a compromise on remaining spending bills that finally would conclude the overextended session.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said the tentative deal being worked out was acceptable to most in his party, despite some grumbling about cuts to defense programs. Lott said he hoped to pass the legislation Thursday or Friday.

The general attitude, he said, is: "Look, let's quit reaching for all we would like to have; let's see if we could agree on what we must do."

The White House also backed the general spending levels in the proposed compromise, although some Democrats were unhappy that some education programs might get trimmed.

Both sides said the

momentum was toward wrapping up work on four unfinished spending bills for fiscal year 2001. They cover a broad area of education, labor, and health programs and the departments of Commerce, Justice, State and Treasury along with dozens of smaller agencies. Congress originally hoped to finish the session in October, which would have given lawmakers time to campaign for the election.

Since Oct. 1, when the fiscal year began, Congress has had to pass 20 short-term spending bills to avoid a repeat of the government shutdowns of the winter of 1995-96.

The breakthrough came Monday, when President Clinton and congressional leaders agreed to spend \$108.9 billion on education, health and labor programs. That is part of a \$350 billion spending bill that also includes automatic benefits

for Medicaid and other federal programs.

The deal provided \$3.7 billion less than a tentative agreement on the education-health bill reached before the election but \$13 billion more than last year. The bill has been an annual area of contention between Republicans trying to hold down spending and the administration seeking money to hire teachers and repair rundown schools.

Monday's deal also included an additional \$1 billion in across-the-board cuts to programs outside health and education, with almost half coming from defense programs.

"You could hear a pin drop" when this was explained to Republican senators Tuesday, said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He said he "raised tremendous objections" to the cuts,

amounting to about 0.2 percent of the defense budget.

Still being discussed was how to divide up the \$3.7 billion in cuts to the education-health bill. Democrats are reluctant to accept any cuts to their top priorities of hiring new teachers and modernizing rundown schools. Lawmakers from both sides are resisting cuts to National Institutes of Health research programs.

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said the budget agreement tentatively included the bulk of a 10-year, \$25.2 billion series of tax breaks passed by the House and backed by President Clinton that is intended to boost investment and create jobs in poverty-stricken areas.

It also has a five-year increase in Medicare reimbursements to health care providers of at least \$30 billion and at least \$1.7 billion more for rural health and other Medicare coverage.

Little relief expected from heating prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — A cold and expensive winter could be in store for many American households as natural gas prices show no sign of easing and heating oil costs rival the peaks seen last winter.

Government and industry officials told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday that the prices stem from too little natural gas to meet demand.

"The economy has been robust," pushing up industrial and utility demands for fuel, said Roger Cooper, executive director of the American Gas Association. "And heating demand has been high in this early winter season due to unusually cold weather."

"Volatile (natural) gas prices will prevail until significantly more gas supplies enter the market," added Mark Mazur, head of the Energy Information Administration.

While higher prices have produced new drilling, significant new production would be needed before the "fairly strong mismatch between supply and demand" gets straightened out to force prices to retreat, Mazur said in his testimony.

Meanwhile, a state energy official said the country is already in "an energy crisis" without enough money to help poor families pay for heating bills that will average about 50 percent more than last year — and could go even higher if there is a prolonged cold spell.

"Skyrocketing prices for natural gas, combined with

rising heating oil, kerosene and propane costs, and attendant electricity price increases for many households, leave the most vulnerable households at serious risk," said Deborah Schachter, speaking for the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Schachter, head of New Hampshire's state energy office, urged Congress to approve this fiscal year's overdue budget for low-income energy assistance. The \$1.4 billion is caught up in budget wrangling, although the fiscal year began 10 weeks ago.

But even \$1.4 billion may not be enough, Schachter said.

In New Hampshire, 114,000 households are eligible for low-income energy assistance, but "faced with the worst energy crisis in 20 years, we project an ability to serve less than 12 percent" of those families she said.

The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers even with normal winter weather will be 50 percent higher this winter than last, averaging \$834 this season for a typical Midwest household.

About 56 million American homes are heated by natural gas.

Economists for some time have predicted that this winter would bring sharply higher heating costs whether it's for heating oil or natural gas. Unusually cold weather that has recently gripped parts of the country has added to the upward pressure on fuel prices.

McVeigh requests to be executed within 120 days

DENVER (AP) — Timothy McVeigh asked a federal judge to stop all appeals of his conviction in the Oklahoma City bombing and to set a date for his execution.

In a federal court filing made public Tuesday, McVeigh said he wanted to waive further review of his case by the courts. However, he reserved the right to seek executive clemency, his lawyer said.

McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy and sentenced to death in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

If he is put to death, it would be the first execution

of a federal prisoner in 37 years.

The former Army soldier asked that his execution be within 120 days of his Dec. 7 statement, which was filed with the court on Monday.

Justice Department spokeswoman Chris Watney declined to comment on the request.

McVeigh has filed two unsuccessful appeals, and his lawyers had been researching additional challenges.

McVeigh acknowledged that he submitted the statement against the advice of his attorneys, but he said he believes he is competent to make the decision. He said he would undergo a court-ordered psychological evaluation if necessary.

"I will not justify or explain my decision to any psychologist, but will answer questions related to my competency," he wrote.

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch could approve McVeigh's request, reject it or order a competency hearing first.

McVeigh attorney Nathan Chambers said his client was reserving the right to petition for executive clemency, but he wouldn't comment on their discussions.

Andrew Cohen, a legal analyst who has observed all of McVeigh's court proceedings, said the latest move was consistent with McVeigh's anti-government views.

"I think he always per-

ceived himself to be a political person, and this would be the ultimate political statement, to give up his appeal and become a martyr," Cohen said.

In an appeal decided in March 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court left intact McVeigh's conviction and death sentence, rejecting his contention that his trial was tainted by jury misconduct and news reports that he confessed to his lawyers. In October, Matsch denied McVeigh's second appeal, which contended trial attorney Stephen Jones failed to represent him adequately.

McVeigh's former Army buddy, Terry Nichols, was convicted of manslaughter and conspiracy and sentenced to life in prison.

Working poor are descending on food banks, other relief agencies

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — To the working poor looking in on a booming economy from the outside, housing and fuel prices have exploded and health care, prescription drug and car repair costs aren't far behind.

That's leaving precious little for food budgets this holiday season, almost five years into the welfare reform act's efforts to move people off welfare and into jobs.

"A lot of the people that eat here have jobs," said

chef Joe Cailteux, cooking up ham, noodle casserole and green beans at the Albuquerque Salvation Army kitchen. "As a matter of fact, we have scheduled the hours that we feed here in order to feed the people who do attempt to work."

A year ago, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that demand for emergency food assistance grew 18 percent over 1998 in 26 cities. On Thursday, they plan an update on hunger and homelessness.

A U.S. Agriculture

Department study last year found 10 million families, or 37 percent of U.S. households, had inadequate access to food in 1998-99. New Mexico topped the list at 15.1 percent.

"It does become a choice between do I take my child to the doctor, pay my utility bill or go to the grocery store and buy food?" said Cindy Cerf, spokeswoman for St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix, which distributes 30 million pounds of food a year, mostly to 900 relief agencies in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

"These aren't people who are depending on welfare," she said. "It's just that they're at the low end of the pay scale."

Also suffering are people whose jobs don't include health benefits, said Sister Paulette LoMonaco, executive director of Good Shepherd Services in New York City.

"Their salaries aren't sufficient to provide benefits or a living wage, so when a small problem comes up, it

becomes a catastrophe," she said.

Single mother Margaret Trujillo, of Albuquerque earns \$60 a week from babysitting and gets \$120 a month in food stamps. She says rising fuel prices mean she can't pay her bills, so she turned to a food pantry to make sure she and her 3-year-old son have enough to eat.

"My mom's not going to say get out, you know, but I need to pay her," she said.

Soaring demand, low inventories and expected

colder weather will keep natural gas and heating oil prices high through the winter, government and industry economists said Tuesday.

The Energy Department estimated heating bills for natural gas consumers would be 50 percent higher this winter than last.

Rents have skyrocketed so much in 38 metropolitan areas that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development broadened its rent subsidy program this month.

Under federal standards, most of the states in the report set more stringent eligibility rates due to the shortage of available funding, Shuptrine said.

Report highlights need for more federal money to pay for child care

WASHINGTON (AP) — States need more federal money to pay for child care, an advocacy group argues in a new report that focuses on the South but highlights problems across the country.

"There ought to be sufficient funds to serve all families who need and seek it," said Sarah Shuptrine, president of the Southern Institute on Children and Families, which was releasing its report Wednesday.

But Shuptrine said the Southern task force, which spent a year studying the issue, was unable to estimate how many children need child care and are not getting it.

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services reported that just 12 percent of U.S. children who are eligible for federally subsidized child care got it last year.

But that report also did not attempt to estimate the actual need. It did not say whether the families with-

out subsidies were paying for child care on their own, didn't need it or had made other arrangements.

"The data have got to be collected so we're more informed about what kind of decisions to make," Shuptrine said.

The report also recommends that states make it easier for families to apply for child care help, noting the trouble programs such

as Medicaid have had signing up children who qualify for aid. That, of course, would not become a significant problem unless there becomes more money available.

The federal government sent states \$5.2 billion last year to help subsidize child care. States spent another \$1.6 billion of their own money, which was required to get the federal dollars.

Nationally, more than 14.7 million low-income children were eligible for child care subsidies last year using federal standards, but fewer than 1.8 million children got the help, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

In the South, about 5.5 million children were eligible for subsidies and about 619,000 received them, Shuptrine said.

Under federal standards, most of the states in the report set more stringent eligibility rates due to the shortage of available funding, Shuptrine said.

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Trees mark season of giving

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Donation "trees" are a popular way to encourage charitable giving during the holiday season.

Besides the Salvation Army Angel Trees, which provide clothing and other gifts for needy children and senior citizens, there are at least two other similar programs going on in the community.

Children's Protective Services, the agency which serves abused and neglected kids, has a Giving Tree set up at Wells Fargo Bank. Donors can pick up an ornament, buy the requested gift, and return it to the bank by Friday.

Items purchased for that tree will go to abused and neglected children who have been placed in foster care throughout Howard County.

"Most of these children do

• **The Giving Tree, for abused and neglected children, is at Wells Fargo until Friday.**

• **The American Cancer Society Memorial Tree is at Merle Norman in Big Spring Mall.**

not have their birth families involved in their lives," said Iris Hall, foster home recruiter for CPS. "Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy for kids, but for some of these children, it is not."

Even those who are still with their families are probably going through some type of turmoil and may not receive any gifts for

Christmas, Hall said. Those who are in foster care will usually receive gifts from their foster parents, but they often have budgets strapped by other expenses and other children.

"We really appreciate people helping us care for these children," Hall said.

Donors to the American Cancer Society, meanwhile, can see their memorials noted on a special tree on display at Merle Norman in Big Spring Mall.

"The tree is part of the American Cancer Society's memorial program," said Leslie Latuda Kitto, from the district 2 office. "Every person who has had a memorial made in his or her memory this year will be on the tree."

To add a name to that tree in memory of someone, stop by Merle Norman and pick up a card. For information, call the ACS office at 683-6374.



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen
The Giving Tree, which lists Christmas wishes of children in foster care or clients of Child Protective Services, is at Wells Fargo through Friday.

Extension programs filled very busy year

This has been a busy year for the Howard County Extension Office, family and consumer science division.

As a prelude to the Walk Across Texas kick-off, four Health Breaks were conducted in an effort to inform participants of the value of regular exercise as it relates to good overall health.

Topics were: "Choosing a Good Shoe," conducted by Dick Helms, "How Do Nutrition and Exercise Fit Together," conducted by Michelle Werner, "The Benefits of Regular Exercise," conducted by Dr. Guy Owen, and "Stress Reduction Through Exercise," conducted by Dana Tarter.



DANA TARTER

Walk Across Texas kicked off the first mile in April of 2000 in conjunction with the Big Spring Area Health Fair. Eleven teams continued walking following the kick-off and reporting team mileage on a weekly basis, working towards a goal of 800 miles over the eight-week period.

The mileage for each team was recorded on a Texas map located at the Howard County Extension office. At the conclusion of the period a "celebration event" was conducted with participants receiving recognition certificates. A total of 6,131.75 miles were logged by the 11 teams. The Walk Across Texas program focuses on walking as a healthy, lifelong fitness program.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service continues to be involved in the Big Spring Area Health Fair, approximately 2,000 people attend the annual event which provides some screenings and health-related information. The theme of the 2000 Health Fair was "Taking Care of People" with a focus on cancer awareness.

The Howard County Extension office sponsored healthy food preparation demonstrations focusing on foods that have been linked to the reduction of certain types of cancer. More than 140 participated in the demonstrations.

A Food Protection Management training was held in April. Eight Food Service Managers from the surrounding area attended the 16 hour course including personnel from the Spring City Senior Citizens Center.

This intensive training is a "train the trainer" program with food service managers taking a certification test at the completion of the course. Those receiving a passing score are certified through the

Concert planned Thursday at St. Mary's

HERALD Staff Report

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will present its annual Advent Offerings concert series Thursday and again on Thursday, Dec. 21.

Both concerts begin at 12:05 p.m. in the sanctuary at 10th and Goliad, and everyone is invited to bring a sack lunch for a time of fellowship in the Parish Hall immediately following. St. Mary's will provide tea, coffee and cookies.

Performers on Thursday will include Joyce Bradley, soprano; Linda Hill, piano and organ; Scott McLaughlin, guitar; Gloria Steelman, flute; and Vilia Walter, cello.

Featured carols will include, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "What Child is This," "Gesu Bambino," "Silent Night," and "Away in a Manger."

Special guest artists for the Dec. 21 concert will be the Lone Star Brass Quintet of the Midland Odessa Symphony. There is no admission charge for either concert in the series.



Brenna Phernetton, from left, Hayley Wigington and Haley Adams share a laugh Thursday during a tea for members of the Goliad Junior Classics, sponsored by the Big Spring Woman's Club. The Classics, like the Woman's Club members, participate in a variety of service projects, including the Angel Tree, canned food drive and collecting coats.

HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Lubbock author will sign books here Thursday

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

A Lubbock author will sign copies of her first published book on Thursday at a local Christian book store.

Caroline Mullins of Lubbock will be at The Master's Touch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sign copies of her self-published book "Miracles of a Lifetime."

"I have been working on this book all my life," said Mullins. "It started out from when I recorded the things God has done for my children so they would have the stories when I am gone."

BOOK SIGNING

What: Author Caroline Mullins will sign "Miracles of a Lifetime"
Where: The Master's Touch
When: Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

According to Mullins, she and her family have been blessed with several miracles during her life.

"I had one child born with fluid on the brain," she said. "He was mentally retarded. He couldn't sit up or walk. When he was 13 months old he caught up to other children his age within a

week."

According to Mullins, both she and her daughter were cured of asthma, and she has one child who had five miracles in his life by age seven.

Mullins began to pull the details of the miracles in her life into a book in December of 1998, she said.

"God is interested in the details of our life if we let him," she said. Her book has been out for close to four weeks.

Copies of Mullins book will cost \$15.99 at the Master's Touch, according to Veronda Vassar, owner of the store at 995 E. FM-700.

Tips to help you survive the holidays with family

AUSTIN (AP) — Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah or Boxing Day, family gatherings can be less than loving and more than mayhem. Want a little help?

Who among us has not cheered for the spineless Clark Griswold in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" when he asked visiting hapless cousin Eddie: "Can I refill your eggnog for you? Get you something to eat? Drive you out to the middle of nowhere and leave you for dead?"

Like you, I love my family, warts and all, but do I really want all those people in my house... and at the same time? If I feed them,

will they go away? (Hey, it worked on Halloween.) If I expose them to sunlight or get them wet, will they multiply, or die? (Ever see "Gremlins"?)

Long ago I announced that the Greigs would be chez Greig (as in our little abode) every Thanksgiving and every Christmas Day. With rare exceptions, I have stuck to it. Granted, a few huffs ensued in some corners, but all in all, it works. Anyone who wants to come to our house is welcome. I liberally stack the deck with an assortment of friends and neighbors. But sometimes, it is not easy.

Want some tips on how to avoid losing it today?

Hoping for a license to go skiing next year instead of mincing and pureeing? Crave a holiday away from the family but do not know how to make it happen? Wonder how many folks are sleeping on sofas all across America?

Then put down that turkey baster and stop chopping those giblets. This edition of the Greig Files could save your day. Why do family holiday meals seem like dinner with Desdemona?

No matter how planned the preparation or impeccable the repast, family holiday meals are usually served with a side of issues — aging to alcoholism, fat to fertility, child rearing to

childishness. There is more at the table than food (which took three days to cook and disappears in three minutes).

Unfortunately, like the full moon, holidays bring out the strangest behavior. Thanksgiving is the hardest holiday of all, notes psychologist Sherry Payne, who has been counseling families for 25 years. "We want to believe in the tradition of an ideal close family occasion," Payne notes. And it is just not so. Plus putting people together in a space not big enough to hold them all intensifies the stress.

Need to change your attitude? Changing location will likely do it, counsels

Payne. Take a walk or go to the next room or go to a movie. Getting out of Dodge has its advantages.

Who am I today? That is the question to ask every holiday morning. When beset by a houseful of guests, one woman can be a wife, a mother, a sister, a daughter, a cousin, a granddaughter, a best friend, a daughter-in-law and a sister-in-law simultaneously.

(OK, OK, men can have these multiple roles, too, but give me this one).

Licensed psychologist Jan Ford Musted advises taking a moment to focus on who you are at this gathering.

See SURVIVE, Page 7A

See TARTER, Page 7A

SLICE of life!

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIG SPRING MALL SHOPPERS can enjoy cookies baked by the Neighbors and Newcomers Club on Saturday.

The bake sale will feature \$1 packages of six cookies, and/or three Rice Krispies treats, slices of cakes, breads and jars of jam for the hungry shopper. The bake sale will begin at 10:30am, and all proceeds will go to benefit the local Mobile Meals program, which delivers a hot meal to homebound senior citizens.

Chair of the bake sale is Beth Mathis, a recent newcomer, and co-chair is Carlita Leonardi.

...

A RECEPTION FOR RETIRING librarian Joan Rock of Elbow Elementary School is planned Friday from 1-3 p.m. in the school foyer. Anyone is welcome to attend the event honoring Rock longtime librarian for the school. Staff will present her with a commemorative quilt.

LETTERS FROM HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each week, the Herald will print the addresses of service men and women or college students from the Crossroads area so that they can receive letters from home. Send the address of any local man or woman attending an out-of-area college or university or serving in the military to: Letters From Home, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring; or bring them to the office, 710 Scurry; or e-mail to: bsherald@xroadstx.com. Addresses should be submitted in writing.

C/C Michael Morrison
Company 2, Platoon 1
Naval Academy Preparatory School,
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Newport, R.I. 02841-1519

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Northfield, VT 05633
1-802-485-0479
blairnutting@hotmail.com

EM2 Evalita B. Perez
USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)
Reactor/RE-1 Division
FPO AP 96612-2872

Artist's work depicts winter celebrations throughout history

KERRVILLE (AP) — From pagan to Christian holidays, the evolution of winter celebrations has been painstakingly recreated in a series of eight miniature exhibits by Hunt artist Dolores L. Petersen.

Petersen said she created the exhibit, titled "The Many Ways of Christmas", because she was "appalled by the lack of spirituality in the holiday season."

The exhibition shows how the Christian meaning of Christmas has become hidden under layers of commercialism.

Petersen worked on the eight miniature scenes for six years, beginning with a celebration of ancient pagan Sumerians. She, with help of her husband, Tom, made almost everything in the scenes, including the models, backdrops and accessories.

Each miniature was carefully researched to ensure the historical accuracy of the decor, celebration, costumes and beliefs.

Petersen researched the winter celebrations of the harvest, where drinking, dancing and even sacrifice of children took place to appease pagan gods and assure future abundance. Pagans also put up decorations of green garlands, red ribbons and red balls or apples, traditions that survived.

The second scene shows Mary presenting the newborn Jesus to Joseph. Petersen said she placed the Holy Family in a cave

because that was historically more accurate than the traditional stable. She said the miniature shows shepherds in the distance, representing hills a mile away in the artist's space of only a few inches.

The third scene shows a Roman household with rich and poor people sharing a meal in the early centuries A.D., not celebrating Christmas.

Although Christian, Petersen said, the early Christians concentrated on Christ's resurrection rather than his birth. This scene is completely without decorations or gifts.

A miniature replica of Frari's Basilica in Venice, Italy, around 1520 shows a Christmas day Mass, where the people are dominated by Titian's painting of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Petersen said the religious observance was the only celebration of Christmas in this period.

Petersen created all of the 56 figures in the exhibition by hand using a polymer and wire to sculpt the detailed figures precisely so that even the movable fingers are positioned to the artist's satisfaction. Petersen said she worked on the figures for a year before she was satisfied with the design. Each figure takes at least three days because none of them are molded.

The miniatures are scaled to 1/12 of the original, although some of the figures are smaller still to show the effect of distance between the front and rear of the

Basilica. The only decoration is a simple nativity scene.

The fifth scene is a century later, a miniature recreation of the artist Peter Paul Rubens' Antwerp home where he entertained Spanish, Italian and Dutch aristocrats. A blooming tree has been brought inside to decorate the room, while a small nativity scene sits at the side hardly noticed among the social festivities.

In 1850s America, a Victorian-style home is the backdrop for feasting among friends and family. Guests sing carols about the season. A Christmas tree with candles and homemade decorations of red ribbons, wreaths and red balls and sometimes a nativity.

Petersen notes the first introduction of Santa Claus, who brings gifts for the good children. Petersen's Victorian house is decorated to the smallest detail with a child reading "The Night Before Christmas."

The last two scenes depict the modern era: the shopping mall where everyone is running around looking for gifts and music dedicated to Santa Claus, reindeer and celebrating with bright and gaudy decorations.

The other scene is of a house where a couple is surrounded by new gifts and take-out food wrappers, engrossed in sports on TV, their yard decorated with large ornaments, and not even a nativity scene recalling the original reason for the Christmas celebration.

SURVIVE

Continued from Page 6A

Decisions about behavior and loyalty flow easily from that focus, she adds. Sure, you may be having the in-laws over, but first and foremost, this is your house and ergo, your rules. Related to smokers? Let them know ahead of time smoking is only permitted outside. Detest animals? Alert traveling Aunt Lisa that her yapster of a dog is welcome at the neighborhood kennel. Working with your youngest on not sucking his thumb? Share the challenge with the family so you don't feel like the principal at a pep rally every time you correct him.

Is Norman Rockwell coming to dinner?
Nope, and neither is Dr. Ruth, Joyce Brothers or Billy Graham.

Remember, expectations for a perfect feast, flawless fellowship and warm camaraderie have a snowball's chance of happening. So let them go, counsels Mustin. Taking a proactive approach to the holidays can eliminate unnecessary people-pleasing and stress. Announce at the beginning of the day or in a letter beforehand that it is fine with you if Uncle Festus watches football, Cousin Antonio is glued to an opera CD and Grandmother Dorothy knits on the porch. Take the tact that this is a true holiday for you and your guests. By accepting others and their foibles, you release the normally springloaded family tension.

Why is everyone so cranky?
Could be the rich food or the change in routine or the company. Ever occur to you that your family and friends may be uncomfortable -- intimidated, even -- by the assembly? The perfectionism trap is not just set for a hostess. Some seemingly big egos actually mask personal inferiority. But does the source of the bad behavior matter? Not a whit. Behaving badly is one way to release the anxiety and over- (circle one: drinking, eating, talking) is another. How people deal with holidays is a microcosm of how they deal with the expectations of others, agree analysts.

What can I do for myself?
Less, for starters. Take a few things off the must-do list and enjoy the festivities for a change. Order the turkey from a caterer. Or ask a guest to bring the turkey. Heck, just get a bucket of wings if it makes life easier. Make the serving time a big window (i.e., sometime between 3 and 4). Stick to whatever works for you to reduce stress. Make time for yourself. Read a good escape novel, do a crossword puzzle, exercise, take a hot bath. Scheduling time for yourself is easy once you get the hang of it. Practice saying, "I have another commitment."

Use a trouble Dumpster, advises counselor Payne. Mentally deposit your issues and cares in it before the day begins. And do not pick them up later on. Bonus: Taking time for yourself is a good example for your children. You may be saving them from a lifetime of holiday imperatives. **What can I do for my family?**
The biggest gift you can give your friends and family is the you they know and love. By pampering yourself, you increase the odds you will be yourself during the day. Program the day to allow for mistakes and mishaps. Who waxes about the perfect pumpkin pie when the story about the dog eating the turkey is more entertaining and memorable? Keep a sense of humor, recommends Payne.

Inviting extra folks -- roommates, neighbors, new beaux -- to the family gathering puts a little distance between feuding cousins and anxious aunts. My family always behaves better when there are strangers around. Remember that new family on the block has not heard all of Uncle Bob's stories and jokes -- yet. Voila, instant audience! And always have a plan B -- an extra chicken in the outside refrigerator, a new game or video for restless kids, an errand for the ever-helpful great-aunt who just wants to do something.

Still feel like aliens

landed in your home? Time for a change. Use the frustrations of this year's gathering to catapult yourself into a new plan. It may be too late for this year, but not for next. Plan to do things differently, very differently. You may find that the anonymity a distant venue offers will be a true holiday.

Take a holiday from holiday expectations. Plan a family trip or vow to stay home rather than race around the city or state. Then act on it. Let the family know in advance, but refrain from announcing the Vegas jaunt as you slam the door this year.

Above all, resist the need to explain. Share your plans and let the dust settle.

Could this low feeling be more than just tinsel trepidation?

You mean that holiday horror and sense of sadness? Seasonal depression has a name and, good news, a cure. So maybe it is not the onslaught of in-laws or the pressure to perform perfectly that is getting you down.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is diagnosed after two consecutive winters in which a patient experiences depression and holiday dread interlaced with non-depressed periods in the spring and summer. Absent life-changing events (deaths, divorces, illness) as an explanation for mood and behavior changes, SAD may be the problem.

The Mayo Clinic Health Oasis reports an estimated 10 million to 25 million Americans experience SAD, a depression that occurs in seasons with less sunlight. Women are more likely to be affected than men. SAD occurs in all corners, from northern countries to India.

Lifestyle changes such as increased light in the home, outdoor exercise, winter vacations in sunny locations and stress management are common treatments. Seek professional help if you experience seasonal mood changes.

Still feel like aliens

TARTER

Continued from Page 6A

Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association to train employees at their food service facility.

Topics of the training course are safe receiving, storage, handling and service of foods, systems for analyzing food service and identifying critical points when food contamination could occur and training in pest management.

In June, the Family and Community Education (FCE) Clubs in Howard County made a donation of \$17,000 to Howard College to support an endowed scholarship, the "Zula Rhodes 4-H and Agriculture Scholarship." The FCE clubs began in the late '70s collecting aluminum cans and conducting other fundraising activities so that they could earn the money to support a college scholarship for 4-H youth.

They gave the first scholarship in 1989; recipients over the past years have been: Vance Christie, Tonya Rock, Carrie Bruton, Colin Woodall, Tasha Rock, Dane Driver, Kirstie Moates, Kim

Middleton, Ryan Wright Katie Gaskins, Lindsay Moates, D.D. Wright.

In September the State Family and Community Education Association Conference was held in Odessa and hosted by the District 6 FCE Association. During business meetings held at the conference the Texas delegation voted to adopt a new name - Texas Extension Education Association.

Better Living for Texans (BLT) was approved for its fourth year in Howard County in October of 2000 and a new BLT Program Assistant, Enchantra Mendoza, joined the Howard County Extension office. The BLT program targets limited resource families with educational programs being offered in the areas of healthy nutrition, understanding the Food Guide Pyramid, wise use of food dollars, planning menus and preparing healthy foods for families.

The Better Living for Texans program funded through the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Food Service Agency continues to

grow in Texas. In 2000, 172 counties across Texas were approved as a part of the Better Living for Texans program, increasing the educational outreach and positive impact on limited resource families.

Educational programs conducted through the Howard County Extension Family and Consumer Science program are planned by the Family Health and Wellness committee based on the issue improving the Quality of Life for All Citizens identified in the Texas Community Futures Forum.

Dana Tarter is the Howard County extension agent -- family and consumer science.

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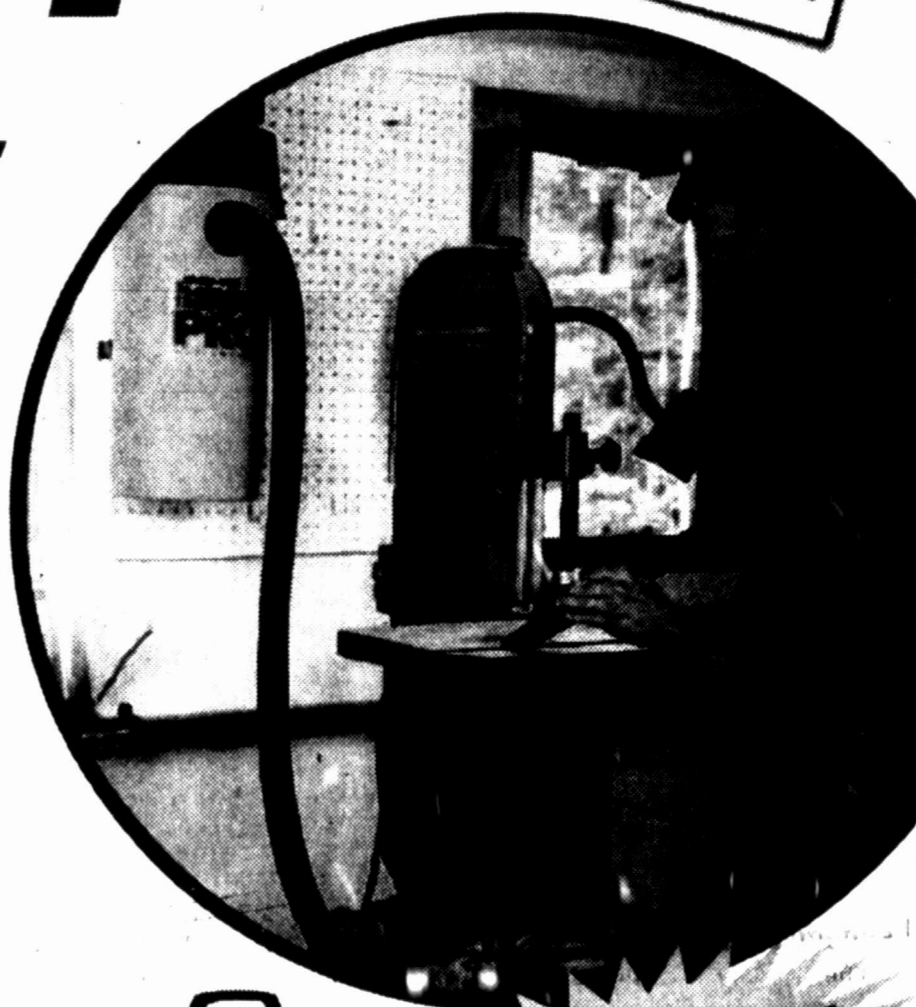
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IN BRIEF

Lady Steers' 4-4A opener rescheduled

Big Spring's Lady Steers were forced to reschedule their District 4-4A basketball opener was slated for Tuesday night at Lubbock Estacado. Due to inclement weather, that varsity game will now be played at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. As a result, the Lady Steers' first district game will now be Friday at 6 p.m. when they play host to Frenship's Lady Tigers in Steer Gym.

BSYBA registration deadline is Saturday

Registration has been extended until Saturday for the Big Spring Youth Basketball Association upcoming 2001 basketball season. Children in Grades 1-6 may sign up through Friday at All Star Sports, 1901 Gregg St., during regular business hours. The last chance to sign up will be Saturday morning at Trinity Baptist Church. Teams will draft at 9 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Baptist Church, and the season will get under way after the first of the year. The program is open to girls and boys in grades 1-6 and emphasizes fundamentals — particularly passing, shooting and dribbling — and good sportsmanship. The fee is \$20 per player. For more information, call Rick Watkins at 267-2358 or Charlie Hall at 263-0159.

Quarterback club schedules banquet

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold its annual football banquet at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Big Spring Junior High School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$10 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, call Darrell or Sheri Nichols at 263-2917 after 5 p.m.

Jackalopes to observe Howard County Night

The Odessa Jackalopes will observe Howard County Night on Friday when they host the El Paso Buzzards at the Ector County Coliseum. Game time will be 7 p.m. Proceeds from the "500 to the Ice" promotion will benefit the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County. Tickets are priced at \$6, \$8 and \$10 and can be purchased at the United Way office at 808 Scurry. For more information, call Carol Jennings at 267-5201.

Sign-ups continuing for YMCA basketball

Registration is now under way for the youth basketball program at the Big Spring Family YMCA. Boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 are eligible to play. Fees are \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. The deadline to register is Friday, Dec. 22. Practices begin the week of Jan. 2. For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

ON THE AIR

Television
NBA
6 p.m. — Dallas Mavericks at Indiana Pacers, FXS, Ch. 29.
7 p.m. — San Antonio Spurs at Phoenix Suns, TNT, Ch. 28.
9:30 p.m. — Los Angeles Lakers at Portland Trail Blazers, TNT, Ch. 28.
NHL
7 p.m. — Philadelphia Flyers at Colorado Avalanche, ESPN, Ch. 30.

A-Rod returns to Texas as richest athlete in pro sports

ARLINGTON (AP) — In the end, the Texas Rangers were an easy choice for Alex Rodriguez. Rangers owner Tom Hicks, with plenty of money to spend toward his goal of winning a World Series, gave Rodriguez a 10-year, \$252 million contract. Atlanta, another finalist in the A-Rod sweepstakes, refused to give him the no-trade clause he wanted. And the Seattle Mariners, the team where he spent his first seven seasons, offered only a three-year deal, with a team option for two more. "I have a hard time walking away from Seattle. But when they came with a three-year guarantee and a two-year out, I was in disbelief,"

Rodriguez said Tuesday. "I just walked away from it, and knew I wouldn't have a real choice. "I'm glad I didn't have to make a close call, but a bit disappointed the way they handled the situation. Texas just made it real easy for me." Rodriguez was back at The Ballpark in Arlington three weeks after an exploratory visit during which the Rangers seemed only an afterthought for the 25-year-old All-Star. During his visit last month, Rodriguez admitted that he had never really considered playing in Texas. He returned Tuesday as a member

of the Rangers and with the biggest contract ever in professional sports. The contract is worth \$2 million more than Hicks paid for the team just three years ago. And it doubled the previous record for a sports contract, the \$126 million, six-year agreement in October 1997 between forward Kevin Garnett and the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves. Hicks, whose Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999, expects big returns for his investment to get baseball's most prized free agent. "It is my pleasure to introduce to you the newest Texas Ranger, the man who is going to build the foundation to help us achieve our goal of winning the World Series," Hicks

said in his introduction of Rodriguez. The contract calls for a \$10 million signing bonus paid over five years and salaries of \$21 million in each of the first four years, \$25 million a year in 2005 and 2006, and \$27 million in each of the final four seasons. A total of \$36 million is deferred at 3 percent interest, to be paid from 2011-20. While the deal also includes plenty of incentives for making All-Star teams and other personal achievement, the contract is void of lavish perks such as office space and a private plane. Rodriguez still contends that reports of such demands were only speculative.

Aikman's uncertain future again concussion clouded

IRVING (AP) — Quarterbacks Troy Aikman and Steve Young have similar Hall of Fame credentials. Aikman went to six straight Pro Bowls and led Dallas to three Super Bowl titles in the 1990s. Young was a seven-time Pro Bowl selection in San Francisco and won the Super Bowl in 1995 — the only one not won by Aikman and the Cowboys between 1992-96. Look at the NFL's career passing yardage list. Young is 18th with 33,124 yards, followed right behind by Aikman's 32,926 yards. Another category in which Aikman might not be far behind Young is in retirement.

Like Young did last off-season, Aikman is facing serious questions about his career after a series of concussions. When he sits down after this season to assess his future, Aikman will be talking to Leigh Steinberg, his agent who also represents Young. "When the season is over, Troy and I will sit down for a long discussion about his health and what makes sense for his future," Steinberg said Monday. "The season has never been an ideal time for long-term decisions."

Of course, Aikman's 12th NFL season is almost definitely over. He will definitely miss this week's game with the New York Giants.

Aikman's already uncertain future was clouded even more Sunday when he suffered his second concussion of the season, and 10th of his career, after being tackled in the first quarter by Washington linebacker LaVar Arrington.

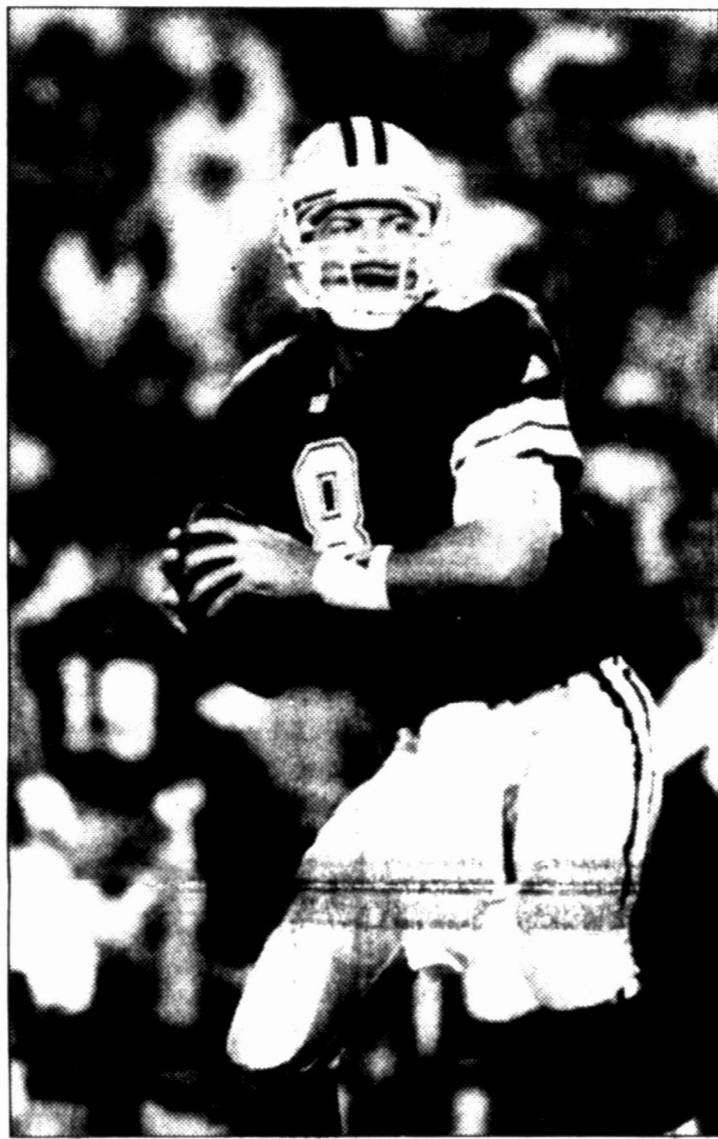
Young retired in June after suffering three concussions in four seasons.

Now Aikman has suffered four concussions in his last 20 starts — over about 14 months.

Aikman didn't talk to reporters after the 32-13 victory over the Redskins on Sunday or at the Valley Ranch practice facility Monday.

While Cowboys officials said Aikman was undergoing further medical examinations, coach Dave Campo listed the quarterback's status as day-to-day. The coach said Monday that he has given no thought that Aikman may have played his last game.

"Troy has never indicated anything to me other than he wants to play football," Campo said. "His



Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman, who'll sit out at least the Cowboys' next game, faces an uncertain future after suffering another concussion during Sunday's win over the Washington Redskins.

health is the most important thing. If he's ready to play, Troy wants to play. That is his mentality."

Steinberg said it is also unlikely Aikman will play any more this year. His status for the season finale, set for Christmas night at Tennessee also is in question.

"We certainly want to err on the side of caution," Steinberg said. "Obviously, that many concussions gives rise to concern."

Dr. Hal Unwin, an associate professor of neurology at the University of Texas Southwest Medical Center in Dallas, said some studies have shown that concussions can have a cumulative impact, but individual effects vary.

"The brain moves around and parts of the brain move in different speeds than other parts of the brain. kind of like whipped cream on Jell-O, sometimes you can have some of the nerves torn if you get hit hard enough," Unwin said.

Unwin said Aikman likely had an MRI or CAT scan to check for permanent

damage, but regardless of the outcome, a neurologist probably would leave the decision up to the 34-year-old quarterback.

Even if Aikman wants to come back, Dallas owner Jerry Jones faces a March 8 deadline on whether to pay Aikman a \$7 million bonus.

Aikman, the first player Jones ever drafted, can be released before the deadline without being given any money. Regardless of what happens, however, he will count at least \$10 million against Dallas' salary cap next season.

Unlike the concussions that have come later in his career, Aikman has a chronic back problem that stems from the pounding he took early, including his 1-15 rookie season of 1989. The back got so bad this season that for the first time in his career he needed painkilling shots to play a game.

Aikman has missed part or all of six games this season, four because of concussions and two with back pain.

Pressure gives Steers close win over Monahans

HERALD Staff Reports

MCNAHANS — Big Spring's Steers turned tight defensive pressure and double-digit scoring from four players Tuesday into a 67-64 non-district basketball win over Monahans Lobos.

After getting off to a somewhat slow start and trailing 14-9 at the end of the first quarter, Big Spring head coach Brian Ellington said he team was forced to regroup and change its full-court press.

"They have an excellent point guard and he was going a great job of breaking our zone press," Ellington explained. "So we went with a man press and put Heath Gregory on him. Heath did a great job of taking the ball out of his hands, and as a result, we were able to get quite a few turnovers in the second half."

"I think we were also able to tire them out a little in the second half," Ellington added. "We used 11 kids and that's one of the few times we've been able to really wear somebody down late in a game like that. We're beginning to get things turned around."

The Steers, who improved to 4-8 on the season, were paced by senior swingman Jason Woodruff's 16 points, while Gregory contributed 12 points in addition to his defensive heroics. Arthur Belvin and Mic Fleming rounded out Big Spring's double-digit production with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

In junior varsity action, Big Spring made sure of a sweep with a 63-48 win over the young Lobos.

The Steers will play host to Kermit at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The Lady Steers will host Frenship at 6 p.m.

Bulldogettes post win over Robert Lee

ROBERT LEE — Coahoma's Bulldogettes dealt Robert Lee only its second loss to the season Tuesday night, holding off a fourth-quarter rally by the Lady Steers to take a 56-54 non-district basketball win.

After a tit-for-tat first quarter that ended in an 18-18 deadlock, Coahoma found itself on the short end of a 33-29 halftime score.

But the homestanding Lady Steers went ice cold in the third quarter, allowing the Bulldogettes to go on a

16-6 run and take a 45-39 lead into the final eight minutes.

Kortney Kemper led the way for the Bulldogettes with 17 points, while Brandi Hart added 10 more and Karen Sterling chipped in nine points.

The Bulldogette junior varsity posted a 27-24 win. Scores from Tuesday's boys' games were not reported.

The Bulldogettes, now 9-5 on the season, play host to Grape Creek at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the Coahoma Elementary School gymnasium.

GIRLS' GAME
COAHOMA 24, Robert Lee 54
COAHOMA — Williams 4, Atkinson 3, Buchanan 3, Lang 4, Hart 10, Kemper 12, Sterling 9, Roberts 2, Smith 4
ROBERT LEE — Alexander 2, Matthews Freeman 2, Milican 8, Helwig 5, Simpson 14, Dickey 20
Score by Quarters:
COAHOMA 18 11 16 11, 54
ROBERT LEE 18 15 6 15, 54
Three-point goals: Coahoma 8 (Matthews Freeman, Kemper, Buchanan, Lang, Helwig, Matthews, Freeman, Alexander), Robert Lee 3 (Simpson, Coahoma 9-5, Robert Lee 30-2, Coahoma Coahoma 27, Robert Lee 24

Garden City, Bronte split varsity games

BRONTE — Garden City's Lady Bearkats got a game-high 18 points from post M'Lynn Niehues in posting a 33-30 win over Bronte's Lady Longhorns in non-district basketball play Tuesday night.

However, the homestanding Longhorns returned the favor in the boys' nightcap, rolling to a 75-33 win over the Bearkats.

The evening's varsity opener saw the Lady Kats take a 16-13 lead at halftime and match the Lady Longhorns point-for-point in the second half to record the win.

The boys' game proved to be an entirely different matter, as Bronte jumped out to a 24-4 lead at the end of the first quarter and enjoyed a more than comfortable 44-16 edge at halftime. And after outscoring the Bearkats 17-6 in the third quarter, the Longhorns simply coasted to their ninth win in 11 outings.

GIRLS' GAME
GARDEN CITY 33, Bronte 30
GARDEN CITY — Coy 1, Eoff 8, Niehues 18, Hoch 5, Totals 14 5-13 33
BRONTE — Schoenfeld 7, Thompson 2, Morley 3, McMullan 3, Amott 12, Williams 8, Totals 13 4-9 30
Score by Quarters:
GARDEN CITY 8 8 6 11, 33
BRONTE 6 7 6 11, 30
Records: Bronte 4-9 JV Score: Bronte 31, Garden City 23

BOYS' GAME
Bronte 75, Garden City 33
GARDEN CITY — Bednar 3, B. Batta 5, Schmitz 6, Hilger 4, Goodwin 10, M. Batta 5
BRONTE — McCoskie 12, A. Gibbs 3, B. Gibbs 6, Schoenfeld 2, Acker 2, Betts 16, Silva 2, Speany 5, Eldred 6, White 16, Green 5
Score by Quarters:
GARDEN CITY 8 10 6 11, 33
BRONTE 24 20 17 14, 75
Records: Bronte 9-2, Garden City 6-7 JV
Score: Garden City 41, Bronte 37

Oklahoma's Bob Stoops picked AP's Coach of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Before his team played No. 1 Nebraska, Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops gave his players a history lesson.

He sat them down in the film room and showed old movies — clips from Oklahoma-Nebraska games of the past, classic matchups between the annual national title contenders. The winning team would become Big Eight Conference champs, move on to the Orange Bowl and more than likely have a shot at a national championship.

"It was the best," Stoops said. "We showed them the whole history of the series, our wins, their wins.

Believe it or not, these kids don't know what happened back then. They only know the last few years."

It may have been the best call Stoops made all year. The Sooners dominated the Huskers 31-14 on Oct. 28, took over the No. 1 ranking, finished the regular season 12-0 and earned a date against Florida State in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 2 — with the national title on the line. Just like old times.

On Tuesday, the 40-year-old Stoops was chosen as the Associated Press College Coach of the Year in balloting by AP member newspapers, TV and radio stations.

Stoops received 41 of the 91 votes in the AP balloting. South Carolina's Lou Holtz was second with 19 votes, and Oregon State's Dennis Erickson was third with 16.

"It's a great honor for Oklahoma," Stoops said. "It's an award that every assistant coach has a piece of, and it reflects on the players and their attitude about working together, about the way they won. The trophy will go in the coaches' hallway, not in my house."

It took all of two years for Stoops to turn Oklahoma from an awful team to an awesome one.

On the day he took over, Dec. 1,

1998, Stoops said "there should be great expectations here. It's a program with the championships that should expect championships. I know we'll operate with no excuses. There are no excuses. You succeed or you don't."

In 1999, Stoops unveiled his passing game directed by Josh Heupel, a star at Snow Junior College in Utah, but unknown just about everywhere else. The Sooners went 7-5 and OU played in its first bowl game since 1994.

This season, Stoops said his players were better prepared and more disciplined.

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 1997 Ford F150 Supercab XLT 3-DR - Black, red cloth, captain chairs, one owner w/26,000 miles, power driver seat, 5.4, V.8, all power, 6 disc C.D. changer \$16,995	 1997 Ford F150 Supercab XLT 3-DR - White, gray cloth, captain chairs, 4.6, V.8, AM/FM cassette, all power, power seat driver, one owner w/only 22,400 miles. Fiberglass running boards. \$16,995
 1997 Ford F250 Supercab XLT - Green/white tune, 460 V.8, gray 40/20/40 Bench Seat, all power, one owner w/75,000 miles, AM/FM cassette, chrome nerf bars, chrome grill guard, alum. wheels. \$16,995	 1997 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Red w/black bottom, red captain chairs, console, all power, 4.6, V.8, one owner w/76,000 miles, chrome wheels, bedliner, 6 Disc C.D. changer, power seat driver. \$14,995
 1997 Ford F150 Supercab Lariat 3-DR - Flareside - Red w/silver bottom, gray captain chairs, one owner w/39,500 miles, 5.4, V.8, chrome nerf bars, 6 Disc CD changer, bedliner. \$16,995	 1996 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Blue, blue cloth, split bench, AM/FM cassette, 302 V.8, all power, one owner w/76,000 miles, new tires. \$10,995
 1995 Ford F150 Supercab XL - Blue w/cloth bench, 6 cyl, 5 speed, 63,400 miles, one owner, AM/FM cassette, chrome wheels, sport stripe, grilled guard. \$9,995	 1995 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Silver/white, gray cloth, all power, 302 V.8, AM/FM cassette, all power, one owner w/only 50,700 miles \$11,995
 1994 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Green/tan tune, tan cloth bench, 6 cyl., 5 speed, AM/FM cassette, tilt/cruise, one owner w/78,000 miles. \$8,995	 Come in and see Pete Sanderson (L), Jason Brock (Center), Jimmy Stewart (R) for the Best Deal in a pre-owned vehicle.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 14, 2000:
You change a lot during the year and will see events and people differently as a result. You will grow to become more understanding. In some way, you become an amateur psychologist. You are unusually sensitive and intuitive. You work more on what you feel than you ever have before. If you are single, romance almost becomes a necessity! You want that magic in your life, and you won't settle for less. You could meet someone unique. If you are attached, the two of you work on an unspoken level. LEO opens doors for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
****Realism might not be your strong suit right now. Concentrate on a long-term desire. You are so focused on making it happen that you might not be reading the signs correctly. Wishful thinking and opulence mark your decisions. Tonight: Seek out another's opinion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** You are in the lime-light. Someone eyes your work carefully. Your vision of possibilities changes. Try to stay anchored in realism rather than flowing with airy fairy tales. Review a decision with a trusted associate or friend. You might not agree, but you gain insight. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** Reach out for another. Communication activates and takes you to a different point of view. New perspectives help you read between the lines. You don't always flow with a difficult personality in your life. Check all messages carefully. Don't stand on ceremony. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** Deal with a financial matter head-on. Think about what is going on with someone who is close to you. Laughter punctuates your interactions with a dear friend. Understand what is motivating another. Work with someone on a special gift. Tonight: Do something special for another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** You are personality plus. Evaluate the "stories" that surround a friend or loved one. Extremes punctuate your decisions and ideas. Listen carefully to someone. Seek out information and get to the bottom of a problem that could be confusing you. Tonight: Your smile draws exactly what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Sit back. Your most effective action is no action, presently. Your good will and understanding mean a lot to someone who is frequently around you. Ultimately, you know what feels right to you. Follow through on just that. Tonight: Do something you want to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Dig into your imagination. Discuss what is important to you. Do not push anyone away. Instead, stay centered. Creativity is heightened. Popularity and wish fulfillment march together. You might not be seeing a loved one properly. Listen to someone who might help you gain a perspective. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Stay on top of work and responsibilities. You could easily be overloaded. Ask for help, or perhaps get someone who can pitch in part-time. Worry a little less about finances as you deal with the holidays and others' expectations. Your family adores you and lets you know. Tonight: A must show.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Extremes mark your feelings, but for the most part they will be quite pleasant. Follow your sixth sense with another. Don't worry about a situation; go right in and get the facts. Carefully use information to dig out the facts. You make an important emotional adjustment. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** Deal with others on a one-on-one level. Confusion surrounds finances. Though you might feel like you are making a solid choice, you need to stop and revamp thinking. Not everything is as it seems. Play devil's advocate with a partner. Tonight: Get down to basics.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Dig in and find answers. Your imagination helps you zero in on what is necessary. Do nothing halfway. Stay on top of work, and be level with another. A friend gives you a different slant on a relationship. You inspire others, and they appreciate this quality in you. Tonight: Go along with another's plan.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Your even and level pace can make a big difference in what happens. Understand more of what is going on with a loved one. Be nurturing and ask key questions. Your feelings are high-tuned, and you might overreact to another. You aren't reading this person correctly. Tonight: Run errands.

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1 Bdrm 1 bath \$175/mo. \$100/dep. 263-1792 or 264-6006
207 Jefferson
3 BR 2 bath, C/H/A fireplace Totally remodeled \$600/mo plus deposit You pay bills. No HUD. 267-2296
2BR, 1 bath, 508 Hughes, Forsan ISD. No bills paid. Call 267-4232
3 bdr. 1 1/2 bath, 4219 Hamilton. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.
3 bdr. 2 bath 2 living areas, with double car-garage. Central Heat/Cooling. Kentwood area. Call 263-7615.
3 BR 1 bath, 2202 Runnels. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.
3BR 2 bath, C/H/A, fireplace 2500 Cartron. \$550/mo. plus deposit. Call 263-6997
607 Holbert
3BR 1 bath, garage Newly remodeled. \$370/mo. \$260/dep. 263-3689
712 Goliad
2 bdr. 1 bh house C/H/A w/d conn. \$350/mo. + dep. You pay bills. No HUD 267-2296
Abandoned homes: in Big Spring Take up remaining payments. 5 bdr. 2 bth. \$220/mn. 3 bdr. \$200/mn. 264-0510
Available now! 2BR 1 bath. \$325/mo. \$125/dep. Call 267-5646
Christmas Special, 1103 E 12th 3BR, large wash room, refrigerator & stove, 1 1/2 bath, fenced yard, close to schools. \$125/dep \$450/mo. Call 263-6346
For Sale or Lease 3304 Duke
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PUBLIC NOTICE
The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. on December 18, 2000 to discuss the 1999-2000 Academic Excellence Indicator System Report. The hearing will be held in conjunction with the regular board meeting. Any and all interested persons are invited to attend. 3022 December 13, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed proposals until 2:00 p.m. January 11, 2001 for the following area:
Distance Learning Equipment
Specifications and proposal documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 Eleventh Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4610, phone number (915) 264-3620. Proposals will be received in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District until the above listed date and time. Proposals received after the above deadline will be returned unopened. Proposals will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on January 16, 2001 at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. 3021 December 13 & 20, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE
FAIR HOUSING. IT'S THE LAW.
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
This year marks the thirty-second anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law. To promote fair housing practices, Big Spring's PHA encourages potential home owners and renters to be aware of their rights. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, family status, or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the PHA at 263-9977. Monday through Friday. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling the City Hall at (915) 263-4090.

PUBLIC NOTICE
POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAPPED STATUS
Big Spring's PHA does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment of its federally assisted programs or activities.
Mark Gentry, Exec. Director
711 East 3rd Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
(915) 263-4090
has been designated to coordinate the PHA's efforts with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8 dated JUNE 2, 1988). 3020 December 13, 2000

HOROSCOPE

Son's name change is slap in face to his family

DEAR ABBY: We just found out that one of our sons changed his last name. What a terrible blow to our family. We found out very painfully when his wife had a baby. We went to the hospital to see the newest member of our family and couldn't find a "Mrs. Barry Nofzinger."

Barry had used the name "Gibson" before, when he was in sales. He said it was much easier to remember than Nofzinger. He never indicated that he was considering changing his name. When he remarried two years ago, he still used the name Nofzinger. As far as we know, the name change occurred prior to our grandson's birth.

When we asked why, he told us his current wife (Barry was married before) didn't want to be the "second" Mrs. Nofzinger. The funny thing is, Barry's first wife remarried long before our son met or married his current wife. She has used her present husband's name for years.

Barry contends that we're making too much of this. He expects his relationship with us will remain as it has always been. In fact, he expects his son to have the same kind of relationship with us that we have with our other grandchildren.

We have been good parents, Abby. We have given our love and support unconditionally to all our children. I pray that I can continue doing that, but right now, I'm so full of anger, pain and shame that I wonder if it wouldn't be best if I told our son we would prefer never to see him again.

Barry's father is very hurt, and his brother's are also upset. He's unable to understand why we feel this way.

Perhaps someday I won't feel like I have been slapped in the face every time I see "Gibson" instead of "Nofzinger" after his name. Please help me to let go of my anger — SEEING RED IN OREGON

DEAR SEEING RED: William Shakespeare was right when he said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." It's no sin to change one's name — and your son's having done so is no reflection upon how he feels about his siblings and you. You're making a mountain out of a molehill.

You say you're wondering if it wouldn't be best to tell your son you'd prefer never to see him again. Be careful what you wish for.

DEAR ABBY: Would you please explain how women in high heels can walk with such elegance and grace, as though they are gliding when they walk? NOT VERY GRACEFUL IN PROVO, UTAH

DEAR NOT VERY GRACEFUL: It's not easy. Stand up straight, balance a book on your head, and practice, practice, practice.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 13

	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	TLC (41)
6 PM	News (CC)	Cosby (CC)	Clifford-Red	Frosty's White	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC)	News Senfeld (CC)	Fresh Prince	Locura de Amor	Movie: Rent-a-Kid (CC)	Martial Law (CC)	(15) Movie: Mickey Blue	..	(CC) ..	News John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	Pretender (CC)	Operation
7 PM	Be a Millionaire	70s Show	Charlotte Church	Movie: Special	Bette (CC)	Be a Millionaire	Ed (CC)	Ripley's Believe It or Not!	Mujeres Enganadas	The Ultimate	Billy Gáman's Christmas	Eyes (CC)	Movie: Holiday Heart	Movie: BMM (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	On the Inside	NBA Basketball: San Antonio Spurs	Junkyard Wars
8 PM	Drew Carey Spin City (CC)	Street (CC)	Best Of	Delivery (CC)	Movie: The Odd Couple II (CC)	Drew Carey Spin City (CC)	West Wing (CC)	WCW Thunder	..	Christmas Present	Merry Christmas	Throw Momma	(CC)	Behind Closed Doors (CC)	Titanic: Anatomy of a Disaster	Ionio Spurs at Phoenix Suns	Junkyard Wars
9 PM	Gideon's Crossing	Mad Abt. You Nanny (CC)	..	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)	(CC) ..	Gideon's Crossing	Law & Order (CC)	..	Imágenes de Impa. to	Jersey Jersey	18 Wheels of Justice (CC)	Movie:	Soul Food (CC)	Oz (CC)	Hour of Healing	Investigative Reports (CC)	Disaster	(CC) NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers	Junkyard Wars
10 PM	News (CC) Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	Improve Your Life Using the	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	Ripley's Believe It or Not!	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Jersey Music Videos	Martial Law (CC)	Broken Vessels	Resurrection (45) Hell	Vertical Limit Movie: Chill	News Life in Word	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files	ball: Los Angeles Lakers	Junkyard Wars
11 PM	Politically Inc. Cheers	Bling Date Suddenly	Wisdom of the Ages	Who's Boss? Who's Boss? (CC) (DVS)	Show (CC) (37) Late Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	WCW Thunder	Viviana a la Medianoche	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Roland Martin Roberts-Hunt	(05) New Year's	raiser: Blood-line (CC)	Factor (CC)	Promise Church	Biography (CC)	On the Inside	Trail Blazers at Portland Trail Blazers	Junkyard Wars
12 AM	Better Homes Paid Program	Judge Brown Cops (CC)	(12-15) Hearts of Glass	Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	(12-06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	..	Marimar	Banner in the Sky (CC)	Outdoor World Horsepower	Evil (35) Movie	(12-15) Error in Judgment	Curb-Entham (45) Movie:	Faith Pleases God	Behind Closed Doors (CC)	Titanic: Anatomy of a Disaster	NBA Movie: Black	Junkyard Wars

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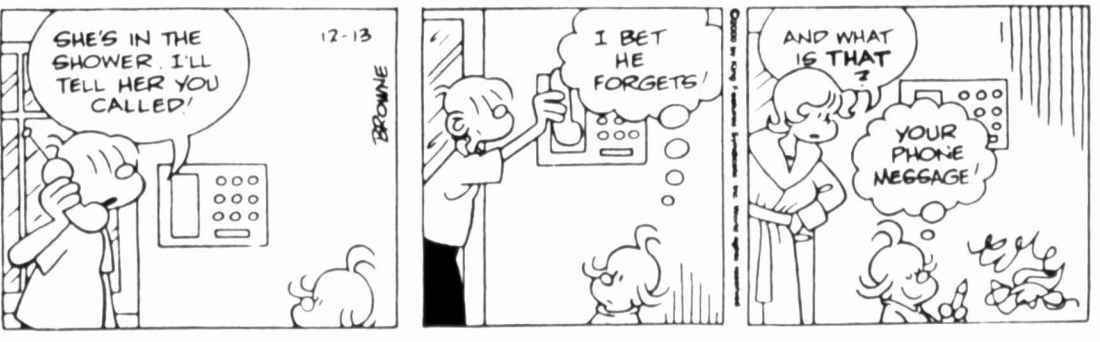
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WIZARD OF ID



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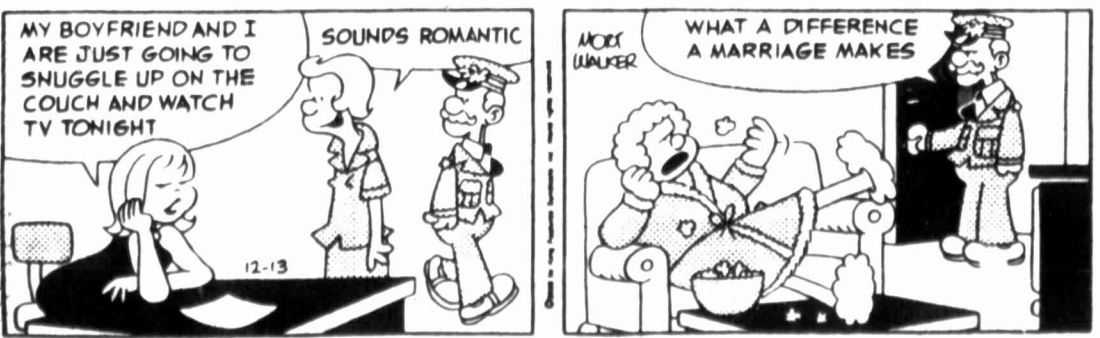
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 13, the 348th day of 2000. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 1577, Sir Francis Drake of England set out with five ships on a nearly three-year journey that would take him around the world.

On this date:

In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman arrived in present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg, in

Virginia. In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's musical work "An American in Paris" had its premiere, at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser "Nashville" was badly damaged in a Japanese "kamikaze" suicide attack that claimed 138 lives.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

In 1980, Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte was named the president of El Salvador's new government.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law

in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1994, an American Eagle commuter plane carrying 20 people crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15.

Ten years ago: A final evacuation flight from Iraq arrived in Germany, carrying the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait and his staff, who had endured a 110-day Iraqi siege of their embassy.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 80. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 75. Actor Christopher Plummer is 71. Actor Robert Prosky is 70. Country singer Buck White is 70. Movie producer Richard Zanuck is 66. Singer John Davidson is 59. Singer-musician

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Goddess of victory
- Single-masted vessel
- Disconcert
- Haley or Trebek
- Libyan gulf
- Manchurian border river
- University in Malibu
- Ms. Anderson
- Praise
- Thin paper
- Mr. Sun?
- Scottish dagger
- Arrived
- Adh. ent. suff.
- Becomes entrenched
- Turkish title
- Sky blue
- Shorthand, for short
- Deby Boone's mother-in-law
- Maine college town
- Deathly pale
- Mispickel, e.g.
- Mediator's formula
- Sock end
- Liberal
- Armed conflicts
- Order form abbr.
- Roman assembly halls
- 1957 hit, "Wake Up Little"
- Alda or Ladd
- Advancements by leaps and bounds
- Okey-dokey
- Internet service
- Neighbor of Vietnam
- Buyer-beware warning
- Skyline feature
- Pisa's river

DOWN

- Scuff
- Holm oak
- Retained
- Uncover
- Lat. or Lith., once
- Italian beach
- Norse god
- Avifauna
- Poetic feet
- Artificially high voice
- Out of control
- New Mexico people
- Poet's Ireland
- "Xanadu" grp.
- "Schindler's List" star
- Minnelli of "Cabaret"
- Ricochet
- Spartan market
- Stoneworker
- Chapter of the Koran
- Assignment
- Spanish mister
- Having no will to move
- 20th-century British poet
- Without

By Janet R. Bender
Somerset, PA

12/13/00

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	U	M	A	B	P	O	E	O	B	E	S	E				
L	S	A	T	A	R	M	Y	D	E	M	U	R				
A	N	I	L	L	I	N	E	E	A	M	E	S				
Y	A	L	E	V	S	M	I	S	S	T	A	T				
				N	E	A	P		E	S	E					
S	C	A	G	G	S	R	O	S	A	N	N	A	S			
A	O	R	T	A	A	E	O	N	O	B	O					
W	A	S	H	S	T	V	E	S	H	O	U	S	T	O	N	
E	T	O		R	E	E	S		N	A	C	R	E			
R	I	N	E	H	A	R	T		F	I	G	H	T	S		
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C	L	A	S	S				A	M	Y	S		E	T	N	A

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38 Sound rebound
41 Twists together
42 Lascivious look
47 Gets up
49 Eagle in the night sky
51 Frankster
53 Winter hours in N.Y.C.
54 California
55 Dear me!
56 H.H. Munro
57 Jai follower?
58 Move
60 Ride thermals
61 Party to
62 Exxon, once
65 Stout's co. sin

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December 13, 2000

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AUTOS 1988 Isuzu Impulse Turbo. \$2,700.00. Call 284-0126. 1997 Ford Thunderbird LX Coupe, V-8, black w/ tan, leather interior, 68K miles, excellent condition. \$9,800. 267-5065	PERSONAL I am no longer responsible for any debts incurred by Chad Keith Sneed after Oct. 21, 2000. I am only responsible for debts of my own. Janet Sneed. DRIVING SCHOOL Next driving class for 2001 Class starts January 8th, 2001 Call 268-1023 or 270-4510 to register BUSINESS OPPRT. WORK FROM HOME & GET UP TO \$1,200 - \$1,500/mo PT or \$6,000 - \$8,000/mo FT No experience needed WILL TRAIN FREE recorded info 24 hrs. 1-888-456-4451	CHILD CARE Opening Soon! Small in home day care. Loving, caring & learning environment. New born & up. Located near Moss Elem. 263-2258 for info. HELP WANTED BLAST MASTERS, INC. STEAM CLEAN RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT NOW HIRING MALE/FEMALE WILL TRAIN, NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED MUST HAVE CLEAN, VALID DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRES OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL DRUG TEST REQUIRED CALL FOR INFORMATION @ (915)267-5449 1711 SNYDER HWY	HELP WANTED Entry level or experienced full-time soft drink route person needed. Requirements include being 18 or older, completion of high school or GED, good driving record, capability to perform physically demanding labor, ability to meet people and communicate effectively, and a willingness to work till the job is done. Applicants with Class A-CDL and route sales or commercial driving experience preferred, but the company is willing to train the right person. Dr. Pepper/Peppi 3611 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas. EEO/AA Employer 263-4186	HELP WANTED ATTN:WORK FROM HOME! \$500-\$4500/mo PT/FT www.hotweb2000.com 1-800-647-2664 American Dream. Work from home. Intl. Company needs help immediately. We train. 1-800-873-7666 MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE is now hiring RN/Floor Supervisor to assist with Quality Assurance. Excellent starting salary, 7 paid holidays, 2 weeks vacation after 1 year, insurance and retirement plan available, excellent work environment and much, much more. Inquire in person at 2009 Virginia for our complete benefit package	HELP WANTED Computer Internet People Up to \$25-\$75/hr PT/FT Full Training-Free Booklet Toll-Free 877-967-5712 www.CreateCash4U.com CORNELL CORRECTIONS Recreational Aide needed \$8.11/hr. Apply in person. 1701 Apron Drive, From 8-11 & 1-4. No Phone Calls Please. EOE M/F/D. Extreme People Wanted! Internet Business From Home \$25 - \$75/hr. www.MakeWorkFun.com Help wanted. Must be able to deliver, assemble, clean up, sell. Must have valid drivers license with good record and be people oriented. Branham Furniture, 2004 W. 4th. Now accepting applications for RETAIL SALES PERSON. Computer cash register. Able to lift 100 pounds. Neat and clean appearance. Monday - Saturday. Paid vacations, holidays, and group insurance. HARRIS LUMBER AND HARDWARE, INC. 1515 East FM 700	HELP WANTED START WORKING IMMEDIATELY!! We have three permanent, full-time manufacturing positions in Big Spring. Must be able to pass a drug test and lift up to 50 lbs. Will be doing inspection, assembly, etc. Pay starts at \$6.50-\$8.85/hr. plus full benefits package. Training provided. Advancement opportunity!! To apply, call Manpower at 915-682-2119 Best Home Care has an RN position open. Apply in person at 1710 Marcy Drive. MAINTENANCE POSITION The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an immediate opening for a maintenance worker for the Stanton area. A CDL license and mechanical experience helpful. Company benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, retirement plan, group insurance, and paid holidays. The District is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are available at the District's office at 400 E. 24th. St. Big Spring, TX or call (915) 267-6341	HELP WANTED Local agency needs licensed insurance salesperson to sell all types of insurance. Must have two years experience. Compensation is based on commission. Send resume to E. P. O. Box 2007 Big Spring, Tx. 79721. Local agency needs licensed insurance salesperson to sell all types of insurance. Must have two years experience. Compensation is based on commission. Send resume to E. P. O. Box 2007, Big Spring TX 79721 is now hiring delivery drivers. Apply in person, 2601 Gregg. Gills Fried Chicken has immediate openings for day & evening shifts. Must be able to work weekends. Apply in person: 1101 Gregg St. Needed, part-time merchandiser for the Big Spring Area. Contact Richard or Steve at 915-563-4625. EOE Comanche Trail Nursing Center has opening for Dietary Aide. Apply in person 3200 Parkway.	HELP WANTED BURGER KING NOW HIRING Flexible hours, full or part-time hours available. Competitive wages. Excellent training. Excellent opportunity for advancement. Great working environment. APPLY IN PERSON 1-20 and Hwy 87 Texaco Star Stop #14 Looking for new team members. Full / Part time open. Drug test required. Drug free environment. Apply in person between 5am-12noon weekdays, 400 S. Gregg, 48th W. Hwy 80, 2501 Sth. Gregg, 800 E. 120. West Texas Centers for MHRM Now Now hiring full-time and part-time Direct Care Staff in Big Spring. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary \$6.47 per hour (\$13,464 annually for full-time) plus benefits. Part time salary \$7.28 per hour. Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2789 EOE LONG JOHN SILVERS Day and Evening Shifts Available. Must be energetic. Apply in person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls please.
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 Are Your Dentures Serving You Well?
 • Your dentures should replace or refit your dentures every 5 to 7 years on your regular checkups.
 • Older dentures can develop weak areas that may result in fractures of the denture.
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Big Spring Herald

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Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!

Do you have a service to offer? Place your ad in the Herald Classified Professional Service Directory Call 263-7331 Today!	CELLULAR SERVICE LONE STAR PAWN Prepaid Cellular & home phone service No contracts, credit check, deposit. Good Rates. 1601 E. FM 700 263-4834	FENCES B&M FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Free Estimates! Phone DAY: 263-1613 NIGHT: 264-7000	HOME IMPROVEMENT GIBBS REMODELING Kitchen & bath remodels, ceramic tile, painting, sheet rock repairs & all textures door & ceiling fans. Free Estimates Call 263-8285.	INTERNET SERVICE Local Unlimited Internet Service No Long Distance No 800 Surcharge All services on Internet Available Web Pages for Business & Personal Use. 268-6900 (Fax) 268-8801 We make it EASY for YOU to get on the INTERNET BIG SPRING'S PATH TO THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY!!!	PEST CONTROL SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com	ROOFING H&S CONST. ROOFING Metal & composition repairs FREE ESTIMATES Mobile 664-6113 Business 264-1138	SEPTIC REPAIR/INSTALLATION AFFORDABLE SEPTICS Distributor for Aerobic Systems *State Licensed *Install & Repair all types of systems *Site Evaluator Free Troubleshooting 264-6199	TREE TRIMMING Experienced TREE PRUNING Cleaning & hauling Free Estimates PONDEROSA NURSERY 263-4441 GAIL HWY			
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CHIMNEY CLEANING *Safe* inspections *Chimney caps *Masonry repairs *Animal removal *Fireplace accessories CLINE BUILDING MAINT. INC. (915) 263-0990 (800) 649-6374	Don't throw those unwanted items away! Sell them! Call 263-7331 and place your garage sale in the Herald Classified section and receive a Garage sale kit Free!	HANDYMAN SERVICES Quality Handyman Service Minor plumbing & electrical, dry wall repair & all types of textures. We install... Ceiling fans, a/c units, light fixtures, faucets, commodes, mini blinds, etc. 267-1363 or 264-9620	HOUSE LEVELLING B&B HOUSELEVELLING & FOUNDATION REPAIR Specializing in Solid Slab & Pier & Beam Foundations. FREE ESTIMATES 10 Year Guarantee 915-264-6178 Visa MC accepted	LIMOUSINE SERVICE Margarita's LIMO SERVICE Proms, Weddings, Birthdays, Dinner Dates, Anniversaries, start on the town! 915-263-5060 Pager 267-8102	ROOFING FULLMOON ROOFING, INC. Big Spring & Surrounding areas Bonded & Insured FREE ESTIMATES No Money down COMPETITIVE PRICES 915-267-5478	SEPTIC REPAIR/INSTALLATION SEPTIC SYSTEMS Installation and Site Evaluations ROSE PLUMBING 106 N. 15th 806-872-3502 Lamesa, Tx 79331 Lic# 726	Don't throw those unwanted items away! Sell them! Call 263-7331 and place your garage sale in the Herald Classified section and receive a Garage sale kit Free!	Want to have the adventure of a lifetime without all the fuss? Read!			

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Responsibilities include inventory tracking, shipping and receiving, labor hour and expense tracking, maintenance of vendor files and service reports. Successful candidate will be self-motivated, detail oriented, organized and honest. Skills include MS windows/office 98 and ability to learn Navision inventory and accounting software.

INVENTORY COORDINATOR & SHIPPING COORDINATOR
Responsible for the accurate tracking of all shipments and receipts of stock inventory. Coordinate freight shipments and deliveries. Daily input for all inventory transactions. Must be self-motivated and able to impress the importance of accurate inventory to others. Experience with accounts payable/receivable a plus.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL SUPERVISOR
Reports directly to the Regional Supervisor and perform all essential duties in his absence. These duties include, but are not limited to, the overseeing of all construction, installation, warranty, service, and maintenance of turbines within the region; the supervision of all technicians and office personnel; interviewing, hiring, and training of new personnel; and the interaction with customers to maintain positive business dealings.

Please send resumes to:
Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc.
Rebecca Lewis
PO Box 278
North Palm Springs, CA 92258
FAX: 760-329-5558
Email: rlewis@vestas-awt.com

Key Energy Service Co. Stanton Tx is seeking experienced welders. Benefits included. Call for more info: 8-5 M-F 915-756-2875.

HELP WANTED

Own a Computer? Put it to work!
Earn \$25-\$75/hr. Call toll-free 1-866-832-0513

Position for LVN: Vacation, sick time, holidays, health insurance, retirement. Contact Elia Gonzalez D.O.N.

Valley Fair Lodge
Colorado City, Tx
915-728-2634

Help wanted to work in insurance agency. Will work with the public as well as insurance companies. Computer experience desired. Insurance experience desired, but not mandatory, please send resumes to: P.O. Box 3681, Big Spring, TX 79721

RN Travel Assignments
4 mos. Top \$\$\$
Call Mon - Fri.
800-788-0279

Domino's Pizza
Drivers needed. We pay hourly wages, mileage, and tips. 2202 Gregg, Big Spring, TX

Domino's Pizza needs a part time person to work weekends and night's inside. Apply in person @ 2202 S. Gregg.

Lamesa Freights
needs an OTR driver with one year's experience. Call 800-872-9133.

GRAIN, HAY OR FEED

300 tons of peanut hay. Call 915-758-6285

DOGS, PETS, ETC.

Beautiful Siberians. Irresistible Blue eyed puppies. Wonderful Christmas Gifts. All shots given. (806) 756-4397

For Sale, 3 adorable AKC Registered Shih Tzu. Will be ready for Christmas. Call 263-0020.

FREE to good homes. Cute cuddly puppies, part Blue Heeler/whatever. 4 female-black in color. Call 394-4459 after 6pm.

FOUND / LOST PETS

LOST: Two blue heeler puppies, in the Pennsylvania St. area. One with red flea collar. Call Andrea 267-2711 or (m) 353-4487.

FURNITURE

E-Z Rentals
120 days same as cash!
Name brand TVs, VCR's, furniture, appliances, etc.
263-4315

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WEDDING CAKES!!
Arches, silk bouquets, catering. Order now to reserve your date. The Grishams 267-8191

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Steel Buildings, new, must sell 30x40x12 was \$10,200 now \$6,990
40x60x12 was \$16,400 now \$10,971
50x100x16 was \$27,590 now \$19,990
60x200x16 was \$58,760 now \$42,990

1-800-406-5126

BUILDINGS FOR RENT

For lease, small building on Snyder Hwy, with overhead door, \$300/mo + \$100/dep. Call Westex Auto Parts, 263-5000

Small building w/lot on 4th st. \$150/mn + deposit. Call Westex Auto 263-5000.

Call 263-7331 for the Big Spring Herald Classified Dept.

CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE

Two spaces in section Labanon at Trinity Memorial Park. Valued at \$1900, will sell for \$995. Call 800-484-9021 #0101

HOUSES FOR SALE

College Park large 3 bdr. brick home. 1887 sq. ft. 2 living areas, Moss Elem. Ellen Phillips 267-3061 Linda Barnes 268-1588.

For Sale by owner 3 br. 1 bth home, CH/A. Call 263-3327

Highland Caprock. 3 bdr. 3 baths, 2 living areas & study. Built '95. Coldwell Banker Ellen Phillips 267-3061.

IMMACULATE 3/2.5/2 home with a garage/workshop in back. Over 2400 sq.ft. of living area. Charles Smith, 263-1713 or Home Realtors 263-1284

Kentwood: Updated 3/2. Large family room, Bonus room, FP, New appliances. 267-8298 After 3:30pm.

MAD? Banks don't give mortgage loans due to credit problems. I Do! L D Kirk 254-947-4475 Texas Fair Rates

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(Renters Wanted) for new home programs 915-620-6098 CREDIT HEADED.

Renters Wanted! Own a 3, 4, or 5 Bedroom Palm Harbor for less than rent. Low down/E-Z Financing Call for a Free Brochure 1-800-698-8003 www.palmharbor.com Se Habla Espanol

SI ESTA CANSADO de pagar Renta. Pero su credito esta mal, o no tiene credito. Venga a verme en A-1 HOMES - MIDLAND, TX. O hableme al telefono 1-800-755-9133 y prepare por Armando Abballo, para ayudarlo en su casa mobil nueva o usada.

(Dealer Repo) Triple wide, never lived in - \$12,000(under) Retail 915-620-5999.

(First Time Buyers) program for new home purchase, no credit needed 915-620-5999.

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Cute 2 bedroom, very nice, only \$6,500. Ask for Jerrod 1-800-755-9133

**ARBALLOIT I have put over 100 families in homes and you could be next! Just ask for Armando 1-800-755-9133

"Christmas in your own home! Beautiful 3 bedroom only \$19,900. 1-800-755-9133

WARNING Do Not Buy A Manufactured Home Without Seeing This Video Tape 1-915-653-7800

Why pay rent? Own your own home Today! Approval on all types of credit (A,B or C). phone applications welcome. Call 1-800-755-9133 ask for David

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Large cozy 1 BR apt. 110 E. 17th. \$250/mo. \$150/dep. Water paid. Call 267-5420

FURNISHED APPTS.

Apartments, Unfurnished houses, Mobile Home. References required. Call 263-8944, 263-2341.

OFFICE SPACE

Office space for rent. All utilities paid. For more info call 267-9455

Office space for rent. Choice location. 106 Marcy. Call 267-8696 or 267-6021.

UNFURNISHED APPTS.

1 bdr. apt. electric and water fur. pay gas. \$300/mn. \$100/dep. Call 267-1362.

1 BR starting at \$175.00 2 BR \$275 Central heat & air \$99 Deposit 267-4217

\$200 - Move In Special Water & gas paid. CH/A, playground. 1 & 2 bdr. apt. homes. Heather Apartments 2911 W. Hwy 80 263-2282

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1103 E. 12th, 3BR 11/2 bath, wash room, ref. & stove, fenced yard. Close to schools. \$425/mo. Call 263-6346 Leave message.

1203 Ridgewood 3BR 1 bath \$350/mo Call American Realty 915-520-7577

1408 Tucson 3 or 4 Bdrm. Cent. heat \$375/mo. \$150/dep. 263-1792 or 264-6006

1608 Sunset 2 BR 1 bath, garage, fenced yard washer & dryer connections \$350/mo \$200/dep 263-3689

2 BR 1 bath, CH/A, wonderful yard. \$375/mo. + dep. No bills paid. Call 264-8844 or 378-2303.

2 BR 1 bath, fenced yard. Nice central location. Call 263-4173.

2004 Johnson 1 Bdrm 1 bath \$175/mo. \$100/dep. 263-1792 or 264-6006

207 Jefferson 3 BR 2 bath, CH/A, fireplace Totally remodeled \$600/mo plus deposit You pay bills. No HUD. 267-2296

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

UNFURNISHED HOUSES

3 bdr. 1 1/2 bth. stove and refrigerator furnished. 263-4410.

3 bdr. 2 bath 2 living areas, with double car-garage, Central Heat/Cooling, Kentwood area. Call 263-7615.

3 BR 1 bath, 2202 Rannels. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

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607 Holbert 3BR 1 bath, garage. Newly remodeled. \$370/mo. \$280/dep. 263-3689

Sell/Rent 3BR 2 bath 3BR 1 bath 2BR 1 bath Owner/Finance Consider Rent to Own 267-3905

Executive 3 bdr. 2 bth home in Highland. \$400/dep. \$850/mn. Call 263-4528

Extra clean 2 bdr. 2 bth. on 1/2 acre, water well, good location. Call 263-6272.

For Rent: 3 bdr. home. \$350/mn. plus deposit. Call 263-1393.

For Rent: Coahoma School District 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. \$375/mn. \$150/dep. Call 267-6771

For Sale or Lease \$304 Duke 3 bdr. 2 bth. 2 living areas, fireplace, near school. Sale @ \$56,900 will pay closing-lease \$600/mn. \$500/dep. Daytime 263-0844, nighttime 263-0667.

In Coahoma 3 bdr. 1 bth. house, carport. References and deposit required. 267-5952

Kentwood. Nice 3/2/2, fireplace, CH/A. Available immediately. \$600/mo., \$350/dep. 915-573-6734

Nice 3 bdr. 2 bth home in Highland. \$850/mo. \$400/dep. Call 263-4528

Nice clean small 1 BR house located at 14051/2 Settles. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Tenant pays all bills. \$195/mo. \$100/dep. Call 2637-1543

RENT OR SELL 7906 South Service Rd. Sand Springs 4 BR 2 bath on 13 Acres. Coahoma ISD RENT \$450/mo. SELL \$4,000 down \$620/mo Owner Finance 915-695-6100

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712 Galled 2 bdr. 1 bth house CH/A w/d conn. \$350/mn. + dep. You pay bills. No HUD 267-2286

Abandoned home: In Big Spring Take up remaining payments. 5 bdr. 2 bth. \$220/mn. 3 bdr. \$200/mn. 264-0610

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Loss 40 lbs. in 2 mos. Natural & Doctor Recommended 1-888-262-1759 www.szfitness4like.com

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A TRUCK'S DREAM Do you need a CDL? A better job? We can help. CDL training with \$0 down is available for the inexperienced.

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CDL DELIVERS

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LONG JOHN SILVERS Day and Evening Shifts Available. Must be energetic. Apply in person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls please..

Two 3-bedroom houses for rent. Call after 4:30. 263-8688.

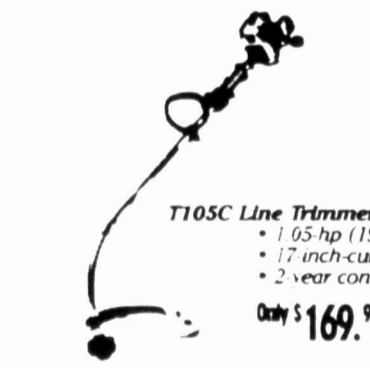
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TT10SC Line Trimmer/Brushcutter
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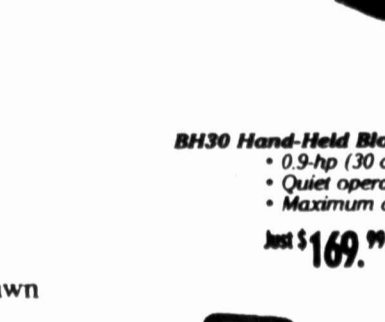
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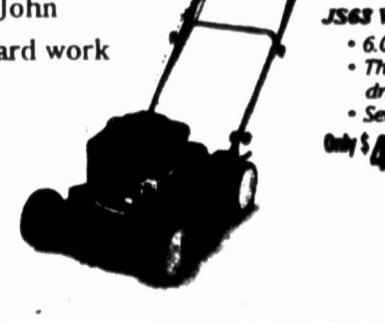
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Especially for kids and their families

The Mini Page

Published by Universal Press Syndicate
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By BETTY DEBNAM

The Last Frontier

Alaska From A to Z



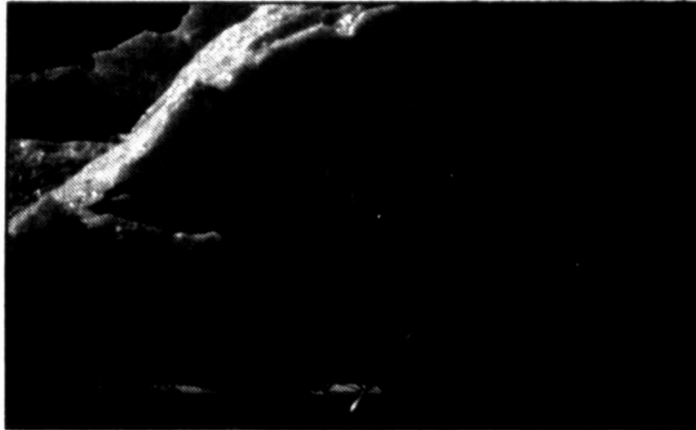
Alaska is our largest state. It is one-fifth the size of the entire United States. Only Wyoming has fewer people. Alaska has a population of about 500,000 people. It became a state in 1959.

Alaska is 500 miles across Canada from Washington state and the "lower 48." In 1867 the United States bought the area from Russia for \$7,200,000, or about 2 cents an acre.

The purchase proved to be a wise one. Alaska is rich in natural resources, including oil, gold, fish and wood.

For years, there were many disagreements between the U.S. government, the Alaskan state government and the native peoples about who owned what lands.

In 1971, the U.S. government gave the state's Inuits (once called Eskimos), Aleuts and Indians \$962,500,000 and millions of acres of land. Other land claims have also been settled.



Keyikara paddle past one of the 100,000 glaciers in Alaska. Glaciers are giant pieces of ice that move over land.

Glaciers cover about 1/20th of the state and are the biggest tourist attraction. They range in size from 1 to 80 miles long and 300 to 10,000 feet thick.

Anchorage, the biggest city, has about 250,000 people.

About one-third of the state is north of the **Arctic Circle**,

where the average temperature in July is only about 47 degrees. In January the average is about minus 11 degrees.

Barrow, about 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle, is the farthest north of any town in America. Most of the people who live there are Inuits.

About 47,300 miles of **Coastline** stretch along the Pacific and Arctic oceans, three seas, bays, channels, inlets and the Gulf of Alaska. There are also more than 3 million lakes!

Denali, meaning "the high one," is what the native people call Mount McKinley. It is the tallest mountain on the continent, rising 20,320 feet above sea level. The next 15 tallest mountains are also in Alaska.

The biggest group of nesting **hald Eagles** in North America is at Admiralty Island National Monument.

Alaska ranks first among the states in money made from the **Fishing** industry. The sport of fishing also draws in thousands of tourists.

A Kid's Guide to the White House features nearly 100 pages of facts and fun about what it's really like to live and work in The White House. Written with The White House Historical Association, it's a fun-of-a-kind resource book filled with art, photos, drawings, games, puzzles and much, much more. To order, send check or money order for \$9.95 plus \$3 postage and handling per copy to: A Kid's Guide to the White House, P.O. Box 415942, Kansas City, MO 64141. Make checks payable to Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Go dot to dot and color.



MIGHTY FUNNY'S Funny Phonics™

It's fun to learn phonics, or the way letters sound. This week's target sound is the one made by the DR blend, as in the word dragon.

Q: When is a well-dressed man like a weed?
A: When he's a dandelion!

Q: Why does a faucet go "drip, drip, drip"?
A: Because it can't go "sniff, sniff, sniff!"

Q: What kind of cake can you drink out of?
A: A cupcake!

Go on a DR word hunt. What other words can you find using the DR blend? What sound do you hear?

Rookie Cookies Recipe™

Midnight Sun Casserole

A lot of salmon comes from Alaska.

You'll need:

- 1 (10-ounce) package frozen broccoli
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 cup canned salmon
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

What to do:

- Place broccoli evenly in a greased casserole dish.
- Sprinkle cheese evenly on top.
- Cover evenly with salmon, then soup.
- Sprinkle cracker crumbs evenly on top.
- Pour butter or margarine evenly on top.
- Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Serves 4.

ALASKA TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of Alaska are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: ALASKA, BIGGEST, RUSSIA, OIL, GOLD, FISH, WOOD, ARCTIC, ANCHORAGE, COASTLINE, GLACIERS, WHALES, MOUNTAINS, EAGLES, BEARS, SUN.

ALASKAMOUNTAINS
AJSELAHWBTWVGL
BKGLDUCIIMGOISU
ANCHORAGEIRGOSL
EMSELGAEVUBGPDH
OOILPNUSWSEDEJQ
GGLACIERSSSAQXSE
COASTLINEIRHRYT
CITCRAISZASFKRT

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are whale-watching in Alaska. See if you can find:

- toothbrush
- ladder
- word MINI
- kite
- ruler
- letter D
- pencil
- key
- question mark
- snake
- safety pin
- muffin

More About Alaska

The Forget-me-not is the state flower.

Gold rushes in 1897, 1898 and 1902 attracted thousands of settlers.

Alaskan Heritage, or background, comes from a wide mixture of peoples. More than one-fifth of the population is descended from native people, the Inuits, Aleuts and Indians. There are also descendants of Russian fur traders and farmers, Norwegian fishers, and gold and oil miners.

The world-famous **Iditarod** (eye-DIT-uh-rod) dog-sled race is 1,049 miles through icy wilderness. It is held in honor of dogs and people who raced to bring medicine to victims of an epidemic in 1925.

Juneau, the capital, has about 25,000 people. It is the second-biggest city in the area in the U.S. The city of Sitka, also in Alaska, is the biggest.

Kodiak Island, in the Pacific Ocean, is home to a national wildlife refuge famous for its bears. It is also home port to the largest fishing fleet in the world.

The **Land of the Midnight Sun** is one of Alaska's nicknames. In the far north the sun does not set at all from May until August.

In the **Matanuska Valley**, some farmers take advantage of the long hours of sunlight to grow giant vegetables such as 100-pound cabbages.

The **Northern lights** are streams of colored light stretching thousands of miles across the Arctic skies.

Oil and gas bring in about 85 percent of the money needed to run the state. This income is so great that Alaskans do not pay income or sales taxes. Most citizens also receive a yearly payment as their share of the oil profits.

But oil has also caused many problems for the environment. In 1989, the tanker Exxon Valdez caused the biggest oil spill in American history. Nearly 11 million gallons of oil polluted Prince William Sound.

The **willow Ptarmigan** is the state bird.

Quiet beauty fills the Alaskan landscape. About one-fourth of all the land is in the National Park system. Forests cover about one-third of the state.

Russia lies only about 2 1/2 miles from the Alaskan island Little Diomede.

The **Sitka spruce** is the state tree.

Site to see: www.travelalaska.com

About 1 million **Tourists** visit Alaska each year.

Untamed wilderness, or land mostly untouched by humans, is Alaska's greatest resource.

Most of the active **Volcanoes** in the country are there.

Wildlife watching is one of the main attractions. Animals include whales, seals, puffins, brown, polar and grizzly bears, moose, caribou and deer.

Saxman Native Totem Park in the southeast has more Indian totem poles than anywhere else in the world.

The **Yukon River** is the fifth-longest river in America, at about 2,000 miles.

Kodiak grizzly bears are the largest land meat-eating animals, or carnivores, in the world. They might weigh 500 pounds more than other bears.

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