

BIG SPRING HERALD

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FRIDAY

December 15, 2000

WEATHER

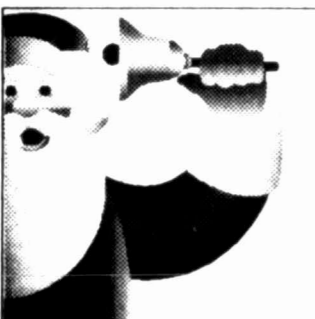
Tonight:



TONIGHT 34°-36° SATURDAY 60°-65°

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- Community Care Hospice

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- 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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CANINE CAROLS

10 shopping days 'til Christmas

Vol. 98, No. 39

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Election has been a good education tool, administrators say

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

The 2000 presidential election may be recorded in history as the "Year of the Chad," but for many secondary teachers, this election gave an opportunity to show students the importance of one vote.

"The election this year has been very helpful in teaching the kids," said Big Spring High School principal Kent Bowermon.

"Our government teachers

A special two-page feature wrapping up the 2000 presidential election is included on Pages 4-5A. A reprint provided by the sponsors and the Herald will be delivered to area schools.

have had a field day with this."

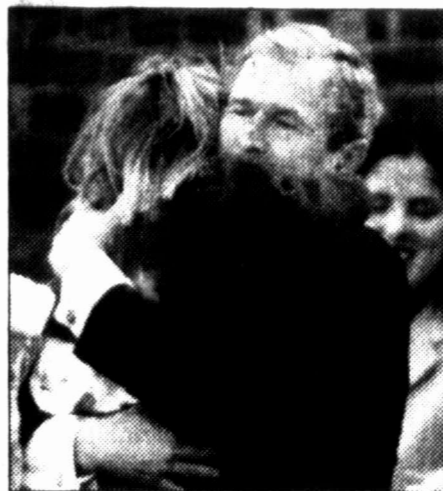
"The government classes have made the election their focus for the past five weeks," said Frank Riney,

the principal at Coahoma High School. "The teachers have shifted their lesson plans to accompany the election process."

For Wayne Rotan, principal at Forsan High School, the election marks a part of history that needs to be used on every school's curriculum.

"Our teachers have been visiting with the students in the classroom going over the election," Rotan said.

See **EDUCATION**, Page 2A



President-elect George W. Bush hugs a 3-year-old girl after special services at the Tarrytown United Methodist Church in Austin on Thursday.

AP photo

911 emergency system making strides

By **CARL GRAHAM**
Staff Writer

For almost a year now, Howard County volunteer fire chief Tommy Sullivan has been wearing two hats — but he couldn't be happier about it.

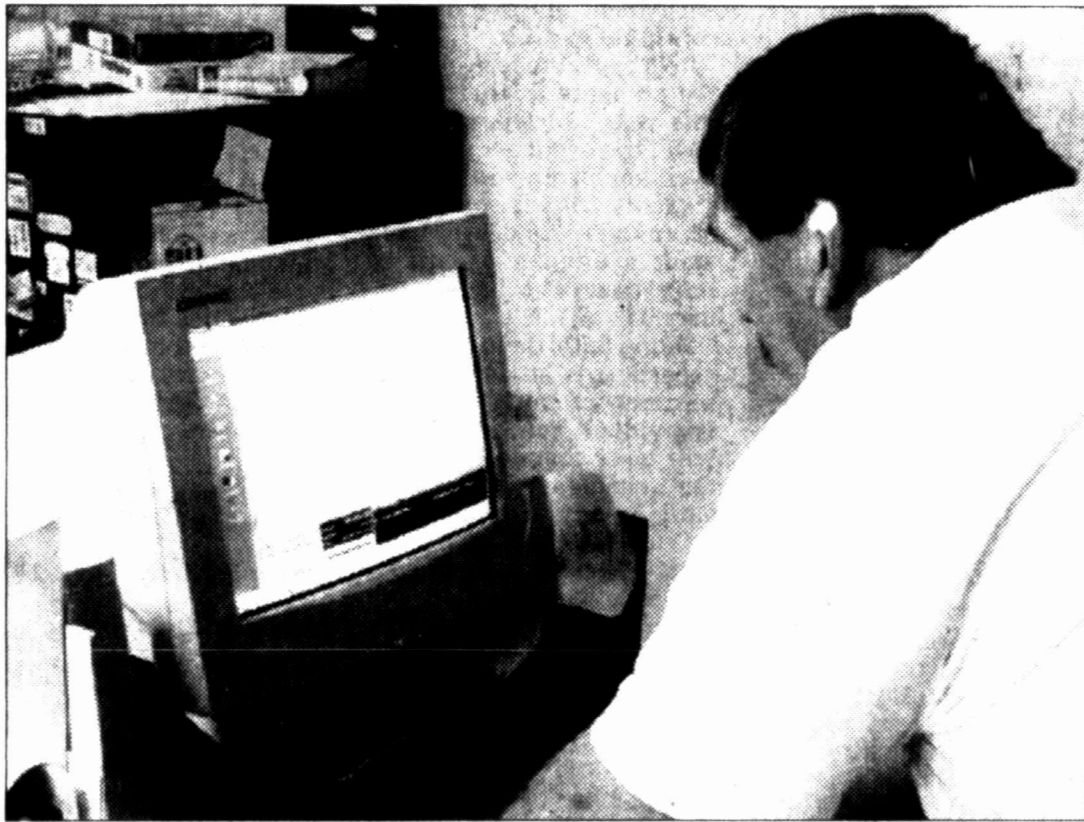
Sullivan was named the Howard County 911 director last February and assumed those responsibilities effective March 1 of this year. It was a job well-suited for him since he was already the volunteer fire chief.

Sullivan will be the first to tell anyone that this year has been a successful and rewarding one for him.

"This has been a very successful year as being the director for 911," said Sullivan. "We have gotten a lot accomplished that I wanted to see happen when I first took over in March. We have a great board and they have been in full support of the upgrades we have requested."

Last June, Sullivan appeared before the Howard County Commissioners Court seeking help in getting a 911 recorder put into the sheriff's department to help track county emergency calls. After it was determined that monies for the project were available, it was just a matter of the court approving a budget amendment so the funds could be used to pay for the implementation of the system.

"I said it then and I continue to say it, the monies spent for the recorder was money well spent," said Sullivan. "With the old data recorder, it took eight-to-10 hours to get specific information on a call whereas



Howard County 911 Director Tommy Sullivan looks over Wednesday's emergency calls on the newly installed recorder software program. Sullivan said it takes a fraction of the time to get information now, compared to the old data recorder system. The 911 office is located at 309 Main Street.

HERALD photo/Carl Graham

now we get that information in a matter of a few minutes. It tracks down times dispatched, how long the response time was, what time they arrived on the scene and what time the call was completed."

According to Sullivan, it cost around \$15,000 to put the recorder in the sheriff's department and an additional \$1,560 for a software program that will help in fire reporting and tracking. The cost to get the system put into the police department was around \$20,000. The equipment for the police department recorder was installed late last

month and is now up and running.

Under Sullivan's direction as the volunteer fire department fire chief, the department was presented with a Life Safety achievement Award for 1999 by the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) in November. The award recognizes local fire prevention activities that contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential fires. Howard County qualified for the award in 1999 because it recorded zero fire deaths in structures during that year.

At the annual volunteer

fireman award banquet recently, Sullivan was once again recognized for his achievements by walking away with three awards.

They were a medal for distinguished service, a medal of merit, and he was named the officer of the year.

"I felt real honored to have been even considered for the awards," said Sullivan. "Once again I want to thank the executive board for all their support. We are well pleased with the direction the department is headed and looking forward to adding more equipment after the first of the year."

County unemployment rate dips to 4.4 percent

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Unemployment for Howard County dipped to 4.4 percent for October, down just slightly from September.

"It's indicative that things haven't changed a



BELEW

whole lot. We haven't lost or gained many jobs," said Virginia Belew, Texas Workforce Center area manager.

According to the Texas Workforce Commission, there were 12,737 people employed in Howard County during October and 585 people unemployed but seeking work.

The county's unemployment was at its highest this year in January, when it hit 6 percent. The low has been

4.3 percent in May.

"Right now we have 50 employers that have job listings with us, meaning we probably have 100 openings. So we do have jobs available," said Belew.

"One thing that offset the layoff we had from Wall's Industries was the fact that we had some employment through telecommunications companies."

Belew said the structure set up by the workforce center and its interaction with

employers and other agencies has helped keep unemployment lower.

"We think one of the things that has contributed to the unemployment remaining stable are some of the systems we have set up," Belew said. "We have a lot to offer employers and prospective employees, whether they are seeking a job for the first time or want to make a career change."

See **JOBS**, Page 2A

Santa Claus to make stop at Big Spring Mall

By **CARL GRAHAM**
Staff Writer

Get ready, boys and girls. Santa Claus is making a quick stop at the Big Spring Mall this Saturday and he wants to find out who has been naughty and nice.

According to mall manager Kathy Lusk, Santa's visit to Big Spring is just one of the many activities planned for Saturday at the mall.



LUSK

See **MALL**, Page 2A



First Baptist Church music minister Stan Haynes directs the Saints Alive Choir Thursday during a performance for patients at the Big Spring State Hospital. The performance and unit Christmas parties continued holiday celebrations at the hospital.

HERALD photo/Valerie Avery

See **BSISD**, Page 2A

BSISD

Ritchey will take over principal's job at high school

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees filled the Big Spring High School principal's post on Thursday with their approval of Michael Wayne Ritchey to the position.

"I am very grateful to Mr. Bowermon for the opportunity to become an administrator 2 1/2 years ago, when he hired me as his assistant principal," said Ritchey. "He has had a tremendous influence in my growth as an administrator and in preparing me for the principalship."

"I would also like to extend my appreciation to the central office and the school board for their recommendation. I believe that it is their desire to continue the continuity of what has been a well-managed high school."

In November Kent R. Bowermon announced his resignation as the Big Spring High School principal. Bowermon has accepted the superintendent's position of the school district in Weimar. Bowermon's resignation will take effect Dec. 22.

Ritchey, a 1979 graduate of Coahoma High School, has a bachelor of science degree from San Angelo State University and a master of education from Sul Ross State University with several teaching certifications.

He has spent the majority of his career teaching in the Big Spring Independent School District.

"He has some big shoes to fill," said superintendent Bill McQueary. "Mr.



RITCHEY

DECEMBER 15 2000

Conservatives see a firestorm if Bush abandons their goals

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush's first priority may be healing wounds and reuniting the country, but that's not the aim of conservatives who backed him. Having finally wrested the Oval Office from the Democrats, some finally see an opening for their agenda.

They're more interested in the "conservative" aspect of Bush than the "compassionate."

"The conservative base is driven now to make certain that the Clinton-Gore team is forever washed away from the halls of power," said Mark Levin, who was chief of staff to Attorney General Ed Meese in the Reagan administration.

Conservatives signed up early to help Bush out Sen. John McCain for the GOP nomination. They went on to provide the base of his support in both the campaign and the postelection fight. Now, they're making their voices heard as Bush assembles his administration.

The attorney general's post is a top priority. Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore and defeated Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft head conservatives' list of candidates.

They're also pushing for one of

Perry moving ahead with transition

AUSTIN (AP) — The pieces are falling into place for Rick Perry's transition to governor of Texas.

Although President-elect Bush has yet to resign — and get out of the way — the Republican Lt. Gov. Perry is moving full-steam ahead preparing to take over the state's top office.

On Thursday, Perry announced the appointment of four volunteers to serve as co-chairs for his pending swearing-in ceremony. He will become the state's 47th governor when Bush resigns.

Perry has asked state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Phillips to administer the oath of office and planned today to make his first gubernatorial appointment. Perry already has named key

members of the team that will oversee his transition to governor.

Several important shifts in state government hinge on the timing of Bush's resignation.

Not only is Bush facing a time crunch for his own transition but the state Legislature is closing in on the Jan. 9 start of the session without a designated lieutenant governor.

The lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate and is arguably the most powerful political office in Texas. The Senate cannot pick its new leader until Bush resigns and Perry is sworn in.

Although no timetable has been set, Bush campaign spokeswoman

Karen Hughes said Bush likely would make an event of his resignation.

"I believe it would be more than ceremonial," Hughes said. "Knowing the governor, I think he would want to say something about the state of Texas. He has not set a schedule when that would take place. I know he's had some discussions with Lieutenant Governor Perry."

Bush, who does not own a home in Austin, would not have to worry about where he might live when he does resign.

Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said it's likely Bush would be invited to stay in the Texas governor's mansion until he moves to the White House.

their own at the helm of the departments of Health and Human Services, Interior, Education and Labor, and for appointments to the dozens of White House and sub-cabinet level positions that influence social and economic policy.

And they are looking for Bush to reverse controversial policies

such as the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the pill that allows women to abort early pregnancies without surgery.

Some key conservatives already are raising warning flags over the suggestion that Bush might appoint Democrats or moderate

Republicans to key positions as a way of bringing the country together.

Gary Bauer, among the most conservative of Bush's opponents in the primaries, said he's troubled by suggestions that Bush may name Pennsylvania Gov. Thomas J. Ridge as secretary of defense.

"He was very much a peacenik-type of congressman during the Reagan years," Bauer said of Ridge. "He voted in favor of a nuclear freeze, against the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, against the strategic defense initiative."

Bauer also warned that conservatives will insist that Bush appoint judges who are anti-abortion, despite Bush's campaign promise that he would not impose such a standard on judicial nominees.

"If he sends a judge up for confirmation that did not have a record of pro life, there would be an unbelievable firestorm in the Republican Party," Bauer said.

But at least one prominent voice on the right is not making such demands. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Bush must reach out to the middle and work with conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans, even if it means angering his conservative base.

"If he spends a lot of his time trying to appease the right at the expense of reaching out to the middle, he will destroy his administration," Gingrich said in an interview.

Leaders plan to push budget deal through Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The end in sight to one of their most wearying budget wars with President Clinton, Republicans were preparing to wrap up the lame-duck 106th Congress by approving a deal on school spending, Medicare and other issues.

The House and Senate were likely to vote today on the overdue package, which covers more than \$450 billion in spending and four of the 13 annual spending bills for fiscal 2001. Staff aides were putting finishing touches on last-minute issues, including a dispute pitting administration efforts to protect Alaskan sea lions against the local fishing industry.

"We'll make it ready," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said when asked if the measure would be ready for a vote today.

The compromise contained spending increases

for hiring teachers, repairing schools, biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, Pell grants for low-income college students and other programs.

Also tucked away were scores of home-district water and construction projects for lawmakers totaling hundreds of millions of dollars.

Both parties sought to put their own stamp on the nearly completed bill.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young, R-Fla., said the measure financed schools, medical research and other priorities "without overburdening the American taxpayer."

Linda Ricci, spokeswoman for the White House budget office, said the deal "builds on the progress of the past eight years by providing significant increases for key presidential priori-

ties." It has not taken the two sides this long to reach budget peace since Clinton and Republicans, led by then-House Speaker Newt

Gingrich, R-Ga., waged their fiscal war of 1995. That included two federal shutdowns, and the budget was not resolved until the spring of 1996.

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DECEMBER 15 2000

How the electoral system works

JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

Perhaps no event in the past century has focused more attention on the United States' method for selecting a president than the legal wrangling over Florida's electoral votes in 2000.

While most elections in the United States are decided by winning a majority of the popular vote, but presidential elections hinge more on how many states a candidate wins and primarily how any Electoral College votes those states provide.

The founding fathers of our nation were concerned that large states would have too big an advantage in picking a president if the popular vote determined a winner. As a result, they established the Electoral College system that actually determines the president.

Although it rarely occurs, a candidate can receive a majority of the popular vote and not win enough votes in the Electoral College to become president. Such is the case this year where Vice President Al Gore earned a slim majority of the popular vote, only to lose the election because Texas Gov. George Bush won the majority of electoral votes.

But many American citizens know very little about

the Electoral College system and how it functions.

According to the Federal Election Commission, the workings of the Electoral College are the result of both design and the experience gained from more than two centuries of experience.

As the system now operates:

- Each state is allocated a number of electors in the Electoral College equal to the number of its U.S. senators (always two) plus the number of its U.S. representatives (which may change each decade depending on the size of each state's population as determined by the Census).

- Political parties (or independent candidates) in each state submit to the state's chief election official a list of individuals equal to the number of the state's electoral vote pledged to their candidate for president. Usually, the major political parties select those individuals at their state conventions or through appointment by their party leaders. Third parties and independent candidates, as a general rule, merely designate theirs.

- Members of Congress and employees of the federal government are prohibited from serving as an elector in order to maintain the balance between the legislative and executive branches of

the federal government.

- On election day, voters in each state cast ballots. While most see their votes being cast for a choice of president and vice president, they are actually casting ballots for the party's slate of electors representing the candidates.

- Whichever party slate wins the most popular votes in the state becomes that state's electors so that, in effect, whichever presidential ticket gets the most popular votes in a state wins all of the electors from that state. The only exceptions are Maine and Nebraska where two electors are chosen by statewide popular vote and the remainder are selected by popular vote within each congressional district.

- On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December (Dec. 18 this year) each state's electors meet in their respective state capitals and cast their electoral votes — one for president and one for vice president.

- In order to prevent electors from voting only for "favorite sons" of their home state, at least one of their votes must be for a person from outside their state. That is seldom a problem since parties have consistently nominated presidential and vice presidential candidates from differ-

ent states (as in the case of Republican vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney moving his residence from Texas to Wyoming prior to his selection as Bush's running mate).

- The electoral votes are sealed and transmitted from each state to the president of the U.S. Senate who, on Jan. 6 opens and reads them before both houses of Congress.

- The candidate for president with the most electoral votes, provided that it is an absolute majority, is declared president. Similarly, the vice presidential candidate with the absolute majority of electoral votes is declared vice president.

- In the event no one obtains an absolute majority of electoral votes for president, the U.S. House of Representatives (as the chamber closest to the people) selects the president from among the top three contenders with each state casting only one vote and an absolute majority of the states being required to elect. Similarly, if no one obtains an absolute majority for vice president, the U.S. Senate makes the selection from among the top two candidates for that office.

- At noon on Jan. 20, the duly elected president and vice president are sworn into office.



AP Photo
President-elect George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, are shown leaving the Tarrytown United Methodist Church in Austin after a special service Thursday morning.

Bush: Big plans and a jocular style

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now comes time to show what "compassionate conservative" means in law, the bully pulpit and budgets.

That odd and intriguing phrase out of Texas helped put George W. Bush on the map and en route to the White House, a new kind of Republican, it was said, who wants government to be smaller, except where he wants it to be bigger.

Daring to take the status quo out of Social Security, pledging to make integrity his calling in the White House, promising bipartisanship in a system of government that thrives on partisan struggle, Bush has so much to do.

But he's walking squarely into a chorus of doubters who say the protracted postelection contest, its messy ending in the Supreme Court and a Congress split almost down the middle will make it hard to get anything much done.

It's a tall order for a man who likes to be in bed by 9:30 p.m. when he can, in contrast with night owl Bill Clinton.

Judging by his style, at least, a less intense presidency seems on the horizon, a more relaxed way of doing things, despite all the things he's promised: a big tax cut, better schools and free drugs for poor seniors among them.

As new as Bush is as a

leader to most Americans, his manner is vaguely remembered, part Ronald Reagan, part dad.

Like Reagan, he sets broad goals and delegates the details. Like his father George Bush and like Clinton, he can schmooze and charm.

Meetings should be genial, as is his nature, but to the point. Decisions, when they come, are made with no looking back.

At least, that's how it has been in Texas.

"People are his medium, and always there's good humor," says Clay Johnson, a boyhood friend and chief of staff in the Texas governor's office. "Not a lot of contemplation and commiserating or ruminating."

Bush was a get-along guy in Texas, and he made much in the campaign of his ability to bond with his state's Democrats, who are not quite the same breed as Democrats from everywhere else.

Bush is the type who will motion you to sit down and stay if you enter his office and find him on the phone, those who have worked with him say.

"He has this instant intimacy thing where he really disarms people," says Doug Wead, who worked with him in his father's 1988 presidential campaign.

"It's almost like he invited you into the bathroom while he's taking a bath."

STATES AND THEIR ELECTORAL VOTES

Total: 538;	Colorado — 8	Idaho — 4	Maine — 4
Majority Needed to Elect: 270	New Mexico — 5	Pennsylvania — 23	Montana — 3
	Connecticut — 8	Illinois — 22	Maryland — 10
	New York — 33	Rhode Island — 4	Virginia — 13
Alabama — 9	Delaware — 3	Indiana — 12	Massachusetts — 12
Montana — 3	North Carolina — 14	South Carolina — 8	Washington — 11
Alaska — 3	District Of Columbia — 3	Iowa — 7	Michigan — 18
Nebraska — 5	North Dakota — 3	South Dakota — 3	West Virginia — 5
Arizona — 8	Florida — 25	Kansas — 6	Minnesota — 10
Nevada — 4	Ohio — 21	Tennessee — 11	Wisconsin — 11
Arkansas — 6	Georgia — 13	Kentucky — 8	Mississippi — 7
New Hampshire — 4	Oklahoma — 8	Texas — 32	Wyoming — 3
California — 54	Hawaii — 4	Louisiana — 9	Missouri — 11
New Jersey — 15	Oregon — 7	Utah — 5	

Office of the Federal Register



Americans embrace Gore as he exits political stage

WASHINGTON (AP) — As he stepped off the political stage, Al Gore managed to achieve what had often eluded him during his presidential campaign: He won Americans over by persuading them of his sincerity and likability.

"He's a good sportsman. He looked you in the eye. He took it like a man," said Richard Poirier, who raised a glass to Gore at Terry's Bar and Grill in Topeka, Kan., after watching Gore's concession speech.

Catherine Carlisle of Salt Lake City said she saw a more "personable" vice president that night.

Across the nation, Americans gathered around televisions to hear

Gore end his White House quest, and to take measure of how he did so. Many had blamed the vice president for dragging the nation through a five-week post-election stalemate by waging legal challenges in Florida.

But almost without exception, those interviewed embraced Gore, or at least the message he delivered as he bowed out.

"I thought it was an extraordinarily gracious speech," said Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin, a Democrat. "If he made more speeches like that, I think he would be president. I think we saw the real Al Gore tonight. His sincerity four in a place."

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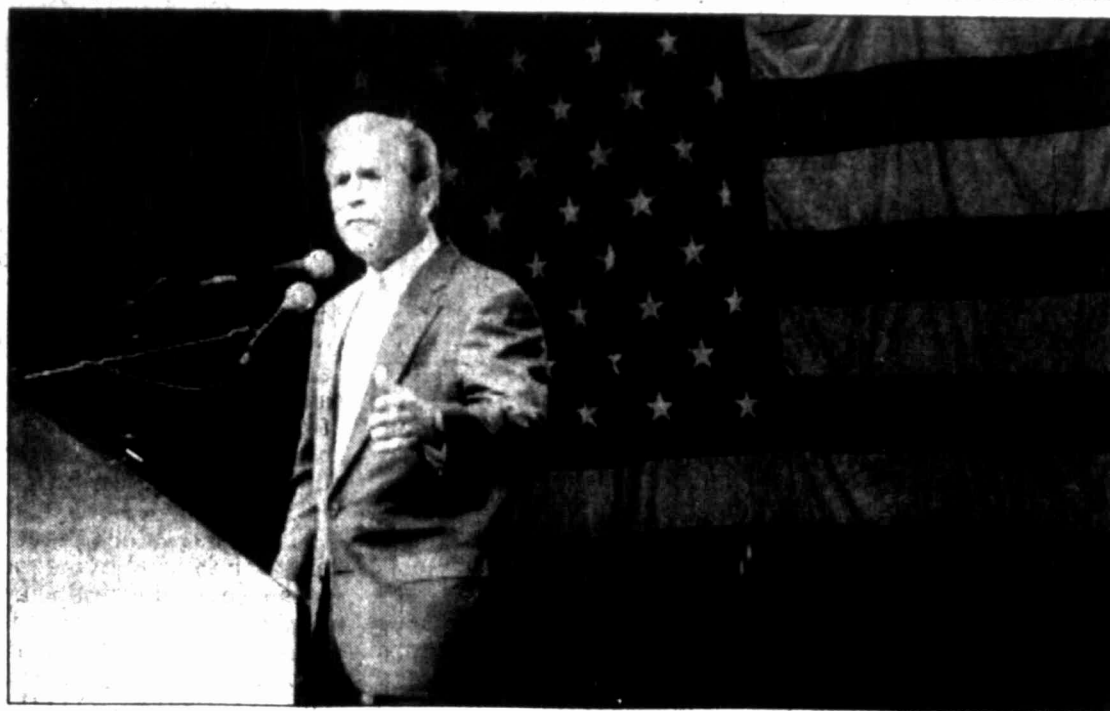
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'I know America wants reconciliation and unity. I know Americans want progress. And we must seize this moment and deliver. Together, guided by a spirit of common sense, common courtesy and common goals, we can unite and inspire the American citizens.'

—Excerpt from George W. Bush's acceptance speech



NAME — George W. Bush.
AGE-BIRTH DATE — 54; July 6, 1946.
EDUCATION — B.A., Yale University, 1968; M.B.A., Harvard University, 1975.
EXPERIENCE — President-elect (2000); Texas governor (1995-2000); managing general partner of Texas Rangers (1989-1994); businessman in various industries, primarily oil (1968-1989).
FAMILY — Wife, Laura; twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara.

A time line of events in the election for President of the United States

Nov. 7: Election Day. Television networks project that Vice President Al Gore has won Florida. They later retract that projection.

Nov. 8: The networks project that Texas Gov. George W. Bush has won Florida, and consequently the White House. Gore telephones him to concede at about 3 a.m. EST, only to retract the call about an hour later because Bush's slim margin of victory in Florida triggers an automatic recount.

Nov. 9: Gore campaign chairman William Daley says Gore will seek a hand recount of the ballots cast in Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Broward and Volusia counties — about 1.8 million votes.

Nov. 11: Bush's attorneys file lawsuit in U.S. District Court to block Gore's request for manual recounts.

Nov. 13: A Miami federal judge rejects Bush's request for an order barring hand recounts; Bush later appeals.

Nov. 17: Florida Supreme Court prohibits Secretary of State Harris from certifying results, as she had

planned to do Nov. 18, until further notice. A federal appeals court in Atlanta refuses to block manual recounts in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Local Democrats sue the Seminole County Canvassing Board in state court over disputed absentee ballot applications.

Nov. 21: Florida Supreme Court rules that manual recounts may continue and that those votes must be included in the final tally. Court sets as deadline for certifying the election Nov. 26 or early Nov. 27.

Nov. 22: The Miami-Dade canvassing board votes unanimously to halt manual recounts.

Nov. 24: U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear Bush's appeal on the legality of the Florida Supreme Court's decision to allow recounts and extend state deadline for certification.

Nov. 26: Hand counts go down to the wire, with Palm Beach canvassers completing theirs 1-1/2 hours after the 5 p.m. deadline. Harris refuses to accept those results, and certifies final tallies giving Bush a 537-

vote victory over Gore.

Nov. 27: Gore contests results in Miami-Dade, Nassau and Palm Beach counties in Leon County Circuit Court in Tallahassee.

Nov. 28: Gore and Bush file briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court. Leon County Circuit Judge N. Sanders Sauls orders about 14,000 disputed ballots from Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties brought to him in Tallahassee.

Nov. 29: Bush's legal team asks Sauls to order all 1.1 million votes cast in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade sent to the state capital.

Nov. 30: A Florida legislative committee recommends a special session to name the state's 25 representatives to the Electoral College, which elects the president.

Dec. 1: U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments on Bush's appeal regarding recount deadline. Local Democrats file lawsuit accusing the Martin County Canvassing Board of mishandling absentee ballot applications. Florida Supreme Court refuses Gore's appeal to immediately start

recounting ballots in his election challenge.

Dec. 2-3: Sauls holds trial on Gore's election challenge.

Dec. 4: U.S. Supreme Court returns for clarification the Florida Supreme Court's decision on recount deadlines. Sauls rejects Gore's election challenge.

Dec. 6: Separate trials on the Martin and Seminole county absentee ballot cases begin in Leon County Circuit Court. Florida's Republican legislative leaders call for a special session to consider whether to appoint the state's electors.

Dec. 7: Florida Supreme Court hears Gore's appeal of Sauls' decision rejecting Gore's election challenge.

Dec. 8: Two Leon County Circuit Court judges refuse to throw out any of the 25,000 absentee ballots challenged in Martin and Seminole counties.

A divided Florida Supreme Court orders manual recounts to begin in Gore's election challenge and adds 383 votes to his total.

Dec. 9: Manual counts resume in the morning. A bare majority of the U.S. Supreme Court rules to halt manual recounts pending Dec. 11 arguments. Hand counts cease late in the afternoon, pending Dec. 11 U.S. Supreme Court hearing.

Dec. 11: Bush, Gore lawyers argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. Florida Legislature holds hearings as it prepares to appoint a set of electors.

Dec. 12: Deadline for states to certify representatives to Electoral College. Florida House of Representatives votes to certify a slate of electors for Bush.

U.S. Supreme Court reverses Florida's court-ordered recount of presidential election ballots, ruling that varying standards for counting made the effort unlawful. A 5-4 majority says there is no time to conduct a lawful recount.

Dec. 13: Gore concedes to Bush, and addresses the nation. President-elect Bush calls for national unity in televised address.

Nation's lawmakers comment on the Supreme Court's ruling and Bush's pending presidency

'Sure, we're not in the same position we would be if we had won outright, but in some ways it presents an opportunity for people to step up to the plate to be better than they would have been if the election had been a slam dunk. All of us are being called on to be better leaders.'



U.S. Sen. Kay B. Hutchinson, R-Texas

'It is important to remember that our system was not intended for angels to use in creating perfection, but to produce reliable constitutional results despite being run by a changing cast of fallible men and women.'



S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas

'Bipartisan cooperation and public civility will come about only through intentional, mature efforts to put both grudges and hubris behind us. With presidential and Congressional leadership, both Republicans and Democrats must repudiate those who would seek short-term gain by promoting divisiveness and partisan obstinacy.'



U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm, D-Texas

'Black voters, if I may speak for them, I don't see them supporting George Bush in any way. I will respect him and I will work with him, but I don't think that (extends) to my constituents.'



U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Florida

'The process may not have been perfect, but I believe the judges — all of them who were involved — did the best they could with the facts and arguments before them. I don't think it serves any purpose to second-guess them or question their motives.'



U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.

'I just put the burden on Governor Bush. He gets a chance to be everything he advertised himself to be. If he is a uniter instead of a divider, all these worries will go away.'



U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill.

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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

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

• **LIGHTING CONTEST PARTICIPANTS** and those who didn't enter but listed their homes anyway so that citizens could drive by and see Big Spring's wonderful Christmas decorations.

• **GOLIAD CAVALIERS and JUNIOR CLASSICS**, who together rounded up 1,260 cans of food for the Salvation Army.

• **HOWARD COLLEGE**, which hosted an educational and successful fifth Next Generation event for area eighth graders today.

• **HEIDRUN COVINGTON**, Disabled American Veterans employee who was recognized by five area Concho Valley veterans organizations.

• **CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** of the First Christian Church, which adopted 16 senior Angels and four child Angels as part of Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

• **MICHAEL RITCHEY**, Big Spring High School assistant principal who on Thursday was named to replace principal Kent Bowerman.

• **ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SALVATION ARMY DOLL AUCTION**, which raised almost \$4,600 to benefit needy children in Howard County.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

There are so many of you to thank for a wonderful, successful Big Spring Symphony Guild Potpourri Tour of Homes.

First, I want to thank the homeowners Jerry and Denise Iden, Richard and Jeanie Krocke, Tony and Deanne Lester, Robert and Mary Miller, Bernard and Cleo Young and Dr. Allen and Pam Brewer. All the homes were different and so lovely. You really outdid yourselves!

Next, I must thank all 240 of those who turned out on a not so pleasant day. You helped us to net over \$2,000 for the symphony.

Third, the Herald did an excellent job helping us publicize the tour, as were the radio and television stations. All were supportive and we do appreciate it.

I must thank my co-chairpersons, Dianne Moses, Pauline Nelson, Jo Beth Corwin and Pam Brewer. Their help in planning and

executing was invaluable. All the guild members volunteered in the different homes and a few non-members stepped in to help.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the Citizens Police Academy volunteers and our symphony board members, as well as Annette Roberts and Pastor Kohl who helped out with our shuttling of guests to the top of the mountain. Bob Brock Ford and Shroyer Motor Co. for the provided vehicles.

Blum's Jewelers, Dunlap's, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum, the Symphony office, Faye's Flowers sold tickets for us, the Chamber of Commerce, Joy's Hallmark gave us discounts and Big Spring Printing donated our posters. Thank you! We also appreciate the 100 or so businesses who displayed our posters.

PHYLLIS GRAUMANN
BIG SPRING SYMPHONY
GUILD TOUR OF HOMES
CO-CHAIR

Endgame: Some election observations

The idea that some Florida ballots were not counted has become disturbingly widespread. Al Gore himself, as well as his numerous spokesmen, are responsible for this mistaken view.



JEFFREY HART

Gore, in an interview with Leslie Stahl, got caught. Gore was using his mantra "count all the votes, and count them fairly," when Stahl interrupted and observed that all the ballots had been counted at least twice. Once in the original Nov. 7 vote, then in the recount. Much of this was done by machine.

Gore did not appreciate this dose of accuracy, but Stahl was not willing to sit there and be a patsy for him.

The idea has also gotten around that the hand count is more accurate than the machine count. But this is not necessarily so. Yes, machines make mistakes, but those mistakes are randomly distributed. Because of that, neither Gore nor George W. Bush would be hurt disproportionately in a machine count.

A hand count might be more accurate if the counters were disinterested and surgically objective. No one thinks this describes the counters in the counties in question. The Gore team was not aiming at accuracy but at the possibility of finding or creating Gore votes in ballots previously ruled out for one reason or

another. The subjective element here could well be decisive. This was one reason for the 7-2 Supreme Court decision overturning the earlier decision of the Florida Supreme Court authorizing such a recount. In all of this it would be good to remember that ballots are counted, not votes. To be counted, a ballot must qualify according to the rules. Then it becomes a vote. Gore wanted the hand-counters to divine voters' intentions and what not, even if the rules had been violated.

A humorous touch was added by Jesse Jackson. He threatened to stage a '60s-style mass protest if the counting of previously disqualified ballots did not continue. Also, Jackson has been trying to further envenom the atmosphere by complaining that blacks have been "disenfranchised" in the Florida voting. Isn't it about time for this racial ambulance chaser to stop scowling and whining?

It is constantly said that Gore won the popular vote nationwide. Maybe he did, and maybe he didn't. A bit of simple mathematics demonstrates the uncertainty.

I will use round numbers. Gore "won" the popular vote by some 300,000. About 103 million votes were cast. To find the percentage of the total vote represented by Gore's margin, you divide 300,000 by 103 million. Gore's margin was .003, or 3/1000. That is his margin over Bush amounting to 3 votes in every 1,000 that were cast. This is much less than 1 percent. In fact, it falls well within the statistical margin of error. The actual winner of

the popular vote remains uncertain.

More comedy: Pat Buchanan might well have won Florida for Bush, though quite unintentionally. Several thousand voters in Palm Beach County think they punched their butterfly ballots for Buchanan, when they really wanted to vote for Gore. They seem to have been too careless, hurried or befuddled to get the thing right, though almost all other voters did get it right. Those Buchanan votes, added to Gore's, would have given Gore Florida and the White House. That was the first time Buchanan had received so many Jewish votes.

The fact that the U.S. Supreme Court was visibly divided between "liberals" and "conservatives" is bound to somewhat damage its undeserved reputation for impartiality and objectivity. But I don't think the justices in their Dec. 12 determinative decision were simply voting for Gore or Bush.

No, I think it was somewhat deeper than that. The issue in regards to the Florida Supreme Court had to do with an expansive versus a more-restricted role for the judiciary. The five justices who overturned the earlier decision by the Florida Supreme Court considered that this "activist" court had badly overstepped its authority by creating what was in effect new legislation.

Liberals believe in a much more expansive view of what courts can do. This is because the liberal agenda includes many things that most people are opposed to. Thus the Vermont Supreme Court

recently instructed the state legislature to pass legislation allowing what amounts almost to homosexual marriage. Polls show the voters against it by 60-40. Legislators who went along with the court were duly punished at the polls, but the new legislation still stands.

It is incontestable that the American constitutional tradition is one of legislative superiority. The Supreme Court is supreme over other courts, not supreme over Congress. Congress (Article 3, Section 2) can remove any matter from the jurisdiction of the court. It can impeach justices, refuse to fund their operations, even abolish the court by refusing to confirm all nominees. The court has no comparable weapons at its disposal and the executive is comparably weak.

Contrary to what is taught in the schools, we do not have three separate-but-equal branches. At the end of the day, it is the legislature that rules.

What was alarming in this election was the all-but-unanimous view that the Florida Legislature might "intrude" and name the electors, or that Congress might do so. But this would have been well within the constitutional powers of both. The term "legislature" comes from the Latin *lex/leges* or law/laws. Legislative superiority ought to be firmly in our political consciousness. In overturning the decrees of the Florida Supreme Court, the U.S. Supreme Court majority defended the election laws passed by the Florida legislature. And it was about time, too.



Supreme Court didn't side with the angels

Would Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W.



JACK ANDERSON

Bush have behaved the same had their roles been reversed? Possibly, but the question is irrelevant. The question at hand is which of their arguments was on the side of the angels — the one pleading for a full count of the votes or the one obstructing such a count? We even naively believed the U.S. Supreme Court would likewise side with the angels. We were wrong.

We recently wrote in praise of the Supreme Court that was believed to have ducked the disputed presidential election results. We noted, "It is often forgotten that the Court, not having been elected, has no power base

of voters, and, unlike the executive branch, has no ability to enforce its rulings. So the Court's only power lies in its credibility, which is why on the momentous 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision outlawing school segregation it was unanimous, even though a number of justices initially intended to dissent. Important Supreme Court decisions need to have that sort of definitiveness to be credible."

We wrote these words after the court remanded back to the Florida Supreme Court that institution's earlier decision. Now, as events have proven, their ruling was nothing less than a trap. Clearly, five justices — Chief Justice William Rehnquist, along with Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor — had made up their minds.

And this brings to mind myriad questions about the system, human motivation and the individuals them-

selves. The problem is that all nine justices were deciding a case in which, to varying degrees, each of them had a stake. After all, almost certainly each of them voted for either Gore or Bush. But the conflicts of interest ran even deeper.

Scalia hopes to become the next chief justice, and no Democrat would likely elevate the court's arch-conservative to such a position. Further, his son works for the law firm that represented Bush before the Court.

Then there is the case of Scalia's "Second Vote": Justice Clarence Thomas, the silent conservative who takes his lead from Scalia in almost every case. Thomas' wife, it turns out, works for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, and she has been actively engaged in recruiting potential appointees for a Bush administration.

Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justice O'Connor want to retire, but they have a vested interest in seeing that conservatives are

appointed to replace them, an action not likely to occur in a Gore administration. The opposite could be said of Justice John Paul Stevens, who would prefer a liberal replacement for himself.

So we come full circle. Supreme Court justices are human. If they were local judges sitting in judgment of a local election, they would have to recuse themselves for all of these listed actions, and such a trial would probably be forced to seek a different venue.

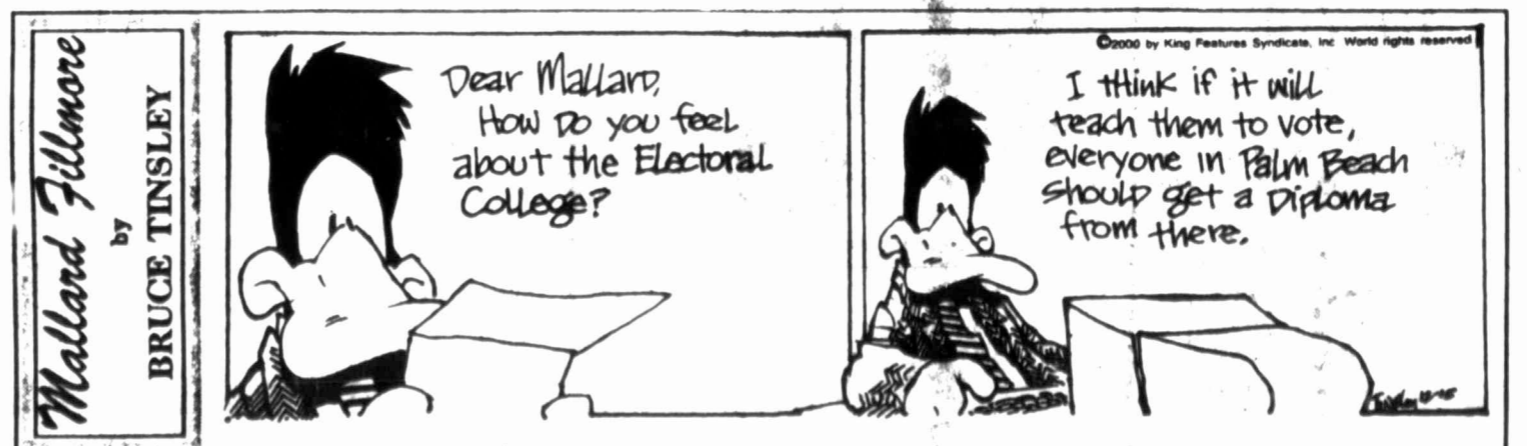
But there is no alternate venue where the Supreme Court is concerned, which is why, human nature being what it is, the system failed.

Five justices just elected the next president of the United States. Had they allowed a count of all the votes, had they established a standard for such counting, had they ensured a visible and fair counting, they would have been off the hook.

More importantly, they would have been on the side of the angels.

ADDRESSES

- **BILL CLINTON**
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- **K. BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
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Phone: 202 224 5922
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U.S. Representative
17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515
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Side impact air bags perform well in crash tests, according to report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Crash tests of side impact air bags show they can help prevent serious head injuries, even in collisions between passenger cars and high-riding light trucks, insurance industry researchers report.

In its first such tests, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety rammed a pickup truck traveling at 32 mph into the side of a Volvo S80 going 16 mph and found the car's side air bags protected the crash dummy's head against what could have been a fatal head

injury.

The Volvo S80 comes with, as standard equipment, an inflatable curtain air bag that unfurls from the roof along the door to protect the head.

In a crash test without the air bag, the heads of the driver and rear passenger dummies were hit by the hood of the pickup truck. The force was high enough to kill the passenger, while the driver dummy's head barely escaped severe impact, according to the institute.

In a test with the head protection air bag, the cur-

tain acted as a cushion between the dummies' heads and the hood. Instruments on the dummy heads recorded a low impact.

Nearly 10,000 people were killed last year in side-impact crashes, federal accident data show, and about half involved head injuries.

Adrian Lund, the institute's vice president for research, said the test demonstrates that lives could be saved, especially in crashes involving light trucks.

Pickups, vans and sport

utility vehicles are more likely to kill passenger car occupants in crashes because of their height, Lund said.

"These tests reflect the way that people are getting injured in real-world crashes," he said. "It's very difficult to prevent these injuries without side impact air bags."

The institute also conducted a "car-into-pole" test, running the S80 and a BMW

X5 sideways at 18 mph into a rigid pole. Again, the force measured on the dummy heads was low.

The BMW X5 has a long tubular bag that inflates from the roof but does not extend so far down the window as the S80's bag. Other side air bags available in 2001 models deploy from the seat to inflate forward and upward.

The federal government requires front air bags on

all vehicles and has standards for testing them. The government does do vehicle-to-vehicle crash testing for side air bags, which are standard or optional on more than 80 2001 vehicles, according to the institute.

As an option, side air bags can cost several hundred dollars.

At least 158 deaths since 1990 are blamed on front air bags, but at least 5,000 lives have been saved.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 15, 2000: Share ideas, but understand that sometimes others might not want change or solutions. This concept might be hard for you to grasp, but it will help you understand others' odd reactions. Sometimes you personally might need to break a pattern or break through rigid thinking. Watch doors open. Efficiency counts. If you are single, you draw someone quite different. (Be open to different.) If attached, planning a special vacation together brings you closer. **VIRGO** tries to take charge with you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** Brainstorm with someone in the know. A'o seek out those who might not see situations the same as you do. Greet different opinions positively. Others do their best to help you realize what you want. Be careful with another great moneymaking scheme. Tonight: Out with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Build security and don't let others intimidate you. Often, a brusque exterior pushes you away. Unusual ideas stem from a boss or parent. Work one-on-one with a special partner or friend. Together, you gain. Do not minimize what is happening with a child or loved one. Tonight: Nap, then go out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Keep communication flowing. Listen carefully to others, even if you might be a bit jolted. You see a situation quite differently. Break barriers and attempt to find positive solutions. A child or loved one delivers a strong message. Perhaps you haven't been listening well. Tonight: Playtime.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ** Deal with money matters head-on. You cannot minimize the importance of family and the holidays. Reach out for another and have an important talk, especially if this person is angry. A friend might not follow through. You could be disappointed. Tonight: Shop on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Unexpected developments open your mind to other possibilities. Make calls and reach out for another. Take your time with a touchy, difficult boss. Handle him! Your ingenuity knows no limits. Use your abilities. Tonight: Playfulness draws just what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Take your time making a decision. Your mind could be tuned to information. Absorb facts and inte-

grate information. Don't follow your instincts with spending, as you could go way overboard. News from a distance throws you off. Share your deeper thoughts with a family member. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You are more likely to speak your mind and not listen right now. Listen well, especially to a child or loved one. Though you could be jolted at first, solicit feedback to get more of what both of you want. Gather with friends. Success comes in groups. Tonight: Wherever the party is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Re-evaluate what is going on with another. Carefully think about a decision that involves a boss or higher-up. Your thoughts take you in another direction, especially with gift buying. Your instincts help you with what isn't being said at the office. Tonight: A force to behold.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Friends seek you out. Plan on doing research, clearing your desk and perhaps handling details involving the office party. You're right on top of everything, even if you drag by the night's end.

Unexpected news energizes you. Tonight: Others follow your lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Reach out for someone who impacts you both financially and emotionally. Establish limits with a child or a new "buddy" friendship. Someone might expect something that you might not be willing to give. Use care with a financial hunch. You might not like the end results. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Others come forward with a myriad of ideas. You might be full of surprises. A family or domestic issue weighs on you. Understand that there are solutions. Just sit down and discuss the problem with a partner on a one-on-one level. Teamwork draws positive answers. Tonight: Say thank you to a loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Those in charge share different points of view. You hear opinions loud and clear. Consider ideas. The more you use, the better the product. At least you can test an idea. Don't worry if you feel closed down or quiet. You have a lot to do. Clear those matters first. Tonight: It could be a late night!

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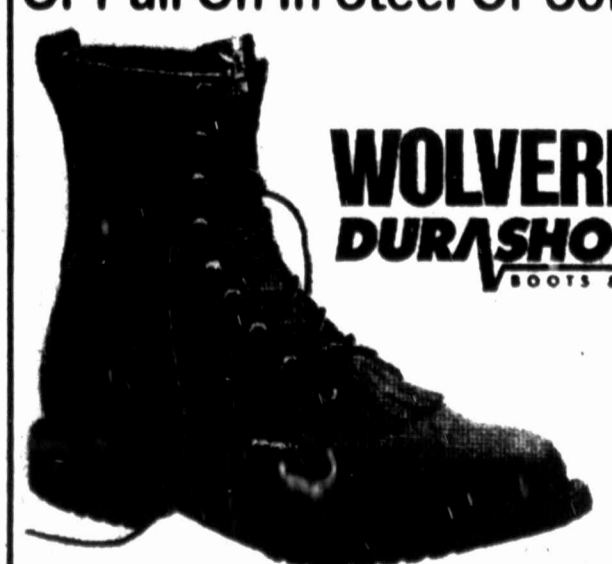
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TOWN

Continued from Page 8A

California, either "doubt everything, and the text has to prove itself," or "take the text for what it says unless there's reason not to."

Hagner's own weighty commentary on Matthew thus accepts Bethlehem of Judea, though he recognizes the birth stories were not written as "strict history." Where did the material about Jesus' birth come from? Hagner reasons that Mary "surely told the story again and again before she died, and it would have been ingrained on peoples' minds."

The author of another Matthew commentary that boosts the traditional Bethlehem, Craig Keener of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, similarly doubts the doubters.

"It seems far more natural," he says, "to believe that Jesus' earliest followers would preserve his teachings and life and within a generation or two, when eyewitnesses could still be

interviewed, would accurately transmit the central substance."

However, the Nazareth theory is widely held among academics.

One influential Catholic proponent is John P. Meier of the University of Notre Dame.

He notes that Bethlehem of Judea is mentioned only in Matthew 2 and Luke 2, after which those Gospels always speak about "Jesus of Nazareth." The only other related New Testament passage is John 7:40-44, where people say Jesus is not the messiah because he came from Nazareth rather than Bethlehem.

As Meier interprets this passage, the people were correct about the Nazareth birth but didn't understand that Jesus actually came from heaven. Keener sees a double irony: the people were ignorant both about Jesus' heavenly origin and the birth in Bethlehem, a fact John's readers knew.

RELIGION IN BRIEF

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP) — The Union Congregational Church, affiliated with the United Church of Christ, has voted to cancel the charter of its Boy Scout troop as of January, forcing the scouts to find another sponsor and meeting place.

A local elementary school also severed official ties, but is letting the scouts continue to meet in the building. In both cases, the issue is the organization's ban on openly gay leaders.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Boy Scouts' right to set its own standards for leaders. In response, numerous school boards, city councils, corporations and charities have cut support.

BARDSTOWN, Ky. (AP) — Three orders of nuns gathered to formally apologize for the use of slave labor by their predecessors

in the early 1800s. Black worshippers responded with forgiveness at the service in St. Joseph Church, which slaves helped build in 1819.

Nearly 400 people sang gospel songs and recited prayers of repentance. The event was sponsored by three predominantly white orders with Kentucky roots: the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Sisters of Loretto and Dominicans of St. Catharine.

"I cannot tell you what this service has done for me," said Martha Hickman. "It has strengthened my heart. My deceased ancestors are crying tears of joy in heaven today, and I'm sure yours are too."

The service was part of an effort by Catholic institutions worldwide this year to repent for the mistreatment of others.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 8A

would like to invite our entire community to come hear this presentation which will include every choir in our music ministry. You are also invited to attend our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 p.m.

First Christian

The First Christian Choir will present a special Christmas Cantata entitled "The Winter Rose" by Joseph M. Martin. Ronnie Moss will direct the choir.

From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It gently reaches across the ages in ancient illuminations and freely spills from the pens and brushes of countless poets and artists. Echoing through our sanctuaries in the melodies and texts of many beloved carols, it brings to life the beautiful visions of biblical prophets and the hope of early Christian pilgrims. Today, the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace, both inside the church and the outside world.

There will be an official board meeting at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

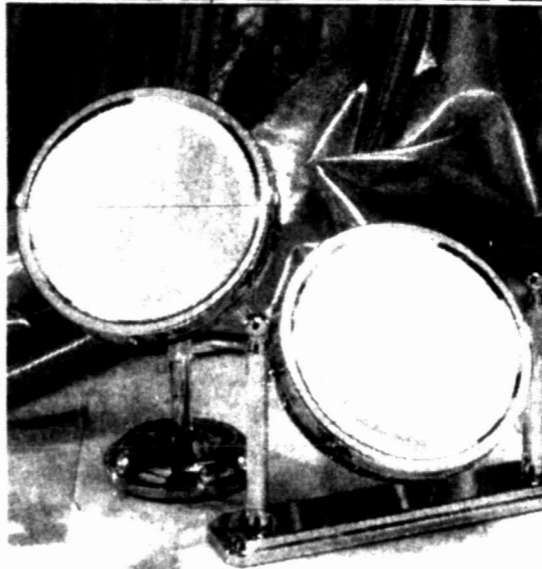
First Christian is in need of a nursery worker for Sunday morning. If you are interested please call the church office at 267-7851.

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with coupon **\$15.99 ea.** Halo Dual Post Double Sided Lighted Mirror One side is 5x magnification!
with coupon **\$17.99 ea.** Attico Double Sided Silver Mirror One side is 5x magnification!

\$200 off Attico & Jerdon Lighted Makeup Mirrors



99¢ ea. Christmas Bright Light Necklace Was \$1.99



\$29.99 ea. White Diamonds Designer Fragrance Gift Set



\$6.99 ea. Calgon Gift Set

Prices Good Friday December 15 Through Tuesday, December 19, 2000 At Your Neighborhood H-E-B Stores, Including H-E-B Marketplace.

SONIC
America's Drive-In.
Big Spring's Sonic Drive Ins would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.
From our Sonic Family to all of you
Happy Holidays
Sonic Drive In #2 601 East Marcy FM 700
Sonic Drive In #1 1200 South Gregg

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Incredible Savings

25% off

Christmas Boxed Cards

Christmas Candles

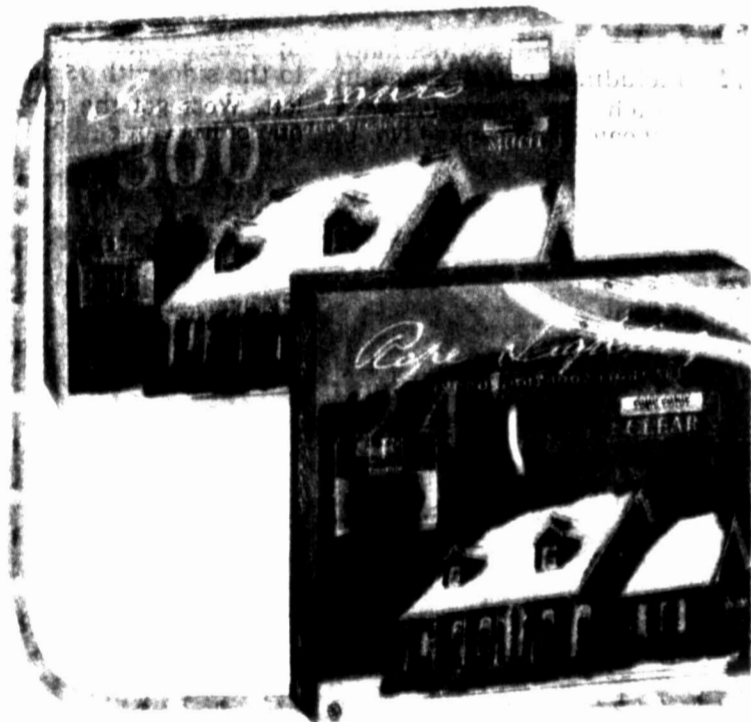
Specialty Christmas Lights

Trim A Tree Ornaments

Home Decor

Artificial Trees

Midnight Santa Dinnerware

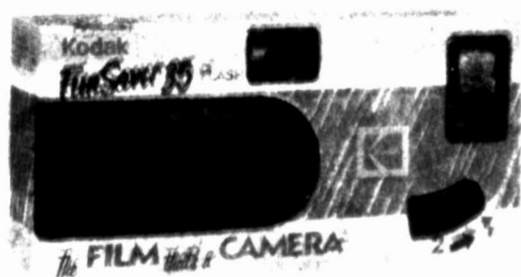


2 \$10
for

**24 ft. Rope Lights
or 300 ct. Icicle Lights**

12 ft. Rope Lights, \$2.99 ea.
450 ct. Icicle Lights, \$6.99 ea.

While Supplies Last!



\$4.99 ea.
**Kodak FunSaver
One-Time-Use
Camera**
27 exp. with flash



99¢ ea.
**Polaroid T-120
Video Tape**

\$2.39
199¢

50% off
**52 inch Resin
Figures**

**Santa or Snowperson
was \$199.99, now \$99.99**
Not available at all stores



\$1.97 ea.

**Coca-Cola Classic,
Diet Coke
or Sprite**
12 pk., 12 oz. cans
regular or diet, limit-4 total

all flavors and packages may not be available at all stores



\$4.77 ea.

Folgers Coffee
39 oz. can
assorted varieties

Prices Good Friday, December 15 Thru Tuesday, December 19, 2000

At your Abilene, Big Spring, Midland and Odessa H-E-B Food Stores

Due to the popularity of our low prices every day, we reserve the right to limit quantities. Some items may not be available in all stores

©2000 H-E-B Food Stores, 01-0529

www.heb.com



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SPORTS EXTRA

AP Top 25

Table listing AP Top 25 college football teams with columns for rank, team name, and record.

Top 25 - Men

Table listing Top 25 men's college basketball teams with columns for rank, team name, and record.

Top 25 - Women

Table listing Top 25 women's college basketball teams with columns for rank, team name, and record.

NFL STANDINGS

NFL Standings table with columns for conference, division, team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA.

TRANSACTIONS

Table listing NFL transactions including trades, signings, and releases.

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with RHP Mike Jackson on a one-year contract.

LOS ANGELES DOGERS—Agreed to terms with LHP Jim Morris and LHP Matt Whisenant on minor league contracts.

NEW YORK METS—Designated RHP Pat Mahomes, RHP Lariel Gonzalez and INF Matt Franco for assignment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Traded 3B Fernando Tatis and RHP Britt Reames to the Montreal Expos for RHP Dustin Hermanson and LHP Steve Kline.

TORONTO RAPTORS—Placed C Garth Joseph on the injured list. Activated F Komeil David from the injured list.

NFL—Fined St. Louis Rams WR Isaac Bruce and WR Torry Holt \$20,000.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Waved LB Josh Gentry from the practice squad. Signed S Derek Fox to the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed DE Mawoko Tugbenyah to the practice squad. Waved S Lemar Marshall from the practice squad.

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Reassigned G Roberto Luongo and RW Ivan Novoseltsev to Louisville of the AHL.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Activated G Kevin Weekes and D Andrei Zybin from injured reserve.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with RHP Brian Boehringer on a minor league contract.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Claimed INF Mike Caruso off waivers from the Chicago White Sox.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with RHP Tony Fiore on a minor league contract.

TEXAS RANGERS—Traded SS Royce Clayton to the Chicago White Sox for RHP Aaron Myette and RHP Brian Schmack.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP Curt Schilling on a three-year contract extension, through 2004.

CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with RHP Tom Gordon on a two-year contract and RHP Jason Bero and LHP Jeff Fassero on contracts.

COLORADO ROCKIES—Designated OF Butch Huskey for assignment.

BOWL SCHEDULE

Bowl Schedule table listing dates, bowl names, participating teams, and payout amounts.

Advertisement for Warj's Western Wear Store, featuring a cowboy character and listing various clothing items like boots, jeans, and shirts.

Large advertisement for Pegasus Satellite Television, highlighting a \$1.00 per day offer and listing various TV channels available.

Advertisement for Quality Clean or DF, featuring a large graphic of a cleaning product bottle.

World Suppo Over 60 Centers USA advertisement.

THE GIFT THAT PICKS UP



Onboard Cord Wrap for fast and easy storage.

Handy Top and Side Carrying Handles

Super Powerful Vacs! Quiet Operation! Wide Range of Tank Capacities

Complete set of versatile tools.

Quality Filters Clean up WET or DRY messes.

World Class Support
Over 600 Service Centers Across USA.

shop·vac QSP

Made in USA

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!!



Powerful Portable Series

Original Series

Quiet Super Power Series

QSP Pro Series

QPV Pump Vac Series

shop·vac[®]

THE ORIGINAL WET/DRY VAC[®]

If it doesn't say Shop·Vac,[®] Keep Shopping.

The World's Leading Line of Wet/Dry Vacs, Available at Leading Discount, Hardware, and Home Center Stores Across America. For a retailer near you, visit us at www.shopvac.com

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Shop-Vac[®], QSP[®], QPV[®], 1x1[®] and AllAround[®] are registered trademarks of Shop-Vac Corporation.

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FRIDAY

DEC. 15

Table with 21 columns (stations) and 12 rows (time slots). Columns include KMid, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, TLC. Rows include time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM and program titles.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"REMEMBER, JOEY, TELL HIM HE'S LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT, AN' HE'S LOOKIN' GOOD, BEFORE YOU READ HIM YOUR LIST."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"It's for me to know and you to find out."

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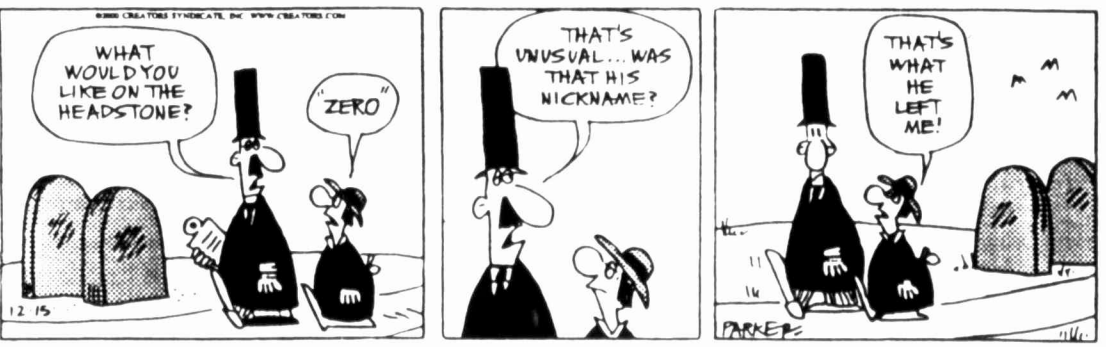
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, Dec. 15, the 350th day of 2000. There are 16 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia. On this date: In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a fracas with Indian police. In 1916, the French defeated the Germans in the World War I Battle of Verdun. In 1938, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington D.C. In 1939, the motion picture "Gone With the Wind" had its world premiere in Atlanta. In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris. In 1948, former State Department official Alger Hiss was indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on charges of perjury. (He was convicted in 1950.) In 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court. In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6 and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit. In 1978, President Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year's Day and sever official relations with Taiwan. In 1989, a popular uprising began that resulted in the downfall of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Ten years ago: European Community leaders wrapped up a historic summit in Rome committed to creating a politically unified federation. With one month left before a U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, Iraq gave no indication it was prepared to pull out. Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ernest Ashworth is 72. Actor-comedian Tim Conway is 67. Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 61. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 58.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 5,280 feet; 5 Secret agents; 10 Former Anglo-Saxon kingdom; 14 Son of Seth; 15 Patsy Cline classic; 16 Close; 17 Word in an octagon; 18 Unbending; 19 Sailor's saint; 20 Joint replacement during wedding trip?; 22 Some jacks are one?; 23 Place to drive from; 24 Writer Umberto; 26 Minister; 30 Force open; 35 Actor Guinness; 36 Light belge; 38 "Blind Mice" fictioneer; 40 Garb for a girl; 42 Tranquillity discipline; 43 Finish; 45 Lhasa; 46 Russian leader; 47 Begins again; 49 Without coercion; 51 Follower's suffix; 52 Swine pen; 53 Swine meat; 56 Joint replacement in hairdo?; 63 Lendl of tennis; 64 Kofi of the U.N.; 65 Singer Guthrie; 66 Tardy; 67 Use a poker; 68 Coral colony; 69 Otherwise; 70 Tall structure; 71 Silbriant signal; 6 First in quality; 7 Othello's nemesis; 8 Pinza of "South Pacific"; 9 Australian metropolis; 10 Joint replacement in rookie?; 11 Squelmy; 12 Title; 13 Stomped (on); 21 WWII arena; 25 Jazz enthusiast; 26 Weaker in color; 27 Fashionable shape; 28 Enjoys a book; 29 Joint replacement after careful search?; 30 Makes ready, for short; 31 Tim of "Star Trek: Voyager"; 32 Got up; 33 Kingly; 53 Stack; 54 Track shape; 55 Squealers; 57 Not taken in by; 58 Have answers; 59 Infield coverage; 60 God of war; 61 Alts in the Aisne; 62 Garret.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved grid with words filled in. Words include SALEM, CLAD, JOSH, OGIVE, HOBO, ACHE, NAMED, LULL, MEAL, GRANDHOTEL, AARP, LEES, OPINES, GERBER, EPIC, RAIL, OBEY, CACTI, ISLET, ORE, AILED, MYLAI, MASS, NUDE, KNOB, ARNESS, BATHER, SAGE, ECHO, BATES, MOTE, THOU, IGOR, OHAR, TENS, THAI, LICIT, EDGE, SATE, DOTES.