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December 21, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



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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.



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- 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

American Cancer Society Memorial Tree:

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

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4 shopping days 'til Christmas

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Moore Development tables request to acquire land for housing

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Moore Development for Big Spring directors on Wednesday tabled a proposal from an Austin management company that says it wants to bring affordable housing to the community.



SHARP

Patty Pence, owner of Management USA, asked the board to consider assisting her company secure land formerly occupied by the Apache Bend apartments. She said Management USA is interested in a 300-unit housing project at that location next year.

Pence, who lived in Big Spring from July through October during reconstruction of the Heather Apartments, said that in Austin she has been able to build houses from start to

finish in six months to a year and would like to do the same for Big Spring.

"The company that I own, Management USA, is interested in building some affordable homes here in Big Spring," said Pence. "We realize that there is a great need for affordable housing here and we feel that we can contribute to that."

"We are basically here today asking for them (Moore Development) to donate the land so that we can get everything start-

ed. We plan on working jointly with Mark Gentry at the housing authority in getting some government grants and assistance," Pence said. "The board seemed pretty receptive in helping us but at this point they still have a lot of questions to be answered as to how they will be able to help us."

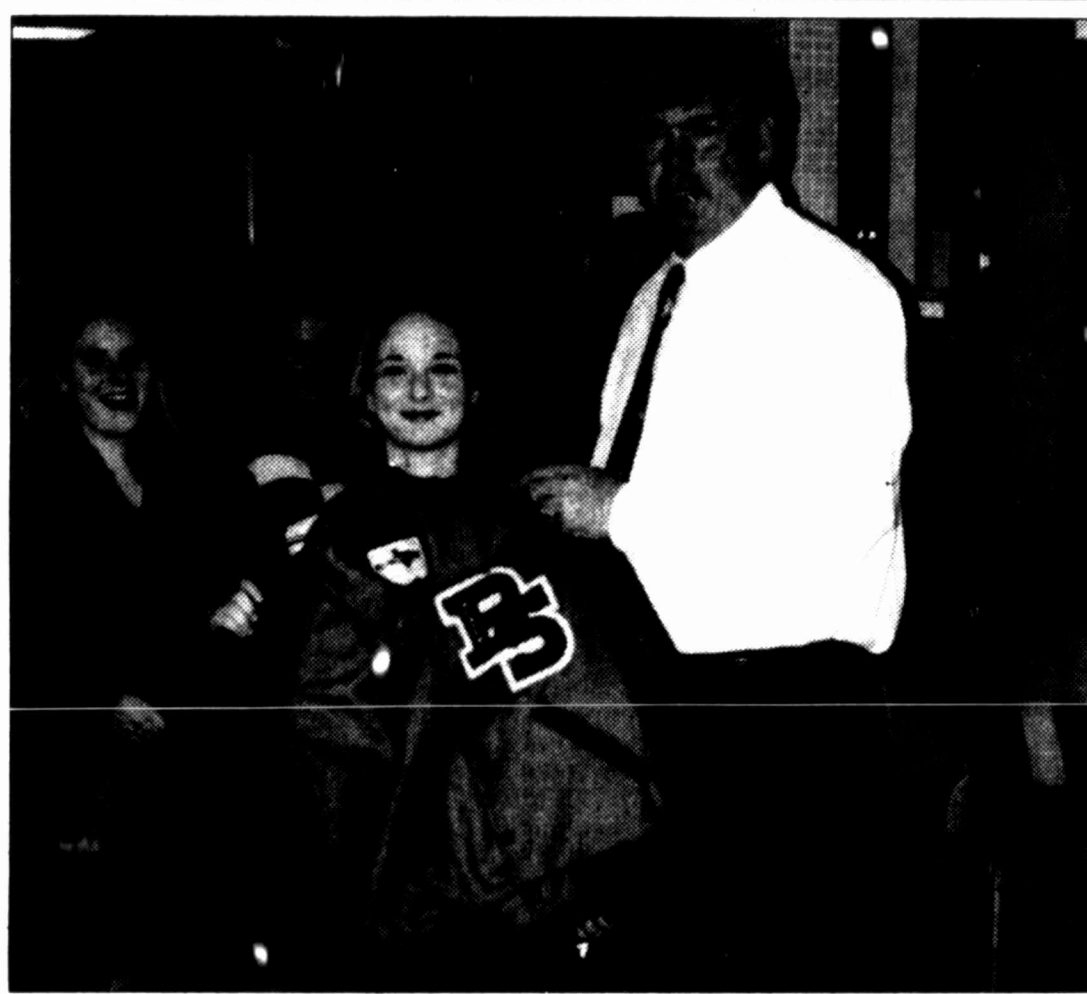
Moore Development directors have tabled the proposal until more information can be gathered.

Kent Sharp, Moore Development executive

director, said the board would be limited in the help that it could give Pence in acquiring the property.

"We would very much like to help Mrs. Pence in her desire to bring affordable housing to Big Spring," said Sharp. "The problem comes in that our main purpose here is to industry and industrial growth and though we want to help, we have to be careful of how we spend our taxpayers' money as well."

See MOORE, Page 2A



Megan Bobe receives her academic letter jacket from Kent Bowermon, Big Spring High school principal. Fewer than 100 students out of more than 1,000 enrolled lettered in academics during the 1999-2000 school year.

78 students receive academic letters from Big Spring High for 1999-2000

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Sixty-three current Big Spring High School students and 15 former students received their letters in academics from the 1999-2000 school year this month.

"It takes a lot of hard work for these kids to earn an academic letter," said Michael Ritchey, assistant principal. "They have to set a goal and work toward that goal. Once they start working toward the goal they are driven to academic excellence."

Less than 100 students out of more than 1,000 enrolled last year lettered in academics. They include

15 who have graduated. In order to receive a letter in academics, students must have an average grade of 90 in each eligible subject derived from the fall and spring semester.

Students who earned an academic letter include Tanya Adusumilli, Jose-Luis Aguilar, Brittney Barrow, Megan Bobo, Courtney Brock, Stephen Broussard, Alicia Brunson, Brittany Bryant, Bridget Cain, Emily Carr, Amanda Chapman, Crystal Clark, Nathan Clements, Cassie Coates, Trina Cooper and Savannah Cross.

Others are Krystal Deleon, Luis Diaz, Melissa Flenniken, Jonathan Flores, Melissa Forth,

Shasta Fuqua, John Giles, Rachelle Guinn, Christina Gwyn, Michael Hadley, Heather Harris, Chelsea Helsley, Alicia Kremsky, Issac Kremsky, Amanda Lasater, Amanda Meek, Ryan Miracle, William Morgan, Sara Murphree, Keith Newton, Kyle Newton, Justin Nichols, Kendra Perry, Melissa Ray, Jacqueline Richardson and Heidrun Robinson.

Still others are Gene Roffers, Megan Roffers, Leandro Sanchez, Laura Schnake, Aaron Schooler, Amanda Sheedy, Jay Shroff, Zach Smiley, Nathaniel Smith, Mary Strain, Jesus Valdez, Ryan Vassar, Christopher Vela,

See LETTERS, Page 2A

Bush resigns governorship

President-elect 'proud' to have served Texas, now says he's ready to serve U.S.

AUSTIN (AP) President-elect Bush, known as a uniter for his working relationships with leading Democrats in Austin, resigned as Texas governor today to prepare for his move to the White House.



BUSH

"I'm proud of the good we have done together in Texas, and I'm looking forward to the good we will do together in America," Bush said as he announced he was stepping down.

Friends and fellow politicians packed the Texas Senate chamber to hear Bush's announcement.

It had been expected for days, since the overtime

presidential election finally ended in Bush's favor with a ruling Dec. 13 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, a fellow Republican, will succeed Bush as governor. Perry, 50, was set to take the oath of office later in the day.

Bush's resignation comes six years after the former baseball team owner was elected to the job. He was re-elected by a landslide in 1998, becoming the first governor in state history to win back-to-back four-year terms.

Bush wished Perry well as governor and as the new occupant of the governor's mansion.

"My wish is that the new governor will enjoy living in the mansion as much as

See BUSH, Page 2A

Stenholm says he's not upset he won't join Bush's cabinet

HERALD Staff Report

U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm said Wednesday he's not upset that he wasn't picked to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the new administration.

Though the Abilene Democrat had apparently been high on a list of possible candidates, President

elect George W. Bush selected former California agriculture commissioner Ann Veneman for the job.

"The president believed he wanted a woman from California in this endeavor and I look forward to working with her," said Stenholm, ranking minority member on the House Agriculture Committee.

Some speculated that Stenholm would get the nod because he has worked closely with Bush on several issues and because it

See STENHOLM, Page 2A

Grand jury returns 18 indictments Wednesday

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Eighteen indictments on 13 individuals were returned by a 118th District Court grand jury Wednesday with the offenses ranging from credit card abuse to possession of a controlled substance.

Five were for forgery, four for possession of a controlled substance, two for possession of a controlled substance in a building, two for credit card abuse and once count each on credit card abuse, delivery of a controlled substance, driving while intoxicated aggravated assault on a public servant and burglary of a habitation.

Those indicted were: Donald Frank Atkinson, 51, address unknown, burglary of a building; Robby Carroll Atkinson, 29, address unknown, burglary of a building; Muhammed Hammad Cheema, 24, of Irving, pos-

session of a controlled substance.

- Amber Michelle Gutierrez, 25, of 3608 Calvin, forgery and debit card abuse.

- Gloria Martinez, 41, of 706 NW Fifth, possession of a controlled substance.

- Juan Rodriguez, 49, of 706 NW Fifth, possession of a controlled substance.

- Adam Valencia, 40, of 608 NW Fifth, possession of a controlled substance.

- Arthur Junior Myers, 71, of Odessa, driving while intoxicated, third offense or more.

- David Alonzo Pompey, 33, of 1510 Nolan, two counts of forgery.

- Jimmy Ramirez, 31, address unknown, burglary of a habitation.

- Michael Allen Seay, 22, of 503 Douglas, two counts of forgery.

- Alice Smithwick, 24, of 407 W. Eighth, credit card

See GRAND JURY, Page 2A



Mona Lue Tonn, left, of Spring Tabernacle helps Christina Trevino pick out Christmas gifts for her three children. Volunteers for Spring Tabernacle handed out Christmas gifts to about 30 families this week at the church. According to Tonn, the toys and clothes were donated from the community.

OBITUARIES

Moises Parra Gomez

Moises Parra Gomez, 81, passed away on Dec. 20, 2000, at Medical Center Hospital.

He was born on Nov. 14, 1919, in Presidio. He was self employed in the landscape business for many years and served in the U.S. Army during WW II. He married Ramona Castillo in Marfa in 1946.

Surviving are: his wife Ramona Gomez of Odessa; son, Joe Gomez of Odessa; daughters, Maria Elena Gonzalez of Midland, Lupe Vasquez, Anita Vega, Armida Jaquez and Margie Diaz, all of Odessa; brothers, Thomas Gomez of Corpus Christi, Joe Gomez and Henry Gomez, both of Coolidge, Ariz.; sisters, Rosa Gomez of Odessa, Celia Martinez of Midland, Mariana Paz of Salinas, Calif., and Eloisa Aguayo of Coolidge, Ariz.; 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A rosary will be recited on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Odessa Funeral Home Chapel. Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 22, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Gilbert Rodriguez officiating. Burial will follow at Odessa Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Steven Vega, Roy Jaquez, Chris Vasquez and Joel Gonzalez. Arrangements are under the direction of Odessa Funeral Home.

Lucille Long

Graveside funeral service for Lucille Long, 85, of Mesquite, formerly of Big Spring, will be 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 22, 2000, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham, minister of 14th and Main Church of Christ, officiating.

Mrs. Long died Tuesday, Dec. 19, in a Garland nursing home.

She was born on July 17, 1915, in Ladonia and married Zeddie M. Long in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Jan. 21, 1966. She had worked as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, retiring in the 1960s. She was a member of the John A. Key Rebekah Lodge No. 154.

Survivors include two nieces, June DeVoy of Mesquite and Janis Goza of Rotan, two nephews, James Corcoran of Odessa and Rikki Reeves of Garland, three great nieces and three great nephews.

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

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331

Lucille Long, 85, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Friday at Mt. Olive Park.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-3288
Elder Hosea Banks, 86, died Sunday. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM, Saturday at Mount Bethel Baptist Church, with interment at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Florence Vivian Seay

Florence Vivian Seay, 89, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2000, at her residence. Services were Wednesday Dec. 20, at Sunset Memorial Chapel, with the Rev. Jim Ray Brown officiating. Burial was at Sunset Memorial Gardens.



Mrs. Seay was born, Nov. 2, 1911, in Sweetwater. She married John Collas Elder, May 21, 1929, and he preceded her in death in 1986. Mrs. Seay then married Roscoe Seay in 1988, in Odessa. She was a drivers education instructor in Odessa and a lifetime member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Survivors include: her husband, Roscoe Seay of Big Spring; one daughter, Loraine Redman of Big Spring; one brother, Marvin Smith and his wife, Ruth, of San Angelo; one sister, Leona McClellan of Odessa; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Paid obituary

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

"Our help may only be in the form of staff assistance but whatever it is, we are open and willing to be of assistance to her and the company in bringing more housing to the community," Sharp added.

In other business, directors approved funding three-quarters of a request for assistance in regards to demolition of the Howard House. The board agreed to contribute \$7,500 of the \$10,000 that was asked for by Mayor Russ McEwen. Other entities contributing are the city of Big Spring at \$10,000 and Main Street Inc. at \$5,000.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 1A

John Vela, Kevin Walker, April Ward, William Warrington, Christopher Wigington, Carl Wise, Jessica Woodard and Ricky Yanez.

The 15 year 2000 graduates who earned an academic letter are Jason Birdwell, Kyle Britton, Laura Davis, Orlena Evans, Tzitzitlani Marsch, Christine Medellin, Amanda Miller, Justin Richter, Theresa Porras, Cheryl Platte, Ashlie Simmons, Sarah Smith, Ruben Vidal, Nicci Vizcaino and Dawn Whittenburg.

STENHOLM

Continued from Page 1A

would give Republicans the opportunity to perhaps pick up another seat in Congress.

"I got a tremendous outpouring of support from the agriculture community all across the United States," said Stenholm. "I've been humbled and gratified in this endeavor."

Stenholm said he received

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

a call from the Bush transition team on Tuesday informing him of the decision.

"Ann's a good lady," said Stenholm. "I've called her to congratulate her and I look forward to working with her."

Veneman was California's agriculture commissioner from 1995 to 1999 under Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. She also served as deputy agriculture secretary in Bush's father's administration.

Wednesday's announcement ended months of speculation and was a disappointment to potential candidates to fill Stenholm's 17th Congressional District seat.

Among them was Darrell Clements, who lost to Stenholm in November. Others included Abilene City Councilman Rob Beckman, Hardin-Simmons president Lanny Hall, Hendrick Health Systems vice president of community relations Celia Davis, former Abilene mayor Gary McCaleb and Shane Hunt of Granbury, who was Clements' opponent in the March Republican primary.

GRAND JURY

Continued from Page 1A

abuse and debit card abuse. Mark Melvin Stiles, 68, of 1502 W. Third, aggravated assault on a public servant.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

we did. It won't be our home, but Texas always will be," Bush said.

The Republican leaves behind a legacy of tax cuts, debate over the death penalty and strong support from Democrats and Republicans that he enjoyed for six years.

"These past years have been a time of steady progress in Texas, and no one person can claim credit. It has been a record of shared success, a true tribute to bipartisan efforts," Bush said.

Bush indeed leaves behind "a true legacy of bipartisanship," said Max Sherman, the former dean and currently a professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

"Even as Texas became more of a Republican state, he reached across the aisle. It's a legitimate element of his legacy," Sherman said.

It will be critical to Bush's chances for success in Washington. Court battles with Vice President Al Gore over Florida's disputed vote count divided the nation.

But Bush, 54, was very popular in Texas.

In 1994, in his first campaign for governor, the former Texas Rangers baseball team owner defeated popular Democratic incumbent Ann Richards.

In 1998, he trounced Democratic challenger Garry Mauro in a landslide and his coattails helped fellow Republicans win every statewide post that year.

For six years, Bush's amiable style cultivated friendships with top Democrats and it allowed him to pursue a limited — yet popular — legislative agenda.

Though Bush had run-ins with some liberal Democrats, the Texas

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BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Legislature tends to have a centrist coalition made up of members of both parties, and Bush found ways to compromise.

By the time he was running for president, several Democrats went on the road to defend his record in Texas.

In his first term, Bush advocated changes in welfare and juvenile justice, limits on civil liability lawsuits and education improvements. His proposals met with success in the Legislature.

Education was the cornerstone of Bush's governorship. He oversaw a strengthening of the state's accountability system and the launch of a major reading initiative. A \$3.8 billion school funding package in 1999 was a state record.

Perhaps Bush's biggest stumble came in 1997 with an ill-fated tax bill. He asked for \$3 billion in property tax relief. When lawmakers cut it to \$1 billion, he claimed a partial victory.

Bush returned in 1999 asking for \$2.6 billion in property, sales and business tax cuts. Already a front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, he settled for a \$1.85 billion tax-cut package instead.

It helped that Bush stuck to a few issues important to him and rarely squandered political capital when support for a proposal waned. The Texas Legislature meets for only 140 days every two years, so lawmaking time is limited.

But some of his policies also drew sharp criticism.

The nation watched and anti-death penalty groups were outraged over the executions of pickax killer and born-again Christian Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham, whose claims of innocence drew support from celebrities. In 2000, Texas executed a record 40 inmates.

After a black man was dragged to death behind a pickup truck in East Texas, Democrats tried — but failed — to strengthen the state's hate crimes law in 1999. Bush declined to intervene or offer support for the bill and Democrats attacked him for it in his campaign.

Environmentalists complained he didn't take a strong stand against the state's biggest polluters. During his second term, Houston won the dubious distinction of the nation's smoggiest city.

In 1995, his first year in

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office, Bush signed the concealed gun law, saying it would make the state safer.

And with Bush at the helm, Texas lawmakers in 1999 approved restrictions on a minor girl's ability to get an abortion, requiring her parents be notified first.

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

Table with market data including AT&T, Archer-Daniels, Atmos Energy, BP AMOCO, Chevron Corp, Compaq, Dell, Du Pont, Exxon Mobil, Halliburton, IFCO Systems, IBM, Intel Corp, NUV, Patterson Ener, Pepsico Inc, Phillips Petro, SBC Comms, Sears Roebuck, Texaco Inc, Texas Instrument, TXU, Total Fina, Unocal Corp, Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart/Mexico, AMCAP, Europacific, Prime Rate, Gold, Silver.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activities between 8 a.m. Wednesday through

8 a.m. today:

•JOE MORMONTES, 28, no address given, was arrested on a county warrant.

•ARTHA GIBBS, 54, no address given, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

•RAUL MARTINEZ, 43, no address given, was arrested on a charge of solicitation by a pedestrian.

•BOBBY LEWIS, 61, of 10,000 E. Moss Creek Lake, was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.

•LUIS RODRIGUEZ, 37, no address given, was arrested on a local warrant.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF TO A VEHICLE was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1600 block of Apron.

•ASSAULT was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

•THEFT was reported in the 400 block of E. 4th, in the 1600 block of 1st, in the 1900 block of W. 16th and in the 200 block of W. Marcy.

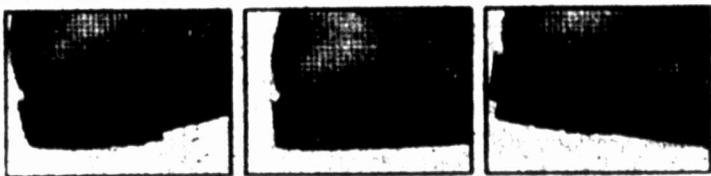
SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activities between 8 a.m. Wednesday through 8 a.m. today:

•JIMMY DALE McDONALD, 52, of 4313 Gail Highway, was arrested on a charge of fail to stop and give information. (HCSO)

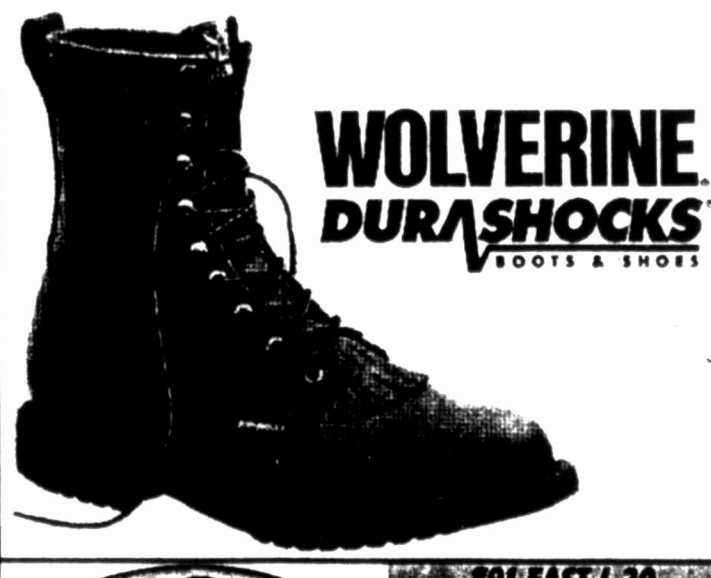
•MISTY MICALE BRYAN, 20, of 604 E. 23rd, was arrested on a charge of display of fictitious inspection sticker. (BSPD)

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In observance of Christmas, Monday, Dec. 25, these financial institutions will observe the following hours...
Wells Fargo Closed
First Bank of West Texas Closed
American State Bank Closed
Education Employees Federal Credit Union Closed Mon. & Tues. Dec. 25 & 26
Big Spring Banking Center Closed
Government Employees Federal Credit Union Closed
Cosden Federal Credit Union Closed
T & F Federal Credit Union Closed Mon. & Tues. Dec. 25 & 26
Citizens Federal Credit Union Closed
The Electric Utilities Credit Union Closed Fri. Dec. 23 & Mon. Dec. 25
State Hospital Federal Credit Union Closed Mon. & Tues. Dec. 25 & 26

New

WASHINGTON The Clinton has approved... heavy-duty buses by the... sources of d... eral standar... new large tr... to meet str... emission li... refiners to p... sulfur-free d... The rule... announced... White Hou... Environmen... Agency as p... regulations... out in the l... Clinton adm... crafted to be... by an in... administrati...

Econ

WASHINGTON economy slow... al growth r... the summer... mance in fo... ment said... provides fu... America's bu... over. The Comm... the third qu... gross domest... omy's total o... vices — was... viously belie... deteriorated... third quarter... have risen by... The July-S... marked a dr... a sizzling 5.6... rate in the A... The sharp...

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New pollution rules established for trucks, buses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Clinton administration has approved new regulations that are expected to cut air pollution from heavy-duty trucks and buses by more than 90 percent over the next decade.

Attacking one of the major sources of dirty air, the federal standards will require new large trucks and buses to meet stringent tailpipe emission limits and direct refiners to produce virtually sulfur-free diesel fuel. The rules were being announced Thursday by the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency as part of a flurry of regulations being churned out in the last days of the Clinton administration and crafted to head off challenge by an incoming Bush administration.

While President-elect Bush has not expressed any views on the truck rules, some Republicans in Congress have criticized the new sulfur requirements for diesel fuel.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., has vowed to push legislation that would roll back the diesel rule next year, arguing the requirements could lead to fuel shortages.

Environmentalists, who have eagerly awaited the EPA truck and diesel regulations since they were proposed last May, expressed doubt they would be overturned given the widespread public sentiment against trucks belching black smoke from their smokestacks.

"This is the biggest vehicle pollution news since the

removal of lead from gasoline," said Richard Kassel, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and head of a campaign to reduce truck pollution.

The rules apply to new trucks and replacement truck engines sold beginning in late 2006.

It is expected to take at least a decade beyond that for the cleaner trucks to replace most of the current fleet.

Still, the pollution reductions eventually will be equal to removing 13 million trucks from the road, according to estimates.

To meet the more stringent emission standards, heavy-duty trucks will for the first time will have to be equipped with pollution controls that capture exhaust chemicals — simi-

lar to the catalytic devices that have been required on cars for years.

At the same time, 80 percent of the diesel fuel sold nationwide will have to be virtually sulfur free — on average 15 parts per million of sulfur — by 2006. All diesel will have to meet the new requirement by 2010. EPA officials have maintained that the ultra-low sulfur diesel is essential for the new pollution control equipment to work properly.

The new standards anticipate about a 95 percent reduction of smog-causing nitrogen oxide, compared to levels already expected to be achieved from trucks by 2004, and a 90 percent reduction in microscopic soot.

Diesel soot, which has been associated with increased asthma, bronchi-

tis and heart disease, as well as possibly cancer, has been of special concern to health specialists. A recent study at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health found a link between exposure to microscopic soot and death rates in 20 large cities.

But oil companies and truck engine manufacturers have questioned whether they can meet the EPA's timetable for both the cleaner truck engines and the fuel.

"These are unprecedented standards," said Allen Schaeffer, executive director of the Diesel Technology Forum, an industry group. "The kind of levels of reductions that are being talked about are going to require technology that is not commercially available yet."

Economic growth slows to weakest pace in four years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy slowed sharply to an annual growth rate of just 2.4 percent in the summer, the weakest performance in four years, the government said Thursday. The report provides further evidence that America's boom times are definitely over.

The Commerce Department said the third quarter increase in the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — was even weaker than previous years believed as the trade deficit deteriorated further. A month ago, third quarter GDP was estimated to have risen by 2.4 percent.

The July-September performance marked a dramatic slowdown from a sizzling 5.6 percent GDP growth rate in the April-June quarter.

The sharp falloff in economic

growth in the summer and mounting evidence of more recent weakness, including disappointing Christmas sales, have increased worries about whether America's record 10-year economic expansion was in danger of toppling into a recession.

In another report indicating weakness, the Labor Department said that the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits jumped a sharp 34,000 last week to 354,000. That pushed the four-week moving average for claims to the highest level since July 1998.

Both President-elect Bush and his running mate, Dick Cheney, have talked openly about the possibility of an economic downturn, using the economic danger to promote their \$1.3 trillion tax cut proposal.

Wall Street has grown increasingly nervous about what slower growth will do to corporate profits. On Wednesday, the technology-heavy Nasdaq index plunged by 7.2 percent. The Nasdaq has lost more than half its value since hitting highs in March.

President Clinton, however, insisted in a meeting with Bush at the White House this week that the economy was simply experiencing a needed slowdown. He said most economists are still looking for moderate, sustainable growth in the coming year, although at much lower pace than the past four years.

Since 1997 the economy has been racing ahead at annual growth rates above 4 percent, the best stretch of prosperity since the mid-1960s. The strong growth drove unemployment to its lowest levels in three decades.

Analysts believe that growth for all of 2001 will average just 3 percent. While this would be far from a recession — defined as two consecutive quarters of falling GDP — it would be far below the 5 percent growth expected for all of this year. Economists are looking for the unemployment rate, which is currently at 4 percent, to rise to close to 5 percent by the end of next year.

The Commerce Department's new report showed the slowdown was having the desired effect on inflationary pressures with an index tied to the GDP rising at a rate of just 1.6 percent in the third quarter, down from an estimate a month ago that prices were rising at a 1.9 percent rate in the summer. The GDP price gauge had risen at rates of 2.4 percent in the spring and 3.3 percent in the first quarter.

Reno to meet with local immigration officials at border

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Protecting undocumented immigrants from Mexico — not arresting them — is the focus of a federal program that the Border Patrol says has reduced deaths.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was headed to South Texas on Thursday, in her third trip to the Rio Grande Valley, to review effects of the Border Security Initiative and

other programs with discussions with agents.

A focus of Reno's visit is the joint effort launched in summer 1998 by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Border Patrol to protect undocumented immigrants from the dangers they face in crossing the Mexican border, said INS Spokesman Art Moreno.

The security initiative

resulted in a 12 percent decline in immigrant deaths from 1998, when 261 died, to 230 in 1999, according to Border Patrol statistics.

The INS said that Reno will also meet with agency officials about Operation Rio Grande and other immigration issues.

The border initiative was launched in response to criticism that Operation Rio Grande was forcing undocu-

mented immigrants to cross in less hospitable and more dangerous areas.

A Border Patrol initiative to seal off the border to illegal immigration, Operation Rio Grande started in Brownsville and progressively moved west since its inception in summer 1997.

Two meetings are planned by Reno, with a morning session at Border Patrol headquarters on Central

Boulevard in Brownsville. A meeting with INS officials was scheduled later in the day at Gateway International Bridge for agency personnel only, said officials.

Federal officials said Reno's visit is unconnected to Mexican President Vicente Fox's travels to Matamoros and Reynosa and that a meeting between the two was unlikely.

Woman throws daughters off building, then commits suicide

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A woman hurled her two young daughters over a ninth-floor ledge of the Los Angeles County Court building then jumped to her own death, authorities said.

The girls, ages 6 and 8, were taken to a hospital, where they died in the emergency room. The woman, who was in her 30s, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The woman fell to the ground floor, while the girls were found on a fourth-floor ledge.

It wasn't clear what prompted the mother's actions, police Lt. Horace Frank said. The woman had been in the court building earlier in the day with her family in connection with a civil case, he said.

Frank declined to discuss the case but said that after

it concluded the family went home.

The husband then went to work and the woman returned to the court building with her daughters, Frank said.

Police did not immediately release the victims' names. They plunged to their deaths at about 5:30 p.m.

"I was going to the ATM and I heard somebody

screaming out, so I looked up and there was a woman standing on the ledge," said Christina Brown, who works in a county assessor's office in the building.

Witnesses who saw the woman on the building's cafeteria ledge contacted authorities, and a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy tried to talk her down.

"He engaged in crisis

intervention, in an attempt to console the female to not commit suicide, he tried to talk her back into the ledge, into the building. As he's speaking with her, she jumped over," Frank said.

Shortly before the woman jumped, police said a witness saw her throw "two objects" off the balcony.

"That witness had no idea those objects were actually children," Frank said.

Lockney ISD drug test suit goes to federal judge

LUBBOCK (AP) — A federal judge will rule on a challenge of the Lockney school district's mandatory, across-the-board drug testing policy.

Both sides in the lawsuit over testing students in the Panhandle town for drugs have asked U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings of Lubbock to decide the case without a jury.

Larry Tannahill and the American Civil Liberties Union sued in March on behalf of Brady Tannahill, alleging the district violated the 13-year-old's constitutional rights by punishing him as if he tested positive

based on his refusal to submit to urinalysis.

Now a seventh-grader, Tannahill is the only student who was not allowed by his parents to be tested.

School district administrators, in documents filed Friday and made available publicly Monday, contend that a prevalent drug problem in Lockney prompted the policy.

The district contends that the policy deters drug use, helps ensure students' health and safety and helps promote education.

Tannahill claims that the drug-testing policy violates the Fourth Amendment.

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DECEMBER 21, 2000

EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Features Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Drive safe during the holidays

With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, it's almost certain more people will be hitting the road for a long and eventful weekend. Some will leave Friday, others Sunday. For some of us it is a trip across town; for others, it may well be a trip across the state or into New Mexico or Oklahoma. The long weekend gives us a great opportunity to get together with family members we might not normally see more than once or twice a year.

What it also means is that many people will be on the road during the next few days. There are plenty of opportunities for distractions. Packages stacked high, thoughts on seeing family and friends, last-minute darting around to find a gift for a forgotten relative — all work to keep our minds off the task at hand.

The return trip could be worse — thousands of vehicles all heading home on Christmas Day, the tired occupants knowing that Tuesday is another workday.

Our message is simple. Christmas is a time of joy and a time to give thanks. It's a time to be with family and friends. It's a time for fellowship. For Christians, it is a time to celebrate the savior's birth. So be careful. Be alert. Don't make it a time for sorrow.

Slow down this holiday season. If you get tired, change drivers or pull over and rest. If you decide to drink, make sure you can rely on someone else to drive. Finally, make sure everyone in the vehicle is properly secured.

Have a very merry Christmas... and many, many more to come.

OTHER VIEWS

Weeks into the worst energy crisis the Pacific Northwest has seen in many years, alarmingly few people seem to comprehend the gravity of the situation.

In distant Washington, D.C., the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission doesn't get it. At its last meeting on Dec. 15, it failed to enact the "hard" price caps on wholesale electricity that might have brought some stability to the West's chaotic power markets.

Instead, the commission passed a "soft" cap of \$150 per megawatt hour, which electricity brokers and producers can easily evade — just as they have evaded a \$250 cap that had already been in effect.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson does understand there's a crisis, but he seems to think it chiefly affects California. He recently ordered the Bonneville Power Administration and major Northwest utilities — Tacoma Power among them — to send their "surplus" electricity to California. If Northwest utilities are enjoying a surplus of hydropower in the current drought, it has escaped our attention.

Closer to home, there's been no marked surge of conservation among Northwesterners — a sign that power-consuming companies and ordinary citizens don't see the connection between their consumption and the high-priced electricity their utilities are being forced to buy.

THE NEWS TRIBUNE (TACOMA)

Consumer confidence — bolstered by mountains of credit card debt — has been driving our economy lately. If only momentarily, the nation's most confident consumer is Tom Hicks.

Hicks owns the Texas Rangers baseball team. He has just signed shortstop Alex Rodriguez, who is all of 25, to a 10-year, \$252 million deal, a record for team sports.

Indeed, Rodriguez will be paid more in one year than some entire teams. And this is why his and the other mega free-agent contracts this week are such bad news, not just for small market teams like the Cincinnati Reds, but for all baseball.

The enormity of the owners' folly is simply breathtaking.

THE CINCINNATI POST

Notable thoughts and notes for the holidays

Even the mail glows at Christmastime. Glows and grows, until I begin to believe what

writer Kathryn Tucker Windham said to me with straight face and merry eyes not long ago: "There is good in almost everyone."

I spent a day reviewing mail, turned off the phone ringer and dove into neglected correspondence.

Keith L. Spencer, activities director at Campbell-Stone North Apartments in Sandy Springs, Ga., wrote about resident Mary Fraser Papke. Mrs. Papke celebrated her 100th birthday Nov. 19.

"I had to keep in shape! I didn't want to disappoint anybody," Mrs. Papke said when I phoned to ask about her regimen and birthday party. (Keith says Mary Papke used to walk 5 to 9

miles three times a week; she has slowed only recently.)

Daughter Marion Melzer says her mother didn't disappoint a soul, even danced with her son-in-law as 140 party guests watched. Pianist Steve Long played all the old songs, and everyone sang along.

Mrs. Papke's Presbyterian church in Buffalo, N.Y., was the center of her world for decades; she taught Sunday School and played piano.

A business-school graduate, she worked at a mail-order business, owned her own store and finally sold department-store infant wear for 25 years.

Mrs. Papke and husband Bill retired in Florida. Several years after his death, the widow moved to Atlanta to start a new life at age 93.

"Some said it would kill her to move her again," the daughter recalls. "It didn't. She just came here and made new friends, 140 of them."

Monica Guza of Atlanta penned a most evocative note, a mix of longing and

nostalgia and the productive thing she does with both.

Monica misses Miami, where she grew up. She's been in Atlanta 11 years, but — especially during the cold, wet wintertime — finds herself remembering how the ocean looked on New Year's Day and how great it was to swim year-round.

And she remembers Hazel Novakowski, the elegant woman who taught cotillion, and Mr. Novakowski, the first man Monica ever saw in a tuxedo.

"Mrs. Novakowski always seemed to wear a mint- or peach-colored long dress, and she looked about 70 years old. ... I'll never forget the first time I saw them do a waltz. I remember someone dimming the lights, turning on the record player, and then there they went, gliding around beautifully across the floor ..."

For six years at Atlanta's Henderson Mill Elementary School, Monica, 36, and her husband have hosted a one-night cotillion, teaching the swing, the shag and, of course, the waltz.

Memories like her own don't just happen, Monica wrote. "They are created because somebody decided to give ..."

Several years ago, Larry Weaver unexpectedly came upon a monument in Augusta, Ga., near the 15th Street Bridge.

It was, he wrote, a crude marker made of several large stones, uncut and unpolished, bound together by cement. At the top was a bronze plaque:

DENNIS CAHILL, by a deed of self-sacrifice such as all humanity claims and counts among its Jewels, hallowed this spot and rendered his name worthy of such lasting memory as these rugged stones and this simple tablet can secure.

For here he gave his life in a vain attempt to save from drowning a child, having no claim for his sacrifice save Humanity and Helplessness, July 29, 1902. Born Parish of Castlemagner, County of Cork, Ireland, June, 1861.

Larry sent those eloquent words as a gift.



Change electoral system slightly

One reform that should be made is for all the states to award

their electoral votes on a proportional basis, based on which presidential candidate wins in each congressional district.

Had that been the case (only two states at the present do this), George W. Bush would have won by an electoral-vote landslide. The winner-take-all system favors candidates who can appeal to the masses in big cities. Bush, for example, won some of the upstate New York districts, but Gore's big margin in New York City tipped the state to his column.

This change would not require a constitutional amendment. It can be done by a legislative act. If the Republican Party were smart, it would adopt this as a national project with a very high priority. It seems to me that proportional awarding of electoral votes is the more democratic method.

As for standardizing voting machines, that, as I have pointed out before, is of limited value because voters only use the method that is adopted in their

own precinct. That's not to say that there might not be some better machines than the ones being used, but no method of voting is going to overcome stupidity or carelessness.

In Florida, at least, the Legislature needs to amend the statutes to provide a single, more exacting standard for determining the result of a ballot contest. Merely saying, as the law now does, that the voter's intent must be clear begs the question of how human beings can discern a voter's intent in the absence of a properly marked ballot.

It seems to me that the best way is to say that if the machine in use can't read it, the vote doesn't count. That would reduce contests to determining only if the machine is defective. It would place squarely on the back of the individual voter the responsibility to read and follow the instructions exactly. Other than that, I don't see that the recent unpleasantness calls for any great changes. This election, from a statistical standpoint, was a tie, and that is a reflection of both the circumstances and the blandness of the two candidates.

After all, America is facing no discernible external or internal threat, at least not one that can make its way through the entertainment to penetrate the minds of most Americans. Most Americans seem as content as sheep in a

grassy meadow. They perceived the choice as one between two candidates who differed in the details on how they would tinker with the present system.

In fact, I think there were even greater and more important differences, mainly involving character and the people around the two major candidates. This, of course, is an intangible, which does not lend itself well to modern campaign-marketing techniques.

Shelby Foote, a Mississippi author, recently said in a magazine interview that he votes strictly for the party, since television marketing techniques so successfully disguise the true character of the candidates.

There might be something to this unconventional wisdom. It's all well and good to vote for the individual, not the party, provided you really can know who the individual is.

If you cannot make that determination, it might then be better to vote for the party because, taken as a whole, one can see distinct differences between the Republicans and the Democrats. Policy disagreements aside, it has become clear to me that I feel more comfortable in a party of Bushes and Colin Powell than in a party of Al Gore and Jesse Jackson. Even the Republicans' lawyers struck me as less anxious than the Democrats' lawyers.

ADDRESSES

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- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
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Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
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• **EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649
• **JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471
• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566
• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441
- **BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**
• **RUSS McEWEN**, Mayor —
Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413
• **GREG BIDDISON** — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121
• **OSCAR GARCIA**, Mayor Pro Tem —
Home: 264-0026; Work (Cornell Corrections): 268-1227
• **STEPHANIE HORTON** — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361
• **CHUCK CANTWON** — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1142
• **TOMMY TUNE** — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000
• **JOANN SMOOT** — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-3600

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

More Christmas Gift Ideas for the outgoing Prez: It's hard to shop for a "man who has everything"...

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item or story idea for life? Call Debbie L. Jensen, 263-7331, Ext. 236.

Page 5A
Thursday, December 21, 2000

Decorating talents brighten holiday season

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

When Lucy Knox moved to Big Spring in the late 1930s, not many people decorated their houses for the holidays.

"I hung a wreath on the door and the neighbors came over; they thought maybe someone had died," Knox laughed recently. "I always liked things decorated and pretty. I just thought everyone else did, too."

Knox was similarly surprised that spring when she planted flowers and cars would stop along her street just to look at them.

But the holidays were always time for festive decoration, and Knox extended her talents to places besides her house. For at least 30 years, she has arranged more than 100 poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary at her church, First United Methodist, for the holidays.

And it's been longer than she can remember that the Big Spring widow has made fresh greenery wreaths to hang on the entrance to Washington Place, the neighborhood where she has lived more than 50 years.

Knox gets the greenery from her

For at least 30 years, Lucy Knox has made fresh wreaths to hang on the entry to Washington Place for the Christmas season.

yard, arranges it and attaches decorative, waterproof ribbon. She gets help hanging the wreaths on both sides of the high stone entry at Washington and Eleventh Place.

Recently, her helper has been her pastor, Ed Williamson, who also lives in the neighborhood.

A few weeks ago, he took time out to hang Knox's latest creations for the Christmas season, where they will stay until the new year.

"You know there used to be lights on top of those posts," Knox said, adding that, quite a few years ago, a neighborhood project was putting red bows on the evergreens that line Washington Boulevard.

"We did that for a while; it was pretty," Knox said.

She said she has also enjoyed making wreaths for her family and friends, using spare greenery from the local lots that sold Christmas trees.



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen
Lucy Knox is shown with a poinsettia, one of the decorating tools she uses during the holiday season.

"They always had extra pieces they had cut off the trees," Knox said. "It made a nice wreath."

Knox said she enjoys staying busy in her senior years, working

at church and in various local organizations. But her talent for decorating shines at the holidays.

"I just enjoy doing it; it comes easy to me," she said.

ODDS-N-ENDS

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A fearless, if unaware, landlord didn't find precious gems or metals in an alleged bank robber's lair.

Instead, Ray Besore on Tuesday encountered a mountain lion cub while checking the rented home, which had been vacated after the tenant's arrest.

The beast pounced, Besore retreated and escaped without a scratch, he said. But barely.

"It was like a dream where you can't make it to the step," Besore said.

"At least it was a small one," said the Nebraska Humane Society's Adam Jones, who caught the cat. "I guess we kind of got lucky."

Jones guessed the cub was six months old and dangerous.

Officials planned to question the arrested bank robber before deciding what to do with his pet.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. (AP) — Thousands of e-mails clogged Marshall University's computer system over the weekend in a case of mistaken identity and misdirected animosity.

The nearly 5,000 e-mails were directed to James Harless, urging him to change his electoral vote from Texas Gov. George W. Bush to Vice President Al Gore.

One problem: The e-mail writers had the wrong James Harless.

"You know they think I'm Buck," Harless, Marshall's admissions director, said Tuesday.

The e-mails were intended for James H. "Buck" Harless, owner of International Industries in Gilbert. He was one of West Virginia's five electors who cast votes for Bush on Monday.

Bush barely exceeded the minimum number of electoral votes needed with 271. The minimum required is 270.

Anti-smoking project fails — kids still lighting up

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was to be a showcase, world-class demonstration of how to persuade school children not to smoke.

The \$15 million program used the latest smoking prevention theories from the best social scientists. From the third grade on, children attended special classes and were meticulously instructed by trained teachers how to resist tobacco use.

But after 14 years, experts declared Tuesday that the project failed.

More than a fourth of the former Washington state school children in the study are now regular smokers, about the same rate as those who didn't receive the special classes, according to a report in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

"It simply didn't work," said Arthur V. Peterson Jr., the project's lead researcher. "It was a surprise. It was a disappointment."

Peterson, who heads a cancer prevention program at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle,

...Techniques that have worked in some areas include denying youthful access to tobacco by raising taxes and controlling sales, and by countering tobacco company advertising with a heavy, youth-oriented media blitz.

said researchers are now scrambling to find new approaches for controlling tobacco use among the young.

"It is time for researchers to go back to the drawing board," said Peterson.

He said techniques that have worked in some areas include denying youthful access to tobacco by raising taxes and controlling sales, and by countering tobacco company advertising with a heavy, youth-oriented media blitz.

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center study, involving 8,388 school children and 640 teachers in 40 school districts, was based on what is called a "social influences" approach.

The experiment included classes designed to arm

children with the skills to ignore social pressures to smoke, to teach them about the dangers of smoking and to provide a motivation to remain smoke-free throughout life. The students were taught to resist advertising, peer persuasion and influences at home.

Children were targeted during the critical tobacco decision years — the time in life when smoking habits that may last a lifetime are adopted.

Peterson said this "social-influences" approach has been the accepted standard among smoking prevention researchers for 25 years.

A curriculum for grades 3 through 10 was drawn up by smoking-prevention experts at the National Cancer Institute, which paid for the research.

Christ's birthplace today: A ghost town

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — No twinkling strings of colored lights. No pilgrims packing Manger Square. This Christmas is shaping up to be a forlorn affair in Bethlehem, the town of Christ's birth.

A week before Christmas, this biblical West Bank town in the hills just south of Jerusalem — celebrated in familiar holiday carols, commemorated in countless Christmas cards and school-pageant creches — has become an emblem of the hardships and sorrows of the nearly 3-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Fierce gun battles rage between Palestinian snipers and Israel machine gunners in the suburb of Beit Jalla. Bethlehem's three refugee camps boil with

fury and discontent. Dozens of Palestinian stone-throwers, some as young as 8 or 9, have been hurt or killed in cat-and-mouse battles with Israeli troops guarding a fortified Jewish shrine on the edge of Bethlehem.

Not surprisingly, tourism — mainly organized through Israeli tour companies — has dried up. Most souvenir shops are tightly shuttered, and the lumbering tour buses that would normally clog the narrow streets this time of year are absent.

It is a bitter blow for Palestinians who had hoped the millennial Christmas would be the centerpiece of an ambitious economic-development plan for Bethlehem — and a jumpstart for their efforts to

claim a larger share of tourism dollars.

"The season has been hard hit," acknowledged Nabil Qassis, the Palestinian Cabinet minister in charge of Bethlehem 2000, the Palestinian body overseeing the development effort. "If you want to go somewhere, you go to have fun, not to be shot at."

On Monday, Manger Square — the big stone plaza fronting the Church of the Nativity, the traditional site of Christ's birth — was all but deserted. An old man in an Arab headdress hobbled slowly across the nearly empty expanse, leaning on a cane. Inside the cavernous church, the only visitors in sight were a lone Palestinian mother and child.

"Usually, there would be a wait of two or three hours to go down into the grotto" — the lamplit, cave-like enclosure beneath the church, where faithful believe Mary gave birth — "but now you can just walk in," said a Palestinian tourist policeman who would only give his family name, Shakarneh.

There was only one place in town where a crowd could be found: the Israeli military checkpoint on the edge of Bethlehem, manned by half a dozen edgy-looking young soldiers who stopped cars and questioned motorists while a long traffic jam backed up on either side.

For much of the past three

See TOWN, Page 6A

PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "What Women Want" star Helen Hunt wants a divorce.

Hunt filed a Superior Court divorce petition Monday citing irreconcilable differences as the reason to end her 17-month-old marriage to actor-husband Hank Azaria. They've been separated about six months.

Azaria spokesman Stan Rosenfield said Tuesday there would be no comment from the actor, whose movie credits include "Godzilla" and "The Birdcage." He's also the voice of several characters on "The Simpsons."

Hunt's publicist, Stephen Huvane, was out of town Tuesday and could not be reached for comment.

The former "Mad About You" star won 1998's best actress Oscar for "As Good As It Gets" and appears with Tom Hanks in the upcoming film "Cast Away."

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — The judge who imprisoned Robert Downey Jr. for violating probation has decided the actor served enough time behind bars for an earlier drug conviction.

In August, Downey, 35, was released from state prison after an appeals court ruled there was an error in calculating his sentence.

Superior Court Judge Lawrence J. Mira reaffirmed the appeals court ruling on Tuesday and wished Downey good luck, but said the hearing to "re-evaluate credits on time served" would not affect his pending drug case in Riverside County.

Downey, the Oscar-nominated star of "Chaplin," will be arraigned Dec. 27 on two felony drug counts and a misdemeanor stemming from his Thanksgiving weekend arrest at a Palm Springs resort. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of seven years.

Downing had no comment for reporters as he left the courthouse.

MONTREAL (AP) — Canadian pop singer Celine Dion says she's stored a second fertilized egg at a New York fertility clinic and hopes to have a sibling for her unborn son.

Dion, who became pregnant through in vitro fertilization, is expecting her first child on Valentine's Day.

Dion told Quebec's TVA network Sunday that she wants to someday carry the egg and suggested it might be like a twin for her son.

The interview, reprinted in the network's magazine, was originally scheduled to hit newsstands last Friday with the headline "Celine: My Son Already Has a Twin" but 200,000 copies of the magazine were destroyed after a complaint from Dion's husband-manager Rene Angelil.

The original headline was "sensationalist, done in poor taste, out of context," Angelil said. "To me, it was strictly yellow journalism."

Dion never actually called the embryo a twin but suggested it could be like one.

The issue was released Saturday.

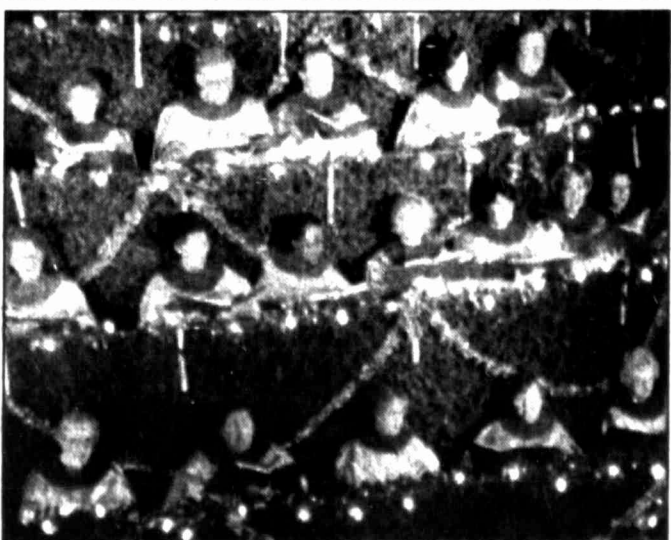
SLICE
of
life

COMMUNITY NEWS

Love the Living Christmas Tree? Want to see it again?

Local cable viewers can see a taped performance of First United Methodist Church's 22nd annual Living Christmas Tree on Cox Cable channel 10 Saturday at 7 pm.

The event featured the talent of hundreds of local and area residents, including singers, musicians, actors and narrators. A choir performs in a giant, lighted "tree" frame, giving the production its name.



HEALTH INFORMATION

Five cups of coffee per day more than doubles a pregnant woman's risk of a miscarriage, according to perhaps the most rigorous study yet to focus on the possible link between caffeine and miscarriage.

Some doctors have long suspected a connection and urge pregnant women to avoid caffeine. However, even this study likely won't end the doubts.

Unlike most past research, the latest study looked at women in early pregnancy, when most miscarriages happen. It also tried to account for a separate risk from genetic defects in fetuses and a possible risk from smoking.

The research team in Sweden and the United States, which was to publish its findings in today's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, found that the equivalent of one-to-three cups of American coffee increases the risk of miscarriage by 30 percent. Three-to-five cups raises the risk by 40 percent.

— the Associated Press

DEC 21 2000

Computer with Internet in every classroom no longer enough, study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Schools connected to the Internet but lacking instant, complete access to its resources will be left behind this century, just as those with dated textbooks were in the last one, a bipartisan panel concludes.

The report, released Tuesday by the Web-based Education Commission, argues that it's now an ancient goal to have merely a computer — even one with an Internet hookup — in every American classroom.

Instead, broadband networks that instantly transmit video and audio are vital for meaningful education in the future, yet that technology is moot if teachers aren't continuously trained in it.

"The legacy of the one-room schoolhouse is holding back the one-world classroom," said Sen. Bob Kerrey, a Nebraska Democrat who as chairman led the yearlong effort to examine how best to move schools forward in the information age.

Complete with suggestions for policy changes and long-term goals, the 163-page report encapsulates hundreds of interviews and numerous studies by the commission, which included five members of Congress and various educators.

"I don't think I've ever

been involved in anything in 22 years of government more intense and comprehensive than this work," said Rep. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., who was the commission's vice chairman.

The goals are broad, but the suggestions are specific. For example, the commission proposes colleges scrap requirements that students attend at least 12 hours of coursework — and half of it in a classroom — to be eligible for federal grants or scholarships.

School buildings are becoming less important, Isakson said, because the lessons taught inside them are often available with a click of a mouse.

"You don't even have to come to the United States and you can graduate from Georgia Tech," Isakson said. "We need to repeal or modify some of these regulations the Internet has made archaic."

According to the commission's report, schools spend only \$200 per student on technology, compared with \$5,500 per worker for a typical corporation.

And while 90 percent of schools and 71 percent of classrooms are now connected to the Internet, there is a new gap developing between neighborhoods with rapid broadband Internet capabilities and those without, the report says.

Details still scarce about Madonna's wedding plans

DORNOCH, Scotland (AP) — The celebrities arriving at the airport, the masses of telephoto lenses and the eager kids hoping for a glimpse of someone famous all testify that Madonna's wedding is no secret.

The details, however, were still missing Wednesday, two days before the pop singer's wedding to British film director Guy Ritchie.

Even the bridegroom's father claims to be in the dark. "I wouldn't dare ask," said 71-year-old John Ritchie.

Scores of kids stood in the cold rain until nightfall Wednesday hoping to see Sting, or Gwyneth Paltrow, or fashion designer Stella McCartney.

"It makes this town much more interesting," said 10-year-old Joanne McGregor.

"Not a lot happens here," she said, chomping on a candy. "My parents won't like it, but I'm staying right here."

A huge yellow crane carrying a television crew beamed bright light onto the 13th-century cathedral where the couple's 4-month-old son Rocco is to be baptized Thursday.

The scene was beamed to the world by a Web camera at www.madonnawedding.com.

Hundreds of photographers have staked out positions for a possible photo

opportunity Thursday, chaining their tall ladders to police barriers opposite the church. Journalists hovered about, clutching mobile phones while children stared.

The church gladly accepted a donation from photographers and reporters to take down a notice board that was blocking views of the cathedral entrance, Britain's Press Association news agency reported.

"I have never seen anything like it in my life," said Sandra Peterkin, manager for the Northern Highlands Tourist Board.

"We're loving every minute of it, and it's great to see people up here."

Madonna and Ritchie are to be married in Dornoch on Friday afternoon — apparently the venue is thought to be Skibo Castle, developed a century ago as steel baron Andrew Carnegie's vacation hideaway overlooking Dornoch Firth.

The couple chose Scotland because of Ritchie's family connections to the Highlands.

Ladbrokes betting shops offered a variety of wedding wagers: even money that Ritchie would wear underpants beneath his kilt, 5-1 that Madonna will wear black, and 2-1 against haggis, a traditional Scottish dish, being on the reception menu.

TOWN

Continued from Page 5A

months, Palestinian travel in and out of the West Bank, on whose edge Bethlehem lies, has been sharply restricted. In recent days, Israel has again begun allowing Palestinians to travel into Israel for their jobs, which are usually manual labor.

Last week, Israeli media reports raised the possibility that Israel could declare Bethlehem a closed military area on Christmas Eve, preventing pilgrims and tourists from entering. The army said Monday that no decision had yet been made.

Despite the grim outlook, Christmas has not been canceled outright.

A few choirs, nearly all of them local, will sing in Manger Square on Christmas Eve. The Latin Patriarchate says it will stage its traditional regalia-filled holiday procession — led by the patriarch, the top Roman Catholic cleric in the Holy Land — from Jerusalem, three miles away.

Yasser Arafat usually attends midnight Mass at the Church of the Nativity, along with a host of other dignitaries, but his plans were unclear this year. The Palestinian leader has spent nearly all of the current outbreak of violence holed up at his headquarters in the Gaza Strip.

Bethlehem has seen some grim Christmases past. It was under Israeli military occupation for nearly three decades, and times were particularly tense during the Palestinians' 1987-92 intifada, or uprising, when annual festivities in Manger Square were watched over by Israeli army snipers on the rooftops.

But many had hoped for a better life once Palestinians gained control of the West Bank's cities and large towns, including Bethlehem. Celebrations in 1995, the first year of Palestinian rule in Bethlehem, were marked by an outpouring of nationalistic fervor and hopes for Palestinian statehood.

Hope was in short supply in Beit Jalla, a mainly Christian village abutting Bethlehem that has seen some of uprising's worst firefights. Issa Kissia, a 42-year-old Palestinian father of four, had his house wrecked by shellfire and lost his job in Israel when he could not travel to work.

"Every year we have presents and a Christmas tree, but this year there is no house for the tree, and no money for presents," Kissia said. "I don't know what to tell my children."

"This year, we do not feel that Christmas is coming."

Few criticize Mrs. Clinton's book deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Newt Gingrich inked his \$4.5 million book deal in 1994, Democrats began howling almost immediately that it was improper.

But Republicans have greeted Hillary Rodham Clinton's \$8 million memoir with few harsh words.

With President-elect Bush pressing for bipartisan cooperation after a bitter battle for the White House, Congressional Republicans seem wary of picking a fight with New York's famous senator-elect.

"I'm not going to start off being critical of her,"

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said on NBC's Meet the Press. Lott had warned ominously just after the election that Clinton had better get used to being one of 100 coequals in the Senate.

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said on FOX News Sunday he didn't know if Senate rules ever contemplated a book deal as big as Clinton's, but in terms of whether the GOP would go after her the way the Democrats went after Gingrich, he said, "Two wrongs don't make a right."

"I think what the

Democrats did to Newt in the House was unfair," Nickles said. "I know we won't duplicate that action in the Senate."

Clinton aides say the first lady is complying completely with Senate ethics guidelines even though she has not yet been sworn in as a senator.

The controversy over Gingrich's book prompted the House to revise its ethics guidelines to bar members from accepting advances, but there is no similar ban in the Senate as long as the deal is "usual and customary."

Holiday Wrap-Up

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<p>Accessory Traveling Pieces Sale!</p> <p>\$14.99- \$19.99 Reg. To \$28.00</p> <p>Rolling Totes, Duffle Bags or Cosmetic Cases. Lots Of Options</p>	<p>Our Entire Stock of Christmas Shop Trim & Gifts</p> <p>50% OFF</p> <p>Save On All Holiday Trim For The Home. Save On Floral Ornaments And Much More.</p>

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Sign-ups for YMC.

Registra under way basketball Big Spring Boys and the ages eligible to \$20 for no \$15 for scholarship and no turned av inability to The dea is Friday. Practice: week of Ja will be Saturdays 20. For mor call the YN

Area coa to transn

The Hera Crossroads ball coache provided c varsity sch ters for the son to do s possible. Rosters can be faxi tion of Joh 264-7205.

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Injury may Astros' Re

HOUSTON Astros pil Reynolds, v National Le team for the year, will m first month season after surgery to injury he s jogging. An operati torn lateral his left kr formed Tu officials s time sho three month

ON TI

Televisio COLLEGE BA

Men 6 p.m. — V Temple, ESP 8 p.m. — Missouri, ESF 8 p.m. — Challenge, Duk, FXS, C 10:30 p. Newell Challe vs. Georgia, F COLLEGE FO 7 p.m. — L Arkansas at U NBA 7 p.m. — I at New York Ch. 28. HOCKEY 6:30 p.m. — at New York I Ch. 29.

IN BRIEF

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, but scholarships are available and no youngster will be turned away due to an inability to pay.

The deadline to register is Friday.

Practices begin the week of Jan. 2 and games will be played on Saturdays beginning Jan. 20.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Area coaches asked to transmit schedules

The Herald is asking all Crossroads area basketball coaches who have not provided copies of their varsity schedules and rosters for the 2000-2001 season to do so as quickly as possible.

Rosters and schedules can be faxed to the attention of John A. Moseley at 264-7205.

ACS now offering Texas Golf Pass

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

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

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

For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or check the society's web site at www.acs-tx.org

Fastpitch softball umpires needed

Umpires are needed to work high school softball games throughout West Texas, according to Permian Basin Softball Umpires Association officials.

For more information, call Mack Gipson at (915) 520-5961.

Injury may sideline Astros' Reynolds

HOUSTON (AP) — Astros pitcher Shane Reynolds, who made the National League All-Star team for the first time last year, will miss at least the first month of the 2001 season after undergoing surgery to repair a knee injury he suffered while jogging.

An operation to repair a torn lateral meniscus in his left knee was performed Tuesday. Club officials said recovery time should be about three months.

ON THE AIR

Television

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men
6 p.m. — Wake Forest at Temple, ESPN, Ch. 30.
8 p.m. — Illinois at Missouri, ESPN, Ch. 30.
8 p.m. — Pete Newell Challenge, Stanford vs. Duke, FXS, Ch. 29.
10:30 p.m. — Pete Newell Challenge, California vs. Georgia, FXS, Ch. 29.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

7 p.m. — Las Vegas Bowl, Arkansas at UNLV, ESPN2.

NBA

7 p.m. — Boston Celtics at New York Knicks, TNT, Ch. 28.

HOCKEY

6:30 p.m. — Dallas Stars at New York Islanders, FXS, Ch. 29.

Southern Miss opens bowl season with win over TCU

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Southern Mississippi delivered a message to a Conference USA newcomer: Get ready for a wild ride.

The Golden Eagles shed their late-season offensive struggles, contained Texas Christian tailback LaDarian Tomlinson and got the best of the nation's top defense Wednesday night.

The final blow was Jeff Kelly's 29-yard touchdown pass to freshman Kenny Johnson with eight seconds left, giving Southern Miss a 28-21 win over the 13th-ranked Horned Frogs in the Mobile Alabama Bowl.

It was a wild beginning to the bowl season and a triumphant finish for a senior class that won three of four bowl games.

"It's like I told our seniors," said

Golden Eagles coach Jeff Bower, whose team went 8-4 despite losing three of its last four regular-season games. "You always want to leave the program better than the previous senior class, and the foundation of this program is stronger than it's ever been."

The Horned Frogs (10-2) missed a chance to win bowl games in three consecutive years for the first time. Next season, they'll join Conference USA, where Southern Miss has won three titles in five years.

They'll make the move without Tomlinson and four starting offensive linemen, and with a new coaching staff, led by former defensive coordinator Gary Patterson. Quarterback Casey Printers will be looking forward to the challenge.

"You want better competition," the sophomore said. "That's what we live for."

The Southern Miss defense, rated No. 2 overall coming in, sent Tomlinson, a Heisman Trophy finalist after rushing for more than 2,000 yards, into the NFL with what for him was a poor game. Tomlinson scored a pair of third quarter TDs, but was held to 118 yards on 28 carries. He was still voted the game's MVP by the media.

"He got his yards, but we held him to a minimum," said Southern Miss safety Leo Barnes, who returned an interception 50 yards for a TD in the first quarter. It was his fourth interception return for a score this season.

Normally reliable placekicker

Brant Hanna had a nightmare game for Southern Miss, missing four field goals and getting two blocked. When the Golden Eagles got the ball back with 33 seconds left and 43 yards to cover, Bower had already planned to use Curtis Jones for a final kick if it came to that.

"It was a tough night for Brant, but Brant's won a lot of games for us," Bower said. "I asked Curt, 'Will you take that redshirt off to win this football game?' He said, 'Yeah, coach.'"

The final chance came after Eric Pruitt got a hand on Mark Haulman's punt to set up good field position. TCU went three-and-out when a first down would have enabled the Horned Frogs to run out the clock and force overtime.

Aikman's final decision won't be made hastily

DALLAS (AP) — While the decision about Troy Aikman's season was made for him, it will take some time before the concussion-prone Dallas quarterback decides if he will walk away from football for good.

"There seems to be a presumption that the day after the season is over, Troy and I are going to meet, he is going to do some soul searching and that day make a decision," his agent, Leigh Steinberg, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"That is simply not going to happen. Even if he arrives at the decision that everyone things is obvious, it will not be with undue haste."

While Steinberg wouldn't give a timetable on when he expects a decision by Aikman, he said it would take more than a few days after the Cowboys (6-10) play their season finale Christmas night at Tennessee.

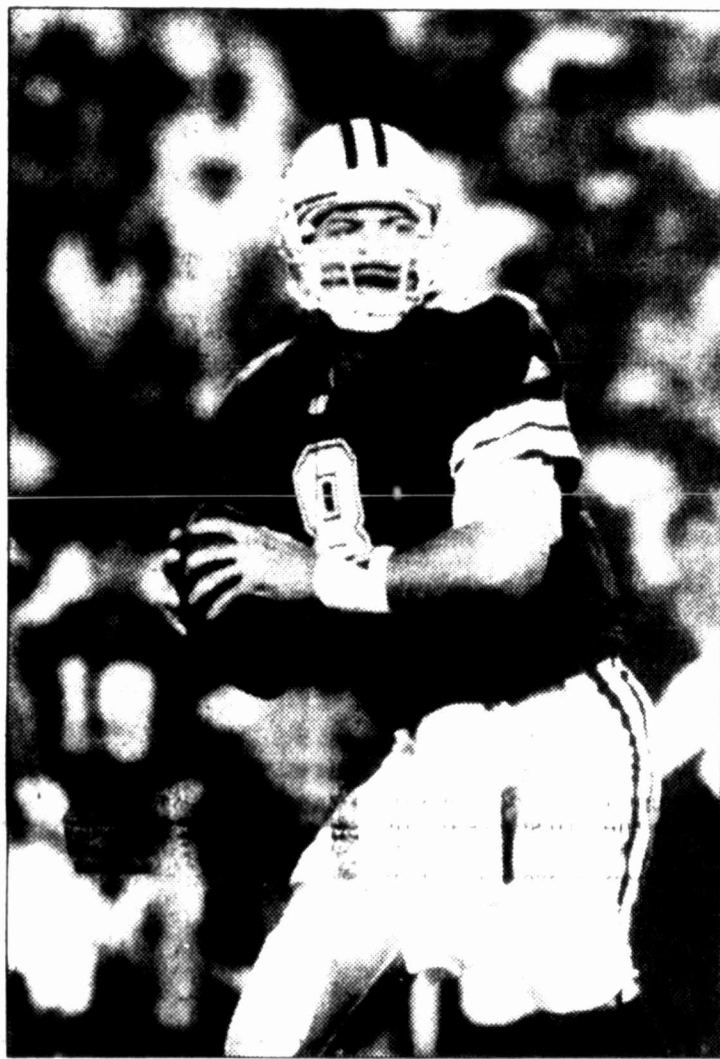
Steinberg doesn't think Aikman will take as long to decide as did Steve Young, another future Hall of Fame quarterback he represents. Young didn't announce his retirement last offseason until June, just weeks San Francisco went to training camp.

Cowboys coach Dave Campo said Tuesday that Aikman wouldn't play against the Titans. Aikman suffered his second concussion of the season and 10th of his 12-year NFL career against Washington on Dec. 10, and didn't play against the New York Giants last weekend.

Steinberg said it was a coaching decision that Aikman wouldn't play in the finale Monday night. Not that he disagrees with the move.

"Troy always wants to play. There has never been a week since 1989 that he didn't want to play," Steinberg said. "Was he thrilled? No. Did he accept it? Yes."

"I don't think there is a padded cell with quite enough padding to contain a restless Troy who is not starting."



Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman, pictured here during a 1993 game, will take his time during the offseason concerning whether or not to continue his NFL career, according to his agent Leigh Steinberg.

Aikman, 34, hasn't spoken to reporters since suffering the latest concussion on a hit from Washington linebacker Lavar Arrington. But he has maintained this season that he'd like to play as long as he enjoys the game and isn't risking horrible injury. His desire remains high, leaving his health as the main concern.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, meanwhile, has decided whether he wants to keep the quarterback who brought him three Super Bowl titles — and at what price. Aikman is due \$7 million if he's on the roster March 8.

"Presently, March is a significant date. That might change," Steinberg said, indicating that the contract could change before then. "If both parties are interested, there has

never been a problem negotiating in the past."

Jones anticipates sitting down with Aikman, the first player he ever drafted, soon after the season.

Steinberg said the two sides would "check in soon after the end of the season."

The agent said he wants Aikman to have some time away from the field before seriously considering his future.

"He will need some time to process his options and come to a decision that is right for the rest of his life. It certainly is not something that will be settled in a day or day," Steinberg said.

"Given how competitive he is, and the amount of time he's spent with Dallas, any decision about leaving football is a traumatic one."

Rangers ink two, begin discussion with David Cone

DALLAS (AP) — Having bolstered their offense with the \$252 million signing of Alex Rodriguez, the Texas Rangers turned their focus to upgrading the worst pitching staff in baseball.

General manager Doug Melvin met for 3 1/2 hours Wednesday with free agent right-hander David Cone. Melvin planned to talk with the pitcher's agent in the next few days but said no offers have been made.

"It's too early to tell, but there might be a right mix, a right fit," Melvin said by phone from Tampa, Fla., where he met Cone.

During his meeting with Melvin, Cone worked out and spoke about his problems of 2000, when he was 4-14 with a 6.91 ERA for the New York Yankees.

"We talked about last year and what went wrong, how he feels he can bounce back," Melvin said. "He felt that last year in the offseason he didn't work as hard as he should. He slacked off, and he blamed himself."

Cone turns 38 on Jan. 2. The Rangers also signed left-hander Justin Thompson, who hasn't pitched for Texas since being acquired last year, to a \$2.42 million, one-year contract. The Rangers also signed infielder Frank Catalanotto, who came to Texas in the same trade as Thompson, to a one-year contract.

Thompson, acquired from Detroit in a nine-player trade last offseason for Juan Gonzalez, didn't pitch this season because of shoulder surgery, but the Rangers remain optimistic that he will be an impact pitcher.

Thompson gets a \$1.42 million salary for 2001 and could earn performance bonuses that would raise his earnings to \$3,025,000. The deal includes a team option for 2002 that will be worth \$2.5 million to \$5 million, depending on his performance this season. If the option isn't exercised, he would get a \$1 million buy-out.

In all, he could make about \$9 million for two

years.

"We have hopes that he will be back and pitching for us midseason," Melvin said. "At that point, we have an option on him so that year we feel very confident that he will be back at full strength and able to reach a higher level of performance."

Thompson, 27, is still undergoing rehabilitation and isn't expected to be ready for the start of the 2001 season. He has had surgery two more times since the arthroscopic surgery that ended his 1999 season.

Thompson was an All-Star in 1997, his first full season with Detroit, when he was 15-11 with a 3.02 ERA in 32 starts. He was 20-25 the next two seasons, including just 24 starts in 1999 before arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder that August.

Thompson needed additional surgery in May to repair a left rotator cuff tear. He continued to have pain in the shoulder while undergoing rehab and had surgery to remove scar tissue on Oct. 27.

"It's hard to tell physically when guys sit out a year or so, but we feel confident he can come back," Melvin said. "We have to be optimistic that he will bounce back."

Catalanotto, 26, batted .257 with 10 homers and 42 RBIs in 103 games with the Rangers in 2000. He started 34 games at second base, 20 as the designated hitter, and 12 at first base and was among the A.L.'s top pinch-hitters with a .357 average.

"He had a good year for us, coming off the bench, playing second base and filling in as DH," Melvin said. "He will probably have that same role with us this year."

Right hander Pete Munro was not offered a major league contract for 2001.

Second baseman Luis Alcea, right-handed closer John Wetteland and outfielder Mike Simms had already been declined salary arbitration and are free agents.

Lindale quarterback tops APSE's Class 3A all-state voting

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lindale fell short of its goal of a state championship, but senior quarterback Rob Shipley still ended on top.

Shipley was the first-team quarterback on the Class 3A Texas all-state team announced Wednesday and also was named the Class 3A offensive player of the year.

While leading all East Texas high school quarterbacks in attempts, completions, yardage and touchdowns, Shipley led Lindale to the second round of the playoffs before a 28-7 loss to then-undefeated Daingerfield.

Shipley completed 136 of 243 passes (56 percent) for 2,337 yards and 31 touchdowns. He threw just eight interceptions.

The 11th annual APSE team was chosen by sportswriters around the state, based upon players' regular-season performance. Nominees were selected during the season,

and balloting was conducted during the playoffs.

Lorena senior linebacker Justin Haire, whose 163 tackles included 23 in one game, was tabbed as the defensive player of the year. He also had three interceptions, two returned for touchdowns, and caused two fumbles.

The 25 players on the first-team offense and defense include players from 22 different schools. The only schools with more than one player were Cameron Yoe, Hardin-Jefferson and Tatum.

Tatum is represented by senior running back Alton Stoker and senior defensive back Tom Garrett. Senior defensive lineman Terrance Brooks and senior kicker Daniel Wilfert played for Cameron Yoe, and senior defensive lineman Ryan Skinner and senior defensive back Andy Bailey both played for Hardin-Jefferson.

The only first-team player with football action still ahead of him in

2000 is La Grange junior offensive lineman Josh Chovanec. LaGrange plays Forney in the Class 3A Division II championship game on Friday night at Texas Stadium.

Joining Chovanec on the offensive line were Aledo senior John Burrows, Lamesa senior Marty McGee, White Oak senior Phillip Recto, and Greenwood senior Sam Skidmore.

Stoker, who ran for 2,084 yards and 25 touchdowns and caught five TD passes in just nine games, heads up an impressive trio of running backs with big numbers.

Falfurrias senior Mark Cates ran for a whopping 2,240 yards and 35 touchdowns.

Gatesville senior Taurean Henderson set a single-game school record with 337 yards and finished closed his schoolboy career rushing for 1,999 yards on the season while scoring 24 TDs.

Three ends/receivers were named to the first-team because of a tie in

the voting.

Colt Carmichael, a senior from Dublin, had 70 catches for 1,034 yards and six touchdowns.

Liberty-Eylau senior Brandon Jones caught 32 passes for 609 yards and five touchdowns while rushing for 208 yards and three touchdowns.

Quitman senior George Willis caught 58 passes for 739 yards and six touchdowns.

On the first-team defense, Brooks was joined on the line by Diboll senior Corey Bussey, Everman senior Jonathon Fantroy and Skinner.

In addition to the Haire, the other linebackers were Alpine senior Brent Mata, who had 160 tackles and 12 sacks, and Gatesville senior Pedro Quintero, who had 131 tackles.

The defensive backs were Crane junior Cory Aguilar, who had seven interceptions and nine sacks.

See ALL-STATE, page 3B

D E C 2 1 2 0 0 0



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Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payout: \$800,000
UNLV (7-5) vs.
7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Sunday, Dec. 24
Oahu Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$750,000
Virginia (6-5)
7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery,
Blue vs. Gray
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$750,000
Boston College
State (6-5), 2:30

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payout: \$750,000
Marshall (7-5)
4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
GalleryFurniture.com
At Houston
Payout: \$750,000
Texas Tech
Carolina (7-4), 7:30

Thursday, Dec. 28
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: \$750,000
Boise State (8-3), 12:30
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: \$750,000
West Virginia
Mississippi (7-4)
Micronpc.com Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$750,000
Minnesota (6-6)
Carolina State (7-4)
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
Payout: \$750,000
Iowa State (8-3)
(7-4), 6:30 p.m. (E

Friday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.25 million
Colorado State
Louisville (9-2), 12

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: \$1 million
UCLA (6-5) vs. V
1 p.m. (CBS)

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: \$1.8 million
Georgia Tech (9-4), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$1.9 million
Texas (9-2) vs.
7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 30
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$1.2 million
Nebraska
Northwestern (8-3)

Sunday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: \$1.2 million
Fresno State (7-4)
(8-3), 6 p.m. (FOXSP)

Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: \$1.1 million
Texas A&M
Mississippi State
(ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.

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AVIATION

SPORTS EXTRA

BOWL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
Payoff: \$900,000
UNLV (7-5) vs. Arkansas (6-5),
7 p.m. (ESPN2) ***
Sunday, Dec. 24
Gator Bowl
At Honolulu
Payoff: \$750,000
Virginia (6-5) vs. Georgia (7-4),
7:30 p.m. (ESPN) ***
Monday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Blue vs. Gray, 11 a.m. (ABC)
Aloha Bowl
At Honolulu
Payoff: \$750,000
Boston College (6-5) vs. Arizona
State (6-5), 2:30 p.m. (ABC) ***
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
Payoff: \$750,000
Marshall (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4),
3 p.m. (ESPN)
Gator Bowl
At Houston
Payoff: \$750,000
Texas Tech (7-5) vs. East
Carolina (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN2) ***
Thursday, Dec. 28
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payoff: \$750,000
Bose State (9-2) vs. Texas-EI
Paso (8-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payoff: \$750,000
West Virginia (6-5) vs.
Mississippi (7-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payoff: \$1.25 million
Colorado State (9-2) vs.
Louisville (9-2), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payoff: \$1 million
UCLA (6-5) vs. Wisconsin (8-4),
1 p.m. (CBS)
Paach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payoff: \$1.8 million
Georgia Tech (9-2) vs. LSU (7-4),
4 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payoff: \$1.9 million
Texas (9-2) vs. Oregon (9-2),
7:30 p.m. (ESPN) ***
Saturday, Dec. 30
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Nebraska (9-2) vs.
Northwestern (8-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Sunday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payoff: \$1.2 million
Fresno State (4) vs. Air Force
(8-3), 6 p.m. (FOXSN)
Independence Bowl
At Silver-sport, La.
Payoff: \$1.1 million
Texas A&M (7-4) vs.
Mississippi State (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN) ***
Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.

NFL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Includes American Conference (East, West) and National Conference (East, West) standings.

Saturday's Games
11:30 a.m. Miami at New England, Noon
St. Louis at New Orleans, Noon
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, Noon
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, Noon
Pittsburgh at S. Diego, 3:05 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Noon Kansas City at Atlanta, Noon
Arizona at Washington, Noon
Chicago at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
Monday's Game
8 p.m. Dallas at Tennessee, 8 p.m.

PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 5A Division II Championship
Katy (15-0) vs. Tyler John Tyler (12-3), 12:07 p.m. Saturday, AstroDome, Houston ***
CLASS 4A Division II Championship
Ennis (13-2) vs. West Orange-Stark (15-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving ***
CLASS 3A Division II Championship
Forsyth (1-4) vs. La Grange (13-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium, Irving ***
CLASS 2A Division II Championship
Celina (15-0) vs. Mart (15-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving ***
CLASS 1A Championship
Stratford (15-0) vs. Burkeville (10-4), 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Waco ISO Stadium.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
BALTIMORE Orioles—Agreed to terms with SS Mike Bordick on a two-year contract. Signed RHP Jason Johnson to a one-year contract.
BOSTON Red Sox—Released INF Izzy Alcantara.
CLEVELAND Indians—Agreed to terms with LHP Scott Aldred, LHP Eric Gunderson, RHP Roy Smith, C Tim Lincecum, INF Dave Hollins, LHP Tim Kubinski, OF Marly Cordova and OF Scott Krause on minor league contracts.
DETROIT Tigers—Agreed to terms with INF Shane Hater and RHP Steve Sparks on one-year contracts.
TEXAS Rangers—Agreed to terms with LHP Justin Thompson and INF Frank Catalanotto on one-year contracts. Declined to offer a 2001 contract to RHP Pete Munro.
TORONTO Blue Jays—Designated RHP Matt DeWitt for assignment.
ATLANTA Braves—Agreed to terms with INF Keith Lusk and C Paul Bako on one-year contracts.
CHICAGO Cubs—Declined to offer 2001 contracts to RHP Jamie Arnold and RHP Steve Rian.
COLORADO Rockies—Traded RHP Jeff Taylor and LHP Justin Carter to the Cincinnati Reds, completing the Nov. 8 trade for LHP Ron Wilson.
FLORIDA Marlins—Agreed to terms with RHP Fred Condit on a one-year contract and sent him outright to Calgary of the PCL. Named Steve Lopez director of media relations.
NEW YORK Mets—Declined to offer 2001 contracts to INF Jorge Velazquez, RHP Pat Mahomes, RHP Lancel Gonzalez and INF Matt Franco.
PHILADELPHIA Phillies—Agreed to terms with C Clemente Alvarez, C Jeremy Dietrich, 1B Brian R. Hunter, RHP Edwin Hurtado, LHP Rigo Beltran, INF P.J. Forbes, INF Kevin One, LHP Eddie Oropesa, INF Gene Schall, C Eric Scheermann, RHP Clint Sobotky, 2B Chase Utley, LHP Ed Vosberg, OF Turner Ward and OF Kenny Williams on minor league contracts.
SAN DIEGO Padres—Agreed to terms with RHP Garrett Stephenson on a one-year contract. Sold the contract of 1B Eduardo Perez to the Hanshin Tigers of Nippon Professional Baseball.
NATIONAL Basketball Association
BOSTON Celtics—Activated G Chris Carr from the injured list. Placed F Walter McCarty on the injured list.
DENVER Nuggets—Placed G Tang Abdul-Wahad on the injured list. Activated G Calbert Cheaney from the injured list.
GOLDEN STATE Warriors—Signed C John Collier.
FOOTBALL
NATIONAL Football League
CINCINNATI Bengals—Agreed to terms with Dick LeBeau, coach, on a multiyear contract.
JACKSONVILLE Jaguars—Placed WR R. Jay Soward on the non-football reserve list. Signed OL Dwayne Ledford from the practice squad. Signed WR Mike Horacek to the practice squad.
MINN. SOTA Vikings—Signed DE Fernando Smith. Released DE Anthony Young from the practice squad.

ALL-STATE

Continued from page 1B

Sweeny senior Courtenay Sanders, Bailey (10 interceptions) and Garrett (106 tackles).

Troy senior Gary Lopez, who averaged 42.2 yards on his 32 punts, was the all-state punter.

The Class 3A All-State high school football team, released Wednesday, as voted on by The Associated Press Sports Editors are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE:
LINESMEN: JOHN BURROWS, Aledo, Sr., 6-4, 265. Graded 91 percent for offense that averaged 354 yards and 38 punts a game. 9 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— JOSH CHOVANEC, La Grange, Jr., 6-1, 255. 89 percent on offense that averaged 405 yards and 38 punts a game. 9 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— MARTY MCGEE, Lamesa, Sr., 6-0, 195. 80 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— PHILIP RECO, White Oak, Sr., 6-3, 290. 80 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— SAM SKIDMORE, Midland Greenwood, Sr., 6-5, 250. 50 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
ENDS/RECEIVERS (3 due to a tie for the 2nd spot):
— COLT CARMICHAEL, Dublin, Sr., 6-1, 180. 70 catches for 1,034 yards and 6 touchdowns.
— BRANDON JONES, Liberty-Eylau, Sr., 6-3, 215. 32 catches for 609 yards and 5 touchdowns, plus 22 rushing attempts for 208 yards and 3 touchdowns.
— GEORGE WILLIS, Quitman, Sr., 6-2, 195. 58 catches for 739 yards and 6 touchdowns.
QUARTERBACK:
— ROB SHIPLEY, Lindale, Sr., 6-0, 160. 136 of 243 passing (55 percent) for 2,337 yards, 31 touchdowns and just 8 interceptions.
RUNNING BACKS:
— MARK CATES, Falfurrias, Sr., 5-10, 165. 201 carries for 2,240 yards (11.1 yards per carry) and 25 touchdowns.
— LAUREN HENDERSON, Gatesville, Sr., 5-10, 170. 245 carries for 1,999 yards (8.2 yards per carry) and 24 touchdowns. Set a single-game school record with 337 yards rushing.
— ALTON STOKER, Tatum, Sr., 5-11, 160. 230 carries for 2,084 yards (9.1 yards per carry) and 25 touchdowns in nine games. Also had eight receptions for 205 yards and five touchdowns.
KICKER:
— DANIEL WILFERT, Cameron Yoe, Sr., 5-9, 150. 37 of 38 extra points, 9-of-11 field goals, long of 47.
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Rob Shipley, Lindale.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE:
LINESMEN: — TERRANCE BROOKS, Cameron Yoe, Sr., 5-11, 175. 185. 95 tackles, 12 for loss, 8 sacks, 5 fumbles recovered, 1 interception, 1 fumble caused.
— RYAN SKINNER, Hardin-Jefferson, Sr., 6-2, 265. 117 tackles, 5 sacks, 7 quarterback pressures, 4 caused fumbles and 2 fumble recoveries.

LINEBACKERS:
— JUSTIN HAIRE, Lorena, Sr., 6-2, 215. 163 tackles, 23 in one game, 3 interceptions (2 returned for touchdowns), 2 caused fumbles.
— BRENT MATA, Alpine, Jr., 6-1, 185. 160 tackles, 12 sacks, 2 interceptions (1 returned for touchdown), 4 caused fumbles. Also caught 8 touchdowns passes.
— PEDRO QUINTERO, Gatesville, Sr., 6-0, 185. 131 tackles, 71 solo, on defense that allowed just 5.2 punts a game. 4 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries, 1 interception.

BACKS:
— CORY AGUILAR, Crane, Jr., 5-10, 150. 94 tackles, 7 interceptions, 9 sacks, 2 caused fumbles, 2 recovered fumbles.
— ANDY BAILEY, Hardin-Jefferson, Sr., 5-10, 170. 10 interceptions.
— TOM GARRITT, Tatum, Sr., 6-2, 195. 106 tackles, 5 interceptions (2 returned for touchdowns), 5 caused fumbles, 3 recovered fumbles.
— COURTENAY SANDERS, Sweeny, Sr., 6-1, 185. 117 tackles, 86 solo, 7 for loss, 4 interceptions, 4 caused fumbles, 3 fumble recoveries, 6 blocked passes.

PUNTER:
— GARY LOPEZ, Troy, Sr., 6-1, 205. 32 punts for a 42.2 average with a long of 55 yards.
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Justin Haire, Lorena.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE:
LINESMEN: — SEDARRIN FREEMAN, Tatum, Sr., 6-3, 300. 6-5, 250. 50 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— BRYAN LANTING, Dublin, Sr., 6-4, 275. 80 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— JOHN MCGILVRA, Mexia, Sr., 6-5, 245. 80 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— NORRIS POWELL, Rice Consolidated, Jr., 6-3, 310.
— ED WELLS, Cameron Yoe, Sr., 6-2, 270.
ENDS/RECEIVERS:
— PETER MODICA, Orangefield, Sr., 6-1, 185. 58 catches for 739 yards and 6 touchdowns.
QUARTERBACK:
— DANIEL FORD, Valley View, Sr., 6-0, 185. 185.
— AMOS HARMON, Brownsboro, Sr., 5-11, 165.
— DANNY RAMIREZ, Mukshoe, Sr., 5-9, 165. 165.
— MATTHEW WADE, Lamesa, Sr., 5-10, 172.
KICKER:
— DAVID BRELSFORD, Longview Spring Hill, Sr., 5-11, 175.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE:
LINESMEN: — GRAHAM DAWSON, Tatum, Sr., 6-1, 205. 80 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— BOBBY GOETTE, Port Isabel, Sr., 5-11, 188. 80 pancakes, 0 sacks allowed.
— MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, Center, Sr., 6-5, 260.
— TY MORTON, Alvarado, Sr., 5-10, 186.
LINEBACKERS:
— DOYLE LEE HARKINS, Elgin, Sr., 6-2, 220. 120 tackles, 12 for loss, 8 sacks, 5 fumbles recovered, 1 interception, 1 fumble caused.
— KRIS KIFER, Yoakum, Sr., 5-11, 195. 195.
— JIMMIE QUINN, Marlin.
BACKS:
— JOCK JOHNSON, Marlin.
— FRED KARLIN, Abilene Sr. Wylie, 5-9, 160.
— JESSE KIMBROUGH, Mexia, Sr., 6-2, 180. 180.
— JARED NATHO, Yoakum, Sr., 6-3, 180. 80 catches for 739 yards and 6 touchdowns.

PUNTER:
— CHARLIE SPECKELS, Clyde, Jr., 6-1, 170. 32 punts for a 42.2 average with a long of 55 yards.

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE:
LINESMEN: — TOMMY BARRERA, Mukshoe, Michael Cavazos, Crane, Sammy DeHoyos, Lake Worth, Jared Hinkle, La Grange, Kyle Jackson, Liberty-Eylau, Steve Linton, Laverne, Jason May, Graham, Chris Melton, Bridge City, Aaron Mitchell, Bridge City, Michael Moore, Center, Michael Perez, Elgin, Jake Stumbough, Cuero, Bradley Thomason, Mukshoe, Alex Valtarel, Wimberley, Stephen Woodward, Mukshoe, Keith Yancey, Tarkenton, Matt Yeza, Marlin.

HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE:
LINEBACKERS: — KEVIN BEASLEY, Bridge City, Adam Bernavants, Falfurrias, Dustin Black, Abilene Wylie, Luke Cantrell, Bridgeport, Justin Carter, Brent Slaughter, Wimberley, DelMarcus Smith, Dillon, Valley View, Boss Doucette, Barbers Hill, Trey Farmer, Sander Frutch, Justin Gage, Gladewater, Rashad Garner, Cuero, Daniel Gutierrez, Sweeny, David Hernandez, Pettit, Jared Kesler, Aledo, Albert Martinez, Falfurrias, Isaac Martinez, Lamesa, Joseph McDaniel, Commerce, Jeff Sheburne, Mukshoe, Lee Swanson, Wylie, Vann, Travis, Everman, Quentin Whitfield, Rice Consolidated, Joe Don Wood, Grandall.

LINEBACKERS: — BRIAN BOERJAN, Falfurrias, Michael Cavazos, Crane, Jerry Cleveland, Rice Consolidated, Luke Franks, Kerenside, Jared Hale, Clyde, Luke Hall, Everman, David King, Danglerfield, Ben Leonard, Lamesa, Darrell Lewis, Mukshoe, Cody Lowe, Aledo, Robert Meinar, La Grange, Darnick Mitchell, Diboll, Nick Pace, Queen City, Desmond Porter, Hardin-Jefferson, Ben Rhone, Crockett, Robert Richards, Center, Ramiro Rios, Bullard, Neck Rivas, Lake Worth, Tanner Sykes, Balingier, Mattis Sells, Newton, Brian Sykes, Balingier, Wimberley, Dean Smith, Castberry, Zack Stevens, Bandera, Roman Taylor, Diboll, Andrew Thomas, Diboll, Jack Thibodeaux, Bridge City, Ryan Wessels, Cuero, David Zamora, Progresso.

BACKS: — RHETT BEHAVINS, Brady, Michael Brisco, Chidress, Brandon Broyles, Mukshoe, Trent Coleman, Wharton, Lionel Dertis, Cuero, Brent Gailey, Abilene Wylie, Will Gulley, Newton, Blake Hagovsky, Cuero, Demick Hunter, Lamesa, Damarus Jenkins, Diboll, Ryan Jordan, Graham, Joe Koehler, Wimberley, Jake Locke, Cameron Yoe, Mikee Meeks, Wimberley, Cody Merrell, Remton, Hollywood Mitchell, Alvarado, Justin Outlaw, Midland, Greenwood, Monrell Parks, Everman, Sam Porter, Pittsburg, Jesse Seigler, Quinlan Ford, Oatner Spencer, Diboll, Dominick Williams, Everman, Gerald Williams, Rice Consolidated, Luke Wolford, Bridge City.
PUNTERS: — JESSE FULLOWE, Elgin, Mason Grimes, Breckenridge, Jared Natho, Yoakum.

FISHING REPORT

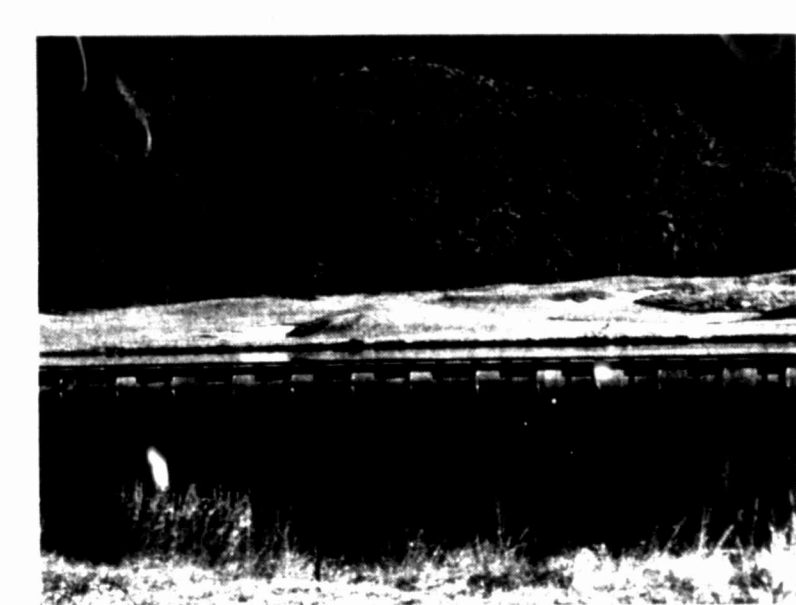
Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Dec. 20. (Report also available on Web at www.tfwfishing.com.)
CENTRAL
BROWNWOOD: Water murky, 50 degrees, 3.6 below spillway. No report on black bass. No report on striped bass. White bass to 12 inches are slow on live minnows in 2 to 10 feet. Crappie to 12 inches are slow on live minnows in 4 to 8 feet. Channel and blue catfish in 6 pounds are slow on chicken livers and Canadian night crawlers in 3 to 12 feet. No report on yellow catfish.
BUCHANAN: Water murky, 59 degrees, 10:13:40. Black bass are slow on 3/8oz pump kni/chartreuse Terminator jigs with jig claw trailers and electric blue Creme Super Tubes worked along ledges in 3 to 6 feet in Morgan and Beaver Creeks. Striped bass are slow to fair drifting live bait in 4 to 15 feet where water is clearest. Some action very shallow from small fish on plastic jerkbaits and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are slow vertically jigging chartreuse or silver Horizon Pink Minnows and casting Spin Traps into schools in the mouth of creeks in 18 to 24 feet. Crappie are very slow.
SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water fairly clear, 61 degrees, 40 low. Black bass to 7 pounds are good on crankbaits, around grass, and off points. White and striped bass are fair on slabs and trolled shallow running crankbaits in Evans Creek. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished up the Devil's River. Channel and blue catfish are slow on cheesebait fished up the Rio Grande in 20 to 4 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.
WEST
BROWNWOOD: Water stained, 50 degrees, 4 low. Black bass fair on slow rolled spinnerbaits and crankbaits on main points.
COLORADO CITY: Water clear, mah lake 58-60 degrees. Black bass and crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair. Redfish are good on live shad.
OH: LIVE: Water clear, 50-52 degrees, 14.6 low. Black bass are good on Carolina jigs w/ 10 power worms and slabs in 35-60 feet on main lake points and channel edges. Crappie are improving on jigs tipped w/minnows in 45-50 feet in main channel trees. White bass are good on chrome or white slabs and fall spinners schooling all over the lake (watch for the birds). Channel catfish are fair in 65 feet on cheese baits.
POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 50-53 degrees. Black bass are slow on jigs and crankbaits in 20-25 feet. Crappie fair on minnows and jigs in 12-20 feet.
SWEETWATER: Water slightly stained, 48 degrees. White bass are fair near the dam on shallow running crankbaits. Crappie and catfish are fair on minnows and worms.
WHITE RIVER: 50 degrees, water 18 low. No fishing report available.



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DECEMBER 21, 2000

Especially for kids and their families

The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

La Navidad en Mexico

Christmas in Mexico



Dos de los niños llevan figuritas de María y José.
Two of the children carry figures of Mary and Joseph.



We have told the story in English. However, some of the words are in Spanish. If you need help, check the dictionary.

La Navidad in Mexico starts on Dec. 16, when the **posada** celebration begins. The word **posada** means "inn" in Spanish.

Las familias get together during the **nueve noches** before **la Navidad**. They meet in a different **casa** each **noche**.

La primera part of the **posada** is religious.

Las familias parade around **la casa**. They are called **peregrinos**.

They pretend they are Mary and Joseph looking for a room in the **posada**. They sing a special prayer and carry **velas**.

After singing, all enter a **la casa**.

La Fiesta

La segunda part of the celebration is **la fiesta**.

Las familias and their **invitados** go

to the patio to break the **piñata**. **Piñatas** are often made of **papel**. **Piñatas** are filled with **frutas**, **regalos** and **dulces**.

Each **niño** is blindfolded before taking a turn. Each **niño** has **tres** swings to try to hit the **piñata** with a **palo**.

This is not easy. Someone pulls the **soga**, making the **piñata** move **arriba** and **abajo**.

When the **piñata** is broken, all scramble for **los regalos**.

Afterward, **los invitados** come for **cena**. Every **familia** brings food to share.



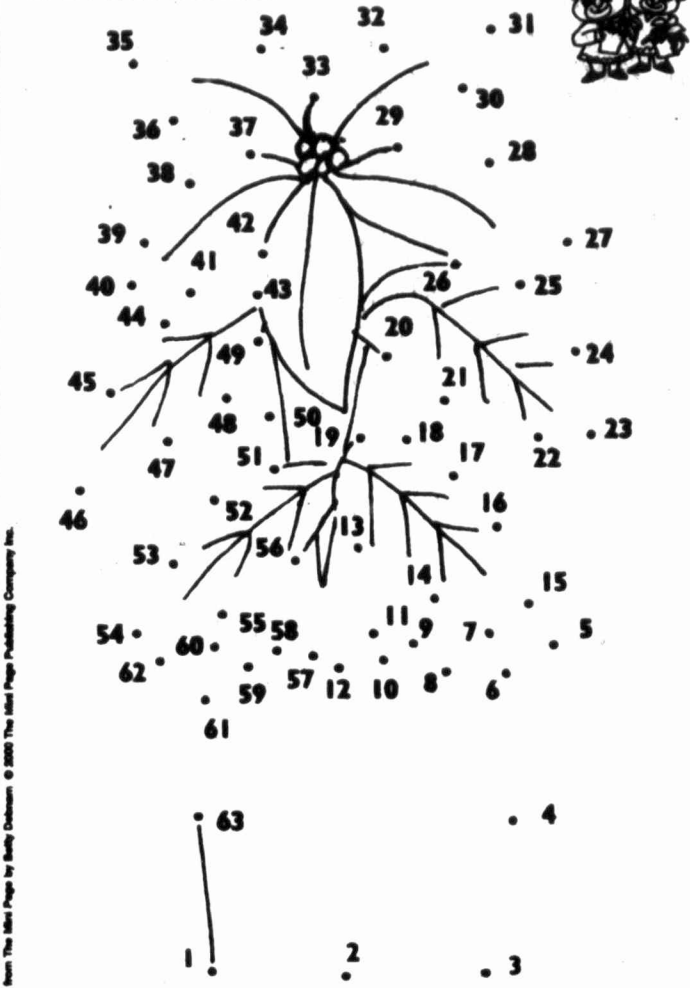
Los niños salen al patio a romper la piñata.
The children go out on the patio to break the piñata.

Diccionario-Dictionary

abajo (ah-BAH-khoh) down	arriba (ah-RREE-bhah) up	casa (KAH-sah) house
cena (SAY-nah) dinner	dulces (DOOL-sehs) sweets	familias (fah-MEE-lyahs) families
fiesta (fee-ESS-tah) party	frutas (FROO-tahs) fruit	invitados (een-bee-TAH-dohs) guests
the	Mexico (MEH-hee-koh) Mexico	Navidad (nah-bhee-DHADH) Christmas
niños (NEE-nyohs) children	noches (NOH-chays) nights	nueve (NWAY-vay) nine
palo (PAH-loh) stick	papel (pah-PEHL) paper	peregrinos (pay-reh-GREE-nohs) holy travelers
1st primera (pree-MAY-rah) first	regalos (ray-GAH-lohs) gifts	2nd segunda (say-GOON-dah) second
soga (SOH-gah) rope	tres (TRAYSS) three	velas (BEH-lahs) candles

The Mini Page Book of States is packed with helpful information on every state: capitals, birds, flowers, trees, industry and crops, geographical and historical facts, and more. To order, send check or money order for \$4.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling per copy, payable to Andrews McMeel Publishing, P.O. Box 419242, Kansas City, Mo. 64142.

Go dot to dot and color.



MIGHTY FUNNY PHONICS

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

Q: Why did Betsy Ross go to the doctor?
A: She kept seeing stars and stripes!

Q: What is bought by the yard but worn by the foot?
A: A rug!

Go on an AR word hunt. What other words can you find that use the AR blend? What sound do you hear?

Molly: You've broken your arm in three different places!
John: That's impossible!
I've been home all day!

Rookie Cookies Recipe
'Tis the Season Cookies

You'll need:

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 banana, mashed
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

What to do:

- In a large bowl, combine first five ingredients. Mix well.
- In a medium bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Mix well.
- Stir dry mixture into mixture in large bowl. Mix well.
- Place by teaspoonfuls several inches apart on a greased cookie sheet.
- Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen.

CHRISTMAS TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of Christmas in Mexico are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: CHRISTMAS, NAVIDAD, MEXICO, INN, SPANISH, POSADA, CELEBRATION, CASA, NOCHE, FOOD, RELIGIOUS, MARY, JOSEPH, SINGING, FIESTA, PATIO, FRUTA, NIÑO.

APH S I N A P S P A T I O A
B H P E S O J P O S A D A Q B
C R C H D A D I V A N D O F
M C H R I S T M A S F R U T A
E N N O I T A R B E L E C E
X I I O S D S U O I G I L E R
I N J U C N N I E C A S A I O
C O M V F H J L S I N G I N G
O M A R Y X E G A T S E I F K

¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are enjoying a Mexican Christmas. See if you can find:

- pencil
- word MINI
- letter A
- sailboat
- lips
- letter V
- lima bean
- bell
- bird
- heart
- exclamation mark
- banana
- canoe
- pumpkin

mushroom • safety pin • pig

Merry Christmas From Mexico

Christmas in Mexico

On the last night of the posada celebrations, December 24, Mexicans go to a special church service at midnight called "Misa de Gallo" where the birth of Jesus is celebrated. Then they come back home to continue the celebration, which lasts all night.

On January 5, many kids from the country as well as from the cities write letters asking the three Wise Men for toys. They put the letters inside one of their shoes and place it inside or outside the door. In another variation of this tradition, some country kids put a shoebox filled with straw outside their doors or in their balconies. The straw is for the camels of the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to Baby Jesus. Although Mexican children get their gifts from their parents on Christmas Day, on January 6 they receive addition... presents from the Three Wise Men.

Nacimiento (nah-see-MYEN-toh)

A **nacimiento** is a group of figures that make up a manger scene. It can be very simple, with just Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Or it can include wise men, shepherds, farmers and townspeople.

These are placed on a very decorated altar in most homes. In some towns the figures are large so as to be placed outside the homes.

Pastorela (pahs-toh-REH-LAH)

Many neighborhoods put on a Christmas play called a **pastorela**. Pastorelas are about the Christmas shepherds.

In a play, the Devil and his helpers try to keep the shepherds from getting to Bethlehem. Angels and a hermit help the shepherds finally reach the Christ child.

Most **pastorelas** have different lines and songs because they are not written down. The costumes and scenery are homemade. Audiences get involved by cheering.

Next week The Mini Page features a 2001 calendar.
Look through your newspaper for signs of Christmas.
For translations, The Mini Page thanks the Graduate School, USDA, and Robert Miranda-Acevedo.

Las Navidades en México

En la última noche de la celebración de las posadas, el 24 de diciembre, los mexicanos van a una misa especial que se llama "La Misa de Gallo" en donde el nacimiento de Jesús es celebrado. Luego ellos regresan a sus casas y continúan con la celebración, que dura toda la noche.

El 5 de enero, muchos niños del interior y de las ciudades escriben cartas pidiendo juguetes a los Tres Reyes Magos. Las cartas las ponen dentro de sus zapatos los que colocan adentro o afuera de la puerta. En otra variante de esta tradición, algunos niños del interior ponen paja en una caja de zapatos y la dejan fuera de la puerta de sus casas o en los balcones. La paja es para los camellos de los Reyes Magos que llevaron regalos al Niño Jesús. Aunque los niños mexicanos reciben regalos de sus padres el día de Navidad, el día 6 de enero ellos reciben más regalos, pero esta vez son de los Tres Reyes Magos.

Nacimiento

Un nacimiento es un conjunto de figuras que forman un pesebre. El nacimiento puede ser muy sencillo, solo con el Niño Jesús, La Virgen María, y San José. Pero también puede incluir los Tres Reyes Magos, pastores, agricultores, y gente del pueblo.

Estos nacimientos se ponen en altares muy decorados dentro de las casas. En algunos pueblos las figuras son de tamaño grande que se colocan afuera de las casas.

Pastorela

En muchos vecindarios se presenta una obra de Navidad que se llama pastorela. Las pastorelas tratan sobre los pastores en la Navidad. En la obra, el Diablo y sus ayudantes tratan de impedir que los pastores lleguen a Belén. Los ángeles y un hermitaño ayudan a los pastores a que lleguen hacia el Niño Jesús.

La mayoría de las pastorelas tienen diferentes tramas y cantos, ya que no están escritas. El vestuario y la escenografía se hacen en las casas. El público participa con aplausos.

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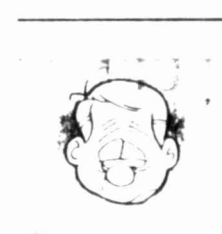
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CHURCH AND CLUB NEWS DEADLINES

Church and club news items are due at the Herald office by noon Wednesday fro Friday publication.

Items should be dropped off to the office at 710 Scurry; mailed to P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721-1431; or faxed to 264-7205. For more information call 263-7331

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 22, 2000:

You are unusually witty and direct this year, and you take an unusually active role in your work, thus gaining professionally and emotionally. You know what works. You have unusual strength and vigor. Get into a health or exercise program to defuse stress, which could also be high. If you are single, romance knocks on your door after July 2001. This person could be quite special. If you are attached, reach out for your loved one and share more of yourself. Vulnerability enhances your relationship. SCORPIO leads your fan club.

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) **** Deal with financial matters closely. Reach out for another. Be spontaneous, once you have cleared your to-do list. Reach out for those you want to have around you. Express your friendly ways. Do not forget to touch base with a parent or someone you care about. Tonight: Go to a concert or a holiday event.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** You don't always have to carry the weight for others. Make last-minute business calls, topped off with a few holiday ones. Others appreciate your thoughtfulness. Talk to that special

person in your life and ask for what you need (or want!). Tonight: Sit under the mistletoe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** Sometimes others don't work with you. Your incisiveness and ability to clear out work mark your actions. Review a present situation with an eye to possibilities. Do last-minute errands while touching base with a key loved one. Tonight: Start partaking in the holiday joy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Reach out for someone and listen to what he wants from you. Do not postpone errands too long. You have a lot of ground to cover. Trust your ability to get the job done. Others dump a lot of work and errands on you. Keep smiling. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Shore up errands and get your work done. Your ability to cruise through what needs to be done stuns another. Take out your dancing shoes and get into the holiday spirit. With the holiday around the corner, allow the child inside you to emerge. Tonight: Add some spice to the night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** You might feel pressured but, at the same time, you open doors for others. Be especially thoughtful of someone who might not have holiday plans. Your playfulness comes out, even if you are trying to be serious. Make a must appearance. Tonight: Head home.

HOROSCOPE

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Curb spending and take control of a money problem. Go for heartfelt communication. Others respond to your efforts. Take an overview and gain a perspective. Creativity comes through. Express your jovial side with others. Let the good times rock and roll. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Listen carefully to another. Speak your mind carefully during the next few weeks. Someone might want to help you and pitch in. Think about what you want from another. Ask for a wish or a long-term desire. You could go overboard trying to spread good news and cheer. Tonight: Go away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Step back a little and focus on completion and some personal matters. Later today, you will not have any time to yourself. Clear out any work as well. Reserve a decision about a financial matter for now. Others seek you out in the afternoon. Tonight: Let the whirlwind begin.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Gather with friends at work or at home. Celebration is the natural order of the day. Don't hold back any longer; express what is on your mind. Others do value your ideas. Your high energy helps another out. Still, plan on

some time to yourself. You have a lot to squeeze in. Tonight: Vanish when you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Clear out work ASAP. You get a lot done in the most effective manner possible. You are able to dig up information that helps you zero in on someone and what he wants. Happiness surrounds you and a friendship. Get together with others, paying special attention to a loved one. Tonight: Where the parties are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Be more aware of someone at a distance. Do something special here to make this person feel more in the holiday spirit. Sometimes actions speak louder than words. Bring others together this afternoon for the first of many celebrations. Share your feelings. Tonight: In the limelight.

BORNTODAY Baseball legends Steve Carlton (1944) and Steve Garvey (1948), TV journalist Diane Sawyer (1945) For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured is The Spoken Tarot. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa. Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>

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Rattled quilters try to do the right thing

DEAR ABBY: We have a unique problem and hope that you can help us. We are members of a quilt-making club. The quilts we make are well thought of. Once a year, we raffle off one of them, and therein lies our problem.

The man who won this year's quilt is not very well thought of. In fact, some people here consider him "scum." Nevertheless, his name was drawn, and we draw only once. The ladies were shocked. They stood there with their mouths open. Some of them said if they had known he would be the winner, they would not have worked so hard on the quilt. Others suggested that we draw again — which, in fact, we did.

Then one club member spoke up and said it wasn't fair. The man won the quilt fair and square. Buying a raffle ticket was the only requirement involved.

I can see no way around giving that man the quilt. I believe honesty is the best policy. Can you help us to do the right thing? — TROUBLE IN PARADISE

DEAR TROUBLE: Consider this: If you give the quilt to someone else, you will put yourselves on the same moral level as the man you have labeled as "scum." So do the honest thing — give him the quilt and hold a good thought. Perhaps the love and care that went into crafting it will rub off on him, and he'll be better for it.

DEAR ABBY: Both my grown daughters work, and I take care of their daughters for them. Granted, I have them only a few hours a day, but I still have to feed them and give them snacks and juice.

All I ask in return is \$20 for each child every two weeks to help pay for the food and beverages.

My older daughter says it's definitely worth it to her, as it would cost far more for someone else to care for her daughter. My younger daughter and her husband, however, are "throwing a fit. They insist that a grandmother should never charge money to watch her own grandchild. I also watch them on weekends and barely get a thank-you.

What is your opinion, Abby? Am I... A GRAND-

MA OR A DOORMAT?

DEAR GRANDMA: Twenty dollars per child for every two weeks seems reasonable to me. I'm sure you wouldn't ask your daughters to chip in if you didn't need the money. Your younger daughter is looking a gift horse in the mouth. Tell her to stop saying "nav" and pony up the money or provide her own lunches and snacks.

P.S. Your older daughter is right. Child care costs a bundle these days, and anyone who doubts it should check it out.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have this little disagreement about how to eat properly.

I eat with the fork in my left hand and my knife in my right hand. I have the fork facing downward, so I don't have to ever let go of my fork to eat. My girlfriend holds the utensil in the same hands, but she puts down her knife and switches her fork to her right hand to eat.

We saw on a Web site that both ways are correct. However, we want to have the final answer and figured you would be a good mediator. HUNGRY COUPLE, EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

DEAR HUNGRY COUPLE: You and your girlfriend are both eating "properly." You are doing it in the European style, and your girlfriend is doing it in the American style. You don't need a mediator. The person with the bone to pick needs to exercise a little more tolerance.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY JEWISH READERS: Happy and blessed Hanukkah!

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, my high school civics teacher gave us a choice for a project: Write a research paper or perform 20 hours of volunteer work and report on the experience. For not completely altruistic reasons, I chose the volunteer experience because I thought it sounded more interesting — not to mention easier!

That was one of the most memorable high school experiences I had. I didn't come from a perfect background (does anyone?), but it was good for me as an impressionable young person to see how those in true need lived. I will never forget rocking a baby who was born without eyes because his mother dallied with drugs during her pregnancy.

Most volunteer experiences aren't as sobering, but there is always something to learn. As a result

of that school project, I have led a life of volunteering — even if it is just an hour a week. In addition, I have introduced my children to the wonderful world of volunteering as young as age 3, and they love it. My parents were also volunteers.

Abby, please address the subject of volunteering with your readers. If they don't volunteer, they owe it to themselves to give it a try. It's a wonderful experience. Just when they think they will only be giving, lo and behold, they'll be receiving an education and a worthwhile experience.

GRATEFUL TO BE ABLE TO HELP, ST. PAUL, MINN.

DEAR GRATEFUL: I agree volunteering can be gratifying. I heartily recommend it. The subject has been mentioned in this column before. Years ago, I volunteered my time to the Red Cross as a "Gray Lady," reading and writing letters for shut-ins. Later I worked for the Mental Health Association and to raise funds for the March of Dimes.

Volunteer work is emotionally rewarding, a sure cure for the blues and a self-esteem builder. Some people have stumbled onto fulfilling career opportunities through volunteering at hospitals, schools, shelters, etc.

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is around the corner. Because our first child was due at Thanksgiving, I planned ahead and did as much of my shopping in advance as I could. The problem is, my husband's family expects everyone to buy presents for everyone else. This means we have to buy for 20 people! I don't mind buying for his parents and siblings, and even his grandparents, but the aunts, uncles and cousins are killing me.

We've bought everyone presents for the past two years and are still paying off credit cards from last year's purchases. I still have my parents and siblings to buy for, too. Money is tight because I'm off work now and will return to work only part time in a few months.

Abby, I don't see how we can afford to continue this tradition. My husband won't let me say anything to his family. Can you give me some advice? — WANTING A SIMPLER CHRISTMAS

DEAR WANTING: Only this: If you continue trying to adhere to his family's "traditions," your little fam-

ily will never be out of debt, and your financial burdens will continue to grow until they crush you. Since your husband won't "let" you explain this to his family, perhaps he will consent to accompany you to some credit counseling sessions. I hope they'll help him see the light.

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.)

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 per booklet (\$4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooks I and II, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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THURSDAY

DEC. 21

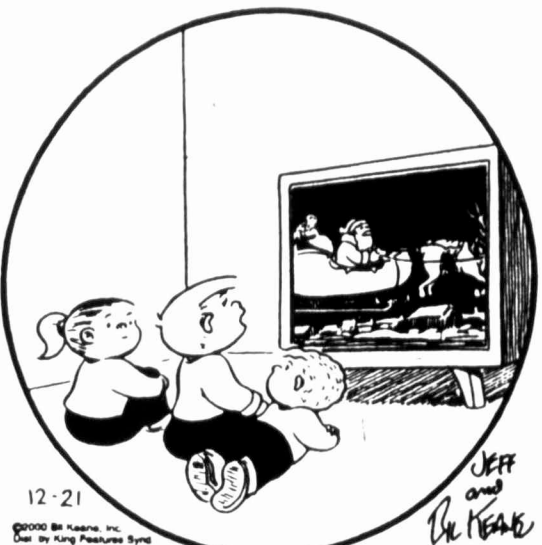
	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	TLC (41)
6:30 PM	News (CC) Fortune	Cosby (CC) Spin City (CC)	Wishbone Zoolomax	Polar Bears Frosty's Winter	News (CC) Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News (CC) Seinfeld (CC)	Fresh Prince Fresh Prince	Locura de Amor	The Ultimate Christmas (35) Movie: Present (CC)	Marital Law (CC)	(10) Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels	Against the Brotherhood (CC)	Inside the NFL (CC)	News John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	Providence (CC)	Trauma: Life
7:30 PM	Whose Line? Whose Line?	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (CC)	Scenic Rail Journeys	Movie: Special Delivery (CC) (DVS)	A Home for the Holidays	Whose Line? Whose Line?	Friends (CC) Cursed (CC)	(05) Movie: Vegas	Mujeres Enganadas	Present (CC) Movie: The Other Man (CC)	Classic Christmas	Two Smoking Barrels	Movie: The Wood (CC)	Inside the NFL (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	On the Inside	NBA Basketball Boston	Paramedics
8:30 PM	Be a Millionaire	Arrest & Trial Nanny (CC)	Nova (CC)	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)	48 Hours (CC)	Prison Break	ER (CC)	(15) Movie: Pink Cadillac	El Gran Blablazo	(15) Movie: Model Behavior (CC)	Marital Law (CC)	Strange Justice (CC)	Election (CC)	G-String Divas Inside the NFL	Hour of Healing	Investigative Reports (CC)	Atlanta Found?	Knicks (CC) NBA	Medical Medical
9:30 PM	News (CC) Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (CC) (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (CC) (35) Tonight	P. Jim to Noticiero Univ	Behavior (CC)	Marital Law (CC)	Strange Justice (CC)	Election (CC)	G-String Divas Inside the NFL	News Nathan Knight	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files	Movie: The Ref	Paramedics	
10:30 PM	Politically Inc. Cheers	Blind Date Suddenly	Irish in America	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (37) Late Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	(45) Movie: Viviana a la Medianoche	Zorro (CC) Micky Mouse	Amer. Shooter DucksUn	(40) Movie: The Visitors	(15) Movie: The Visitors	(CC) Curb-Entham	Promise Church	Biography (CC)	On the Inside	UFOs Over Phoenix	Movie: Murder by	
12:30 AM	Saturn Paid Program	Judge-Brown Cops (CC)	Long Journey Home (CC)	Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	(12:06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	Vegas Vacation	Marimar	Walt Disney Presents	Outdoors Trucks (CC)	Golden Gate	Movie: Feast of July (CC)	Faith Pleases God	Behind Closed Doors (CC)	UFOs Over Phoenix	Movie: Murder by	In the Mind of Criminal	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"OL' MARGARET DOESN'T BELIEVE IN YOU, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL SKIP HER HOUSE."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"If Santa has a designated driver, I hope he knows where we live."

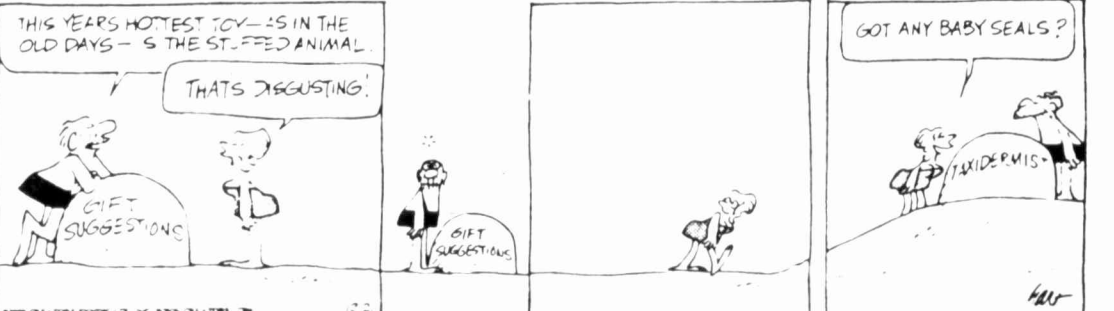
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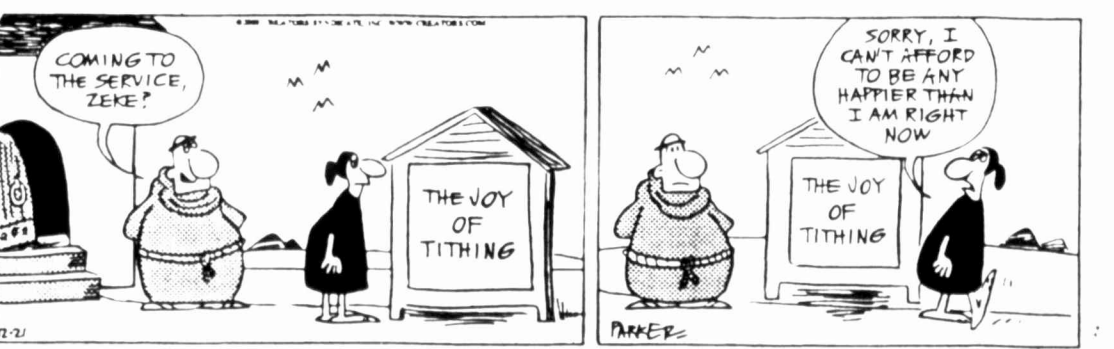
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GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Thursday, Dec. 21, the 356th day of 2000. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives in the Northern Hemisphere at 8:37 a.m. EST. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.
On this date:
In 1898, scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered the radioactive element radium.
In 1913, the first cross-

word puzzle was published, in the New York World.
In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.
In 1948, the state of Eire (formerly the Irish Free State) declared its independence.
In 1958, Charles de Gaulle was elected to a seven-year term as the first president of the Fifth Republic of France.
In 1968, Apollo VIII was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.
In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as secretary-general.
In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker Argo Merchant ran aground near Nantucket Island, spilling millions of gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.
In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.
In 1991, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States.
Today's Birthdays:
Former Austrian president and former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim is 82. Ventriloquist Paul Winchell is 78. Country singer Freddie Hart is 74. Actor Ed Nelson is 72. Talk show host Phil Donahue is 65. Movie director John Avildsen is 65. Actress Jane Fonda is 63. Singer Carla Thomas is 58. Musician Albert Lee is 57. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 56.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

TMSpuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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64									65			66

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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ACROSS

- Latticework for vines
- Start of Rick Pitino quote
- Swine
- Darken
- Sister/wife of Zeus
- On the waves
- Right-triangle ratios
- Bridge position
- Marriage token
- Fornicary resident
- Neisse line
- Muse of astronomy
- Part 2 of quote
- Sothorn and Sheridan
- Jacket feature
- Plant pests
- Singer Shannon
- Classified
- Sulks
- Part 3 of quote
- Postulate
- Stately tree
- Participated in an 8K
- Presumptuous
- Tilted
- Bard
- Part 4 of quote
- Only English pope
- Civil Rights activist Parks
- Cow's call
- Blueprint
- Help criminally
- Abrade
- Mears of auto racing
- Arrived
- Avid
- Vigoda and Burrows
- End of quote
- Molts
- Pindar product
- Echoes
- Steering devices
- Got wind (of)
- Pause fillers
- Instinctive
- March
- Mica in thin sheets
- Bottle resident?
- Epic tales
- Hubbubs
- Actor Torn
- Enticement
- Cordon (master chef)
- Simlan
- PAC beneficiary
- 100-yard dash or marathon?
- Put on
- God of the lower world
- Pen
- Harsh cry
- Omens
- Trigger's lunch
- Perform again

DOWN

- Ore analysis
- Horned beast, for short
- African language group
- Kin of raspberries
- Smooth, shiny lizards
- New Zealand parrot
- For the 'rme being, briefly
- Director Frank
- Improvise
- de menthe
- Man in the mirror?
- Well-known
- Live wires
- humbly!
- Colligate cheer