

WEDNESDAY

January 3, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 28°-30° THURSDAY 60°-65°

Volunteers sought for tax preparation

Volunteers are being sought for a program that offers free tax preparation assistance to local citizens.

Internal Revenue Service instructors will conduct a training session for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) workers and other interested people at the Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler beginning Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The class continues until Friday, Jan. 19, with sessions from 9 a.m.-noon each day. Persons who take the classes must pass a test before they begin assisting taxpayers with their returns.

For information, call the senior center, 267-1628 or Dorothy Kennemur, 399-5522.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Fraternal order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 704 W. 3rd.

THURSDAY

□ Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060 meets at Herman's, 7 a.m.

□ Intermediate line dance classes, 9 a.m. Senior Citizens Center, call 267-1628.

□ Genealogical Society of Big Spring, 7:15 p.m., Howard County Library.

□ Masonic Lodge No. 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

□ The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

□ Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

INSIDE TODAY...

- Abby 9
- Classified 8-9
- Comics 10
- General 3
- Horoscope 9
- Obituaries 2
- Opinion 4
- Sports 7

Vol. 98, No. 54

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City scurrying to empty recycling bids, find contractor for paper

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

During the holidays and icy road conditions, city crews have fallen behind in emptying the community's three recycling bins.



SHIVERS

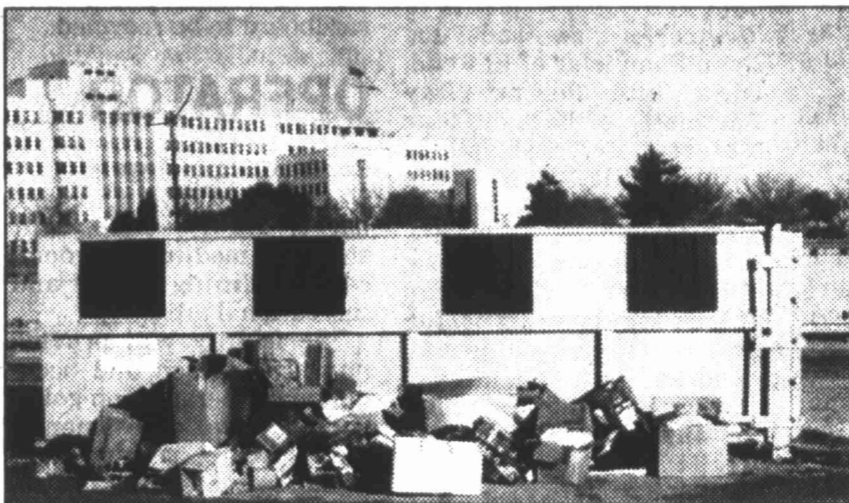
But it's likely few have noticed, except maybe those who have tried

to cram recyclables into already overstuffed bins.

Since the city does not have a contractor at the present time anyway, the paper and cardboard are just being baled, stacked and stored at the landfill, said Howard Shivers, solid waste superintendent.

"I'm basically looking for someone to give it to," said Shivers, who noted that paper recycling is not very profitable and attracts little

See **TRASH**, Page 2



Trash is stacked outside a recycling bin at Coronado Plaza. Due to the holidays and icy road conditions, city crews have fallen behind in emptying the three community recycling bins.

HERALD photo/Carl Graham

Operator found for veterans home

Final papers yet to be inked with Care Inn

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Final papers haven't been signed but a verbal agreement has been reached for a corporation to operate the Lusk-Sanchez-Lumun Veterans Home in Big Spring.

Care Inn Properties Inc. of San Antonio, which manages four nursing facilities in Texas and two in Arizona, is expected to take over operation of the facility by mid-January.

"We feel real comfortable about it, but all the contracts haven't been signed. Hopefully that will all be wrapped up within a week," said Charlotte Rogers, Care Inn vice president of operations. "We're very excited about serving the veterans of West Texas."

Rogers said the home will employ about 150 workers when it is full. She expects the home to open in early to mid February. There is still some construction to be completed, plus moving in of furniture and other details to be accomplished.

"We've begun working while we were negotiating the contract. I was in Big Spring on Saturday to look it over and I was really impressed. It's absolutely beautiful," Rogers said.



HERALD photo/Carl Graham

A verbal agreement has been reached with Care Inn Properties Inc. of San Antonio to operate the Lusk-Sanchez-Lumun Veterans Home in Big Spring. Assuming contracts are signed, the company could take over operations by mid-January.

The Texas Veterans Land Board had been seeking an operator for the facility for the past several months. The Park Associates had originally been contracted to operate the Big Spring veterans home and three others being built around the state. However, the company pulled out of the contract after liability insurance saw a hike in the average annual rate per bed from \$800 to \$2,300.

Other companies had balked as well, noting that with insurance so high it

would be almost to make a profit operating the homes. However, the problem has been solved by reclassifying the homes so they fall within a lower rate, according to an official with the state board of insurance.

Recently, operators were found for the homes in Temple and Floresville. Both facilities are expected to open early this year.

The Temple home will be run by Weston Inn VA, LLC a family-owned business that operates three long-term care facilities — one

in Temple and two in Bryan-College Station. The Floresville facility will be operated by the Wilson County Memorial Hospital District. An operator is still being sought for the fourth veterans home, located in Bonham.

When it opens, the 160-bed home in Big Spring will include a 32-bed Alzheimer's unit with a secure courtyard. Facilities will include a central dining area, library.

See **OPERATOR**, Page 2

Stock shows

Glasscock Co. event to begin on Thursday; others follow

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

GARDEN CITY — Opening of the second Project Fair and set up for the Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show began today as the community is in for a fast-paced weekend.

"We're looking forward to it. We expect a real good stock show," said Steve Sturtz, Glasscock County extension agent.

The Howard County Junior Livestock Show is set next week, Wednesday through Saturday, Jan. 13. The Martin County Junior Livestock Show in Stanton will be held Jan. 12-13.

It is just the second year for the Glasscock County Project Fair, which county officials hope will become a



STURTZ

See **SHOW**, Page 2

Bus driver arrested; travelers had urged him to slow down

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

The 43-year-old driver of an Americanos passenger bus was arrested on a charge of reckless driving after the bus swerved and flipped on its side on Interstate 20 Tuesday.

Pedro Rodriguez of El Paso was arrested by Department of Public Safety trooper Weldon Jones and taken to the Howard County Jail.

Rodriguez was driving a bus with 37 passengers on board when the vehicle turned over at the east end of Howard County, less than two miles from the Mitchell County line.

According to Jones, the accident appears to be caused by the bus traveling at high rate of speed on ice.

The company's insurance

agent is currently investigating the accident and legal counsel was sent for the driver, said Al Penedo, president of Americanos USA.

Juan Rosales, a passenger, said the bus had already run into icy road conditions before its stop in Midland.

"The bus swerved a little bit and hit a rail," Rosales said. "The driver got control of the bus. People were scared and told the driver to slow down but he didn't."

Rosales, who was returning to Dallas after visiting El Paso, said he fell asleep after the first incident and woke up 30 seconds before the bus turned on its side.

"I woke up and there was yelling and screaming," he said. "I got up and saw the bus tilting and swerving all

See **DRIVER**, Page 2



HERALD photo, Lyndel Moody

Juan Rosales relaxes at Scenic Mountain Medical Center after being on an Americanos passenger bus that crashed on an icy Interstate 20 Tuesday. Thirty-three passengers were injured.

Emergency personnel worked together to help victims

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

After an Americanos passenger bus crashed on Interstate 20 Tuesday, area emergency services worked together to respond to the mass casualties.

Big Spring, Mitchell County and Coahoma EMS, along with Department of Safety troopers, Big Spring police

and Howard County sheriff deputies, responded to the accident, which sent 33 people to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

The bus crashed after hitting a patch of ice on Interstate 20 less than two miles from the Mitchell County line.

Emergency personnel responded to the accident while freezing rain and snow fell, adding to the already-hazardous conditions.

"Initially, two Big Spring units were dispatched to the scene because they knew our response time would be slower," said Department of Safety Trooper Weldon Jones,

investigating officer. "They surveyed the situation and let everybody know what was happening."

As he arrived, Jones said he saw a scene of mass activity, with emergency services working together to handle the situation.

"When I arrived I saw were patrol cars, volunteers who had given up their cars so victims would have a place to sit down, people standing, injured people on the ground and people still in the bus," he said. "The fire department was there cutting a hole in the top of the bus — all of this on a sheet of ice."

"We were able to send trained personnel immediately," said Brian Jensen, Big Spring fire chief. "We sent three ambulances and two engines."

According to Jensen, the fact that city firefighters are given medical meant the department did not have to delay in dispatching enough personnel to handle the situation.

Compounding the challenge of a large-scale emergency was that many passengers did not speak English.

See **CHALLENGE**, Page 2

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Bush

AUSTIN
President-elect plucked a Democrat the Clinton ad to go with two Republicans as ed his Cab Tuesday, 2-1/2 his inaugural Bush named Secretary N Mineta to Department Transportation ed Sen. Spencer Michigan to be retary and Li who served as

Senator of prison for sev

GARLAND (search contin heavily arm inmates accuse police officer, maker calle Legislature to how the pri failed to stop t Sen. Carlos T hoped joint he matter would in the next few "I think th Texas want to problems due caused the es violent crim what's being vent further Truan, D-Cor was quoted as San Antonio E "The Legis also like to kn the fact that w ated billions the prison sy being asked to half-billion d this legislative said. "This es speak well of t tem."

Law enforce continued to c hundreds of l in their searc The fugitives i guise and are hiding in the said Texas D Criminal

Officer ac of making walk hom in her un

NEW YORK woman has Suffolk Count cer of orderin down to her u walk home in punishment f failing a sobri New Year's Da "It was the r ing experienc said Angelina was scared. I cold." The Suffolk (Department is the allegatio placed the offi istrative leave Torres said Long Island Monday mor fight with h She pulled off a short while. said her ls Gramer. An officer ti to check on he gave Torres t tests — one failed — the her and plac back of his Gramer said. Torres said drove her aro a half-hour be near her hom then told her ly made "the home naked," a lesson," cou Tuesday alleg Gramer sai ordered Tor down to her u walk the rem five blocks to rying her c Torres began officer event and let her w

BIG SPRING
AROUND THE TOWN

TEXAS LOTTERY Pick 3: 7,6,4

Cash 5: 38,34,27,4,5

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

They were at the hospital. "Mass casualties like this overwhelm resources," Jensen said. "All the emergency services worked well together."

"I was proud that all the agencies worked together in this crisis," said Walker. "Everybody working together as a team helped get the job done."

Man's death in front of Cornell prison was suicide

The death of a 24-year-old man that occurred Monday in front of a Cornell Corrections facility has been ruled a suicide, officials said.

According to Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Bennie Green, the death of Jarrod Seth Richardson, 24, of Big Spring, was due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

According to Big Spring Police Department spokesman Sgt. Roger Sweatt, the department had received a call for assistance from the Cornell Corrections Interstate Unit, 1801 W. I-20, at approximately 3:30 a.m. The caller said an individual had shot himself in front of the facility; EMS was dispatched.

Green said he pronounced Richardson dead at approximately 5:25 a.m. Monday at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where the victim had been taken by ambulance.

Richardson had been a correctional officer with Cornell and had attained the rank of sergeant. No autopsy was ordered, according to Sweatt.

POLICE

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

- a.m. today:
- JOSE JIMENEZ, no age available, of 806 E. 12th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
 - ELAINE BARRAZA, no age available, of 3807 Connally, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of a controlled substance.
 - ASSAULT was reported in the 1300 block of Lindberg.

The Big Spring Police Department issued the following weekend summary of events ending at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1, 2001:

- A G G R A V A T E D ASSAULT, 1.
- ASSAULT BY THREAT/DW, 1.
- ASSAULT BY THREAT/CLASS C, 1.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE, 3.
- ASSAULT BY THREAT/FAMILY VIOLENCE, 1.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE CLASS A, 1.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION, 4.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE, 1.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, 3.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, 3.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED, 3.
- EVADING ARREST, 2.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY, 2.
- HARRASSMENT, 1.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, 1.
- THEFT, 5.

RECORDS

Tuesday's high 29
Tuesday's low 25
Average high 55
Average low 26
Record high 83 in 1997
Record low 0 in 1947
Precip. Tuesday 0.00
Month to date 2.24
Month Normal 0.97
Year to date 17.84
Normal for the year 18.07
Sunrise Thursday 7:47 a.m.
Sunset Thursday 5:53 p.m.

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ship; Stanley Young of Lubbock, swine and swing showmanship; Ross Stultz of Menard, lamb and lamb showmanship; and Charlie Rhodes of Lubbock, rabbit and rabbit showmanship.

DRIVER

Continued from Page 1

over the place."

Rosales said that he as well as many of the passengers stood up from their seats as the bus swerved.

He then saw people being tossed about and grabbed his bus seat, which had some handles, he said. The bus landed on the right side, he said.

"Everybody got out. The police were really good. They helped out a lot."

Big Spring EMS transported 15 patients to Scenic Mountain Medical Center from the accident, which occurred about 5 a.m. Mitchell County and Coahoma EMS assisted in helping victims and a hospital spokesperson said some were taken to hospitals by private vehicle.

Rosales, who suffered a bump on the head, said he received a ride to Scenic Mountain Medical Center by a motorist who stopped to help.

"Some cars stopped and helped the authorities," he said. "I was glad no one died."

DPS troopers on the scene were assisted by Howard County sheriff's deputies and the Big Spring police.

"We treated 33 patients from the accident for injuries ranging from bruises and fractures to lacerations and one in serious condition," said Sheila Chandler, marketing coordinator for Scenic Mountain Medical Center. "We had five admitted into the hospital."

Scenic Mountain Medical Center helped Rosales and other passengers to get in touch with family members.

The Howard County Sheriff's Office arranged transportation to take the passengers to the Salvation Army while they awaited a way home.

"We picked up those at the Salvation Army and drove them to Midland where they took a flight to Dallas," Penedo said.

The bus driver was released Tuesday from the Howard County Jail on a \$1,500 bond.

According to Penedo, the company conducts reference checks on all its drivers.

CHALLENGE

Continued from Page 1

"We handle this on a daily basis," said Jensen. "When we show up people know we are there to help. We do have some Spanish-speaking firefighters and we carry flip charts containing basic Spanish."

Deputy Juan Parra, who speaks Spanish, was at the scene and helped translate, said Sheriff Dale Walker. Deputy Tony Chavez, who also speaks Spanish, stayed with the passengers while

bins today. He said the slowdown should not discourage people from recycling.

"Just hang on; we will get there," he said.

A bin at Coronado Plaza was filled to overflowing this morning, with boxes and stacks set outside the bin. Similar containers at Big Spring Mall and the corner of Fifth and Nolan streets accept paper and cardboard to be recycled.

OPERATOR

Continued from Page 1

barber/beauty shop, gift shop, a meditation room, central dining areas and recreational areas.

The facility will provide physical, speech and occupational therapy, on-going health care assessments, hospice care, respite care, social services, therapeutic activities and wound care.

Currently, Care Inn Properties is seeing an administrator and a director of nursing for the facility. Others will be hired once Care Inn takes over operation of the home.

"We're looking forward to working with the community of Big Spring in serving our veterans," said Rogers. "We definitely believe in the team spirit of having the community work with our managers."

Rogers described Care Inn as a "small, growing company, whose owners have 25-plus years in the business." One of the six facilities operated by Care Inn is Snyder Oaks Care Center in Snyder.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1

tradition held in conjunction with the annual stock show.

The fair, which begins today and continues through Thursday, gives citizens the opportunity to enter arts and crafts, baked goods and the like in various age divisions. It is being held at the Glasscock County Senior Center.

"It's a community type thing, not just for kids," said Sturtz. "It's open to all ages."

Preparation for the stock show got under way today at the school bus barn, where all of the events will be held. Weigh-in for the rabbits, pigs and sheep will begin Thursday morning, with the rabbit show set for a 1 p.m. start. The sheep show will follow at 4 p.m.

The swine show will open Friday's activities at 9 a.m. Goats will be weighed in at noon, followed by the steer show at 2 p.m.

The final show of the three-day event — but not the end of the activities — begins at 8 a.m. Saturday with judging of the goats. One of the highlights of the show for the community is the Pig Scramble, set to begin at 11.

Those in attendance will then partake of a barbecue meal at noon. The awards presentation follows at 1:30 and the premium sale gets under way at 2.

"We have 163 kids showing livestock this year at the show. That's up slightly. We had 161 kids last year," said Sturtz.

Judges include Vance Christie of Big Spring, meat goats and goat showmanship; Dennis Pool of Gail, cattle and cattle showman-

OBITUARIES

Gay Hart

Funeral service for Gay Hart, 64, of Fort Worth, will be 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001, at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. Burial will be in Shannon Rose Hill Memorial Park.

Mrs. Hart died Monday, Jan. 1, at a Fort Worth hospital.

She was a member of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church and a housewife.

Survivors include: two sons, Bill Postier of Willow Park and Bobby Hart of Midland; two daughters, Vicki Vinson and Linda Hart, both of Fort Worth; three brothers, Amos Jones of Corpus Christi, Isaac Jones of Brenham and Gary Jones of Big Spring; three sisters, Norma Patterson of Midland, Beverlyn Jones and Iris Baucam, both of Big Spring; and six grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Shannon Hill Funeral Chapel in Fort Worth.

Randal "Scottie" Scarborough

No funeral service is planned at this time for Randal "Scottie" Scarborough, 45, of San Angelo who died on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2000, in a Big Spring hospital.

He was born on May 25, 1955 and served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Survivors include: his father, James E. Scarborough of Houston; his mother, Marjorie Hamilton of San Angelo; two sisters, Toddy Ann Brown and Candy G. Sheppard both of San Angelo; two brothers, James L. Scarborough of Irving and Andy J. Scarborough of Spearman and his grandmother, Verna Lee Mahon of San Angelo.

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

Josie Condron Phemister

Funeral service for Josie Condron Phemister, 81, formerly of Big Spring, was Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2001, at Merriman-Archer Funeral Chapel in Throckmorton with the Rev. Edgar Jones officiating. Burial was at Throckmorton Cemetery.

Mrs. Phemister died Dec. 30 in a Fort Worth nursing home.

She was born on Nov. 21,

1919, in Paducah. She moved from Weatherford to Fort Worth in January of 1998. She married Leonard Phemister on Dec. 30, 1939, in Throckmorton. He preceded her in death on Feb. 10, 1995.

Survivors include: one daughter, Jerry Troutz of Weatherford; two sons, Joe Lynn Phemister of El Reno, Okla. and Tommy Ray Phemister of Palmer; four sisters, Joy Shaw of Duncanville, Vennie Edwards of Louisville, Ky., Mozelle Reece of Calif., Jean Henderson of Odessa; one brother, J.F. Condran of Eustace; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were under the direction of Merriman-Archer Funeral Home, Throckmorton.

Manuel Valenzuela

Rosary for Manuel Valenzuela, 46, of Lamesa, will be 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001, at Branon Funeral Home Chapel in Lamesa. Funeral service will be Friday, Jan. 5, at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Lamesa with Daniel Valenzuela officiating; burial will be in Lamesa Memorial Park.

Mr. Valenzuela died Monday, Jan. 1.

He was born May 18, 1954, and married Edilia Martinez on April 1, 1998. He was a butcher for Wal-Mart Super Center in Big Spring. He was a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church.

Survivors include: his wife Edilia Valenzuela of Lamesa; his parents, Juan and Anita Valenzuela Sr. of Lamesa; step-daughter, Patsy M. Yanez of Midland; two step-sons, Abel Martinez Jr. and Antonio Martinez, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Virginia Valenzuela of Lamesa and Anita Valenzuela of Dallas; four brothers, Juan Valenzuela Jr., Gomez Valenzuela, Daniel Valenzuela and Gustavo Valenzuela, all of Lamesa; two step-grandchildren and a niece.

Arrangements are under the direction of Branon Funeral Home in Lamesa.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1

interest among industry. In some cases, trucking the recyclables to their destination costs a company more than the goods are worth on the market.

Shivers said he is working with a San Angelo company that might take the paper, but their requirements are such that more manpower would be needed for sorting. Metal is taken by a Midland company for recycling, but it does not deal in paper, he added.

"We are just holding it, waiting to see what we can find out," Shivers said. Recycle Midland took some of the paper recently, and may do so again, but a permanent contractor is needed.

Meanwhile, bins that are normally emptied once a week were missed during the busy holidays and bad weather. Shivers said his crews will try to empty the

MYERS & SMITH
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Lou Alma Bobo, 94, died Monday. Services were 10 AM, today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial was in Trinity Memorial Park.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH
Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-8281
George Grimes, 94, died Sunday. Services will be 10:00 AM Friday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Thursday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the funeral home.

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Office Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, Texas Press Association and Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.
Published alternate Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Christmas day. All rights reserved. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1491, Big Spring, Texas 79701. Postoffice postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 149-140.

Big Spring Herald
ISSN 0745-8111
USPS 955-240
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Bush completes Cabinet with Mineta, Abraham and Chavez

AUSTIN (AP) — President-elect Bush plucked a Democrat from the Clinton administration to go with two conservative Republicans as he completed his Cabinet picks Tuesday, 2-1/2 weeks before his inauguration.

Bush named Commerce Secretary Norman Y. Mineta to head the Department of Transportation, just-dfeated Sen. Spencer Abraham of Michigan to be energy secretary and Linda Chavez, who served as director of

the civil rights commission under President Reagan, to be secretary of labor.

Bush had pledged to select a Democrat for his Cabinet. "This man is perfectly suited for the job," Bush said at a news conference announcing the trio of nominations. "It's also important to send a signal that this is an administration that recognizes talent when it sees it, regardless of political party."

Mineta, 69, reaffirmed his allegiance to his party, declaring at the news con-

ference: "I am a Democrat with both a small 'd' and a large one."

But with the election over, Mineta said, it is time to move from campaigning to governing.

Mineta set conditions for accepting the job, a White House official said, insisting he would not campaign for Republicans and wanted to choose his own subordinates.

The former California congressman had campaigned for Democrat Al Gore and had questioned Bush's

forthrightness following recent revelations of a drunk driving arrest in Maine dating back to 1976.

"That's something he has to answer, especially since he's been bashing Gore on that same issue" of truthfulness, Mineta told the San Jose Mercury News days before the election. "It turns out he's not been as forthright."

Mineta would claim a rare place in American history, apparently becoming the first Cabinet officer to jump straight from the adminis-

tration of one party to the succeeding administration of another.

Edwin Stanton served as attorney general in the administration of President Buchanan, a Democrat, and later was war secretary for Buchanan's successor, Republican President Lincoln, but there was a break between the two appointments.

And James Schlesinger served as defense secretary under GOP Presidents Nixon and Ford, leaving in 1975; in 1977, he joined the

Democratic Carter administration as energy secretary.

Bush called his team of nominees "one of the strongest that I think any president has ever been able to assemble."

In 1996 and again in 1999, Abraham was one of several senators who sponsored legislation calling for the abolition of the Energy Department, which has recently been mired in questions about security at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The bills died.

Senator urges investigation of prison system as search for seven escapees continues

GARLAND (AP) — As the search continued for seven heavily armed escaped inmates accused of killing a police officer, a Texas lawmaker called on the Legislature to investigate how the prison system failed to stop the breakout.

Sen. Carlos Truan said he hoped joint hearings on the matter would be conducted in the next few weeks.

"I think the people of Texas want to know what problems developed that caused the escape of these violent criminals and what's being done to prevent further escapes," Truan, D-Corpus Christi, was quoted as saying in the San Antonio Express-News.

"The Legislature would also like to know in light of the fact that we've appropriated billions of dollars to the prison system and are being asked to appropriate a half-billion dollars more this legislative session," he said. "This escape doesn't speak well of the prison system."

Law enforcement officials continued to comb through hundreds of leads Tuesday in their search for a gang. The fugitives may be in disguise and are believed to be hiding in the Dallas area, said Texas Department of Criminal Justice

spokesman Larry Todd.

While authorities said they appreciated numerous calls about possible sightings of the escaped convicts, "We know they're not in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, El Paso and, Texarkana at the same time," Todd said.

Hundreds of TDCJ employees as well as the FBI, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Texas Department of Public Safety were working around the clock to find the convicts. The agencies have established a command post in Garland, a suburb east of Dallas.

"It is a massive manhunt and one of the largest in recent history," Todd said.

The fugitives are likely to have changed their appearances through facial hair or disguises, Todd said, but are believed to be together. Additional photos of the escaped convicts, some obtained from family members, have been posted on the TDCJ Website.

"If they had separated, we feel there would have been contact or sightings," Todd said. "If an inmate is working alone, he's more likely to make a mistake. By working together, they remain elusive."

IRS offers paperless e-filing as tax season opens

WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS finally is making electronic tax filing truly paperless and projects that 42 million taxpayers will choose the e-file option this year, 20 percent more than last year's record high number.

People who want to zap their returns to the IRS will select unique five-digit personal identification numbers instead of mailing in a separate paper signature form, which had hindered more rapid growth of e-filing, IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti said.

"People made fun of us: 'You've got electronic filing, but then you've got to

file a piece of paper.' It didn't make a lot of sense," Rossotti said. "This really makes electronic filing paperless."

About 35 million returns were e-filed in 2000, including some with PINs chosen for taxpayers by the IRS. About 5 million e-file returns came from people using home computers, with the rest sent by paid preparers.

To confirm the taxpayer's identity, the IRS also wants e-filers to include adjusted gross income and tax amounts from last year's returns. A proposed \$10 credit to offset any electronic filing fees failed to pass

Congress, but Rossotti says benefits of e-filing include faster refunds, greater accuracy and confirmation that the return was received.

Tax preparation software and many Internet sites include an e-file option, often but not always for a fee. Taxes owed can be paid electronically using many major credit cards or via direct debit from a bank account.

In addition, the IRS is adding 23 forms to the list that can be filed electronically, meaning almost every individual taxpayer can now use the e-file system.

"It's going to help growth

because it gets us into taxpayers that haven't been able to do it before," said Terry Lutes, acting IRS electronic tax director.

The new electronic filing system is one of many changes effective for this tax filing season, which ends this year at midnight April 16. The traditional deadline, April 15, falls on a Sunday.

About 40 million IRS tax packages and 17 million tax-related postcards will begin showing up in America's mailboxes in the coming weeks. People who e-filed last year will get information on how the new PIN system works.

Employees to sue Microsoft for discrimination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seven current and former Microsoft Corp. employees are planning to sue the computer software maker for discrimination, citing racial bias, the plaintiffs' lawyers said.

The suit, to be filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Wednesday, asks for \$5 billion, the lawyers said in a statement. This is the second bias suit against the Redmond, Wash.-based company in the past three months.

The plaintiffs include four employees based in Washington and three more

in Washington state. The complaint alleges discrimination in evaluations, compensation, promotions, wrongful termination and retaliation.

Microsoft's last notable case in the Washington federal court was the antitrust lawsuit filed by the Justice Department and several states in which District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ordered the company split in two. That case is under appeal.

Microsoft spokesman Dean Katz said Tuesday that he had not seen the lawsuit, but that his company was committed to diversity.

"Microsoft does not tolerate discrimination in any of its employment practices, and we are committed to treating all of our employees fairly," Katz said. "We take these kinds of issues very seriously."

Katz said blacks make up 2.7 percent of Microsoft's domestic work force, but all minorities comprise 22.7 percent of the company's workers, he said.

"We're pleased with the progress we've made in increasing the number of minorities working at Microsoft. That said, there are still a number of things we can do to stimulate inter-

est among minorities in the technical fields," he said, citing the nearly \$100 million in grants Microsoft has given to organizations to stimulate interest in tech jobs among women and minorities.

The firm of Willie E. Gary, the Florida lawyer who brought the suit, did not return a call seeking details Tuesday.

In October, a lawyer representing a black female plaintiff filed a suit against Microsoft claiming racial and gender bias. That suit, which also requested an injunction against further discrimination by

Officer accused of making woman walk home in her underwear

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman has accused a Suffolk County police officer of ordering her to strip down to her underwear and walk home in the snow as punishment for allegedly failing a sobriety test early New Year's Day.

"It was the most humiliating experience of my life," said Angelina Torres, 27. "I was scared. I was freezing cold."

The Suffolk County Police Department is investigating the allegations and has placed the officer on administrative leave.

Torres said she left a Long Island bar early Monday morning after a fight with her boyfriend. She pulled off the highway a short while later in tears, said her lawyer, Gary Gramer.

An officer then pulled up to check on her. The officer gave Torres three sobriety tests — one of which she failed — then handcuffed her and placed her in the back of his patrol car, Gramer said.

Torres said the officer drove her around for almost a half-hour before stopping near her home. The officer then told her that he usually made "the guys" walk home naked, "to teach them a lesson," court papers filed Tuesday alleged.

Gramer said the officer ordered Torres to strip down to her underwear and walk the remaining four or five blocks to her home carrying her clothes. After Torres began walking, the officer eventually relented and let her wear her coat.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John H. Walker
Publisher

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

Our public employees do great job

Icy weather that held West Texas in its grip for the third time in recent months Tuesday morning gave us pause to consider the efforts made by a great many of public employees.

Frigid temperatures meant that Big Spring city crews continued their round-the-clock efforts on a number of fronts. Water department employees — having already repaired more than 40 waterline breaks — dealt with 12 more major breaks, aided by employees from the city's cemetery department, code enforcement and airport department personnel.

Meanwhile, employees from the city's street department and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) crews were out on the streets early Tuesday, spreading gravel on icy intersections, overpasses and bridges in an effort to make the area's roadways passable.

And a flurry of traffic accidents, including one that involved an overturned tour bus on Interstate 20 east of Coahoma, saw emergency personnel from the Big Spring EMS, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Big Spring Police Department, Big Spring Fire Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Mitchell County EMS and Coahoma EMS respond to citizens' needs.

Sadly, little thanks seems to find its way to those who make our lives more comfortable and much safer under such conditions.

When we turn on the tap in our kitchen, few of us consider that someone has probably had to wade in icy, waist-deep water to make sure a broken main hasn't robbed us of service.

Others bring their vehicles to a stop at an icy intersection, thanks to the efforts of road crews, and immediately complain why more wasn't done.

Then there are those who patrol the slick, dangerous roadways they advise us not to travel, and those who know full well that their jobs require them to respond to whatever emergency arises, regardless of the danger involved.

And today, with warmer temperatures forecast and our roadways again clear of ice, we here at the *Herald* want to let each of those public servants know they're appreciated.

Each of them needs to know we consider their work nothing short of a job well done.

How To CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - Letters of a political nature will not be published during an election.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
 - Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CRTs pose an environmental threat

The EPA estimates that in 1999 some 20 million personal computers in the United States became obsolete, and they pose a significant near-future threat to the environment.

A study conducted that year by the National Safety Council's Environmental Health Center found that by 2004 the figure will soar to 315 million obsolete computers, causing the public to deal with billions of pounds of lead and plastics, millions of pounds of cadmium and hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury.

Of the 20 million obsolete computers, 86 percent were dumped into landfills, burned in incinerators, shipped to overseas landfills, or were put in basements or attics, posing a significant environmental threat. Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) found in computer monitors and televisions

are made up of as much as 27 percent lead. Ted Smith, executive director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition says, "If you landfill a CRT, it will get crushed in the process. The fine particles of glass laced with lead eventually degrade. With rainfall getting into the dump site, the water will become contaminated with lead, and that lead-filled water will leach out of the landfill and into the groundwater."

According to EPA representatives, there are no federal laws specifically dealing with the disposal of personal computers. Moreover, "Used computer monitors or televisions generated by households are not considered hazardous waste and are not regulated under federal regulations."

Businesses and other organizations are not regulated under most federal requirements if the facility discards less than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste. However, "Wastes from facilities that generate more than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste per month are regulated under federal law when disposed." Such businesses must send their computers to permitted

hazardous waste landfills.

Some states, however, have taken the initiative and banned the disposal of old computers and televisions at landfills. In Massachusetts, it is illegal to dispose of these products at landfills or combustion facilities. Instead, the state is implementing a program to promote recycling. Florida has a similar program in effect but no laws on the books that prohibit the disposal of CRTs in landfills.

Thus far, the EPA is recommending that companies and individuals look toward donating old PCs or recycling them. The Internet Nonprofit Center and Share the Technology provide lists of organizations seeking computer donations, such as Boys & Girls Clubs, nonprofit organizations and schools.

Recycling, however, is not cheap. According to the EPA, "The material value of retired electronic equipment does not cover the cost of dismantling or preparing the component materials for market. Prices for recycling old electronic products vary widely, depending on geographic area, quantities

and other issues."

Renee St. Denis at Hewlett-Packard's Roseville, Calif., recycling facility says, "The cost of recycling — because there is a cost, it doesn't happen for free and it doesn't generate positive revenues — has never been a part of the commercial equation. To this day, the industry-wide solution to what we call 'breakage' (the mixed plastics, metals and glass left over after all the usable parts have been taken) is to put that stuff in a container and ship it to China."

In Europe, there has been a move to force manufacturers of electronic products to develop take-back programs for obsolete items. The European Commission has drafted the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive that, if passed, will hold producers legally responsible for recycling and reusing their products. It would also gradually phase out the use of some of the more dangerous toxins. This directive faces tough opposition from U.S. companies that produce electronics. We cannot be on the wrong side of this issue.



JACK ANDERSON



How to be a resourceful traveler

Wmove about the country occasionally on Southwest Airlines 737s. The rows

have three seats across and we feel really fortunate when the seat in the middle of our row is vacant. It gives us a lot more room. On a recent trip to California I discovered a way to nearly guarantee an empty middle seat. We usually put a bunch of stuff in that seat: camera bags, purses, magazines, newspapers, pillows, anything to give it lots of bulk. In my aisle seat, I lean forward to make passage by me look almost impossible.

But here's the clincher. Just get the bag and open it and sit there holding it close to your face. That will send the people looking for a seat pass you by in a hurry. You can then travel in comfort. We had fun in California. We had no schedule, no real agenda. We just wanted to visit our son and see his new recording studio in



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

San Francisco. He produces music for movies and television. We were driving around Haight-Asbury and passed a movie house. He told us he did the music for the movie that was showing. Proud? You bet!

I stood on all four corners of the intersection of Haight and Asbury streets. A fellow reporter told me if I would go there I would get a surge of energy. I certainly felt a sense of history as I gazed about the birthplace of flower power. The colorful hippie vans have been replaced by respectable-looking stores. A Gap was on one corner.

One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to Auburn, where my wife's cousin lives. He has a spa and we spent an afternoon in the steam room and on the massage table. I'm still enjoying that experience. The massage lasted an hour and a half. We were relaxed and energized.

Every time we go to San Francisco we plan to go further up the coast to see more of northern California. But somehow we keep getting sidetracked. There is so much to see and do within a hundred miles of the city by the bay.

I guess we're just going to have to fly to Seattle or Portland and work our way

down.

This trip we traveled along the Russian river and ended up at the seaside community of Jenner. We spent the night at River's End, a small retreat on the side of a mountain. We sat on our balcony sipping a local wine, listening to the roar of the ocean and watching the sunset. The temperature was perfect. We left our window open so we could hear the pounding surf from our bed. The next morning we walked along the beach and saw seals and surfers.

That day we toured Korbel Champagne Cellars and Dry Creek Winery. Both are in Sonoma county, where the fall colors were at their peak, although it was nearly winter. Even the grapevines had leaves of red and orange.

Korbel makes beer, wine and brandy in addition to champagne. In previous trips to California we had sampled some Dry Creek Chardonnay that we liked, so we bought some and brought it home with us. Wineries and vineyards in Sonoma county have tours, gift shops, delicatessens, restaurants and beautiful grounds. They are popular tourist destinations.

We like to travel. On the way home we wrote down places we want to go.

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- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
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Phone: 202-224-5922
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- **JOHN CORNYN**
Attorney General
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Austin, 78711-2548
Phone: 1-800-252-8011

- HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
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- **Ben Lockhart**, county judge
— Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.
- **EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.
- **JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724;
Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
- **BAL 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.
- **GEO BOGSON** — 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): 263-7381.
- **CHUCK CANTON** — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1442.
- **TOMMY TUNE** — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.
- **JOANN SMOOT** — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-

Mallard, Fillmore
by BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard's 2001 New Year's Predictions:

Following the lead of the P.R. Group that changed the name of Dried Flamingo

Washington, D.C.'s board of tourism will spearhead an initiative... to refer to the city's bloggers as 'Greasers'!

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By DEBBIE L. J.
Features Editor

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Expert says this year, resolve to lose fat, not weight

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

One of the most common new year's resolutions is to lose weight. This year, Paula Hunt wants to change all that.

"What's important is not the weight," said Hunt, director of the Dora Roberts Wellness Center, "it's the percentage of body fat."

With a new Futrex 5000 device, which uses infrared light, Hunt is checking body fat levels regularly for her clients.

"People think they need to lose weight," she said. "Too many of them don't understand body fat, and the risks involved with a higher percentage."

At the wellness center, which is inside Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, clients lose body fat with a plan of regular exercise, both resistance (or weight-bearing) and cardiovascular.

While some fat is necessary to cushion bodily organs, many people are carrying too much. By exercising at a target heart rate, which is different for each person, Hunt said, you will burn fat.

Resistance training, also, has benefits that include reversing and preventing osteoporosis, arthritis and

other conditions.

"For women, it is extremely important," Hunt said, naming three critical health areas to improve: flexibility, grip strength and balance.

"If you can maintain all of these, you can reverse the effects of some health conditions and make your life much better," Hunt said.

Balance, for example, can be regained among the elderly, preventing falls. Flexibility, she added, would go a long way toward preventing injuries as well.

"If people could take a hot shower and stretch five minutes a day, they wouldn't fall anymore," Hunt said.

While she does urge them to exercise on a regular schedule determined according to weight, health, age and other factors, Hunt said she does not encourage dieting.

"I don't put people on a restrictive diet," she said. "I think moderation is key. A high-fat diet eventually will catch up to you, but a little bit of everything is the best way to eat."

Fad diets such as those high in protein should be avoided, she said.

"What we've always been taught about a balanced diet, it's true," Hunt said. "People often eat too much protein (such as in meat) and the excess stores as fat,

BETTER HEALTH IN 2001

- Know your body fat percentage and how it can be improved.
- Improve grip strength, flexibility, balance.
- Follow a regular exercise plan.
- Stay with a balanced diet.

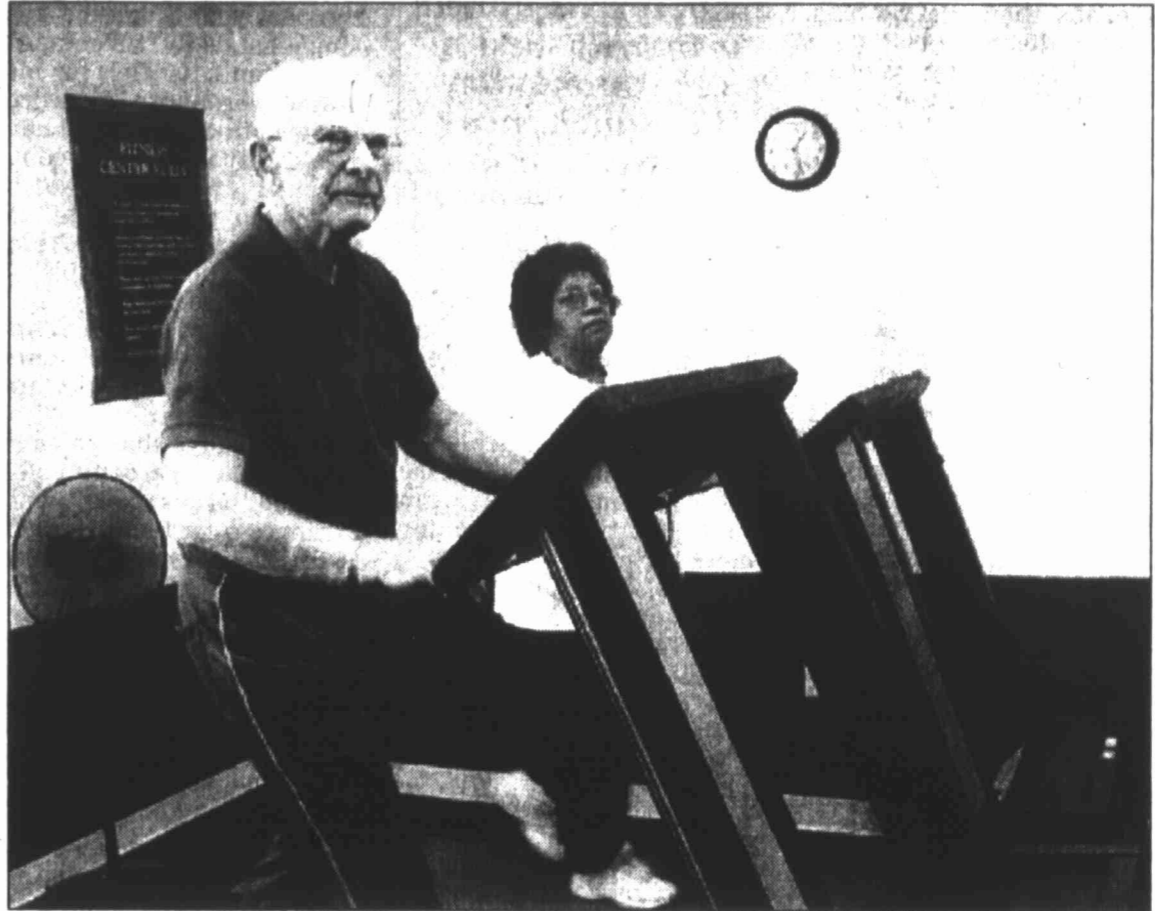
she added.

In the new year, many people are setting goals, including those related to health. Hunt said people can go a long way towards better health by checking their body fat and making the commitment to improve it.

"A lot of people say they don't have time to exercise, but I don't understand that," she said. "We are talking about taking care of ourselves."

A good exercise plan, tailored to the person, usually requires no more than 30-45 minutes at a time, three to five days a week, Hunt said. But it must be varied to keep the interest of the individual and to be beneficial, she added.

"A lot of the reason people quit their exercise plan is they lack feedback," Hunt said. "That's our goal here, is to be sure people see



Jack Abendschan and Maria Valle use the treadmills at Dora Roberts Wellness Center last week. Each member of the fitness center is given an individual program of resistance and cardiovascular exercise.

progress." The wellness center will give interested people a complete body analysis for \$20, including body fat, body water level and fitness information. It also offers classes on various health and fitness subjects, with \$90 or \$45 entry plans that

include the first month of the exercise program.

The regular fee for the wellness center is \$30 per month, with special rates for groups available.

Hunt said as we begin a new year, there is no better time to improve health. "I am confident that any-

one who walks in that door and starts our program can lose body fat," she said. "And they can do it in a fun, upbeat and positive atmosphere."

Call Dora Roberts Rehab Center for more information about the wellness program, 267-3806.

Many say they've had their fill of diet advice

SEATTLE (AP) — Yes, I would like fries with that.

That's what many Americans are saying in the face of conflicting research advice on just what makes for a healthy diet, researchers found.

"The more negative and confused people feel about dietary recommendations, the more likely they are to eat a fat-laden diet that skimps on fruits and vegetables," said Ruth Patterson, lead author of the study from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

The study was published Monday in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association. It follows years of often conflicting news reports about findings on some foods.

For example, scientists long have touted margarine as a healthier alternative to butter, but a study recently found that stick margarine can increase the risk of heart disease. Other research has questioned health claims for oats, eggs and wine.

"I am totally sympathetic to the American consumer's state of confusion regarding what constitutes appropriate eating behavior," Linda Van Horn, professor of preventative medicine at Northwestern University Medical School, told The News Tribune of Tacoma.

"It seems as if there are no truths or no clear answers to this question of what should I eat," said Van Horn, who was not involved in the Fred Hutchinson study.

Some findings of the survey by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center:

— More than 40 percent said they were tired of hearing about what foods they should or shouldn't eat.

— About 40 percent agreed that dietary guidelines should be taken with a "grain of salt."

— Some 25 percent said a low-fat diet takes the pleasure out of eating.

— 70 percent said the government shouldn't tell people what to eat.

Patterson and her colleagues, funded by the National Cancer Institute, surveyed 1,751 Washington adults on their eating habits and attitudes toward food and nutrition guidelines.

Patterson said researchers developed a "backlash" scale based on respondents' negative or skeptical responses. Those who ranked highest on that scale also had the highest percentage of fat in their diets.

The biggest nutrition skeptics were men age 18-35 and people over 60 years old, according to the study. Patterson said that Americans, on average, get about 34 percent of their calories from fat, while guidelines recommend no more than 30 percent.

"When we're trying to

See DIET, Page 6A

Are you prepared in case of disaster?

Weather experts indicate this may be one of the worst winters experienced by many parts of the country since the beginning of recorded weather activity.

For many parts of the United States record low temperatures, unusual snow fall and ice have wreaked havoc. Here in West Texas, two weeks into winter as noted on the calendar, we have already experienced below freezing temperatures and several days of ice. Were you prepared? Read on for tips in preparing for winter weather.

Be sure that you have extra blankets on hand and that each family member has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, a winter hat and water-resistant boots.

Keep a disaster supplies kit in your home: It should include first aid supplies and essential medications, battery-operated radio (and a weather radio if possible), flashlight and extra batteries, canned food and non-electric can opener.

Keep water on hand as well, it is recommended that you have three days worth, with one gallon per person per day.

Stay tuned to weather stations for storm warnings and know the difference between winter storm watches and warnings. A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area. A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.

When a winter storm watch is issued, be alert to changing weather and avoid unnecessary travel. When a winter storm warning is issued, stay indoors. If you must go outside wear sever-

al layers of clothing, this will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat.

Gloves (or mittens) a hat and a scarf will prevent loss of body heat. Wear something to cover your mouth to protect your lungs. Remember to walk carefully on icy sidewalks, porches and steps. Keep your hands gloved, empty and out of pockets, this helps you maintain balance if you are walking on slick surfaces.

If traveling by car is a must, keep emergency supplies in the trunk. It should include: blankets, extra sets of dry clothing, a shovel, sand, tire chains (for driving in snowy conditions), jumper cables, a first aid kit, a flashlight with extra batteries and a brightly colored cloth to tie to the antenna.

Also keep your gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing. Let someone know your destination, the route you will be traveling and when you plan to arrive.

If you do get stuck in snow, do not leave the car to try to walk to safety. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or door handle. Start the car for about 10 minutes every hour to keep it warm. Be sure the exhaust pipe is clear so fumes won't back up into the car.

When the car is running, leave on the overhead light so that you can be seen. Keep one window, away from the wind, open slightly to let in fresh air and keep moving. As you sit, move your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to help you to stay warm.

Are you prepared for a winter storm? Stop today and assemble a disaster supply kit for your home and car — it could save your life.

Taken from the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education program.

Dana Tarter is Howard County Extension Agent — family and consumer science.



DANA TARTER

Texas business links men with Russian brides

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Julia Neal opens the door with a delicate swoosh, the very picture of soft-spoken grace and deference.

She is 22 and pretty, her peroxide blond hair swept up in a ponytail, a little fur collar accenting the gray suit that hugs her svelte figure. She is tentative and shy, smiling demurely and gesturing toward the couch. She speaks only halting English, words that emerge like smooth, curved globes.

Later, Julia will jump up every time the telephone rings to answer it. Otherwise she sits quietly on the couch, hands folded in her lap, looking over adoringly at her husband, hang-

ing on his every word. When she speaks it is soft and careful. Never insistent or interrupting. Sometimes she will gently drape her hand over his.

She is the perfect mail-order wife. Ashley Neal knew that, of course. He spotted her on his first night of filming in the Siberian disco and knew instantly she was the girl for him.

"It was like this," he says, dramatically snapping his fingers. "I was like, 'Wow, she's just so beautiful,' and she was just what I was looking for in terms of personality."

Actually, the personality part was a bit tricky. Julia didn't speak a word of English back then, so Ashley had to

divine the contents of her character by drawing tiny scribbles on cocktail napkins and relying on the expertise of hired interpreters. Still, by 4 a.m., after hours of drinking champagne and dancing together — in Russia, the discos stay open all night — Ashley had ascertained she was his soul mate.

Such is the nature of love at foreignsecrets.com, Neal's 3-month-old, San Antonio-based online foreign-marriage service. Neal assists men on the hunt for "traditional" girls — he always calls them girls or ladies, never women — who live thousands of miles away in Russia and other coun-

See BRIDES, Page 6A

SLICE OF

HEALTH ALERT

HONOLULU (AP) — There are no waiters or waitresses at Hale Noa, a quiet cafe northeast of Waikiki where an elixir known as awa is the only brew served.

Owner Keoni Verity makes patrons belly up to the bar for bowls of the earthy-tasting South Pacific drink. That way, he can see if they're still walking straight after their third, fourth or fifth refill.

"If they sit at a table and order many drinks without ever getting up, they sometimes don't realize how the awa is affecting them," Verity said.

The herbal root, also called kava outside Hawaii, is billed as a natural treatment for anxiety and insomnia. But some prosecutors think it may be too relaxing — they're concerned about people driving after drinking it.

"I have no concern at all if people are sitting in a bar or a cafe and consuming kava to their hearts' content as long as they don't place other people at risk by getting behind the wheel of a car," said Jim Fox, the district attorney in California's San Mateo County.

There, Fox's office prosecuted a man accused of drinking 23 cups of kava tea before driving, then weaving onto a highway shoulder. In December, a judge threw out the DUI case, citing lack of evidence about the tea's effects. A similar case against a kava tea drinker from San Bruno ended in a mistrial in October after the jury deadlocked.

LETTERS FROM HOME

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

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'Horses' destined to become cowboy classic

SAN ANGELO (AP) — The landscapes in Billy Bob Thornton's newest film "All the Pretty Horses" may be more familiar to South Texans than West Texans, which disappoints some of El Paso writer Cormac McCarthy's followers.

They believe the scenery he brings to mind in his novel, on which the movie is based, is just as important a character as the two West Texas cowboys the film portrays searching for a new life after a West Texas ranch is sold.

The film, which opened Monday, starts out in San Angelo, but the movie was filmed primarily west of San Antonio at Hill Ranch, near Helotes, and in New Mexico near Santa Fe.

In the film, John Grady Cole, played by Matt Damon, sets out with pal Lacey Rawlins, played by Henry Thomas, for Mexico "for the true cowboy life ... free of highways and fences, to a place where horses still run wild and love can still burn like a wild fire."

Producer Bob Salerno believes the film will become a classic. But West Texas author Elmer Kelton says Thornton is attempting to fill a pretty tall order making a book like McCarthy's into a film.

"The story can be made into a movie, but there is no way that his particular, very distinctive writing style can be translated to the screen," Kelton said. "Most books have to be condensed pretty sharply to be made into a two-hour movie. It's always a compromise when you make a book into a movie."

Angelo State University English professor John Wegner says when he teaches McCarthy, he asks his students how they would turn a book like "All the Pretty Horses" into a film.

"My students generally give the answer that I would about what has to stay," he said. "What makes the novel so good is its slow and easy going. You have to let the landscape do a lot of talking." Kelton and Wegner agree that in order to give McCarthy's book its due, a filmmaker would have to make a miniseries or a lengthy film.

Salerno said Thornton was so excited about the

The film ... starts out in San Angelo, but the movie was filmed primarily west of San Antonio at Hill Ranch, near Helotes, and in New Mexico near Santa Fe.

film before he had completed his editing that he showed studio executives a version that had only been cut to three hours and 45 minutes. Originally the movie was slated for release last Christmas, but Salerno said Thornton asked for more time.

"We showed the movie to Sony and to Miramax to show them that we have an unbelievable movie here, and please don't make us rush it," he said.

Salerno said Damon and Thomas even took a road trip to San Angelo and ate at a popular downtown Mexican restaurant to prepare for their roles.

"We all knew and felt we were making a special movie," Salerno said. "We weren't making 'The Matrix.' This movie does take us back in time. It's not the MTV style movie. We let the scenes play out. You get taken in by that."

Despite that, no one is anticipating a box office smash.

"If it makes money, the only thing that means to us is people are going to see it. That's just icing on the cake," Salerno said. "If they don't go see it, everyone knows we made a movie that everyone is proud of and everyone will come back to. This will become one of the classics."

If McCarthy's book is any indication, and the film is true to form, Wegner says, the film could very easily have similar success to McCarthy's best seller.

Salerno is confident those who see the film will be pleased with it, but admits there were challenges.

"I think it was a difficult book to adapt into a movie because there are so many things about the way Cormac McCarthy writes that are more of a feeling and a sense," he said.

BRIDES

Continued from Page 5A

tries of the former Soviet Union.

In his three years in the foreign matrimony industry, Neal claims to have arranged 150 marriages. In the past year alone, he has single-handedly videotaped more than 1,100 girls for his online warehouse, a record in the mail-order bride business, he boasts. Just recently Neal created facesofiberia.com, a "sister site" to foreignsecrets.com that adds yet another plank to his growing empire.

So confident is Neal of his service that he offers clients a full money-back guarantee.

"Of the guys that go over there, 90 percent get engaged," says Neal, who arranges occasional "tours" to his overseas offices, where male clients choose among females they've surveyed online to find mates. The schedule is vigorous, Neal says: "We introduce them to up to eight ladies in one day."

Neal strides out of a bedroom in his North Side apartment dressed in a bronze, disco-ish shirt paired with black pants and black, tasseled loafers. His hair, too, is dyed, although brown. He has opaque green eyes that seem never to blink; the 36-year-old graduate of Baylor has a degree in business and accounting.

Growing up on a ranch in Mathis, he says, gave him the intestinal fortitude it took to outrun the Russian Mafia when it pursued him on a videotaping trip in the Ukraine, breaking into his hotel room and demanding money. Same goes for the occasional enraged local boyfriend, an occupational hazard in the mail-order bride biz.

Ashley sits down on the couch next to Julia and launches into the philosophy behind foreignsecrets.com. His apartment is decorated in American West prints - cattle drives, that sort of thing - and a poster of James Dean.

"This all goes back to the women's liberation movement," he begins, warming to a topic he's clearly pondered a lot. "(The mail-order bride business) is just guys' natural response to it, to feeling trapped. At some point, guys just said, 'Enough.' Whatever happened to traditional values? What about the way God made man and woman? I'm not a Christian super-freak, but a lot of the guys who use this service are (Christians)."

The result of unfettered female freedom, he goes on, has been the sharp rise in divorce, a plague in broken families and general social decline.

"Just listen to Dr. Laura," he says.

Neal's own romantic history mirrors that of many of his male clients, he says. He married his college sweetheart. Had a kid. Got a divorce. He won't go into his marriage's demise except to say that issues "culturally oriented to American women" played a part; his 10-year-old son now lives with his ex-wife in Bandaera.

But it was what came after his divorce that set him on the road to searching for love in overseas

places. He dated woman after woman, he says, none of them willing to sacrifice careers for family. He dated five women over a 12-month period, each one as hard-headed as the next.

Neal had seen an episode of "60 Minutes" on a foreign mail-order bride service based out of Russia and figured, hey, if those "goofball guys" can do it, so could he. Without telling his family, he flew to Russia, stopping in St. Petersburg, Kiev and Kherson with interpreters in tow and made his connections. Once back at home, he got busy designing an internet business.

Today, foreignsecrets.com joins more than 200 foreign-bride services that each year advertise around 100,000 to 150,000 women, most of them from impoverished areas of Southeast Asia, Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Why Russia? Neal says the girls there are very family-oriented.

"There hasn't been a women's liberation movement over there," he says. "When you explain it to them, they look at you and say, 'Oh, you mean like Hillary Clinton.'"

He and Julia laugh.

Even girls such as Julia, who earned a degree from Moscow University and worked as a pharmaceutical salesperson before she met

her husband, aspire only to meet a good man and make a home, he says. This has gotten harder and harder to do, Julia explains in her halting way.

"In Russia, for 20 years we have different wars," she says. "Guys dying every day. And now because we don't have enough men, the men have too much women."

A girlfriend on the side, is what she means. Sometimes even two girlfriends on the side. What's more, the men who are available often don't have jobs, she says. They drink too much. Beat them. Thus, American men swooping in with their debonair, well-funded Western ways carry great cachet.

"American men show up, and they're like rock stars," Neal says.

According to a 1998 report done for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, a surge in recent years in the mail-order bride industry can be traced to Russia and the former Soviet Union, where women have flocked onto foreign dating rolls. It's not surprising: The average wage in Russia, according to government statistics, is \$50 a month. A startling 37 percent of the population lives on \$1 a day or less.

Jim Williams, associate professor of sociology at Texas Woman's University

currently on a Fulbright fellowship in Russia, links the uptick in mail-order brides to troubles of Russian men. Due to rampant alcoholism, smoking, drug addiction and AIDS, Russian men die long before Russian women do, he says. Russia's population is declining by 1 million people year, with the most vulnerable group being males age 15 to 50.

Add the risk of domestic violence, and Russian men "aren't perceived as very attractive potential husbands and providers," Williams says. "It's also difficult for professional women to make a very good living. As the economy collapsed after 1991, women were often the 'first fired' in job cutbacks. In a sense, these women have become economic refugees."

Sitting in his living room, Neal doesn't want to focus on any perceived desperation among the women he recruits during his trips to Russia, when he forages for video prospects at malls, universities and discos. For one thing, his women are real lookers.

To be listed on the service, females pay nothing. Male clients can choose from a selection of "packages" from \$79 to \$300 that grant them access to the women's profiles, phone numbers, home addresses, online videos and e-mail addresses.

DIET

Continued from Page 5A

move the entire population toward 30 percent, every percentage point is important," she said.

Patterson said restaurant dining helps discourage healthy eating habits, since most American restaurants emphasize taste over nutrition.

"I was at one of these huge steakhouses recently, and even the asparagus was just covered with blue cheese," she said. "It was just not possible to take a bite of food in that entire restaurant that wasn't loaded with butter and blue cheese."

Jon Brandt, heading into a Tacoma-area steakhouse with his wife, Tara, said he finds diet news confusing. "One day something is

good for you, then the next day it's bad for you," he said, adding that he had his mind set on a steak.

"I usually get the big one, with fries."

Patterson said she fears the nutrition backlash could undermine efforts at nutrition education. But 90 percent of those surveyed said they believe nutrition research eventually will help them live longer lives. And about three-quarters said warning labels should be required on high-fat foods.

"In general, if you focus on minimally processed, fresh foods, go heavy on fruits and vegetables and light on fats and salt, I don't really think you're going to go wrong," Patterson said.

"Our Family Committed to Serve"

A warm welcome to George White, the newest member of Nalley-Pickle & Welch's family. Born and raised in Big Spring, George had a 36 year career as a coach, teacher, and administrator. He retired from Forsan ISD in June of 1999.

George wanted to continue to serve his community and friends. He chose a 2nd career in funeral service, graduating from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in November of 2000.



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Steers, La set to play
Big Spring Lady Steers San Angelo take on I Chiefs and District 4-4 had to be from Tuesday arduous road Coahoma its games Tuesday. announcements made conc those gam rescheduled. Forsan anials have a Tuesday games will n uled. Sands' M Lady Musta forced to games that played ir Tuesday.

Area coac to transmi
The Herald Crossroads ball coaches provided cc varsity sche ters for the son to do so possible. Rosters a can be faxet ion of John 264-7205.

ACS still c Texas Gol
The Ame Society is a the Texas C entiles hol than 680 ro 289 course the state. The passe Both the Country Comanche Course are in the prog forms are a two courses For more call 1-800-check the site at www

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5A footba will stay
AUSTIN vote was state footb mat for Cla expanding. Superint Class 5A s by 23 vote University. League re would ha fourth dist playoffs. They we change th for girls field. Start 2002 school be allowed the distric state meet

AREA

TONIGHT U.S. BASKE
8 p.m. Big Spr Angelo Lakt

ON T

Televisi COLLEGE
7 p.m. Florida St. ABC, Ch. 2

GOLF
9 p.m. Match Play second ro 30.

NBA
7 p.m. at Dallas Ch. 29.

IN BRIEF

Steers, Lady Steers set to play tonight

Big Spring's Steers and Lady Steers will travel to San Angelo tonight to take on Lake View's Chiefs and Maidens in District 4-4A games that had to be rescheduled from Tuesday due to hazardous road conditions.

Coahoma also cancelled its games in Hamlin on Tuesday, but no announcement has been made concerning when those games will be rescheduled.

Forsan and Grady officials have also cancelled Tuesday games. Those games will not be rescheduled.

Sands' Mustangs and Lady Mustangs also were forced to cancel their games that were to be played in Klondike Tuesday.

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 still 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. 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.

5A football playoffs will stay the same

AUSTIN (AP) — The vote was close but the state football playoff format for Class 5A won't be expanding anytime soon.

Superintendents for Class 5A schools rejected by 23 votes, 118 to 95, a University Interscholastic League referendum that would have added a fourth district team to the playoffs.

They were willing to change the competition for girls in track and field. Starting in the 2001-2002 school year, girls will be allowed to pole vault at the district, regional and state meets.

AREA GAMES

TONIGHT
H.S. BASKETBALL
6 p.m.

Big Spring at San Angelo
Lake View (VG, VB)

ON THE AIR

Television

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
7 p.m. — Orange Bowl
Florida St. vs. Oklahoma,
ABC, Ch. 2.

GOLF

9 p.m. — PGA Accenture
Match Play Championship,
second round, ESPN, Ch.
30.

NBA

7 p.m. — Detroit Pistons
at Dallas Mavericks, FXS,
Ch. 29.

Ravens' Ray Lewis named NFL Defensive Player of Year

BALTIMORE (AP) — Months after having his name lumped with other NFL bad boys, Ray Lewis now stands among the game's elite athletes.

Lewis, the Baltimore Ravens' stellar middle linebacker, was the landslide winner of The Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year award. Lewis got 30 first-place votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who cover pro football.

"It puts me in a category with Hall of Famers; a category with the Bruce Smiths, the Deion Sanders, the Warren Sapps, guys like that," he said. "To be called the best defensive player in the game, hands down, that's an honor. That's what

you work for."

The award comes less than a year after Lewis survived the biggest crisis of his life.

After being accused of a double murder in Atlanta last January, Lewis spent 15 days in jail, had his reputation sullied and endured an agonizing, well-publicized trial.

Even after he was cleared of murder charges, Lewis still faced another imposing challenge.

"After I fought for my life in Atlanta, everyone said, 'He might not be the same again. He might not get 100 tackles. Ray Lewis will never be the player he was.'"

"Well, they were absolutely correct," Lewis said. "I'm not the same player. I'm better."

Not only better, but the best. Lewis finished with a team-high 184 tackles and was the centerpiece of a defense that set an NFL record for fewest points allowed (165) during a 16-game season.

Lewis, 25, easily outdistanced New Orleans tackle La'Roi Glover, who had 11 votes. Tackle Warren Sapp of Tampa Bay got four, while Buccaneers linebacker Derrick Brooks and New York Giants tackle Keith Hamilton each received two votes. The other ballot was cast for Miami end Jason Taylor.

The award acknowledged Lewis' stature as the best player on one of the stingiest defensive units in NFL history.

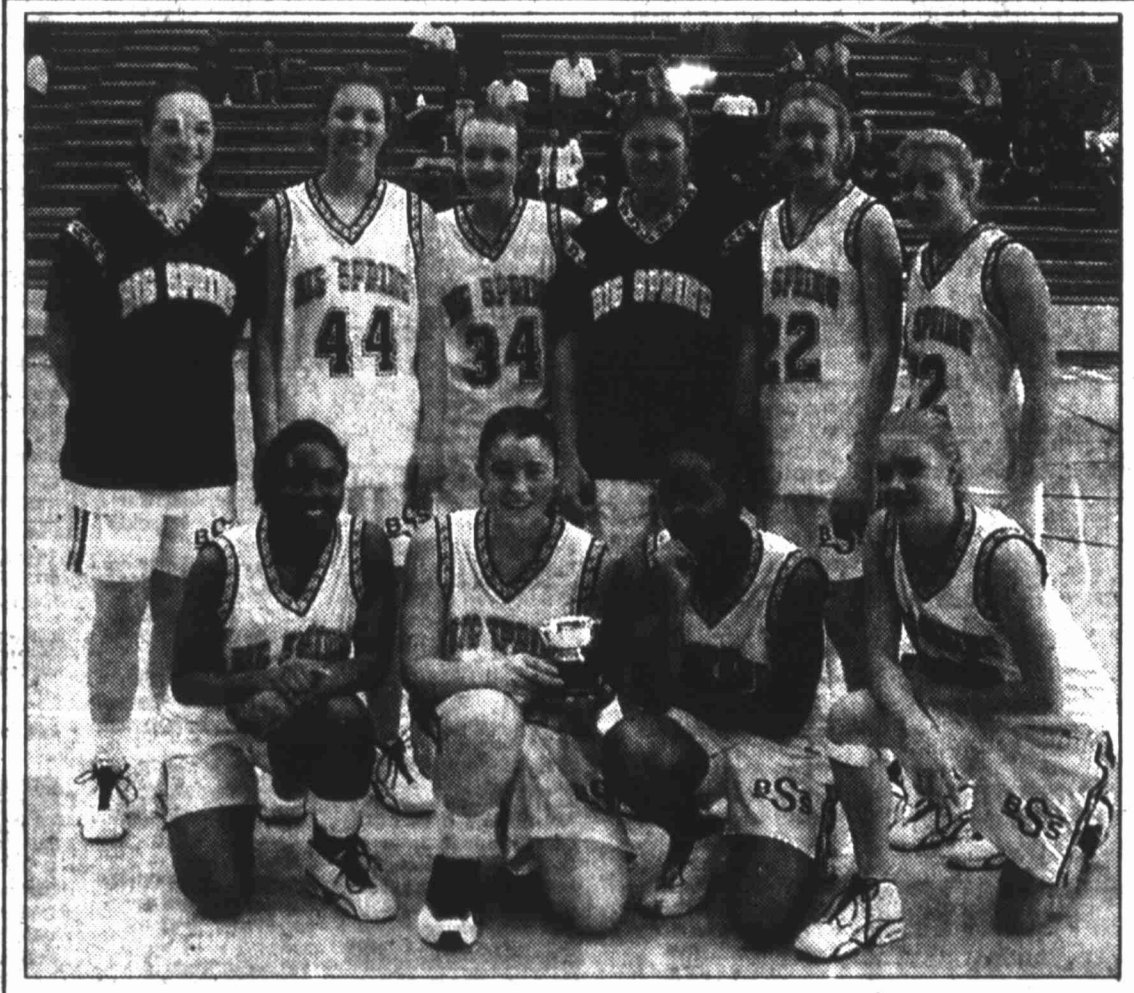
It is also a testament to the deter-

mination he brought into the season in the wake of his misadventure in Atlanta.

"His accomplishment on the field is more meaningful in that he had something to prove to himself," Ravens owner Art Modell said. "He focused his energy and talent on the one thing he knows best: football. He put everything else behind him. I'm as proud as I can be of that man."

Lewis, who also had three sacks and two interceptions, certainly deserved the award. Privately, however, he figured his ordeal in Atlanta would sway the panel against him.

"I never thought it would happen," he said.



Members of the Big Spring Lady Steers basketball team display their consolation championship trophy following the conclusion of Saturday's final round of the Texas Invitational basketball tournament at Arlin Westlake High School. Front row, from left, are: Melissa Forth, Leina Braxton, Kim Wrightsill and Chelsea Churchwell. Back row: Melissa Flenniken, Meghan Pudlner, LaTrisha Rollins, Christina Gwyn, Kristie Long and Brittany Bryant.

Sugar Bowl

Hurricanes positioned for national title claim after win over Florida

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Miami Hurricanes danced around like champions on the Sugar Bowl logo after their final triumph.

Next comes an Orange Bowl vigil to see if a share of the national title will be theirs. And they'll be rooting for their archenemy, Florida State.

"I'm a big Seminoles fan now," fullback Najeh Davenport said after the second-ranked Hurricanes defeated No. 7 Florida 37-20 on Tuesday. "I wish I had a Florida State hat. Go Bobby."

Bobby Bowden leads No. 3 Florida State against No. 1 Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Wednesday in the Bowl Championship Series national title game. If 12-point favorite Florida State wins, the title in The Associated Press media poll is up for grabs and the voters will have to decide whether Miami is their champion.

Miami held a considerable 53-point lead over Florida State in the last AP poll.

"I don't think we need to convince anyone," linebacker Dan Morgan said. "We just need to sit back, let things happen and not worry about it. If we don't get a national championship, it won't make it any less of a season. But it would be great to have one, because I feel we definitely deserve it."

One thing is for sure: Miami (11-1) is the best team in the state of Florida, after its 27-24 victory over Florida State on Oct. 7 and a victory in the renewal of their rivalry with the Gators.

"They've got my vote," Florida defensive end Alex Brown said. "They beat the best two teams in the state of Florida."

But were they impressive enough against the Gators?

The game wasn't secure until Davenport scored with a 421 left after Florida quarterback Rex Grossman's second interception of the night. Hurricanes mascot Sebastian the Ibis celebrated by running onto the field, kissing a Miami play-

er, then drawing a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

It was a fitting moment on a night that was filled with happiness, but was far from perfect.

"We didn't expect to come in here and blow them out," receiver Santana Moss said. "We knew they had a lot of talent. We just had to grind and grind and see how long they could fight."

The fight seemed to last a little too long for comfort. After Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey threw an interception, Florida went ahead 17-13 on Earnest Graham's 36-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter.

But Dorsey responded by moving Miami 80 yards in 12 plays, capped by a 19-yard touchdown pass to D.J. Williams. A third-down, roughing-the-passer penalty by Gerard Warren kept that drive going.

After Florida stalled, Daryl Jones returned a punt 44 yards to put the Hurricanes in striking range, then Davenport responded with the play of the game.

Linebacker Marcus Oquendo-Johnson had perfect coverage on Davenport and looked like the intended receiver, but the fullback reached over his helmet and snatched the ball away for a 10-point lead.

It was missed opportunities like that, plus 11 penalties for 109 yards, that had coach Steve Spurrier steaming after Florida's first trip to the Sugar Bowl in four seasons turned sour.

"We got what we deserved," Spurrier said. "Miami played more disciplined and with more desire. They were a better team. They were better coached and played with more of a purpose. I'm embarrassed."

While the Gators might be a year away from competing for the title themselves, they offer poll voters a good gauge to consider when they make their decision. They can stack Tuesday's result against Florida State's 30-7 victory over Florida in November.

Wake Forest chalks up first big ACC win over Virginia

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unbeaten Wake Forest was impressive during its nonconference schedule. The Demon Deacons were downright scary in their Atlantic Coast Conference opener.

Darius Songaila was 11-for-12 from the field and scored a career-high 27 points, leading No. 4 Wake Forest to a 96-73 victory over No. 8 Virginia on Tuesday night in a matchup of unbeatens.

The win was the 17th straight for the Demon Deacons (12-0), dating to the start of last season's NIT. It was the most points Wake Forest scored against the Cavaliers (10-1) since 1968 and its most in a conference game since 1993. The Demon Deacons shot 58 percent and held Virginia to 41 percent, snapping their streak of holding 18 straight teams under 40 percent.

"The defense is a key for us," Wake Forest coach Dave Odom said. "I see they hit the 40 mark, and that's

not pleasing, but like every streak, they come to an end."

In other games involving ranked teams Tuesday, it was No. 13 North Carolina 84, Georgia Tech 70; No. 14 Syracuse 79, No. 21 Notre Dame 70; No. 17 Maryland 104, Clemson 92; No. 18 Alabama 92, Southeastern Louisiana 63; and No. 23 Iowa State 95, Illinois-Chicago 44.

Virginia had trailed for only 7:34 of 400 minutes coming into the game and had won all of their games by at least 16 points. But the Cavaliers led for only three possessions against Wake Forest as the 6-foot-9, 245-pound Songaila dominated inside.

"He's a killer. He's a mangler," Gillen said of the Wake Forest junior. "He kills innocent bystanders sometimes in the post. He was knocking people around, and if you can do that, he's going to be tough to guard."

"When bodies are cracking all over, you've got to

respond, you've got to crack back. We didn't crack back enough."

Songaila's previous career high was 26 points against Georgia Tech last season.

"The fact that we have good outside shooters makes the job of the inside guys easier," Songaila said. "And they didn't have enough size inside to handle us. That made it easier."

Chris Williams led the Cavaliers with 18 points, but leading scorer Roger Mason (16.2) was held to a season-low five.

Wake Forest led 47-37 at halftime and put the game away with a 22-10 run in the opening 6:11 of the second half.

No. 13 North Carolina 84, Georgia Tech 70

Joseph Forte scored 20 points for the visiting Tar Heels (10-2), who rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit for their eighth straight win. Kris Lang's hook shot with 13:08 to play gave North Carolina the lead for good at 53-51.

Seminoles, Sooners set for Orange Bowl showdown tonight

MIAMI (AP) — Top-ranked Oklahoma has a chance to end to all the confusion: Beat No. 3 Florida State in the Orange Bowl and become undisputed national champions.

If not, get ready for the great Who's No. 1 debate.

Is it Florida State? Or Miami (11-1), which defeated Florida State? Or Washington (11-1), which defeated Miami? Or even Oregon State (11-1), which routed Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl?

The winner of the Orange Bowl, the Bowl Championship Series' designated title game, automatically finishes No. 1 in the coaches' poll. But Miami could be voted national champion in The Associated Press media poll, in which the sports writers and broadcasters vote independently of the BCS, and Washington and Oregon could make a case for No. 1.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden doesn't want to think about the possibilities.

"All I hope is that we win the doggone ball game," Bowden said Tuesday. "I don't care what happens after that. I know this: We'll win the BCS if we beat Oklahoma. What happens on the

other poll, fine."

Following Miami's 37-20 victory over Florida in the Sugar Bowl on Tuesday night, most of the Hurricanes flew home. Some might even be at the Orange Bowl to cheer on the Seminoles.

Linebacker Dan Morgan stated Miami's case. "We're the best team in the nation," he said.

"We proved that all year by beating Florida State, Virginia Tech and now Florida. If they don't give it to us, it would be a real shame. But it won't make us any less of a team."

Bowden thinks the Huskies and Beavers have a claim, too.

"I'm surprised Washington and Oregon State haven't been more vocal about this," Bowden said. "Washington did beat Miami."

In the final BCS standings, Oklahoma and Florida State finished 1-2, while Miami was third. In the AP poll and the coaches poll, it was Oklahoma, Miami and Florida State.

The BCS standings use the two polls, eight computer rankings, strength of schedule and number of losses to determine its 1 vs. 2 match. But the plan does not eliminate the possibility of

split champions, which occurred three times in the 1990s.

Seminoles Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke has only unbeaten Oklahoma on his mind.

"We're focused and ready to play," the 28-year-old quarterback said. "No one has found a way to beat them this year. That is our goal."

The Seminoles (11-1) are playing for their third national title, the Sooners their seventh. The difference is Oklahoma is looking to win its first championship in 15 years, while Florida State won in '93 and '99 and is on a record 14-year run of Top 4 finishes in the AP poll.

"We've always told our players, 'You're the only team living in a dynasty,'" Bowden said. "Bama was in a dynasty, Notre Dame was in a dynasty, Miami was in a dynasty, so-and-so was in a dynasty. ... We hope we keep it alive."

Oklahoma is ready for another title of its own. "Our players understand we already have six national championships," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "So this is not a school not used to winning."

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Big Spring Herald
Wednesday, Jan 23, 2002

UNFURNISHED HOUSES
College Park 3/1/1, appliances, NO Pets. \$495. Call 267-6070.
Executive 3 br. 2 bh home in Highland. \$400 dep. \$850/mo. Call 263-4628
For Sale or Lease 3304 Duke 3 br. 2 bh. 2 living areas, fireplace, near school. Sale @ \$58,900 will pay closing-lease \$900/mo. \$500 dep. Daytime 263-0044, nighttime 263-0867.
House for lease. Kentwood, 2513 Carol. 3BR 2 bath. \$650/mo. \$400/dep. 263-3436
3BR 2 bath, CHA, fireplace, 2500 Carlton. \$550/mo. plus deposit. Call 263-6997
634 Tulsa, 2 BR, \$300. 3702 Hamilton, 3 BR, \$400. Call after 4pm 661-6721 or 264-0793.
Did you miss your Herald? Call 263-7335 & ask for Circulation.

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3BR 2 bath, CH/A, fireplace. 2500 Carlton. \$550/mo. plus deposit. Call 263-6997

634 Tulsa, 2 BR, \$300. 3702 Hamilton, 3 BR, \$400. Call after 4pm 661-6721 or 264-0783.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001: Opportunities strike this year for those who are open and creative. You find solutions through brainstorming with people you respect. Sometimes you might be more challenging or goal-directed than you realize. Others react to you. It is impossible to stay neutral. If you are single, romance will weave through a friendship. You will be able to bond the two into one relationship this fall. If you are attached, you two might argue about what you want, but ultimately this will pull you closer together because once you agree, there is no wavering. Add more fun to your relationship. TAURUS brings out the kid in you. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-

Average; 2-SO-so; 1-Difficult ARIES (March 21-April 19) Seek alternative routes to the same solution. You might be pressured to the max as you juggle funds with a key goal in mind. What you are looking at might not be realistic. Pressure builds between you and another. A discussion takes a lively turn. Tonight: Treat yourself well. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You see someone in your life as highly idealistic. Though this person can be inspirational, he can lead you astray. An associate is hot under the collar. How important is it to keep this person calm? Tonight: Your smile wins the day. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Sit back and think. Say little and seek out information. Your sense of what is happening could change after a heated discussion with an associate. Give someone the space to think through his position. Make calls. Check out a possible trip or vacation. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep. CANCER (June 21-July 22) Join friends and get to the bottom of a problem. Think about what you ultimately want from a partner. Be realistic about what is happening with this person. Your libido directs your energy. Flirting can only get you in trouble. Tonight: Play the night away. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Maintain a high profile with those in charge. Others might confuse what seems perfectly clear to you. Help another see your

thinking and logic. You might lose your temper if you aren't careful. Many turn to you for ideas and feedback. Your influence makes waves. Tonight: In the limelight. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Others see you as visionary in some respect. You might get into a contest of wills with another. Be careful with your words. You don't want to trigger a situation and make a disagreement unresolvable. Tonight: Take the high road. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You and a partner or business associate need to get down to brass tacks financially. Though you might not be comfortable with all that is said and shared, it is important to air different views. Find a midpoint. Tonight: Work as a team. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might have an overly strong reaction to another. You might not see eye to eye; in fact, it is quite likely that there will be a point of contention. Imagine what it is like to walk in this person's footsteps. Tonight: Be agreeable. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take your time. Really, there is no reason to push others to agree with you. Think about what is going on with an associate or someone who has an impact on your day-to-day life. Take time to go to the gym and get additional exercise. Tonight: Whatever you do, make it easy. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Spin a fun tale or two. Think about vagueness that

surrounds a money matter. You want to stay directed and focused. A friend could distract you from what you want to do. Your lively nature comes out with a child or loved one. Be more playful. Tonight: Enjoy those around you. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Stay upbeat and allow others to see your whimsical and positive nature. Dealing with someone in charge could be difficult. This person is often touchy, but right now he's assertive and aggressive. Know that your emotions run high. Tonight: Take personal time. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Stunning news might encourage you to revamp your opinions or change plans. Communication flourishes, but you might not be as clear as you could be. Keep seeking solutions, and don't accept a no. Return calls and e-mail. Tonight: Out and about.

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TexSCAN Week of December 31, 2000 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY COMPUTER INTERNET PEOPLE wanted to work online. \$125-\$175 per hour potential. Full training! 49 countries! Free e-book. www.cnicentral.com DRIVERS WANTED 343 DRIVERS NEEDED! No experience needed. Quick CDL training program available. Earn \$30,000 + 1st year. CDL Delivers. 1-800-260-0294. COMPANY PAID CDL training & first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport - OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced. 1-800-333-8595. EOE. DRIVER: COAST TRANS-PORT * Coast to coast runs * Teams start up to 46 cpm * \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4394; owner/operators 1-877-848-6615. For graduate students 1-800-338-6428. DRIVER - YOU WILL see the difference in SRT. *Great pay. *Paid weekly. *Excellent benefits. *\$1,250 sign-on bonus. *Student graduates welcome. Call SRT today toll free: 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY (1-877-244-7293). DRIVERS ALLIED VAN Lines has openings in their special products fleet. A CDL with 2 yrs. OTR experience. Trucking available. Please call 1-800-894-2200 Dept. 475. DRIVERS AT CONTINENTAL Express, it's the season to make money! Miles, Miles, Miles! Home at your request. Class A CDL required. Call us today! 1-800-727-4374. DRIVERS: SOLOS UP to 45cpm, teams up to 41cpm. Contractors 81cpm all miles. Lease options available (No money down). Fuel incentives and more! Call Burlington Motor Carriers, 1-800-583-9504.

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Sad girl cries for dad who didn't want her

DEAR ABBY: I have a beautiful 4-year-old daughter. I have raised her alone, with no help and no child support. The father has never seen her. I dated him for two years and broke up before I knew I was pregnant. He and his family tried desperately to convince me to abort, a most threatening me if I kept the baby.



Four years later, my little girl is now saying, "I don't have a daddy," and weeping about it. I tell her that God is her father and he's my father, too. Abby, this guy is extremely volatile, spiritually weak, fickle and disrespectful. It took me a while to grasp all he was about, and when I did, I left. My daughter has a great life, is very grounded, feels safe, has a one-home, one-church family and incredible grandparents. I do not want to disrupt her life by

bringing a man into it who made it clear he wants no part of her, and who is not the role model I want for my child.

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

What's the next step regarding conversations with her, getting child support, etc.? - SAD GIRL'S MOM. DEAR MOM: While I sympathize that your daughter doesn't have a father figure, based on your description of her father, you used sound judgment in ending your relationship. To reconnect with him now could lead to your daughter being rejected once again, not only by him, but by his family as well. You were also wise to forgo child support. If you demanded it, the father would be in her life, for better or worse. In order to fulfill your child's need for a father figure, enlist the help of a male relative or longtime surrogate father, or at least a part-time male presence in her life. Another option is to join a group for single parents so your daughter can see she's not the only child without a dad. An appointment with a child psychologist to dis-

cuss what else may be causing your daughter to weep could also be helpful. DEAR ABBY: The letter about taking food to families in mourning reminded me of a similar experience. After I had major surgery, some friends offered to bring lunch that we could share. They planned to stay and visit with me. I told them I wasn't up to socializing due to pain and discomfort. Two weeks later, they offered again. I thanked them, but declined for the same reason. In the meantime, another friend called to say she wanted to drop off some meals she had prepared. She told my husband she would not stay, but that I could call her if I felt like talking. My recuperation lasted longer than I anticipated, but she brought us more meals. You can imagine how we welcomed those homemade meals. I've told her many times over I'm forever grateful for her kindness. This taught me a valuable lesson. I promised myself I would perform this same act of kindness in the future. When the first group of friends called for the third time, I hinted that I appreciated the home-cooked meals my other friend brought. Their answer: "We'll go out to lunch when you're better." - A MORE COMPASSIONATE PERSON, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A. DEAR PERSON: Talk about a letter with an important message. Thank you for sharing this valuable lesson. Many can learn from it. Abby shares her favorite recipes in a two-booklet set. To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$7.90 per set (\$9 per set in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.) © 2001 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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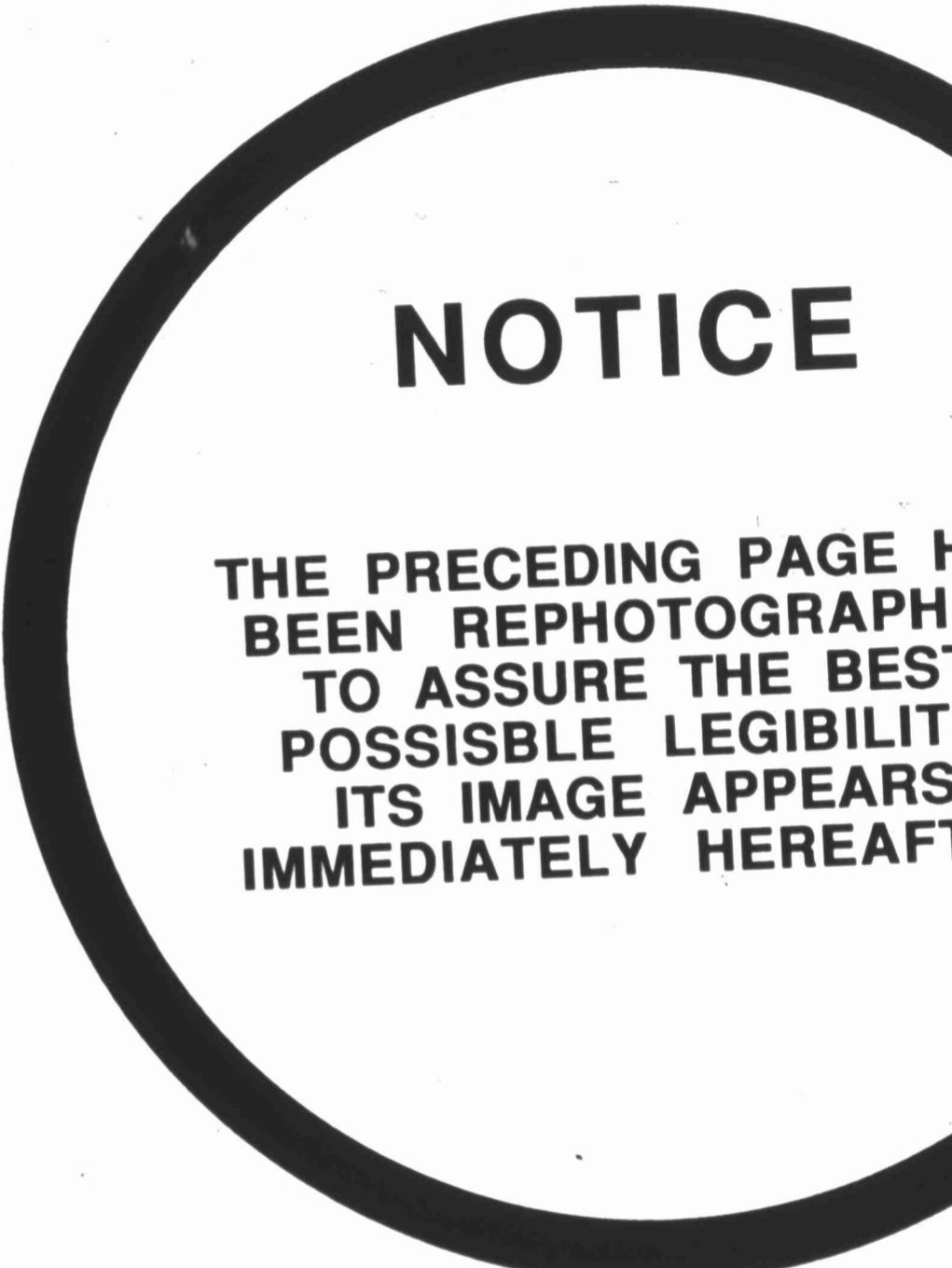
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001: Opportunities strike this year for those who are open and creative. You find solutions through brainstorming with people you respect. Sometimes you might be more challenging or goal-directed than you realize. Others react to you. It is impossible to stay neutral. If you are single, romance will weave through a friendship. You will be able to bond the two into one relationship this fall. If you are attached, you two might argue about what you want, but ultimately this will pull you closer together because once you agree, there is no wavering. Add more fun to your relationship. TAURUS brings out the kid in you. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-

Average; 2-Sos -Difficult ARIES (Mar. 21-April 19) **** Seek alternative routes to the same solution. You might be pressured to the max as you juggle funds with a key goal in mind. What you are looking at might not be realistic. Pressure builds between you and another. A discussion takes a lively turn. Tonight: Treat yourself well. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** You see someone in your life as highly idealistic. Though this person can be inspirational, he can lead you astray. An associate is hot under the collar. How important is it to keep this person calm? Tonight: Your smile wins the day. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Sit back and think. Say little and seek out information. Your sense of what is happening could change after a heated discussion with an associate. Give someone the space to think through his position. Make calls. Check out a possible trip or vacation. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep. CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Join friends and get to the bottom of a problem. Think about what you ultimately want from a partner. Be realistic about what is happening with this person. Your libido directs your energy. Flirting can only get you in trouble. Tonight: Play the night away. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Maintain a high profile with those in charge. Others might confuse what seems perfectly clear to you. Help another see your

thinking and logic. You might lose your temper if you aren't careful. Many turn to you for ideas and feedback. Your influence makes waves. Tonight: In the limelight. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Others see you as visionary in some respect. You might get into a contest of wills with another. Be careful with your words. You don't want to trigger a situation and make a disagreement unresolvable. Tonight: Take the high road. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** You and a partner or business associate need to get down to brass tacks financially. Though you might not be comfortable with all that is said and shared, it is important to air different views. Find a midpoint. Tonight: Work as a team. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** You might have an overly strong reaction to another. You might not see eye to eye; in fact, it is quite likely that there will be a point of contention. Imagine what it is like to walk in this person's footsteps. Tonight: Be agreeable. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Take your time. Really, there is no reason to push others to agree with you. Think about what is going on with an associate or someone who has an impact on your day-to-day life. Take time to go to the gym and get additional exercise. Tonight: Whatever you do, make it easy. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Spin a fun tale or two. Think about vagueness that

surrounds a money matter. You want to stay directed and focused. A friend could distract you from what you want to do. Your lively nature comes out with a child or loved one. Be more playful. Tonight: Enjoy those around you. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Stay upbeat and allow others to see your whimsical and positive nature. Dealing with someone in charge could be difficult. This person is often touchy, but right now he's assertive and aggressive. Know that your emotions run high. Tonight: Take personal time. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Stunning news might encourage you to revamp your opinions or change plans. Communication flourishes, but you might not be as clear as you could be. Keep seeking solutions, and don't accept a no. Return calls and e-mail. Tonight: Out and about.

BORN TODAY Musician Michael Stipe (1960), actress Jane Wyman (1914), boxer Floyd Patterson (1935) 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. © 2001 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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ally, or Call 512-477-6755.

Sad girl cries for dad who didn't want her

DEAR ABBY: I have a beautiful 4-year-old daughter. I have raised her alone, with no help and no child support. The father has never seen her. I dated him for two years and broke up before I knew I was pregnant. He and his family tried desperately to convince me to abort, a most threatening me if I kept the baby.



Four years later, my little girl is now saying, "I don't have a daddy," and weeping about it. I tell her that God is her father and he's my father, too. Abby, this guy is extremely volatile, spiritually weak, fickle and disrespectful. It took me a while to grasp all he was about, and when I did, I left. My daughter has a great life, is very grounded, feels safe, has a one-home, one-church family and incredible grandparents. I do not want to disrupt her life by

bringing a man into it who made it clear he wants no part of her, and who is not the role model I want for my child.

What's the next step regarding conversations with her, getting child support, etc.? - SAD GIRL'S MOM

DEAR MOM: While I sympathize that your daughter doesn't have a father figure, based on your description of her father, you used sound judgment in ending your relationship. To reconnect with him now could lead to your daughter being rejected once again, not only by him, but by his family as well. You were also wise to forgo child support. If you demanded it, the father would be in her life, for better or worse. In order to fulfill your child's need for a father figure, enlist the help of a male relative or longtime male friend to function as a surrogate father, or at least a part-time male presence in her life. Another option is to join a group for single parents so your daughter can see she's not the only child without a dad. An appointment with a child psychologist to discuss what else may be causing your daughter to weep could also be helpful.

DEAR ABBY: The letter about taking food to families in mourning reminded me of a similar experience. After I had major surgery, some friends offered to bring lunch that we could share. They planned to stay and visit with me. I told them I wasn't up to socializing due to pain and discomfort. Two weeks later, they offered again. I thanked them, but declined for the same reason.

In the meantime, another friend called to say she wanted to drop off some meals she had prepared. She told my husband she would not stay, but that I could call her if I felt like talking.

My recuperation lasted longer than I anticipated, but she brought us more meals. You can imagine how we welcomed those homemade meals. I've told her many times over I'm forever grateful for her kindness.

This taught me a valuable lesson. I promised myself I would perform this same act of kindness in the future. When the first group of friends called for the third time, I hinted that I appreciated the home-cooked meals my other friend brought. Their answer: "We'll go out to lunch when you're better." - A MORE COMPASSIONATE PERSON, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR PERSON: Talk about a letter with an important message. Thank you for sharing this valuable lesson. Many can learn from it.

Abby shares her favorite recipes in a two-booklet set. To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$7.90 per set (\$9 per set in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.) © 2001 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ

WEDNESDAY JAN. 3 TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name.

DENNIS THE MENACE comic strip panel showing a character in a boat with the caption 'ISN'T IT TIME TO GO TO HAWAII AGAIN?'

FAMILY CIRCUS comic strip panel showing a character in a tent with the caption 'He looked cold.'

HAGAR comic strip panel showing characters in a kitchen with dialogue about boiling oil and chocolate.

BLONDIE comic strip panel showing a character in a store with dialogue about a miracle cream.

B.C. comic strip panel showing characters talking about a vitamin program.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY article with a list of historical events from 1868 to 1967.

GEECH comic strip panel showing characters talking about the new year.

WIZARD OF ID comic strip panel showing characters talking about a diet.

HI AND LOIS comic strip panel showing characters talking about a rubber stamp.

GASOLINE ALLEY comic strip panel showing characters talking about the Internet.

SNUFFY SMITH comic strip panel showing characters talking about a virus.

BEETLE BAILY comic strip panel showing characters talking about a computer screen.

THE Daily Crossword puzzle grid and word list.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved grid and word list.

Vertical sidebar of advertisements for various services like car parts, suvs, driving schools, and home care.

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Call 915-289-1704 or 661-0882</p> <p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>Correctional Nurses needed at Wallace Prison medical Unit in Colorado City. Needed 3-11 LVN, Day Shift RN, 11-7 LVN. For more information call Ms. Webster, R.N., D.O.N., at (915) 728-2162 ext. 4264</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>A TRUCKER'S DREAM</p> <p>Do you need a CDL? A better job? We can help. CDL training with \$0 down is available for the inexperienced.</p> <p>Drivers w/CDL choose from over 40 companies. We have 316 jobs avail. this month.</p> <p>CDL DELIVERS 1-800-984-2896</p> <p>Local company now hiring for nighttime work. Some travel required. Must have valid driver's license. Will train. Call 267-5449.</p> <p>West Texas Centers for MHMR Now Now hiring full-time and part-time Direct Care Staff in Big Spring. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary \$6.47 per hour (\$13,464 annually for full-time) plus benefits. Part time salary \$7.28 per hour. Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE</p> <p>Correction LVN needed at Ware Prison Medical Unit in Colorado City. For more information contact Ms. Cogburn R.N., D.O.N. at (915) 728-2162 ext. 1236</p> <p>MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE</p> <p>is now hiring RN/Floor Supervisor to assist with Quality Assurance.. Excellent starting Salary, 7 paid holidays, 2 weeks vacation after 1 year, insurance and retirement plan available, excellent work environment and much, much more. Inquire in person at 2809 Virginia for our complete benefit package</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>Child Development Specialist Salary: \$1716.00 - \$2161.00 DOE Associate degree (60 semester hours) from an accredited college or university with a major in child development, early childhood education, child psychology, educational psychology, or elementary education. Related work experience may substitute for the required education on a year for year basis with a maximum substitution of 2 years. 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Hwy 87, Big Spring, Texas 79720 (915)268-7260</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>MIDLAND COLLEGE</p> <p>DIRECTOR OF MEDIA SERVICES</p> <p>Supervise and coordinate all services provided by the department, including technical services for all Midland College sites especially the Fine Arts Auditorium and all other lecture halls and classrooms. Provide Media staff training and development. Provide audiovisual production and desktop publishing/computer graphics service to produce applicable materials as requested by faculty and staff. Responsible for oversight of Fasiken LRC web page. Knowledge of PC hardware, audiovisual equipment and advanced computer graphic skills, HTML, Adobe and Corel graphics software required. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Excellent fringe benefits.</p> <p>Apply: Human Resources, Midland College, 3600 N. Garfield, Midland, TX 79705. EOE</p> <p>Drivers/OTR/Teams Holiday Headaches??? Let Danny Herman Trucking Be The Cure!!! Excellent Benefits & Pay Home Every 10 TO 14 Days Drive Late Model Kenworths Local El Paso Terminal 1-800-331-3725</p> <p>Gilts Fried Chicken has immediate openings for day & evening shifts. Must be able to work weekends. Apply in person: 1101 Gregg St.</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>Covenant Malone and Hogan clinic has openings for the following positions: LVN - Ideal candidate will have 3 to 5 years' clinical experience.</p> <p>General Maintenance - Minimum qualifications include a valid Texas driver license with dependable transportation, and verifiable work experience in one more of the following areas: plumbing, electrical pump and motor repair, heating and air conditioning.</p> <p>Salary is commensurate to experience and a full benefit package is available. Only qualified applicants need apply to the Personnel Office of Covenant Malone and Hogan Clinic, 1501 W. 11th. Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720, or fax resume to 915-267-1137.</p> <p>MIDWEST FINANCE Part time help needed. Apply in person at 612 Gregg St.</p> <p>Mitchell County EMS is seeking a full-time paramedic. 24/48 shift work with competitive salary and benefits. Experienced preferred, but not required. Please contact Shane Terry, or Jason Cooper for an application (915) 728-3483 during regular business hours or e-mail mcems@abi.tonline.net</p> <p>Key Energy Service Co. Stanton, Tx is seeking experienced welders. Benefits included. Call for more info. 8-5 M-F 915-756-2875.</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>OTR Driver needed. Experience & clean CDL required. SaddleUp Express. 877-973-7641.</p> <p>Physical Therapy Technician needed. Must be willing to do multiple tasks including PT technician, drug/alcohol screening, van driving and janitorial duties. Benefits include paid vacation, health insurance and retirement. Must be 25 or older due to vehicle insurance and clean driving record. Please call 915-267-3606 to set up appointment for interview or come by 306 W. 3rd. to fill out application.</p> <p>Driver for wrecker FT/PT. No smoking while on duty. Clean driving record. Apply at 700 W. 4th.</p> <p>Drivers PARKWAY TRANSPORT A Texas Based motor carrier Needs OWNER OPERATOR for 2001 846mi Loaded or Empty (Plus 3¢ Fuel Surcharge) *Home Every 6-10 Days *Paid Plates, Permits & Tolls *No Touch Freight *Weekly Settlements *No Upright Money *Paid Lumpers When Approved Req. 5 yr. old or newer tractor, pass DOT inspection, TX registration, 1 yr. verifiable OTR exp. Min 21 yrs. old. CDL (A). Call Tom or Lizz 800-766-9982</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>"COME GROW WITH US"</p> <p>Texasco Star Stops are now taking applications for full and part time help. Apply at 2501 S. Gregg, 800 E. I-20, 400 S. Gregg & 4806 W. Hwy 80, between 8am & 2pm M/F. We are a drug free work force.</p> <p>NOW HIRING!!</p> <p>We have four permanent, full-time manufacturing positions in Big Spring. 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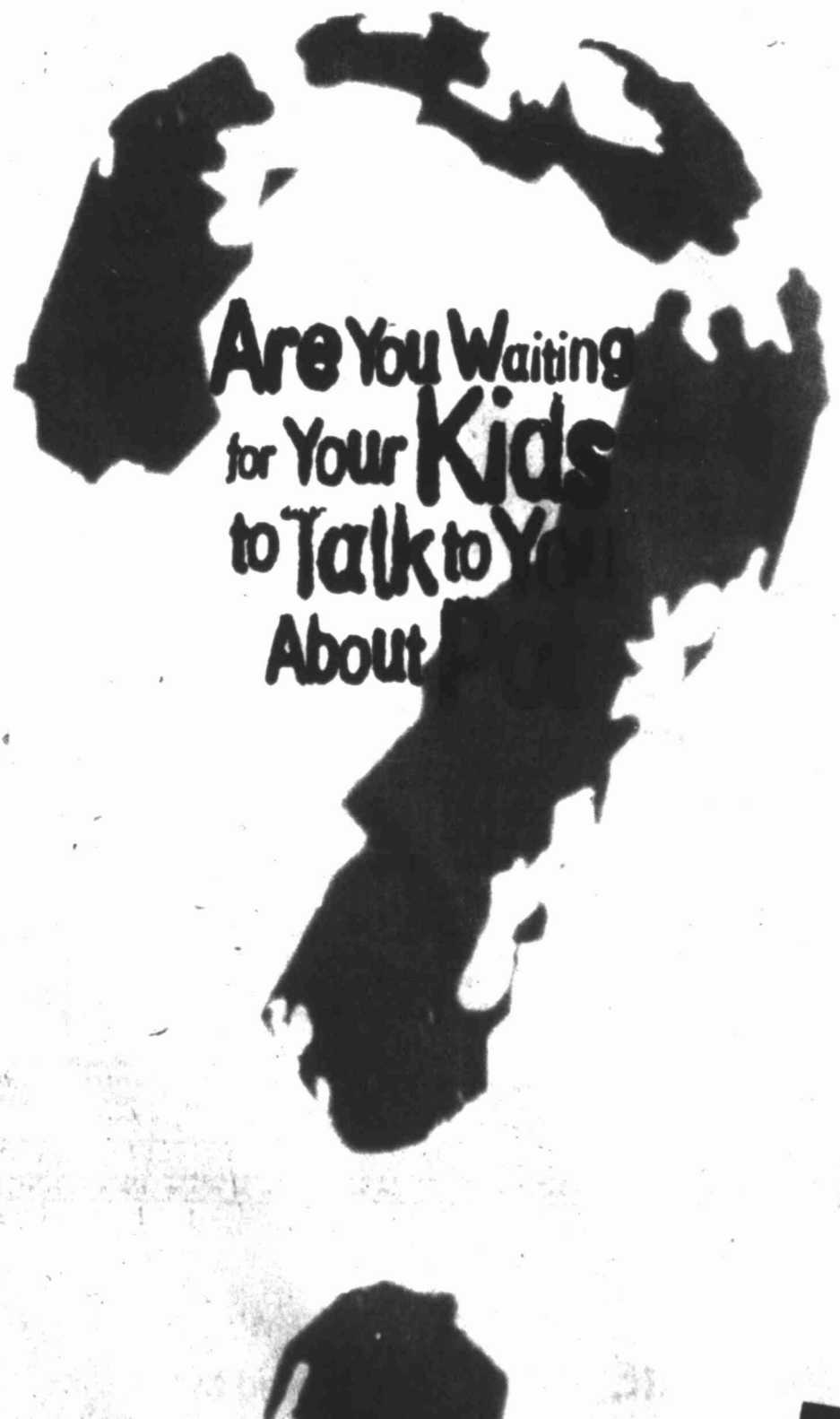
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Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page
By BETTY DEBNAM

Hello, Soldier Pond, Maine!
The Kids of 2000

To find out what was cool for the kids of 2000, The Mini Page surveyed some kids at Wallgrass Elementary School in Soldier Pond, Maine.



Wallgrass Elementary School in Soldier Pond, Maine, was chosen to be The Mini Page 2000 survey school.

These fads are popular in Soldier Pond, Maine. Put a check if these are "in" where you live.

Soldier Pond
Soldier Pond lies in the far north of Maine, about 200 miles north of Bangor. It has about 600 people. Potato farming, the lumber industry and tourism are the top ways of making a living. Snowmobiling is a big attraction. Soldier Pond is surrounded by farms and forests. There are many sporting camps for hunting, fishing and canoeing.

The Mini Page thanks the students and Mr. Bert Levesque, fourth-grade teacher, at Wallgrass Elementary School for their help with this issue.

Favorite authors

- Beverly Cleary
- Gertrude Chandler Warner
- E.B. White
- J.K. Rowling
- Mark Twain
- Shel Silverstein

Favorite athletes

- Vince Carter
- Tara Lipinski
- Michelle Kwan
- Tim Duncan
- Michael Jordan
- Kristi Yamaguchi
- Sammy Sosa
- Ken Griffey Jr.
- Larry Bird

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Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Can you identify these faces of 2000?

Answers: 1. Jim Carrey, 2. Dennis Williams, 3. Hebe Brand, 4. J.K. Rowling, 5. Hillary Clinton, 6. Doug E. Doug, 7. Will Smith, 8. J. Lo, 9. Britney Spears, 10. Amanda Bynes, 11. George W. Bush, 12. Melissa Joan Hart, 13. Tiger Woods, 14. Kiefer Sutherland, 15. Martin Kravc, 16. Brenda, 17. Al Gore.

Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Troy Aikman

Height: 6-4
Weight: 220
Birthdate: 11-21-66
College: UCLA

One of the best quarterbacks in the NFL is Troy Aikman of the Dallas Cowboys. He joined the team in 1989 and was the first player chosen in that year's draft.

He is one of only three quarterbacks in NFL history to lead the team to three Super Bowl championships. He holds or is tied for 45 team passing records.

He was also a top high school and college player. He went to high school in Henryetta, Okla. He studied sociology in college.

Troy works with many charities, including those that help children. In his free time he likes playing pool, basketball and golf, watching movies and hosting barbecues. He also likes Italian and Mexican food and country music.

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 ER blend, as in the word fern.

Q: Why must a doctor keep his temper?
A: He can't afford to lose his patients!

Q: What is the best material for making a kite?
A: Flypaper!

Q: Why did the baseball player marry the baker?
A: Because they wanted a better batter!

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

Guess which advertiser used the Herald **SUPER CLASSIFIEDS** 263-7331

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

Best From The News Hunt
YEAR 2000 TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of the year 2000 are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: SEUSS, OLSENS, N SYNC, DISNEY, CAPRIS, SOSA, POKEMON, STINE, RUGRATS, NICKELODEON, BASEBALL, WISHBONE, ARTHUR, BLUME, COSBY, SABRINA, FAVRE.

I LOVE HARRY POTTER BOOKS!

SBKSEUSSSFAVREB
ARUHTRABASEBALL
BCAPRISCBASOSSL
RDOLSENSDLMTCTN
INOMEKOPFIUNUIS
NFENOBHSIWSMONY
AGPYBSOCVDFNEEN
NICKELODEONIEQC
FRSTARGURAEHIYJ

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and Best From are enjoying their new scooters. See if you can find:

- fish
- sealboat
- exclamation mark
- ruler
- word MINI
- safety pin
- caterpillar
- cat's face
- man's face
- number 3
- heart
- letter O
- bucket
- letter Y

Fads from A to Z

Here are some "in" things from around the country. Circle the fads that are big where you are.

- A** American Girl dolls
- B** bell-bottoms, bleached hair, board shirts, body glitter, break dancing, Britney Spears dolls, bucket hats
- C** capri pants, carpenter's pants, chokers
- D** Digimon, Discovery Channel, dyed hair
- E** e-mailing friends
- F** fingerboards, flattops, friendship bracelets
- G** gel pens
- H** hair extensions, hair jewelry, Harry Potter books, hats worn sideways, Hawaiian shirts
- I** ice skating, in-line skating
- J** jeans
- K** key chains

More Favorites From Soldier Pond

- Nintendo
- Furbies
- Beanie Babies
- PEZ Dispensers
- Britney Spears
- 'N Sync
- Dixie Chicks
- Backstreet Boys
- Pokemon

The Mini Page is created and edited by Betty Debnam. Associate Editor: Anne Chamberlain, Lucy Lien. Staff Artist: Wendy Daley.

More favorites from around the country

Athletes	Fads	Authors	Favorite TV shows	Musical artists
• Michael Jordan • Mia Hamm • Tiger Woods • Shaquille O'Neal • Lisa Leslie	• Pokemon • Beanie Babies • Tamagotchi • Game Boys • Crazy Bones	• Dr. Seuss • Marc Brown • Beverly Cleary • J.K. Rowling • Mary Pope Osborne	• "Keenan and Kel" • "The Parkers" • "Smart Guy" • "Everybody Loves Raymond" • "Moesha"	• 'N Sync • Britney Spears • TLC • Will Smith • 98 Degrees
Millbrook Elementary, Raleigh, N.C. Survey teacher: Pat Allen	Newland Elementary, Huntington Beach, Calif. Survey teacher: D.J. Brown	University Park Elementary School, Hyattsville, Md. Survey teacher: Patti Allen	Ladson Elementary School, Ladson, S.C. Survey teacher: Jennifer Sweetinger	Callaway Hills School, Holts Summit, Mo. Survey teacher: R. Boudria

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The Mini Page/NIE

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