

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

FRIDAY

January 5, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 30°-35° SATURDAY 60°-65°

Book club meets Monday at library

The next meeting of the Howard County Library book club is Monday at 7 p.m. in the library. The book that will be discussed this month is "A God in Ruins" by Leon Uris. Any interested readers are welcome to attend the meeting.

For more information about this meeting or a list of books to be discussed in later meetings, call the library at 264-2260.

Reception set next week for Redman

The community is invited to a reception honoring Howard County librarian Loraine Redman on Thursday from 2-5 p.m. at the library.

Redman, who came to the local library seven years ago, has accepted a position in Garland, and her last day of work will be Friday, Jan. 12. She will become assistant director for the central library with the Nicholson Memorial Library.

Among sponsors for the reception honoring Redman is the volunteer group, Friends of the Library, which is organized to support library programs.

WEEKEND TICKETS

TODAY

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

SATURDAY

Howard County Scottish Rite Club, 7:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 21st & Lancaster. Breakfast served.

The Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Pottin House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 to 5 p.m.

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Howard County deputies recover goods, make burglary arrest

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

A burglary investigation by the Howard County Sheriff's Office culminated Thursday with the arrest of a Big Spring man and recovery of almost \$33,000 worth of stolen furniture.

Arrested for the June 20 burglary of a residence on Stallings Road was Lewis Antonio Rodriguez, 37, of 1110 N. Gregg.

Deputies said that another suspect, who is currently being held in the Howard County Jail on charges involving an unrelated burglary, is also believed to have been involved.

"We want to say that we have reason to believe that

more burglaries were probably committed by these individuals," said sheriff's investigator Ron Allen. "There may be more charges or arrests made at a later time as the investigation into the other burglaries continue."

According to the sheriff's department, the recovered furniture was taken June 20 from the home of Leroy and Ruth Finley.

After receiving an anonymous tip, Allen and Chief Deputy Gary Pritchett went to Rodriguez's home where the stolen furniture was being kept.

"Deputy Pritchett and myself went to the residence to do a 'knock and talk' and check out some of the information we had," said Allen.

"We had a sample of the couch covering given to us by the victims of the burglary and when we walked up to the house the couch was sitting outside. We were able to make a positive match.

"That gave us probable cause to go ahead and interview the people of the house. After receiving permission to search the house by the lady that is apparently paying the bills, we were able to match up other pieces of stolen items using photos provided by the victims. We then began to seize all the furniture and other stuff that matched the list of items that were stolen."

Allen said that the items recovered were valued at almost \$33,000.



HERALD photo/Carl Graham
Howard County Deputy O'Brien Blakeney and Investigator Ron Allen check a list of items recovered from a burglary investigation. Almost \$33,000 worth of household furniture, dishes, tools and other items were recovered from a Gregg Street residence.

Incarcerated transient confesses to murders

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

A 42-year-old transient arrested in Big Spring in December for assault with a deadly weapon has confessed to a double murder in Sacramento, Calif., that took place in 1986.



OLSON

Devon Stewart Olson, wanted in California for parole violations in an assault case, has been in custody since Dec. 27 when he was arrested for beating another man with a baseball bat at a local residence.

The victim, Alan DeAx, was sent to the hospital suffering from a split ear and a broken nose, according to police reports.

While being questioned about the Dec. 27 assault, Olson apparently asked to speak to a detective in

regard to the murders of a California couple on April 22, 1986.

"We assigned detective Jim Ryder to talk to him and after the individual had been read his Miranda rights, he made a confession to the murders in California," Sgt. Roger Sweatt of the Big Spring Police Department said. "I have no idea what possessed him to do so after that long of a time frame. I don't know if he just wanted a trip back to California or his conscience got the best of him after all these years, but he went on to tell of other homicides he said he committed in Missouri and in South Texas."

Olson claims to have shot and killed Koylen Saechao, 48, and Choy Eow Sales, 40, both of Yuba City, Calif. The two were found shot to death in the front seat of their car on the shoulder of State Highway 99 just north of Sacramento, Calif. The

See CONFESSES, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Frederick Newton, left, and Alan DeAx have a different outlook on life after Devon Stewart Olson attacked DeAx with a bat at Newton's residence on Dec. 27. Olson, a transient who has lived in Big Spring off and on for the last two years, has confessed to murders in California, South Texas and Missouri.

Olson bragged of killings but wasn't taken seriously

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

When Devon Stewart Olson, who has confessed to homicides in California, South Texas and Missouri, used to brag he was a murderer, Frederick Newton and Alan DeAx both thought Olson was just telling tales.

"When he was drunk once, he mentioned he had killed people," Newton said. "I thought he was just running on. He was always talking like that."

"Being on the street, homeless people protect themselves by coming come off like that," he continued. "If they come off as crazy peo-

ple will leave them alone."

"The guy couldn't shut up," DeAx said. On Dec. 27, both DeAx and Newton learned he was a little more than talk when Olson allegedly attacked DeAx with an aluminum baseball bat striking him in the head.

"Frederick was on the couch and I was standing up talking with him," said DeAx. "The next thing I knew he hit me. For what reason, I don't know."

Olson, a transient, had stayed the previous night in Newton's residence at 1503 Scurry Street; and DeAx, who visits Newton often, was talking with Newton when the

incident occurred.

"He (Olson) came from the back part of the house from the bathroom," Newton said, recalling the incident. "He came out of the clear blue sky and hit Alan. There was no reason for it."

According to Newton, he heard a "dink" sound like a bat hitting a ball when Olson struck DeAx in the head.

"I first thought he killed Alan," Newton said. "I went next door and asked the neighbors to call the ambulance."

Olson returned to the residence to collect his gear and was headed out the door when Newton confronted him.

"I started wrestling with him," Newton said. "He hit me with a board and kicked me. We stopped with the police arrived."

Both Newton and Olson were questioned inside the residence by police and Newton said Olson kept denying the incident.

"He said, 'Where is the bat,'" Newton said. "The police found the bat later."

Newton, who said he was quite upset and in shock, was arrested for disorderly conduct-language, but does not hold a grudge toward police.

"I was glad that they were there,"

See BRAGGED, Page 2A

Leadership helps make Glasscock County show a success

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

GARDEN CITY — The Glasscock County Jr. Livestock Show began its 64th run on Thursday in Garden City and with the type leadership exhibited by the school and community, it should be around for another 64.

That was evident from two veteran participants, Anthony Wheat and Michelle Fuchs, who were showing rabbits.

"This is my eighth year to show animals in this livestock show," said Wheat. "Over the past eight years I have shown rabbits, goats and pigs. I will be going to the show in Fort Worth on Jan. 31 and then to the show in El Paso on Feb. 3 so it keeps you pretty busy."

Wheat, an all-district line-backer last season for



WHEAT

Garden City High School, will also be making the livestock shows in San Antonio and Houston.

He plans on attending Howard College next fall and majoring in agriculture design.

"My first couple of years I wanted to stay close to home and maybe come back and help out with the show next year," said Wheat. "I also want to help others in shooting sports such as skeet shooting because I really enjoy the sport."

"Anthony is the type individual who always leads by his example," said Garden City High School Coach Wade Wesley, who was at the show Thursday. "He is just a terrific kid and we will sorely miss him next year both on the field and in the classroom."

Fuchs is also a veteran of the Glasscock County Jr. Livestock Show as well as a standout athlete.

"I have been showing animals here for 10 years now," said Fuchs. "I have been fortunate to win best of show twice at the San

Angelo livestock show and have placed in the top 10 each year I have been there."

Fuchs only shows rabbits but enjoys it and also likes to help younger kids as they come along wanting to show animals.

She hopes to attend college on a track scholarship. "I have been a state qualifier in cross-country," said Fuchs. "I currently hold the new district record with a time of 12:07 for the two-mile race and this spring I will be running the mile and two-mile run."

Fuchs plans on majoring in accounting and hopes one day to be an accountant. She is also involved in the community in several different areas such as the Catholic Youth Organization.

First-year Glasscock County ISD Superintendent Steve Long agreed that with the type leadership that has been shown by Wheat and Fuchs, the livestock shows will continue to be a suc-

See SHOW, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Carl Graham
Michelle Fuchs is pictured with her rabbit she entered at the Glasscock County Jr. Livestock Show. Fuchs has been showing rabbits for the past 10 years.

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OBITUARIES

Covie Williams

Funeral service for Covie Williams, 85, of Ackerly will be 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, 2001, at the First Baptist Church in Ackerly with the Rev. Derrick Looney officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

Mr. Williams died Wednesday, Jan. 3, at a Lubbock hospital.

He was born on Sept. 7, 1915, in Parker County and married Murline Cave on Oct. 2, 1937, in Sparenberg. He moved to Howard County from Reno in 1924. He farmed in Howard and Martin counties and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Ackerly.

Survivors include: his wife, Murline Williams of Ackerly; three daughters, Wanda Chapman of Lamesa, Dorothy Harry of Runaway Bay and Shirley Kountz of Ransom Canyon; one sister, Maurine Reynolds of Reno; one brother, Jack Williams of Hill Top Lake; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

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

Leonard E. Burks

Funeral service for Leonard E. Burks, 86, is pending with Nalley Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Mr. Burks died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001, at his residence.

Shirley Kiser Wilcox

Memorial service for Shirley Kiser Wilcox, 65, Point Pleasant, W. Va., formerly of Coahoma, will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, 2001, at the Coahoma Church of Christ.

Mrs. Wilcox died Monday, Dec. 25, in a Point Pleasant, W. Va., nursing home following a lengthy illness.

She was born on Dec. 28, 1935, in Stamper. She was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include: her husband, Jim Wilcox of Gallipolis Ferry, W. Va.; two sons, Wade Schweitzer of Norfolk, Va.; Craig Schweitzer of Pasadena; one daughter, Luanna Warren of Livingston; two brothers, Floyd Kiser of Odessa and Bob Kiser of Abilene; four sisters, Fern Roberts, Pat Allen, Mary Anderson and Judy Pherigo, all of Coahoma; and seven grandchildren.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home and Crematory 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Leonard E. Burks, 86, died Thursday, January 4, 2001. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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

William Fred "Bill" Dean, 54, died Thursday, Graveside services are 11:00 AM Saturday at Mount Olive Cemetery. Shirley Kiser Wilcox, died Monday, December 25. A memorial service will be 3:00 PM at the Coahoma Church of Christ.

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

William Fred "Bill" Dean

Graveside service for William Fred Dean, 54, of Big Spring, will be 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 6, 2001, at Mount Olive Cemetery with Bob Porterfield, pastor of West Kentucky Ave. Baptist Church of Midland, officiating.

Mr. Dean died Jan. 4 at a Midland hospital following a lengthy illness.

He was born on Oct. 15, 1946, in Big Spring. He had lived most of his life in Odessa and moved to Big Spring in 1996. He had been employed with Champion Chemical as a truck driver for 20 years.

Survivors include: his mother and step-father, Flo and Chuck Nichols of Big Spring; one sister, Sandy Glaspie of San Angelo; one half-sister, Betty Baxter of Abilene; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

Elizabeth Virginia Keaton

Funeral service for Elizabeth Virginia "Virgie" Keaton, 101, of Stanton, will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 5, 2001, at the First Baptist Church in Stanton with the Rev. David Harp, officiating. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

Mrs. Keaton died on Wednesday, Jan. 3, in her son's home.

She was born on March 17, 1899, in Almyra, Ark., and married Lee Keaton on Sept. 25, 1915. They moved to Stanton in 1953.

She preceded her in death after 63 years of marriage. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Stanton.

She is survived by: one son, Bernie Keaton of Midland; two daughters, Sibyl North of Stanton, and Imogene Weatherby of Midland; two grandsons; one granddaughter; two great-grandsons; and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1168, Stanton 79782, the Evergreen Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 1087, Stanton 79782 or a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

cess each year. "We have just great leadership from these upper-classmen," said Long. "They are not the type who do things just for the glory; they do things because they want to and because they want to be able to give to others. They are the type who will go on to success in whatever they do in life."

The livestock show continued today with judging of the swine and steers.

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

Thursday, judging was held for sheep and rabbits.

According to the rabbit judge Charlie Rhodes of Lubbock, this year's entries stood out.

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

"They have some really high quality rabbits here," said Rhodes. "It amazes me because I judge open rabbits all over the country and they have gotten into somebody's really good stock for this great a quality."

BRAGGED

Continued from Page 1A

he said. "Sgt. Tony Everett was cool and collected. He was a real professional. When I was in jail they told me this guy is a murder."

DeAx, who was unconscious for two hours, said he was disorientated when he woke up in the hospital.

"The first thing I remember was someone was sticking needles in my ear," DeAx said. "I asked him what had happened."

"The doctor said I had 11 stitches and I had a CAT scan," DeAx added. "I was having headaches four days after it happened."

Newton said he first met Olson a few years ago when both were living in a campsite with several other homeless persons, several of them veterans. They were camped near the old Walmart building.

"He was in the vet camp in 1998 with another fellow and they said they came from El Paso," Newton said.

Olson would continue to reside in Big Spring off and on during the years, Newton said, and would sometimes beg for money near the Walmart store.

"The cops would chase him off from time to time because he would be near Wal-Mart with signs," Newton recalled. "He had a black dog with him. He would beat that dog."

Newton said Olson, who was going by the name of Scott Freigh, claimed he was a Vietnam veteran who'd been in the Marine Corps and was 53 years old. Olson also told them he was from Atlanta.

Newton is an Air Force veteran and served stateside during the last part of the Vietnam War.

Olson often talked about being violent, Newton said. "He told us he about beat a man to death in San Angelo. He said this good old boy hit him in the head with a full quart of beer. He said he beat him with a (board). Scott said the guy kept coming back and that's why he kept hitting him."

Newton and DeAx, who volunteer with Helping Hand, said they used to help Olson and other transients by bringing them cigarettes and canned goods. Neither really believed Olson was capable of murder.

"That view has changed. I really think that if I had not stopped him, he would have killed us both," Newton said.

"I know I would have been dead," DeAx interjected. "It changed my life."

Newton said his outlook has changed, but that he will continue to help those less fortunate than himself.

"I will not let any other homeless person stay in my house," Newton said. "I will help them, but not bring them into my home."

CONFESSES

Continued from Page 1A

couple was shot through the driver's side window and 15 bullet casings were found near the car.

Sweatt said officials from Sacramento would be arriving in the next few days to interview Olson and take him back to California to face charges. In the meantime, Ryder has been in contact with law enforcement officials in Missouri and South Texas to check Olson's other claims.

"Those stories may or not be true," said Sweatt. "That's the reason for the detectives coming here from California, to return him on the parole violation and question him in the other matters. The story of the homicides in California have been checked out and all the dates and times match up, so either he really did do it or knows who did to be that accurate on all the accounts of the incident."

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BIG SPRING HERALD Reflecting a Proud Texas Community 915-263-7331 (Main Switchboard) 915-263-7335 (Circulation Calls Only)

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 6,6,4 Cash 5:17,34,33,23,7

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

immunizations. To find out more about the program or to volunteer, call 264-2397.

SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

SUPPORT GROUPS

TODAY •Turning Point A.A., 8:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

•AA, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. Big Book Study. •NA 8 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (paper no.).

•Al-Anon support group, noon, 615 Settles. SATURDAY •Family support group for current and former patients and their families, 1 p.m. weekly, Reflections Unit of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Call Beverly Grant, 263-0074.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon, 8 p.m., 10 p.m. open meetings, 615 Settles.

THE HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY book club is Monday at 7 p.m. in the library. The book that will be discussed this month is "A God in Ruins" by Leon Uris. Any interested readers are welcome to attend the meeting.

For more information about this meeting or a list of books to be discussed in later meetings, call the library at 264-2260.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests between 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001 through 8 a.m. today:

•LEONARD RAY DOMINGUEZ, 41, of Stanton, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, 3rd offense. (HCSO)

•SIMON WAYNE ARAUSA, 30, of 4103 Parkway, was arrested on charges of two counts of sexual assault on a child. (HCSO)

•LEWIS ANTONIO RODRIQUEZ, 37, of 1110 N. Gregg, was arrested on a charge of burglary of a habitation. (HCSO)

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activities between 8 a.m. Thursday through 8 a.m. today:

•RONALD PRICE, 37, no address given, was arrested on local warrants.

CINEMA 4 What Women Want (PG-13) The Emperors New Groove (G) All The Pretty Horses (PG-13) 102 Dalmatians (G) Miss Congeniality (PG-13) Family Man (PG-13)

DUNLAP'S Your Fashion Headquarters 111 E. Marcy 267-8283

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 6,6,4 Cash 5:17,34,33,23,7

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

•BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 500 block of Westover.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 500 block of Westover.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of N. Gregg and in the 4100 block of Bilger.

•FORGERY was reported in the 500 block of Westover.

•THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy, in the 1700 block of Marcy, in the 400 block of E. 4th, in the 2300 block of Wasson Rd., in the 1400 block of Mt. Vernon and in the 1100 block of N. Lamesa.

MARKETS

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

RECORDS

Thursday's high 67 Thursday's low 29 Average high 53 Average low 26 Record high 79 in 1956 Record low 0 in 1947 Precip. Thursday 0.00 Month to date 2.24 Month Normal 1.02 Year to date 17.84 Normal for the year 18.12 Sunrise Saturday 7:48 a.m. Sunset Saturday 5:56 p.m. Sunrise Sunday 7:48 a.m. Sunset Sunday 5:56 p.m.

RITE THE STAR THEATRE has closed for the season Cast Away (PG-13) Vertical Limit (PG-13) The Grinch (PG) Dracula 2000 (R)

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Comp

AUSTIN (AP) Lawmakers will spend more in the coming two years than they did when they last convened. Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said Thursday.

That includes a projected \$2.9 billion in 2002-2003 budget. The overall re

Ratliff

AUSTIN (AP) after some His makers criticize not including H the Senate Re Committee, acti Bill Ratliff on added a seat and Laredo Sen. Zaffirini.

The committee oversee the rec voting districts now has eight four Republican Democrats. Redi expected to be a of the legislati that begins Tues

The original had no Hispani nor South Texas tion.

"The two situ indeed, oversigt part and I believ rectified," Rat

More t on who

DALLAS (AP) cers searching escaped convi received more tips — including temporeaneous si as many states Texas' prison's criticized for th that led to a poli shooting death.

The mother- Police Officer Hawkins, who di of bullets while, to a Christmas E linked to the fu Friday blamed l preceding last escapes as a fa son's death.

The developme ing filing of feder charges against inmates, came a officers prepared nationwide cr. program in the f of a search for a up of two killers robbers, a child serial rapist and "We've had si sightings in Sa

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Comptroller Rylander unveils state's two-year revenue estimate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers will have \$5.1 billion more in state money to spend in the coming two years than they did when they last convened, Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said Thursday.

That includes a projected surplus of \$2.9 billion entering the 2002-2003 budget cycle.

The overall revenue pro-



RYLANDER

jection, including money coming from federal sources, is \$106.8 billion. In the previous biennium, overall revenue totaled \$98.2 billion, including federal money.

"There will be money to pay our bills, but the economic furnace is cooling," Rylander said. "Our Texas economy is healthy and strong, although it is slowing."

Of the overall revenue collection for the 2002-2003 biennium, which begins next Sept. 1, an estimated \$60.8 billion will be avail-

able for general purpose spending.

The state's revenue primarily comes from tax collections and things such as fees for state services, the lottery and interest.

The slowdown in the state's economic growth parallels that in the United States overall, although the state's economy still outpaces the national economy, Rylander said.

By state law, the comptroller is required to provide a revenue estimate every two years before the start of each legislative session.

Lawmakers use the projection to guide them in forming a biennial budget.

Rylander said she could revise her revenue estimate later in the session, depending on the economy and its effect on money flowing into state coffers.

"I am never going to overshoot the runway," she said. "I am always hopeful the economy will do better than what we are projecting."

Already, some legislative leaders have warned they'll have to dip into the surplus to pay for overruns in the current budget cycle from

Medicaid expenses and prison inmate costs.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rob Junell on Thursday estimated that after adjusting for those overruns, lawmakers will have about \$1 billion to \$2 billion of the surplus left.

Then state agencies and interest groups will compete for the remaining money.

Among the high-profile contenders are advocates for higher education, public school teachers who want state-funded health insurance benefits and state employees who want raises.

State Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, the newly named chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said Rylander's estimates show the state's economy is still strong.

But he cautioned the smaller surplus makes it crucial to set the "correct priorities."

The surplus is money that has come in above revenue estimates.

At the start of the last legislative session in 1999, the surplus for the biennium was nearly twice what it is projected to be this time.

Ratliff appoints Hispanic to redistricting committee

AUSTIN (AP) — A day after some Hispanic lawmakers criticized him for not including Hispanics on the Senate Redistricting Committee, acting Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff on Thursday added a seat and appointed Laredo Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

The committee that will oversee the redrawing of voting districts in Texas now has eight members: four Republicans and four Democrats. Redistricting is expected to be a main focus of the legislative session that begins Tuesday.

The original committee had no Hispanic senators nor South Texas representation.

"The two situations are, indeed, oversights on my part and I believe should be rectified," Ratliff wrote

Thursday in a letter to the state's 31 senators. The GOP holds a 16-15 majority in the chamber.

Zaffirini, a Democrat who represents the South Texas district along the Mexico border, said Ratliff's actions impressed her.

"I believe it was an honest omission and a swift correction," Zaffirini said. "He not only admitted it orally, he stated it in writing."

Sen. Mario Gallegos, who had called the exclusion of Hispanics "a slap in the face to the state's fastest-growing population," called Ratliff's turnaround Thursday "a step in the right direction."

Gallegos, D-Houston, and Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, lost their positions on an interim committee studying the issue. Both said they believe another

Hispanic should be appointed to the committee.

Of Texas' 20 million residents, about 6 million are Hispanic.

Announcing the committee appointments was one of Ratliff's first official acts as acting lieutenant governor. He replaced Rick Perry, who became governor when President-elect Bush resigned. Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, retains his vote as a legislator as well as controls the flow of legislation while presiding over the Senate.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, was appointed Wednesday as committee chairman. The other members are Sens. Mike Jackson, R-Houston; Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria; David Cain, D-Dallas; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock;

Rodney Ellis, D-Houston; and Florence Shapiro, R-Plano.

Also in his letter, Ratliff asked the senators to consider adding a Military Affairs Subcommittee under the umbrella of the State Affairs Committee. If a majority of the Senate approves the proposal, Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, would serve as chairman.

Truan, the chamber's longest-serving member, had chaired the Military Affairs Committee before Ratliff eliminated it Wednesday.

Ratliff said he was trying to streamline the number of committees to ease senators' workloads. "It was not my intent to diminish the importance of this segment of our population," he said.

Appeals court tosses out drug bust against one man

LUBBOCK (AP) — A Texas Panhandle appeals court this week dismissed charges against a man arrested in a controversial 1999 drug bust, a move that could cast doubt on the credibility of an undercover officer involved in the bust.

The court's ruling prevents Billy Wafer, 41, of Tulia from being tried on charges he sold drugs to an undercover officer. Forty-three people were arrested in the bust. Forty of them were black.

The arrests were based on an 18-month undercover investigation by Tulia officer Tom Coleman, who worked alone and had no surveillance. Many have

challenged Coleman's credibility but others have nothing but praise for him as an outstanding officer.

In 1999, one year short of completing a 10-year probation for marijuana possession, Wafer was accused of selling cocaine to Coleman near a playground in Tulia.

The drug bust has prompted a lawsuit against the local sheriff, the district attorney who prosecuted the cases, and Coleman. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the undercover operation.

The court's decision to dismiss Wafer's charges may impact others convicted in the bust.

More than 1,000 leads received on whereabouts of escaped convicts

DALLAS (AP) — Law officers searching for seven escaped convicts have received more than 1,000 tips — including four contemporaneous sightings in as many states — even as Texas' prison system was criticized for the break out that led to a police officer's shooting death.

The mother of Irving Police Officer Aubrey Hawkins, who died in a hail of bullets while responding to a Christmas Eve robbery linked to the fugitives, on Friday blamed lax security preceding last month's escapes as a factor in her son's death.

The developments, including filing of federal weapons charges against the escaped inmates, came as Texas law officers prepared to go on a nationwide crime stoppers' program in the fourth week of a search for a gang made up of two killers, two armed robbers, a child abuser, a serial rapist and a burglar.

"We've had simultaneous sightings in San Marcos,

Texas, Durango, Colo., a small town in southern Oklahoma and someplace in Louisiana," Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Larry Todd said.

"We certainly appreciate the input and we are checking out every lead," he said. "But we know that the escapes cannot be everywhere at once. However, we take every lead seriously."

"We are trying not to panic the public, but certainly to advise them of the potential danger," he said, adding that advisories to police were being broadcast all over the Southwest and in northern Mexico.

More than 1,200 leads have been received since the seven broke out of the Texas prison system's Connally Unit at Kenedy on Dec. 13. Capital murder arrest warrants were issued in Hawkins' slaying.

Each lead has to be investigated, Todd said.

"Law enforcement has to be as patient as the escapees, because they are,"

he said. "Officers are using extreme caution and due diligence in searching for the inmates."

Jayne Hawkins, in a letter published Friday, took the Texas Board of Criminal Justice to task after its vice chairwoman, Carole Young, said the escape was under investigation but had no reason to question detention procedures.

"Seven hardened criminals steal guns from a Texas prison, overtake two prison guards, drive out of what they call a maximum security prison in a state-owned truck, sweet talk their way past the front gate and Ms. Young questions whether the prison officials could learn anything!" Mrs. Hawkins wrote.

"Ms. Young may see no reason to question the detention system in the great state of Texas, but its lack of functioning and her lack of ethics are what killed my son so I question it and will continue to question it," she wrote.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John H. Walker
Publisher

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

• **CALEB AARON MURPHREE**, first child born in Howard County this year. He is the son of Leigh Ann Murphree

• **SEN. ROBERT DUNCAN**, who was appointed vice chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Finance Committee, Redistricting Committee and Jurisprudence Committee.

• **THE MANY PEACE OFFICERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, DOCTORS, NURSES** and others who responded when a passenger bus overturned near here this week, injuring more than 30 people.

• **LORAIN REDMAN**, who announced she will be leaving Big Spring after seven years as Howard County librarian.

• **GLASSCOCK COUNTY YOUTH**, who began that county's 64th junior livestock show on Thursday.

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

OTHER VIEWS

Just over a dime doesn't buy much in the United States anymore. ... Yet a pittance by U.S. standards can prevent malaria and save a life in much of the world.

It only takes 12 cents to purchase the drug treatment needed to stop malaria. That is why a much-needed, multimillion allocation from America will go a long way to combat the disease.

Last week, President Clinton signed the International Malaria Control Act, under which the United States will

spend \$50 million to prevent and treat malaria in developing nations.

It's a relatively small investment with huge returns, according to a recent U.N. report. ...

The United States has made an important contribution to the cause, but even more needs to be done to eradicate preventable disease. The new U.S. Congress must strive to increase the current \$1.4 billion it spends on global health programs.

STAR TRIBUNE,
MINNEAPOLIS

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.

Speaking in defense of Augusto Pinochet

Though Augusto Pinochet, with the armed forces behind him, could have held on to power in Chile, he made a deal to bring about a peaceful transition to civilian rule. In return for resigning as head of state, he would not be prosecuted for alleged crimes during and after the coup against Chilean President Salvador Allende and, in addition, he would have a Senate seat for life.

This could not affect the charges brought against him by a Spanish judge in a British court, which led to a period of house arrest in England; but it now seems that the Chilean justice system itself is ignoring the original agreement altogether and embroiling him in a variety of charges, notably "kidnapping," that is, the abduction and disappearance of many people during the coup.

It looks as if those who hate Pinochet will stop at nothing to harass him. They speak of "justice," of course, but apparently care little for the agreement with Pinochet that led to the return of civilian democratic rule. I think it is too often characteristic of the left that some notion of "justice" — loosely defined — cancels out all considerations of process and prior agreements.

Surprisingly few voices

have been raised to say a good word for the octogenarian and how ill Pinochet. Margaret Thatcher is the only one who comes to mind as defending him, though I imagine Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Freedman would agree with her. It was Freedman's graduate students from the University of Chicago, after all, who reformed and reinvented the Chilean economy while Pinochet was in power and gave that country a Social Security system superior to anything now suggested by the American leadership.

As it happens, I paid pretty close attention to developments in Chile during the Allende regime and after his fall, and I spent an interesting couple of weeks in Chile a year or so after the military coup. I concluded then and continue to believe that Pinochet deserves the thanks of his country. His coup and authoritarian regime laid the basis for Chile's current prosperity and democratic stability.

Of course, he overthrew the "democratically elected" Allende. But Allende won power in a three-way race in which the votes for his opponents were split. A minority president, he sought the rapid "Castroization" of the country in the teeth of massive strikes by truckers who tied up transportation and by thousands of women who descended on Santiago, Chile, banging on pots and pans for hours in protest of what he was doing to the economy. He was also muzzling the opposition press

through his control of the printers' union and constitutionally restricting travel within Chile by its own citizens. Not long before the coup, the Chilean Parliament came within a few votes of impeaching him. The coup occurred when he tried to put pro-Allende officers in key positions in the military.

Allende, a revolutionary throughout his adult life, was a leader of the Chilean Socialist Party. Despite its title, that party was to the left of the regular Communist Party. Its goals were no different, but it was more audacious. In its publications, the regular Communist Party warned Allende that he lacked a "revolutionary situation" in Chile. In communist jargon, that meant he lacked the support or at least neutrality of the police and the armed forces. Allende believed in the Castro model, that you make a revolution by going ahead and doing it. You "create facts."

The regular communists were right. The air force shot a couple-dozen rockets into the presidential palace, destroying it. Then troops stormed it and cornered Allende in his office. He put a machine gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

I was able to make appointments with government, media and opposition figures, and even had a couple of hours with Pinochet himself in his office atop a new skyscraper called the Diego Portales, which was used as his headquarters while

the palace was being rebuilt.

About the coup itself, I have seen no higher estimate of those killed than 3,000. In view of the fact that this was, in essence, a civil war, and that the Communist Party and its Allende socialist allies were, per capita, the largest revolutionary grouping in Latin America, I would say that 3,000 casualties is remarkably light.

Up in his rooftop office, wearing a blue suit and white socks, Pinochet struck me as a typical barracks soldier. He had little concern about the nuances of politics. He wanted to "improve his image."

Pinochet kept order. The real work was done by a team of young economists from the University of Chicago. It was exciting to sit with the economists behind the large windows of the best club in Santiago, gaze at the sunset on the snowy Andes behind the city, smoke cigars and drink pisco sours, while the economists conversationally dismembered inefficient, politicized and subsidized industries, restructured the economy and modernized Chile. These young men were the genuine revolutionaries, and they had wonderful elan.

It might be regrettable, but the Romans knew that a "dictator" sometimes is indispensable when things are spinning out of hand. Indeed, the Romans invented the word dictator. Pinochet did what had to be done when his country required it. The left and the liberals (is that a redundancy?) will never forgive him.

After a hard day of pardoning people, the Clintons go house hunting.



Surprise Democratic candidate for 2004

Who will be the Democratic presidential nominee in 2004? "Who cares so soon?" you may wonder. Read on.

Vice President Al Gore is the least likely of the existing top-rung possibilities. He is widely viewed by top party officials and by rank-and-file Democrats as having botched the campaign, especially the debates.

Most Democrats were confident that Gore's mastery of the issues and the workings of government would have made an almost impossible for George W. Bush to defeat in a debate, yet Bush is

viewed as having won at least one of the debates and as having survived the other two. Sad to say for Gore, he will probably go the way of poor former Vice President Dan Quayle.

Next comes Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., the current minority leader of the Senate. He must be rated as the current odds-on favorite. He is bright, accomplished, efficient, hardworking and congenial. The last of these is significant, because most folks agree that the stiff Gore was never going to win a Mr. Congeniality contest.

But there is another dark horse candidate standing in the Democratic shadows. He is not exactly a pro-choice candidate, but neither is he exactly a pro-life candidate.

He has a track record of working with senators from both sides of the aisle, even co-sponsoring legislation with them.

He favors a patients' bill of rights.

He supports women's rights.

He supports minority rights.

He served with distinction in Vietnam, and he favors a strong national defense.

He rejects the isolationist tendencies of America firsters in both parties.

He favors free trade, saying at his party's convention: "Isolationism and protectionism are fool's errands."

He opposes pork-barrel spending.

He favors paying down the debt instead of providing tax relief for the wealthy.

He confronts his foes, saying, "Neither party should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left or Pat Robertson

or Jerry Falwell on the right."

He is a prime mover in the campaign-finance movement, a foe of special interests.

Who is he? A Republican: Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Is it likely he would switch parties? No.

Possible? Yes.

It is difficult to take the nomination away from a sitting president, so his chances of running as a Republican in 2004 are slim.

And even if he could, McCain may yet discover that he really isn't a Republican after all.

Ronald Reagan once said that he didn't leave the Democratic Party; it left him.

McCain may find himself saying the same thing about the Republican Party. And if he does, many, probably most, Democrats will be waiting to greet him with open arms.



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House GOP picks new panel chairs, Senate wrestles with split

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans have installed a new team to head the committees that will try pushing President-elect Bush's agenda through the 107th Congress. Senate leaders still have not determined how they will run a chamber split evenly between the two parties for the first time ever.

"We're not afraid to take a chance on new faces, not afraid to take a chance on new ideas," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., told reporters Thursday after Republicans selected new committee chairmen for that chamber.

Fresh faces at the helm included Rep. Bill Thomas of California, a 22-year veteran taking over the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee; Rep. John Boehner of

Ohio, the one-time No. 4 House leader who will lead the panel that oversees education; and Rep. Mike Oxley of Ohio, who will head the new banking committee, which will also control insurance and securities.

They will be at the fore as Bush seeks legislation for the tax cuts and changes in education, Medicare and Social Security that highlighted his election campaign.

Thomas, who has focused largely on Medicare and other health issues in recent years, will be in the spotlight during the battle for one of Bush's highest profile proposals, a 10-year, \$1.3 trillion across-the-board tax reduction.

Many Democrats have said such a cut is too large and would sop up too much of the projected budget

surplus. Asked about Bush's plan, Thomas seemed noncommittal. "The president-elect has a position, and we appreciate the president-elect's position," he said.

The committee changes were forced by rules the GOP imposed when it took control of the House in 1995 and limited lawmakers to three two-year terms chairing a committee.

The same rules allow departing chairmen to head other committees. Many will do just that in the Congress that convened Wednesday.

Switchers include Reps. Bob Stump of Arizona, who moves from Veterans Affairs to the Armed Services committee; Henry Hyde of Illinois, who goes from

Judiciary to International Relations; and Alaska's Don Young, who transfers from Resources to Transportation.

In the Senate, Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and top Democrat Tom Daschle of South Dakota separately shopped proposals to their rank-and-file members to allow equal numbers of lawmakers from both parties on committees. Having fought their way to a 50-50 Senate tie, Democrats have been demanding parity on committees, for hiring staff and other matters.

Under one idea described by Lott and others, if there was a tie vote in a committee on a bill, the measure could be brought to the full Senate for a vote anyway. Under current rules, a tie vote kills legis-

lation. But after two months of bargaining, and meetings Thursday with their colleagues, both Lott and Daschle cautioned that no final decisions were made. Among unresolved questions were how subcommittees and conference committees — named to negotiate final versions of bills with the House — would be composed.

"We've both had a lot of rough spots along the way," Daschle told reporters.

Despite the 50-50 split, the GOP will control the Senate beginning Jan. 20 when Republicans George W. Bush and Dick Cheney are inaugurated as president and vice president. Under the Constitution, the vice president can cast tie-breaking votes.

McCain making good on pledge to push for campaign finance reform

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arizona Sen. John McCain's pledge to push a campaign finance overhaul to the top of the Senate's agenda threatens to revive once-rocky relations between the former presidential candidate and President-elect Bush.

McCain said Thursday he has won the support of Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., and planned to bring the long-stalled measure to the floor within three weeks after Bush's Jan. 20 inauguration.

"I believe the country wants this reform," McCain said. "I cannot and will not in good conscience give up on this issue."

Delaying action would hurt chances the legislation will become law, McCain said.

His co-sponsor, Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., agrees and said Friday that backers of the bill have the 60 votes necessary to cut off opponents' expected filibuster against the measure. "We're ready to

break the filibuster," he said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"We really do" need to pass the bill within two or three weeks of Bush's inauguration. Feingold said, because once lawmakers begin fund raising for the next election, positions will harden against the measure.

Bush, who has put education and prescription drugs at the top of his legislative agenda, said Thursday he supports "campaign funding reform so long as business and labor are treated equally." That includes, he said, "paycheck protection" to allow union members to opt out of paying dues to support political payments.

"If money is being spent on behalf of somebody who has no voice, I think we ought to get rid of that kind of money," Bush said. That also includes corporations, he said, because shareholders have no say in which parties or candidates are supported.

Wall Street hammers credit rating, utilities' stocks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Teetering on the brink of financial collapse, California's two largest utilities have been handed a double whammy by getting only a fraction of expected rate hikes and experiencing Wall Street's wrath.

The state authorized immediate rate increases on Thursday ranging from 7 to 15 percent, or about half of what Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co. had requested.

Standard & Poor's and Fitch Inc., two major credit rating agencies, responded by downgrading the utilities' parent companies, causing their stock prices to plummet.

The prospect of "a bankruptcy like no other" was prompted President Clinton's administration to arrange a meeting between top state and federal officials at the White House on Tuesday, The New York Times reported today.

California's five-member Public Utilities Commission, which unanimously approved the 90-day rate hike, also urged the state Legislature to back a bond package for bailing out the utilities.

Wall Street didn't

think enough had been done.

"This slows down their march toward bankruptcy, but that's where they're still headed unless something more is done," said analyst Barry Abramson of UBS Warburg.

Fitch deemed the commission's temporary increases "wholly insufficient" and lowered ratings of PG&E Corp. and Edison International to junk bond status, or less than investment grade.

Meanwhile, S&P, the most closely watched agency, dropped the utilities to "BBB," or a grade above junk.

PG&E's stock plunged \$5, or 29 percent to \$12 in Thursday trading; Edison's shares dropped \$1.50, or 12 percent, to \$10.75.

In a statement, S&P indicated it held back on the junk rating because there still appeared to be a "reasonable chance" that Gov. Gray Davis and the state Legislature would bail out the utilities.

At this stage, the credit ratings have a greater impact on the utilities' debt, now estimated at about \$10 billion.

If the utilities had been

ranked below S&P's investment grade, banks could have forced them to repay debts immediately.

The utilities may be counting on a state-backed multibillion-dollar bond package to refinance the utilities' debts, with ratepayers paying off the bonds through a monthly surcharge on their bills, officials said.

The utilities' crisis came because they buy power for roughly 30 cents a kilowatt hour but, because of a rate freeze, could only charge customers about a fifth of that amount.

The rate freeze, part of California's 1996 deregulation law, was established at what was then a generous level to assure utilities a steady stream of revenue as they sold off power plants and made the transition to deregulation.

But earlier this year, the price of wholesale electricity skyrocketed.

In his State of the State Address on Monday, Gray is expected to renew his plea to federal officials to intervene in California's electricity crisis and propose a \$1 billion energy conservation and supply plan.

Philip Morris draws fire for anti-smoking freebies to schools districts across country

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of book covers sent to schools by cigarette maker Philip Morris show children on snowboards and skis and warn them: "Don't Wipe Out. Think. Don't Smoke."

The free covers have sparked protests from education and health advocates across the country, who call the brightly colored fold-over covers a smoke screen that violates a 1998 ban on tobacco advertising to children.

The critics charge the covers attempt to link Philip Morris' name more to fun in the snow than to the "don't smoke" message and contain subliminal smoking messages. Some are demanding investigations by state attorneys general.

Students and teachers also have complained about the covers, part of 26 million produced last year for the cigarette maker.

"The snowboard looks like a lit match. The clouds look like smoke. The mountains look like mounds of tobacco at an auction," said Gerald Kilbert, who directs the California Education Department's Healthy Kids Program. "The tobacco industry is still up to their old tricks of trying to attract children using different techniques."

Philip Morris says its willingness to fight youth smoking should not be judged by the book covers. The maker of Marlboro, Virginia Slims and other popular brands says the covers have no secret message and don't violate the agreement.

In a letter on Wednesday to the attorneys general, however, advocates said the Philip Morris covers are "promoting its brand name among schoolchildren," and the campaign "appears to be indirectly promoting tobacco products to them."

The National Association of Attorneys General is reserving judgment.

"It will take some fairly sophisticated analysis,"

said Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, who oversees enforcement of the state-tobacco agreement. "You are not dealing with direct messages but rather indirect and subliminal messages."

"The potential for a violation is there," he said. "Anytime you have material going into schools, you at least raise a red flag."

Last year, Philip Morris sent about 26 million book covers free to 43,000 schools nationwide.

Arizona high school students complained to the state attorney general.

A Rhode Island middle school health counselor tossed them after seeing the cigarette makers' copyright. The California school superintendent asked principals statewide to keep them away from students.

"The need isn't for Philip Morris to do anti-smoking campaigns," said Matt

Myers, the top lawyer for the advocacy group Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

"The need is for Philip Morris to stop doing advertising that makes its products more popular among children than any other brands."

Philip Morris, which spends \$100 million a year on government-backed anti-smoking projects and print and television anti-smoking advertising, feels a duty to deter underage users of its products and sought a message that would appeal to students, said company spokesman Brendan McCormick.

"The only intention with the covers is to help reduce the incidence of youth smoking," McCormick said. The covers include the surgeon general's patent warning against smoking and a the company's name in a copyright declaration.

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FBC forming pastor search committee

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

First Baptist Church is starting what could be a long process of searching for a new pastor.

After the Nov. 5 departure of the Rev. Eddie Tubbs for a church in Dumas, FBC has had a number of guest speakers filling in for its services, said Mike Couch, administrator.

"We've got a committee of the congregation in charge of pulpits and they are responsible for arranging for preachers," explained Couch.

The committee has had guest ministers from the community, along with youth pastor Jeff Donnell and others from out of town.

On Feb. 25, a familiar face will grace the pulpit as the Rev. Kenneth Patrick returns from his

job with Baptist Memorial Center to preach for both services that day.

Patrick preceded Tubbs at First Baptist with a tenure that lasted 27 years.

A search committee is now being formed, however, that will look for a permanent pastor for the church. The church is gathering nominations from the membership for people to serve on that committee.

In a few weeks, the congregation will choose seven people to serve, plus three alternates. Members are asked to vote by signed ballots.

Once they are in place,

the committee will probably advertise the position opening, although word is already out in Baptist circles, Couch said.

"We've already received resumes from all over the country," he said. "And we will also be getting names of people recommended to us by others."

After hearing and seeing some of the candidates on audio and videotapes, Couch said, the committee will probably visit several of their top choices — perhaps several times. Then they might ask one to preach at First Baptist and meet with the congregation.

"Once the committee is agreed on its choice, the

congregation will vote," he said. "At least three-fourths of those present must vote for him."

Efforts will be taken to be sure that shut-in or homebound members have the opportunity to vote, such as delivery of ballots to them and printing information about the candidate in church publications, Couch said.

The entire process may take several months or longer, he added.

"We rely on the Lord's leadership," he said. "...We want to get who God wants here, not just who we want here."

During that time, church members — especially deacons such as Couch — will fill in at various duties.

"Everyone stands in the gap," Couch said. "It doesn't hurt anybody to do a little extra work."



TUBBS



PATRICK

We must be strong in faith despite criticism

For the past couple of months there has been a word that has been almost over used in the newspapers and television newscasts. Perhaps you all are as tired of the word as I am. The word is "bipartisanship."

It means that people with differing viewpoints resolve to work together for common solutions. Simply put, it boils down to "compromise" on an issue so that rival factions can be seen as cooperative by the American people. More than that, it means that each party waters down its position to something much different than what was held to begin with.

In politics, where solutions to public problems are often just a matter of opinion, "compromise" and "bipartisanship" may very well be appropriate. Elected officials on "opposite sides of the aisle" approach governing from differing perspectives. Sometimes, for solutions to be brought to bear on certain public concerns, opposing parties should compromise.

However, when truth and the moral stability of our families and our nation are at stake, compromise or bipartisanship must never rule the day. The questions of how, when, why and to what extent in regard to the tax cut issue may be subject to compromise, but right and wrong ought never be watered down by negotiation.

Positions that endorse immoral behavior may be popular because they seem so broadminded, but that does not mean that they are right. People of faith must not compromise their convictions for the sake of

...When truth and the moral stability of our families and our nation are at stake, compromise or bipartisanship must never rule the day.



RUSS MULLINS

bipartisanship. And we must not accept what we know is wrong just because some call us intolerant.

However, remaining strong in today's climate of compromise has a price.

Reggie White played defensive lineman for the Philadelphia Eagles and the Green Bay Packers. He is one of the rare professional athletes that I personally respect for more than his athleticism. His faith in Jesus Christ has moved him to take the very unpopular public stance against immorality. In fact, in March 1998, Reggie gave a speech before the Wisconsin State Legislature in which he called homosexuality both a sin and an abomination.

His comments brought unkind criticism from all fronts. He lost endorsement contracts and he was no longer considered for a job as a football analyst by CBS Sports. One newspaper columnist said, "White sounded like a bigot and he sounded like a hypocrite. Mostly, though, he sounded like a fool."

Here is a man whose uncompromising moral convictions and courage to take the heat when those convictions are called intolerant and even foolish, make him a man to be admired. Jesus said to his disciples as he prepared them to go out and preach the gospel, "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved." (Matthew 10:22)

See MULLINS, Page 7A

Pastor's lesson inspires others to acts of charity

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. (AP) — By any measure, Lisa Panzica was struggling.

After fleeing an abusive relationship and a home-invasion robbery, she lived day to day to make ends meet — to pay rent, provide food for her children, attend college night classes.

Across town, Terry Zwick had few worries, living in a comfortable, spacious home in one of Orange County's most affluent communities.

Their lives intersected after Zwick was given money by her pastor and told to do a good deed.

"It seems like such a simple act. But it's having a ripple effect," Zwick said. "People are paying it forward. We helped Lisa, and she helped her family."

Zwick was one of 100 people selected from the Coast Hills Community Church by the Rev. Denny Bellesi to participate in a living biblical lesson.

"I wanted to teach this principle of stewardship," Bellesi said. "I wanted to leave an impression they would never forget."

In November, the pastor gave out \$100 bills — a total of \$10,000 from his church's general funds — with the instruction that recipients go forward and do good. He was partly inspired by the recent movie "Pay It Forward," about a child's efforts to change the world with good deeds.

"I told them it had to be invested outside the church. It had to be glorifying to God and it had to be benefiting to others," he said.

What began with 100 people has since involved hundreds of people. Their actions include small acts of kindness — such as helping a family get on their feet — to the large — funding construction of a church in Asia.

But deciding how to spend the money wasn't easy.

"It was the most important \$100 I had ever held in my hands," said Bill Shedd. To add to the pot, Shedd's 13-year-old son donated \$100 of the allowance he had saved. Then his daughter

pitched in money. Soon, the Shedd had collected \$1,000.

After weeks of debate, the family donated \$800 to a shelter for abused women and children.

Then Shedd read a newspaper article about 15-year-old Javier Zambrano in nearby Santa Ana, who was collecting holiday gifts for children even though he didn't have enough money himself to buy soccer shoes.

"I thought, 'This kid already got what Pastor Denny was trying to teach us.' Here he was without much himself and doing things for others. It seemed like the right thing," he said.

Shedd gave Javier the remaining \$200 for soccer supplies.

Michael Rodriguez, 33, used the \$100 to begin a donation drive at his job at an Internet consulting company to help a family with funeral costs for two daughters who had died.

Gene Shook, 47, used the money to buy Bibles and study guides to train pastors in Asia.

Alex Benton, 9, sent the money to a 4-year-old Oregon girl to help her family defray the expenses of a needed heart transplant.

In Zwick's case, she was introduced to Panzica by a friend who had met the 33-year-old single mother while taking college classes.

Panzica told Zwick about her struggles and how she was happy that at least her children were now safe.

A week later, Zwick and two friends showed up with \$700 in gift certificates for clothing and food and a \$1,100 check to cover the January rent.

In turn, Panzica used the gift certificates to buy her family and another needy family food and clothes.

The act reminded Zwick of something she said she had forgotten.

"I know it wasn't much. But it made people feel cared for. It gave them hope," she said. "It made me realize the extra stuff wasn't so important."

CHURCH NEWS

East Side Baptist Church

Happy New Year! Start the New Year off right by joining us at the East Side Baptist Church. Sunday morning worship starts at 10 a.m., followed by Sunday evening services at 5 p.m. Then join us every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. We also have Bible Club for the kids on Wednesday at 7 p.m. We will be having our Annual Business meeting this Sunday evening at 6 p.m.

First Christian

Ricky Simpson is our new Youth Director. He will head up Sunday afternoon activities and Wednesday night devotionals. He will also run a bus route for Sunday morning. If you would like your children to attend Sunday School and Sunday morning services,

please call the church office at 267-7851.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Jimmy Watson's sermon will be "Jesus: The Adoption Agent." This sermon will explore the ways our identity as children of God is best understood by the metaphor of adoption.

Promise Keepers

Local members of the Promise Keepers will be participating in a number of events in coming months, including a meeting Jan. 16 in Midland.

For that event, Promise Keepers will meet at 7 p.m. at Crestview Baptist, 3300 Thomas, to hear Immanuel Baptist Church senior pastor Mark Riley of Odessa. The praise team for the meeting is from Crestview. Other meetings in the area are planned in May-June at Temple Baptist in Odessa and Golf Course Rd. Church of Christ in Midland; and on Aug. 16 at Ector County Coliseum.

Call Ron Alton, 268-8812, for information.

Jesus video going statewide

Crusade will send videos to every mailbox in Lone Star State

From staff and wire reports

A crusade expected to cost \$21 million will put videos about Jesus in every Texan's mailbox by the end of the year.

The Jesus Video Project of Texas, a mass mailing to 8.4 million homes, will give each Texas household an 83-minute video about the life, teachings and message of Jesus and the Christian

For some local residents, it will be their second copy of the movie, since 10,000 copies were distributed in Howard County in August of 1999. That effort, spearheaded by local businessman Everett Bender, involved dozens of churches in several denominations. Its goal was to reach every home in Howard County with a hand-delivered copy of the video.

For some local residents, it will be their second copy of the movie, since 10,000 copies were distributed in Howard County in August of 1999.

Project organizers say statewide, they predict that as many as 4.1 million people will respond by either converting to Christianity or rededicating their life to Jesus.

"We're not out to bug people; we're out to make a difference," said Lee Miller, spokesman for the project. "People can either choose to look at the video or ignore it."

The video shows a film released to theaters in 1979. Representatives of Florida-based Campus Crusade for Christ, which is leading the project, said 112 million people worldwide have committed their lives to Jesus after

watching the video.

Although the mailing goes to everyone rather than targeting non-Christians, some say many people will still find the unsolicited mailing offensive.

"As long as it's a general appeal, most Jews won't be offended, but they won't be very interested, either," said Mark Briskman, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, told *The Dallas Morning News*.

"Many Jews will put it in their trash cans, and I suspect many Hindus and Muslims will do the same." Briskman said the Jesus Video Project of Texas isn't

as offensive as a 1999 Southern Baptist campaign to convert Jews. It was done during the High Holy Days — the most sacred time on the Jewish calendar.

Some Texas churches, anticipating trash cans as the destination for many videos, have volunteered their members to knock on doors and offer free popcorn as an incentive to watch.

At least 3,000 Texas churches are helping with the project in some way, particularly with follow-up ministry, Miller said. Churches, individuals and businesses have contributed about \$5 million so far to cover the costs, he said.

The first part of the three-stage mailing will go to more than a million homes from Dallas-Fort Worth to Austin in March. The other two mailings are planned for July and August.

<h4>SLICE of</h4> <p>RELIGION IN THE NEWS</p> <p>LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A small church in Grand Haven has won the right to occupy a storefront in a business district, a religious freedom organization said. The Washington, D.C.-based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty said U.S. District Judge David McKeague signed a consent order Dec. 20 that ended the dispute. The fund said the consent judgment acknowledges that a ban on the church based on Grand Haven's zoning ordinance would not survive challenge under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, signed in September by President Clinton.</p> <p>A Grand Haven city attorney had argued that the zoning ordinance barring the Haven Shores Community Church from opening in a shopping center did not discriminate on the basis of religion. But Becket Fund president Kevin Hasson called the case "a wake-up call for other communities that assume they have nearly unlimited latitude in using zoning laws to severely restrict churches and other religious organizations."</p> <p>LONDON, Ky. (AP) — County officials are fighting a court ruling that could hold</p> <p>See NEWS, Page 7A</p>	<h4>CLUB NEWS</h4> <p>THE HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY Book Club will meet Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. The book "A God in Ruins," by Leon Uris will be discussed. The book club meets regularly to discuss a variety of current, classic and popular literature. For information or a list of books to be discussed in future club meetings, call the library at 264-2260.</p> <p>***</p> <p>THE PUBLIC IS INVITED to a reception honoring Howard County librarian Loraine Redman on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 2-5 p.m., at the Howard County Library. Redman has accepted a position in Garland, and her last day here will be Friday, Jan. 12. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Library in appreciation of Redman's support while serving as Librarian.</p>	<h4>WELL SAID</h4> <p>Mediocre men wait for opportunity to come to them. Strong, able, alert men go after opportunity.</p> <p>B.C. Forbes</p> <p>The wisest person is not the one who has the fewest failures, but the one who turns failures to best account.</p> <p>Richard R. Grant</p>
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BIG SPRING
Friday, Jan. 5, 2000

Hong Kong
HONG KONG mansion that World War II...
Cree-L Koffo can be tough missionaries a convert people Buddhist, Taoist. Many nations them in, but Hong Kong nerve center.
"There is of freedom," said church's Asia. "We are allowtize, and we do Kong. We're b of buildings he ing here."
The Mormon evangelism authorities te including ne mainland Chin officially athei ly controls reli sion.
Some faiths, Roman Catho practice unde China, where ment is engage attempt to brea tual newcomer Gong meditatio

Wanted
NEWARK, N Five years ag Rene Lima was ply as a priest city of Sao Paol ebrating Mass a with parishion the world's n Catholic countr
Then, one day called him in a he was being se to help meet a Before long, Li plane touchin Newark I Airport, where on into some st tistics.
"Although the than 700,000 speaking Catho ern New Jerse only about 10 p archdiocese wh language. A Brazilians floo area, joining th lished commu grants from F need for clerg the language acute.
"I'd love it if a dozen," sa Archbishop McCarrick, wh

NEW HAVEN
Four Orth students have court challen claim that immodest at Yale Universi mitories violat gious beliefs.
The 2nd Court of App claims that Y nated against or violated fed law by requir freshmen and under age 21 t pus.
The three-ju the students gone elsewhere n't like Yale's

8:00
(Pick
Se

Hong Kong: Commercial city, religious stronghold

HONG KONG (AP) — In a mansion that served as a World War II command center for the Japanese Imperial Army, a Mormon church leader keeps a huge map on the wall to plot a different kind of conquest: The spread of his faith through Asia.

Cree-L Kofford's territory can be tough for Mormon missionaries as they seek to convert people who grew up Buddhist, Taoist or Islamic. Many nations won't even let them in, but Kofford calls Hong Kong the perfect nerve center.

"There is open religious freedom," said Kofford, the church's Asia president. "We are allowed to proselytize, and we do that in Hong Kong. We're building a lot of buildings here and growing here."

The Mormons stop their evangelism wherever authorities tell them to, including next door in mainland China, where the officially atheist state tightly controls religious expression.

Some faiths, including the Roman Catholic Church, practice underground in China, where the government is engaged in a furious attempt to break up a spiritual newcomer, the Falun Gong meditation sect.

'There is open religious freedom. We are allowed to proselytize, and we do that in Hong Kong. We're building a lot of buildings here and growing here.'

Cree-L Kofford,
Mormon church leader

But Hong Kong, best known as a bastion of free-wheeling capitalism, is a haven for many Western religions, and amid the many glittering bank skyscrapers one finds a fair number of church spires, too.

When Hong Kong reverted from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, Beijing guaranteed freedoms of worship and speech for at least 50 years. Thus, Hong Kong has its place as a regional hub for people trying to spread Scriptures instead of selling stocks — at times creating an uncomfortable situation for mainland China.

Since the handover, more people travel between Hong Kong and the mainland and church contacts with mainland residents are increasing, ministers of several religions believe.

"Since it's now one country, there are more opportunities," said the Rev. Luk Fai at the Church of Christ

in China, which was founded 80 years ago on the mainland but was kicked out and had to relocate in Hong Kong after Mao Tse-tung's communists won a civil war in 1949.

Groups from Luk's church travel to exchange views with Christians in China, but sometimes they find acceptance slow among mainlanders who must tread carefully with religion and often view outsiders with suspicion.

The Hong Kong church members do not try to win any converts — which would cause trouble.

"The local people can do evangelism much better than we can," Luk said. "They understand how far they can go, what are the boundaries."

Others place faith in God above any boundaries put up by China's government.

China has recently been squabbling with the Catholics, who have used Hong Kong as a base for

smuggling Scriptures into the mainland and also for helping underground practitioners.

"Under this kind of control, they have to ask for help from outside, which would be illegal in the eyes of the government, but legal according to their conscience," said Bishop John Tong at the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong.

"They're our brothers, so we try to answer the request with concrete actions, in a prudent and discreet way," Tong said.

Beijing recently angered Hong Kong Catholics by urging them to stay low key with ceremonies marking the canonization of 120 Chinese and foreign missionary martyrs — a move made by the Vatican on China's National Day, infuriating the Chinese leadership.

As some 1,000 Catholics packed a thanksgiving service, Tong remarked, "We can use our own way to celebrate." But the bishop acknowledged worries that as China takes firmer control that religion, too, could be threatened.

"Once the legal pillar is shaken, we yield our right to Beijing, and anything could happen in the future, slowly," Tong said.

Continued from Page 6A

them in contempt if they don't remove the Ten Commandments from their courthouse walls.

An attorney for McCreary and Pulaski counties argued in U.S. District Court in London that the religious document is next to other historical documents and the overall display is not a religious one.

The counties were responding to a motion filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on Dec. 7. It asked that the county officials be held in contempt for hanging the documents despite a judge's order. It is the latest maneuver in a lawsuit that was brought by the ACLU in November 1999.

U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman ruled in May that displays in McCreary and Pulaski counties and in the Harlan County schools had the "overwhelming effect of endorsing religion." She ordered them removed and forbade any similar displays.

The displays were

removed, but officials in McCreary and Pulaski put up new ones in October. The Harlan County school board has reposted the commandments along with other historical documents in the district's administrative offices. The board voted unanimously to put similar displays in each of the district's 14 schools.

Officials in all three counties could face time in jail or fines if Coffman decides they defied her order.

The new displays in Pulaski and McCreary counties include many of the same documents as before, although they are no longer shortened to only their religious references. Also, the new displays include an explanation of the role the Ten Commandments and the eight other documents on the walls played "in the foundation of our system of law and government."

Pulaski Judge-Executive Darrell Beshears said the county hopes to find a display that Coffman will decide is legal.

Wanted: Portuguese-speaking Catholic priests

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Five years ago, the Rev. Rene Lima was serving happily as a priest in his native city of Sao Paolo, Brazil, celebrating Mass and mingling with parishioners in one of the world's most Roman Catholic countries.

Then, one day, his bishop called him in and told him he was being sent elsewhere to help meet a great need. Before long, Lima was on a plane touching down at Newark International Airport, where he ran head-on into some staggering statistics.

Although there are more than 100,000 Portuguese-speaking Catholics in northern New Jersey, there are only about 10 priests in the archdiocese who speak the language. And with Brazilians flocking to the area, joining the well-established community of immigrants from Portugal, the need for clergy who speak the language has become acute.

"I'd love it if we had even a dozen," says Newark Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, who has made

Although there are more than 100,000 Portuguese-speaking Catholics in northern New Jersey, there are only about 10 priests in the archdiocese who speak the language.

reaching out to non-English speaking parishioners a hallmark of his tenure as leader of northern New Jersey's 1.3 million Roman Catholics. "The reality is, we have even less than that."

Not long ago, McCarrick made a trip to Portugal, where he engaged in the ecclesiastical version of "Let's Make A Deal" with bishops in the hope of finding some Portuguese-speaking priests to serve in parishes in New Jersey. But he flew back empty-handed. "It's not that easy," he says. "Portugal is having the same problems we're having with vocations. But I did speak to several of the bishops in Portugal, and they feel a responsibility for the Portuguese here."

Catholic priests are in short supply around the

country, especially those with specialized language skills or certain ethnic backgrounds. That has led bishops in places like Chicago, Los Angeles and New Orleans to look for new ways to attract young men of different backgrounds to the priesthood.

The Archdiocese of Chicago, which claims to have the largest concentration of Polish Catholics outside of Warsaw, runs a special outreach program to attract Polish-speaking men who might be interested in becoming priests. It runs a similar program for Hispanics.

"We're always trying to attract more priests in general, and Polish and Hispanic priests in particular," says James Dwyer, a spokesman for the archdiocese.

RELIGION NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Four Orthodox Jewish students have lost another court challenge in their claim that a sexually immodest atmosphere at Yale University's coed dormitories violated their religious beliefs.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected claims that Yale discriminated against the students or violated federal antitrust law by requiring unmarried freshmen and sophomores under age 21 to live on campus.

The three-judge panel said the students could have gone elsewhere if they didn't like Yale's housing rules.

Their lawyer, Nathan Lewin, said he may ask the court to reconsider its Dec. 28 ruling, though all but one of the students have graduated since they sued in 1997.

Some of the students got around the rule by living in off-campus apartments but still paying Yale more than \$6,800 for their unused dorm rooms. They sued to get refunds and exemptions to the housing policy.

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York entertainment guide apologized Thursday for an item describing Cardinal John O'Connor's death as one of the best things to happen to the gay

community last year.

The item, which appeared in the Jan. 4-11 issue of Time Out New York, read: "The press eulogized him as a saint, when in fact, the pious creep was a stuck-in-the-1950s anti-gay menace. Good riddance!"

The item was in a box headlined "The Best and Worst of 2000" on a listings page geared to gay readers.

"We regret the insensitive tone of the statement and apologize to anyone who was offended by it," Time Out editor Joe Angio said.

But he added the magazine stood by the claim that the cardinal was an impediment to gay progress.

MULLINS

Continued from Page 6A

The Lord knows that truth and morality will always be harshly opposed by many, but he expects his followers to remain strong in their faith.

As we begin a new year, a new century, and a new millennium let us resolve to be strong in what is right.

When we find ourselves held in contempt because we act on our faith in Christ, let us remain strong in the faith. For if we will not, we stand to lose our nation, our families and our eternal destiny.

Russ Mullins is minister for Coahoma Church of Christ.

**Church and Club News
Items are due
Wednesday at noon.**

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that the situation is
desperate but the
saints are not.



Randy Cotton
Pastor

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Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m.
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

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East Room of Coliseum
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4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open
(Pick up times in the Admissions Office January 3-5)
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Thin Crust

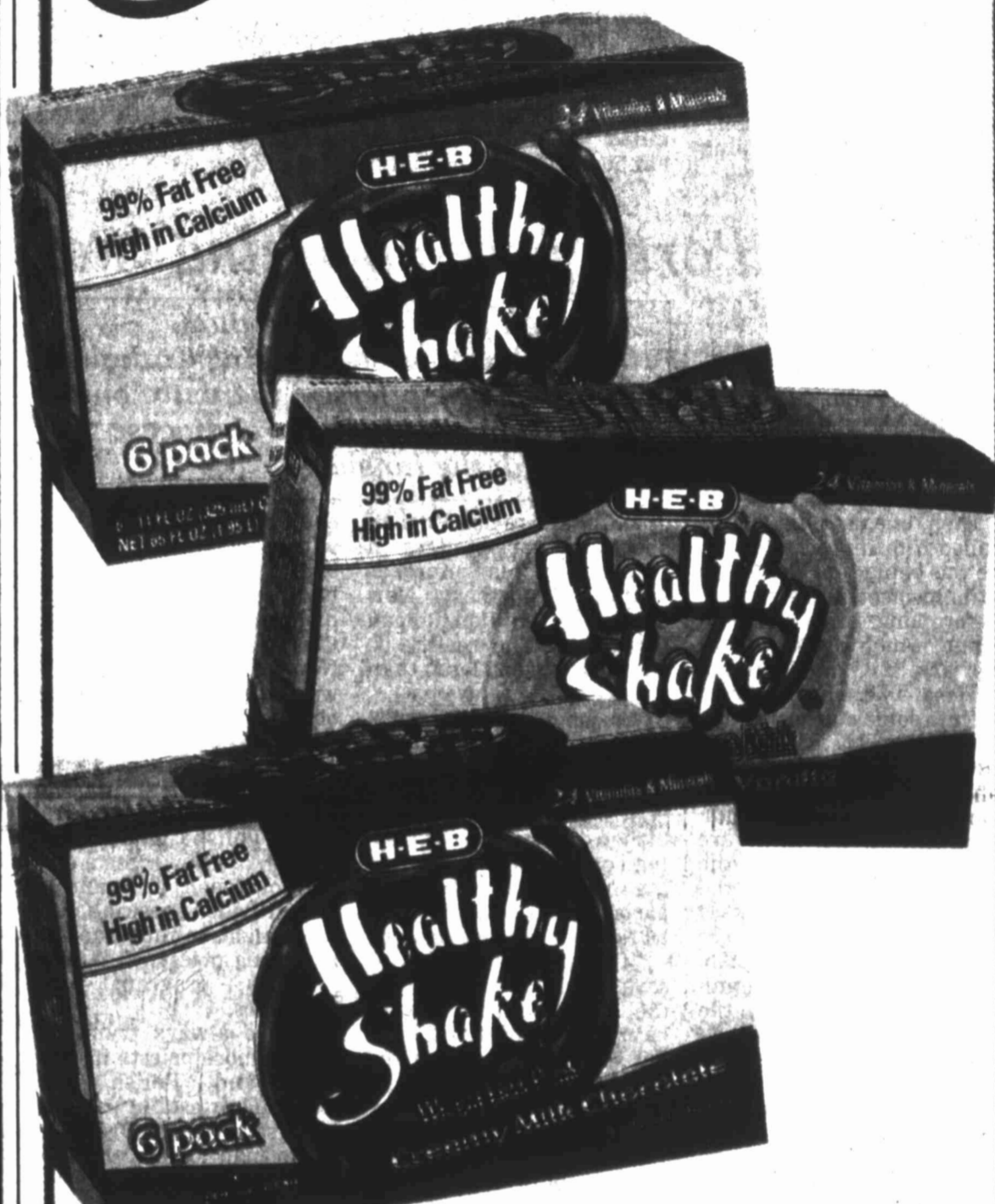
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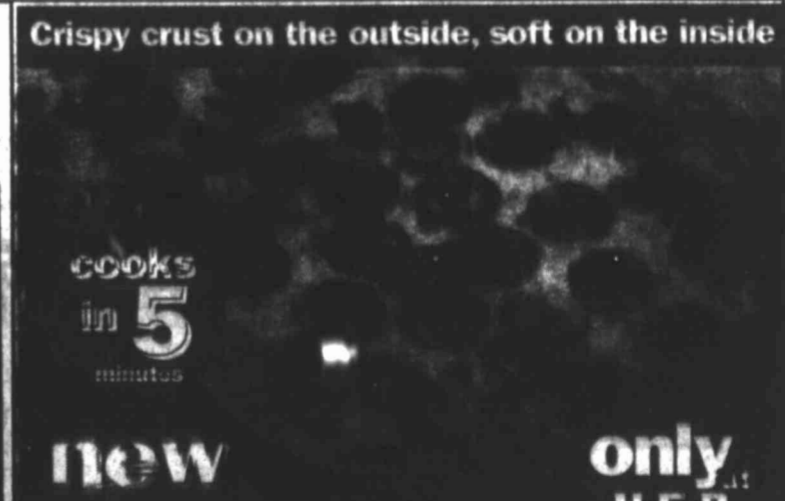


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S

IN B

Bulldogs suffer to Hamlin, 64

Coahoma's Bulldogs couldn't keep up with Hamlin's Piedmonters in their Thursday night game. The result was a 64-13 non-district action.

After taking a 13-0 lead into the half, Coahoma's Bulldogs exploded for 21 points in the third quarter. Bulldogs could not score in the fourth.

Chase Davis of Coahoma took a 13-0 lead into the second quarter. Now 7-11 on the Bulldogs' Midland Mustangs at today.

Baseball boys meeting for Tuesday

The Big Spring School Baseball Club will meet Tuesday at Athletic Training. Parents of all baseball players are invited to attend, and have complete and sign ads to turn them in.

For more information call Jim Clemens at 1069 after 6 p.m.

Area coaches to transmit schedules

The Herald is providing copies of schedules and the 2000-2001 season so as quickly as possible. Contact John A. 264-7205.

ACS still offers Texas Golf Package

The American Golf Society is again offering the Texas Golf Package. It entitles holders to more than 680 rounds of golf over 289 courses throughout the state.

The passes are available for both the Big Country and Comanche Trail Course are part of the program.

For more information call 1-800-ACS-2001 or the society's website at www.acs-tx.org.

Fastpitch softball umpires need

Umpires are needed for high school games throughout Texas, according to the Permian Basin Umpires Association.

For more information call Mack Gips at 520-5961.

AREA G

TONIGHT

H.S. BASKETBALL

5 p.m.

• Stanton at Borden (VB)

5:30 p.m.

• Midland Chr. Coahoma (VB)

6 p.m.

• Big Spring at VG (VB)

6:30 p.m.

• Stanton at City (VG)

• Borden Cour. VG (VB)

• Sands at Ira 7:30 p.m.

• Coahoma at VG (VG)

ON THE

Television

GOLF

5 p.m. — Accenture Matchless Championship on ESPN Ch. 30.

NBA

6 p.m. — Mavericks at Raptors, FSS Ch.

IN BRIEF

Bulldogs suffer loss to Hamlin, 64-57

Coahoma's Bulldogs simply couldn't keep pace with Hamlin's Pied Pipers during the third quarter Thursday night and the result was a 64-57 loss in non-district basketball action.

After taking a 28-27 lead into the halftime break, Coahoma saw Hamlin explode for 21 points in the third quarter, while the Bulldogs could muster just 13.

Chase Davis and Jay Chadwell paced the Bulldogs, scoring 14 points apiece.

In junior varsity action, Coahoma took a 59-41 win.

Now 7-11 on the season, the Bulldogs play host to Midland Christian's Mustangs at 5:30 p.m. today.

Baseball boosters set meeting for Tuesday

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Parents of all high school baseball players are urged to attend, and those who have completed program and sign ads are asked to turn them in.

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

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 sent to the attention of John A. Moser 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.

For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2346 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.

AREA GAMES

TONIGHT

H.S. BASKETBALL

- 5 p.m.
 - Stanton at Eldorado (VB)
- 5:30 p.m.
 - Midland Christian at Coahoma (VB)
- 6 p.m.
 - Big Spring at Andrews (VG, VB)
- 6:30 p.m.
 - Stanton at Colorado City (VG)
 - Borden County at Grady (VG, VB)
- 7:30 p.m.
 - Sands at Ira (VG, VB)
 - Coahoma at Forsan (VG)

ON THE AIR

Television

- GOLF
 - 5 p.m. — WGC-PGA, Accenture Match Play Championship, quarterfinals, ESPN Ch. 30.
- NBA
 - 6 p.m. — Dallas Mavericks at Toronto Raptors, FSS Ch. 29.

Rams' Faulk adds Offensive Player honor to MVP award

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Marshall Faulk is getting plenty of awards to perhaps ease the disappointment of an early offseason.

The St. Louis Rams running back, who set an NFL record with 26 touchdowns despite missing two games with a knee injury, is The Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.

The award, announced Thursday, is a companion piece to the MVP award Faulk received last week.

"He's getting everything, which he should," Rams general manager Charley Armey said. "There just hasn't been a better player."

Faulk set an NFL record with 2,429 yards rushing and receiving in 1999, helping the Rams win their

first Super Bowl. This season, he had 2,189 to lead the NFC and finished second in the NFL behind the Colts' Edgerrin James.

He was at his best when the Rams needed him the most, rushing for a career-high 220 yards and touching the ball 39 times in a victory over the New Orleans Saints that clinched a playoff spot. He scored 11 touchdowns in the last three regular-season games and added another in the Rams' late rally in their 31-28 playoff loss to the Saints.

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Coach Mike Martz never tires of describing Faulk's exploits.

"It's just like Bill Walsh has always said about quarterbacks, the game slows down for him," Martz said. "When he has the ball in his hands, his decisions are so instantaneous and correct."

"He's truly a remarkable player." Faulk's teammates appreciate him as much as his coaches.

"You love to have those guys on your team," offensive tackle Ryan Tucker said. "That guy's just good all the time."

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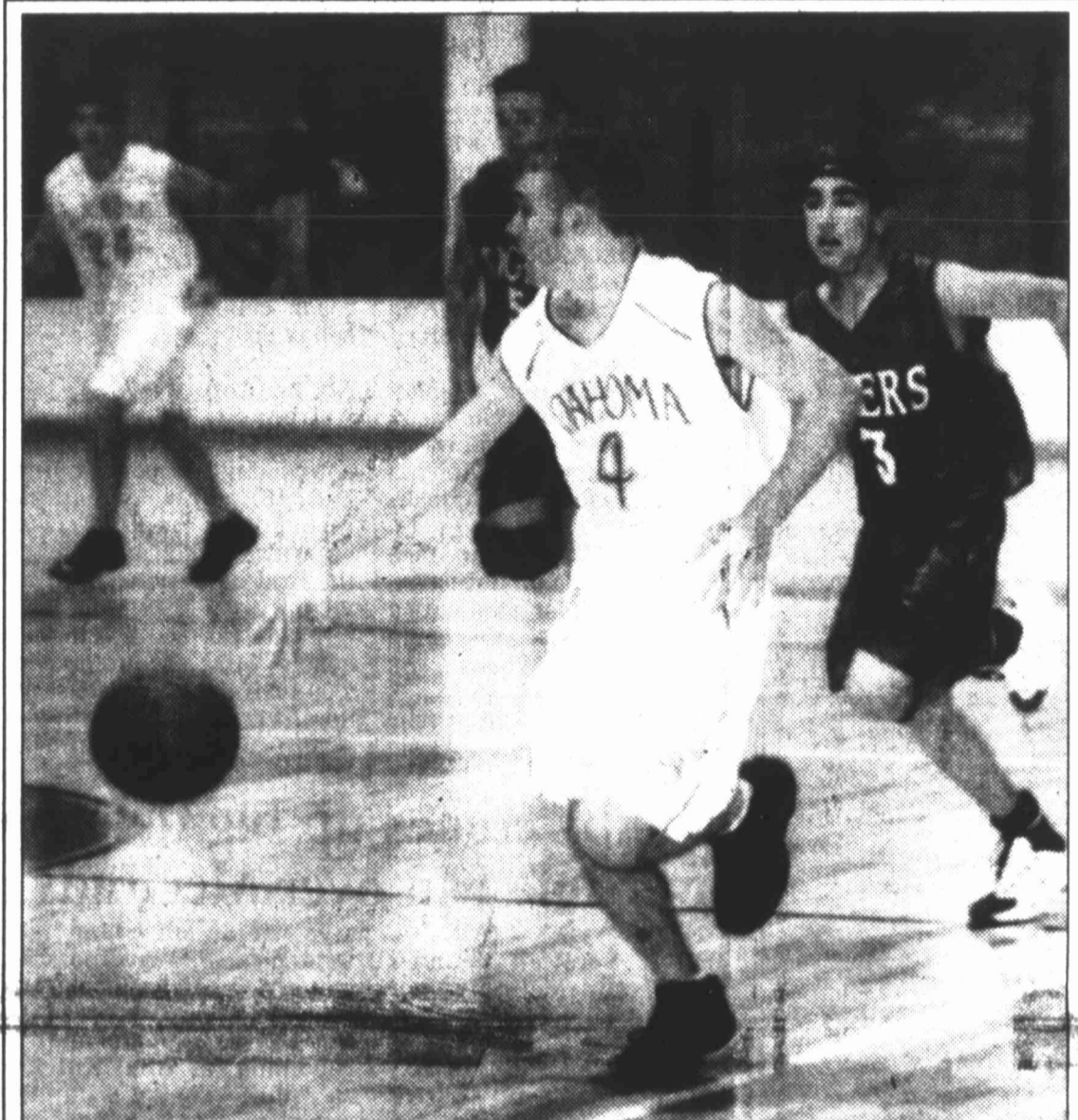
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"I'm not saying I forgot about it, but I just don't look back," Faulk said.

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Coahoma guard Randall Rich (4) dribbles on the fast break during the Bulldogs' loss to Anson in the opening round of the Coahoma Invitational basketball tournament on Nov. 30. The Bulldogs dropped to 7-11 Thursday night when they suffered a 64-57 loss to Hamlin's Pied Pipers. The Bulldogs return to action at 5:30 today, playing host to Midland Christian's Mustangs.

HERALD photo/Jim Fierro

Best defense? Titans, Ravens plan to settle all questions in Sunday showdown

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The Tennessee Titans worked on allowing the fewest yards and edged the Ravens for the league's No. 1 defensive ranking.

Now, both teams think they have the NFL's best defense, and players are spouting plenty of statistics to back up their claims. However, they do agree on one thing: Whoever wins their AFC divisional game Sunday will take top honors.

"The whole country knows who has the best defense," Ravens end Michael McCrary said. "We believe we are better. We'll get to prove it Sunday."

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"It's not our fault that we finished No. 1," tackle John Thornton said. "It seems like everyone up there is upset that we played well in the last game, and they didn't. They gave up a lot of yards...."

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"Any team that keeps its opponents from scoring, they're the team that's doing a lot of things right on the football field defensively," Ravens cornerback Rod Woodson said.

"Being one or two, who really cares about that? It's playoff time." Woodson admitted he was thinking of the yardage record in their regular-season finale against the New York Jets, when the Ravens gave up 524 yards.

The Titans knew they had a chance to catch Baltimore and gave up just 95 yards in their finale to Dallas. They finished the season with 238.4 yards allowed per

game, compared to 248 for Baltimore.

Ravens end Rob Burnett said the Titans earned the No. 1 label.

"They can have the fewest yards. We have the fewest points in NFL history," he said, holding up a ball given to every member of the defense commemorating their points record.

The Titans prefer to look at effort and heart.

"You can't measure heart," Titans end Kenny Holmes said. "And we got that, the heart of a champion, knowing when to go out and play as hard (as possible)."

Baltimore spent much of the season being compared to the 1986 Bears or Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain defense of the 1970s. The Ravens finished the season with 22 fewer points allowed than the '86 Bears.

The Ravens notched four shutouts and allowed just 18 touchdowns all season. They led the NFL in fewest yards rushing allowed, with 60.6 per game, and in turnover margin, with 23 more takeaways than giveaways.

"We are the best," Ravens tackle Tony Siragusa said. "We have had to prove it week in and week out, and we have to go prove it this week. I guess it's the best against the best. They think they are the best in their eyes, and we think we're the best in our eyes."

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But don't ignore what's going on downfield.

Saints coach Jim Haslett faces the same dilemma as every other team that has taken on the Vikings.

If he double-teams Randy Moss and Cris Carter, the Saints could allow Robert Smith to have a huge rushing day. If they concentrate on Smith, they risk giving up the long ball to Moss or shorter passes to Carter.

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There isn't an all-star in the group, but the Saints argue that the secondary can cause problems for the two Pro Bowl regulars.

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See VIKINGS, page 2B

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n't mind being overlooked by other teams and the national media this season.

"I'd much rather be the quieter guy waiting in the wings for the challengers to come to us," he said.

The Raiders certainly surprised some with the strength of the running game, ranked first in the NFL with 154.4 yards per game. The running game has been led by Tyrone Wheatley, a cast-off from the New York Giants.

Wheatley ran for a career-high 1,046 yards and nine touchdowns.

"I really believe running the football is a key component in winning teams," Gruden said. "I think in '97 the Raiders ran the ball less than any team in this league. The last couple years we've run it as much or more than anybody in football." Quarterback Rich Gannon, too,

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Defensive end Trace Armstrong had an AFC-best 16.5 quarterback sacks, followed by teammate Jason Taylor with 14.5 sacks.

But defense alone won't win games.

"As far as our critics go, we weren't supposed to be this far, but we are, and we're happy about it," defensive tackle Daryl Gardener said.

For the longest time, the Dolphins' offense was all about Dan Marino. Then, 29-year-old Dartmouth engineering grad Jay Fiedler came in after trying out with five teams in six seasons.

With Miami, he fit in, stunning both fans and critics.

"There's always people that are going to say it's time to give it up," he said.

"You have a Dartmouth degree, go use it. But I wanted to keep chasing that dream of playing and starting in the NFL."

Of course, at this point, all the secrets on both sides are out.

Against Miami, the mantra around the Raiders' training facility in Alameda has been consistency. The win-at-any-cost Raiders of the past have become responsible in their approach.

JAN 5 2001

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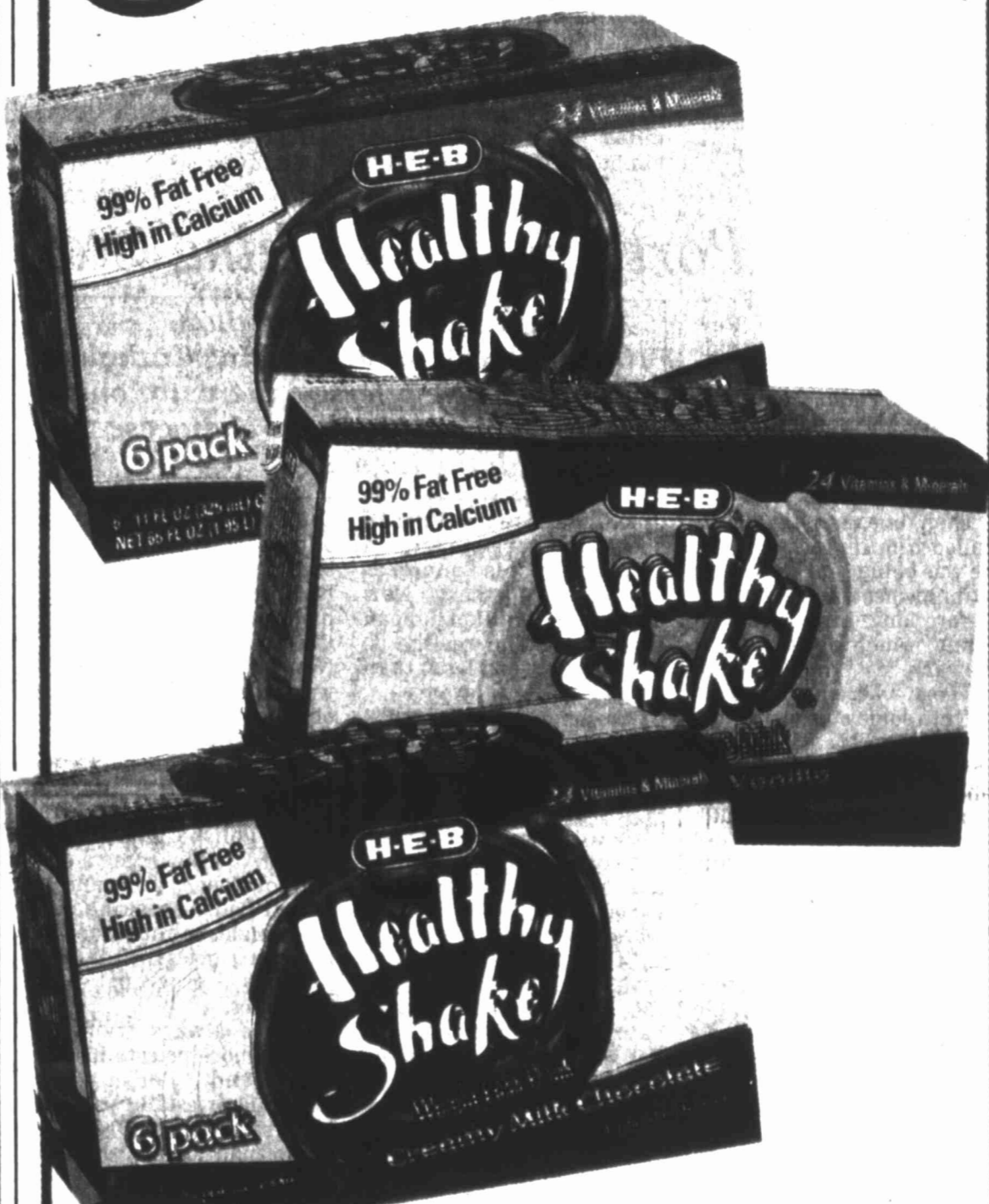
- 12 in. pizza
- double pepperoni, extra cheese, Mexican or 3 meat

\$3.49 ea.

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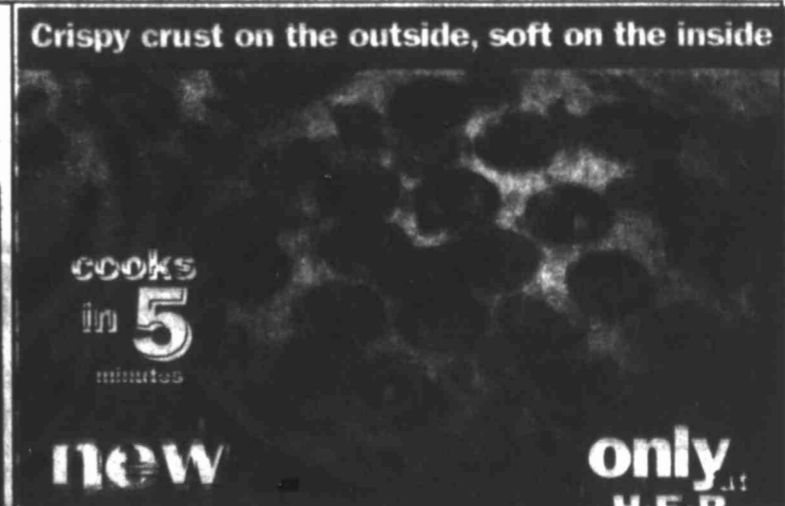


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30 pk. 12 oz. cans



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S

IN B

Bulldogs suffer to Hamlin, 64

Coahoma's Bulldogs couldn't keep Hamlin's Piedmonters from winning the third Thursday night game. The result was a 64-13 non-district action.

After taking a 13-0 lead into the half, Coahoma's offense exploded for 21 points in the third quarter. Bulldogs could not score in the second half.

Chase Davis scored 13 points for Bulldogs, scoring on a 35-yard interception return. In junior varsity, Coahoma took a 7-0 lead on the Bulldogs' first drive. Midland Mustangs at today.

Baseball book meeting for Tuesday

The Big Spring School Baseball Club will meet Tuesday at Athletic Training. Parents of all baseball players are invited to attend, and have complete and sign ads to turn them in.

For more information, call Jim Clemens at 1069 after 6 p.m.

Area coaches to transmit schedules

The Herald is publishing Crossroads area coaches who have provided copies of their schedules for the 2000-2001 season so as quickly as possible. Coaches can be reached at John A. 264-7205.

ACS still offers Texas Golf Program

The American Golf Society is again offering the Texas Golf Program. The program entitles holders to more than 680 rounds of golf in 289 courses throughout the state.

The passes are available for both the Country Club and Comanche Course. For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2001 or the society's website at www.acs-tx.org.

Fastpitch softball umpires need

Umpires are needed for high school games throughout Texas. For more information, call Mack Gipson at 520-5961.

AREA C

TONIGHT H.S. BASKETBALL
5 p.m.
• Stanton at (VB)
5:30 p.m.
• Midland Ch Coahoma (VB)
6 p.m.
• Big Spring at (VG, VB)
8:30 p.m.
• Stanton at City (VG)
• Borden Cou (VG, VB)
• Sands at Ir 7:30 p.m.
• Coahoma at (VG)

ON THE

Television GOLF
5 p.m. — Accenture M Championship, ESPN Ch. 30.
NBA
6 p.m. — Mavericks at Raptors, FSS C

IN BRIEF

Bulldogs suffer loss to Hamlin, 64-57

Coahoma's Bulldogs simply couldn't keep pace with Hamlin's Pied Pipers during the third quarter Thursday night and the result was a 64-57 loss in non-district basketball action.

After taking a 28-27 lead into the halftime break, Coahoma saw Hamlin explode for 21 points in the third quarter, while the Bulldogs could muster just 13.

Chase Davis and Jay Chadwell paced the Bulldogs, scoring 14 points apiece.

In junior varsity action, Coahoma took a 59-41 win.

Now 7-11 on the season, the Bulldogs play host to Midland Christian's Mustangs at 5:30 p.m. today.

Baseball boosters set meeting for Tuesday

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- 6:30 p.m.
 - Stanton at Colorado City (VG)
 - Borden County at Grady (VG, VB)
- 7:30 p.m.
 - Sands at Ira (VG, VB)
 - Coahoma at Forsan (VG)

ON THE AIR

- Television**
- 5 p.m. — WGC-PGA, Accenture Match Play Championship quarterfinals, ESPN Ch. 30.
 - NBA
 - 6 p.m. — Dallas Mavericks at Toronto Raptors, FSS Ch. 29.

Rams' Faulk adds Offensive Player honor to MVP award

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Marshall Faulk is getting plenty of awards to perhaps ease the disappointment of an early offseason.

The St. Louis Rams running back, who set an NFL record with 26 touchdowns despite missing two games with a knee injury, is The Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.

The award, announced Thursday, is a companion piece to the MVP award Faulk received last week.

"He's getting everything, which he should," Rams general manager Charley Arney said. "There just hasn't been a better player."

Faulk set an NFL record with 2,429 yards rushing and receiving in 1999, helping the Rams win their

first Super Bowl. This season, he had 2,189 to lead the NFC and finished second in the NFL behind the Colts' Edgerrin James.

He was at his best when the Rams needed him the most, rushing for a career-high 220 yards and touching the ball 39 times in a victory over the New Orleans Saints that clinched a playoff spot. He scored 11 touchdowns in the last three regular-season games and added another in the Rams' late rally in their 31-28 playoff loss to the Saints.

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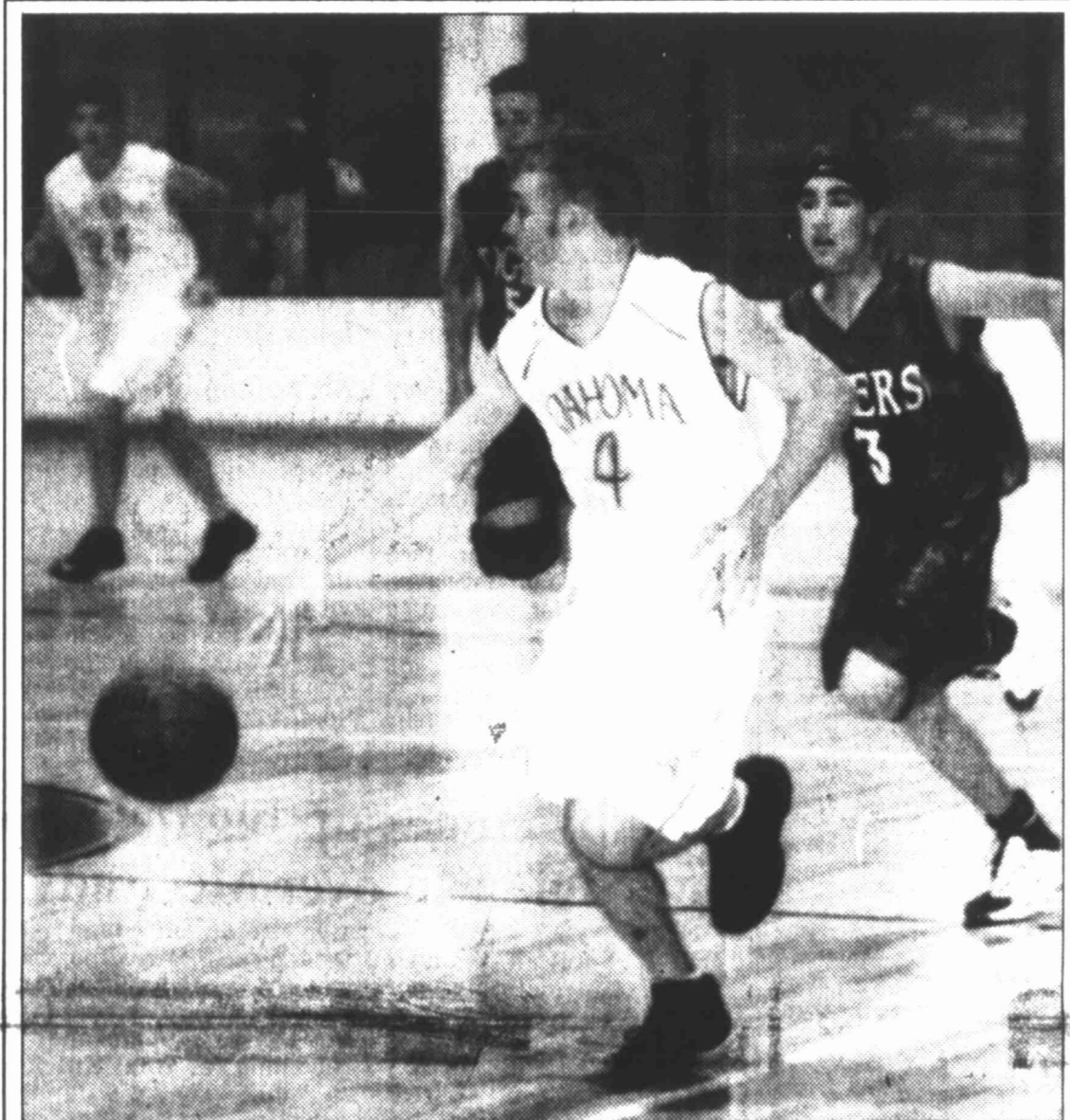
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Wheatley ran for a career-high 1,046 yards and nine touchdowns.

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JAN 5 2001

SPORTS EXTRA

NFL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Dec. 30 Wild-card Playoffs Miami 23, Indianapolis 17, OT New Orleans 31, St. Louis 28 Sunday, Dec. 31 Baltimore 21, Denver 3 Philadelphia 21, Tampa Bay 3

NBA STANDINGS

Table with columns for Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, Central Division, Western Conference, Midwest Division, and Pacific Division. Includes team names, wins, losses, and percentages.

DEPORT OF THE IHL

NHL

Thursday's Games Ottawa 8, Tampa Bay 3 Detroit 4, Dallas 2 New Jersey 5, N.Y. Islanders 2 Nashville 4, St. Louis 2 Phoenix 3, N.Y. Rangers 1 San Jose 2, Colorado 2, tie Florida 4, Los Angeles 3

FINAL AP POLL

- The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press final college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and final records.

TOP 25 - MEN

- The top 25 teams in the Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and records through Dec. 31.

TOP 25 - WOMEN

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TABC POLL

- The latest high school basketball polls compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

COLLEGE SCORES

DELAWARE 81, Hartford 53 F. Dickinson 65, Mornmouth 63 Jacksonville 91, Oakland 79 Temple 75, La Salle 61

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League ANAHIM ABELLS—Agreed to terms with RHP Ismael Valdes on a one-year contract.

Arizona wins Pac-10 opener despite challenge from Cal

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — As if the Arizona Wildcats didn't have enough to deal with, they had to survive a meltdown by their 7-foot-1 center. With their coach grieving the death of his wife of 47 years and with Loren Woods ejected with 6:17 to play, the 16th-ranked Wildcats still rallied to beat California 78-75 Thursday night in their Pac-10 opener.

Arizona associate coach Jim Rosborough said Woods, a team captain, might face a penalty from the university for what the coach called "inexcusable" behavior. Arizona shot 54 percent and made 10 consecutive free throws in the final 3:51. Woods had to be restrained by teammates after referee Charlie Range called a foul against him with 6:17 left.

Woods had to be restrained by teammates after referee Charlie Range called a foul against him with 6:17 left. Range called a quick technical, then another when Woods kept trying to get to him, using profanity. Arizona players wore a black strip across their left shoulders in honor of the woman they and many before them knew as a second mother.

Camby comes up big defensively in Knicks' overtime win over McGrady and Orlando

NEW YORK (AP) — Latrell Sprewell couldn't stop Tracy McGrady, nor could Allan Houston. The solution? McGrady's former teammate, Marcus Camby. Camby played great defense on Orlando's leading scorer during the second half and overtime as the New York Knicks rebounded from a brutal opening six minutes to defeat the Magic 95-92 in overtime Thursday night.

Camby stretched their winning streak to a season-high six games and held their opponent below 100 points for the 27th consecutive time — one shy of the NBA record set by the Ft. Wayne Pistons in 1955. In other NBA games, it was Miami 81, New Jersey 72; Minnesota 105, Seattle 92; Houston 107, Detroit 97; and Chicago 98, Washington 96.

Camby took over the defensive assignment on McGrady in the third quarter and held it for the rest of the night. Twenty of McGrady's points came in the first half before Camby was switched to him defensively. McGrady scored the victory. They held Marshall Faulk, the NFL's MVP, to 24 yards rushing and intercepted three passes by Kurt Warner, the MVP in 1999.

VIKINGS

Continued from page 1B field because you're expecting the deep ball. We're going to have some guys that are going to get in his face, get the jam on him and try to shut him down a little bit. The Vikings have shut themselves down in their last three games, all losses. Smith, the NFL's second-leading rusher, was held to 130 yards rushing. Carter caught 15 passes, but Moss was held to nine. An ankle injury limited Culpepper to 19 plays in the Vikings' final regular-season game at Indianapolis. The Saints presented problems for St. Louis last Saturday in a 31-28 playoff

magic's first six points of overtime, but was shut out the rest of the way. Heat 81, Nets 78 Anthony Mason had 18 points and 13 rebounds to help Miami push its home winning streak to five games. After blowing almost all of a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter, the Heat survived a scare when the Nets were unable to get off a tying shot in the closing seconds. Timberwolves 105, SuperSonics 92

At Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak scored 13 of his 17 in the third quarter and added 11 rebounds. Anthony Peeler led Minnesota with 22 points, and Terrell Brandon added 21. Despite a nagging groin injury, Gary Payton led the Sonics with 19 points. good, very fast defensive ends pushing the outside closed. And then you've got a great player like La'Roi Glover, who sometimes goes unblocked. Glover leads the NFL with 17 sacks. The ends, Joe Johnson and Darren Howard, have combined for 23. Those three alone have nine more sacks than the Vikings defense. "The numbers speak for themselves: Their defense is very good," Culpepper said. "It's just a challenge for the offensive linemen, and for me to not be sitting back there holding the ball," he added. "Find the receiver and get the ball out of my hands. Help the offensive linemen out."

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BIG SPRING Friday, Jan... FISHING Here is the report as com Parks and W for Jan. 3. (able on We ing.com.) CENTRAL BROWNWO 45 degrees; way; No rep No report White bass on live minc in 12 to 20 inches are s 8 to 1' fee catfish to 16 chicken liver night crawlers No report on BUCHANAN 50 degrees; bass are fair kin/chartreus pumpkin Dev watermelon C on a slow, t tion in 6 to secondary p ledges with b bass are slo and trolling Morgan to F bass are slo oz. Horizon trolling Spinc Raps on m Crappie are nows or whi jigs over brus feet. PROCTOR: degrees; 11' ing activity weather. SOUTH AMISTAD: degrees; 40' 11 pounds crankbaits ar points. Stripe slabs and st White bass slabs and st Crappie are and jigs up Channel and good on 30e Grande in 30 catfish are sl WEST ALAN HENR degrees; No ter storm ARROWHEA fishing report accessible b Arrowhead. BRADY: No ter storm. BROWNWO stained; 47 r report winter COLORADO 58-60 degree Black bass; slow. Channe are fair. Rec live shad. FT. PHANT ing report av HUBBARD ramps out o report availa KEMP: No NASWORTH degrees; No NOCONA; OAK CREE open; no fe able. OH. IVEI degrees; 14 are good o 10' power; 35-60 feet humps. Crap tipped w/m feet in ma White bass or white slat schooling s (birds work what but so the surface are fair in bait. The roa under con roads to Elm black top. POSSUM clear; 42 o Black bass 10-20 feet minnows up bass are go flats in ear 40 feet in cl Blue catfish or big shad channels. SPENCE: stained; 42 and stripper suspended black bass STAMFOR degrees; B water; No able. SWEETWA stained; 45 emen out; are fair on doughbait. near the d hing crankb TWIN BU than 10% temporarily WHITE R water 18' winter storr

FISHING REPORT

Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Jan. 3. (Report also available on Web as www.txfishing.com.)

CENTRAL BROWNWOOD: Water murky; 45 degrees; 3.4' below spillway; No report on black bass. No report on striped bass. White bass to 12 inches are fair on live minnows and white jigs in 12 to 20 feet. Crappie to 10 inches are slow on minnows in 8 to 17 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 16 pounds are fair on chicken livers and Canadian night crawlers in 15 to 25 feet. No report on yellow catfish.

BUCHANAN: Water stained; 50 degrees; 1013.40'; Black bass are fair on 3/8oz. pumpkin/chartreuse Terminator jigs, pumpkin Devil's Tongues and watermelon Creme Super Tubes on a slow, thorough presentation in 6 to 15 feet inside of secondary points and along ledges with brushpiles. Striped bass are slow drifting live bait and trolling bucktail jigs from Morgan to Flag Island. White bass are slow vertically jigging 1/2oz. Horizon Pirk Minnows and trolling Spin Traps or Shad Raps on main lake points. Crappie are slow on live minnows or white Curb's crappie jigs over brush piles in 16 to 20 feet.

PROCTOR: Water clear; 44 degrees; 11' low; Very little fishing activity due to the cold weather.

SOUTH AMISTAD: Water clear; 57 degrees; 40' low; Black bass to 11 pounds are good on crankbaits around grass and off points. Striped bass are fair on slabs and shallow crankbaits. White bass are very good on slabs and shallow crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs up Devil's River. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait up the Rio Grande in 30 to 40 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

WEST ALAN HENRY: Water clear; 44 degrees; No fishing report winter storm.

ARROWHEAD: 43 degrees; No fishing report winter storm. Only accessible boat ramp is West Arrowhead.

BRADY: No fishing report winter storm.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 47 degrees; No fishing report winter storm.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 58-60 degrees on main lake; Black bass and crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair. Redfish are good on live shad.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: No fishing report available.

HUBBARD CREEK: Boat ramps out of water - no fishing report available.

KEMP: No report available.

NASWORTHY: Water clear; 44 degrees. No fishing reports.

NOCONA: No report available.

OAK CREEK: No boat ramps open; no fishing report available.

OH. IVE: Water clear; 44 degrees; 14.6' low; Black bass are good on Carolina-rigs w/ 10' power worms or slabs in 35-60 feet on deep main humps. Crappie are fair on jigs tipped w/minnows in 45-50 feet in main channel trees. White bass are good on chrome or white slabs and tail spinners schooling all over channels (birds working schools somewhat but schools are visible on the surface). Channel catfish are fair in 65 feet on cheesebait. The road to Concho Park is under construction but the roads to Elm Creek have a new black top.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 42 degrees; 4.63' low; Black bass are slow on jigs in 10-20 feet. Crappie slow on minnows up the river. Striped bass are good on live shad on flats in early morning and in 30-40 feet in channels later in day. Blue catfish good on cut baits or big shad in 40 feet at edge of channels.

SPENCE: Water slightly stained; 42 degrees; Catfish and stripper are fair on cut baits suspended in 10-15 feet. No black bass reported.

STAMFORD: Water clear; 44 degrees; Boat ramp out of water; No fishing report available.

SWEETWATER: Water slightly stained; 45 degrees; Few fishermen out; crappie and catfish are fair on minnows, worms and doughbait. White bass are fair near the dam on shallow running crankbaits.

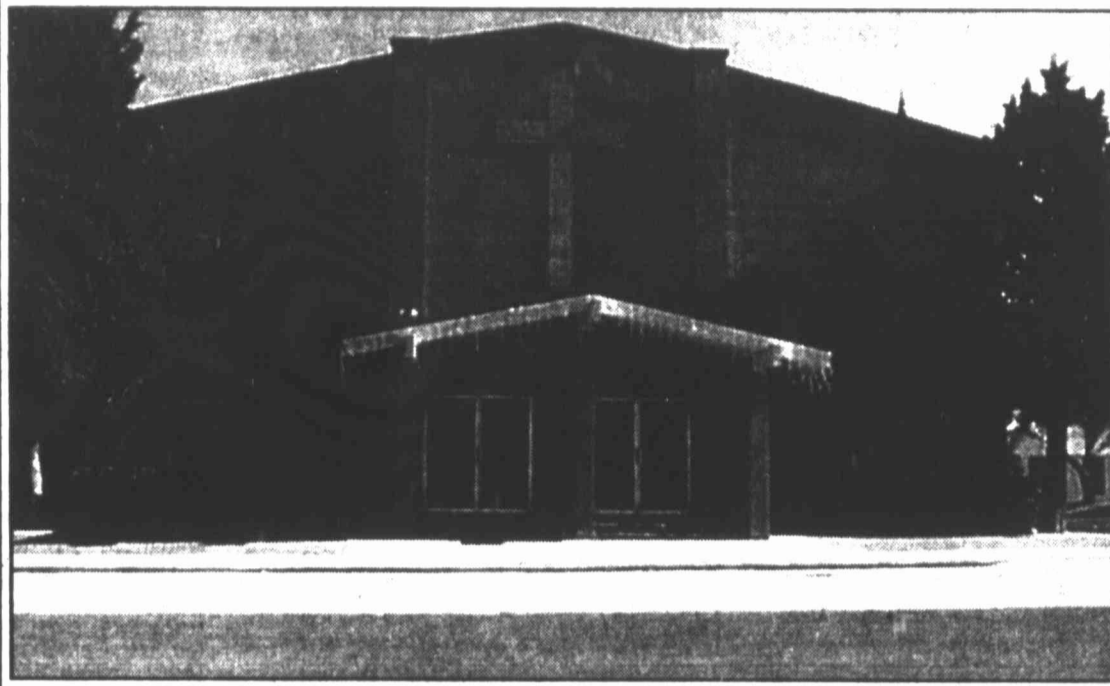
TWIN BUTTES: Lake is less than 10% of capacity reports temporarily discontinued.

WHITE RIVER: 46 degrees; water 18' low; No fishing report winter storm.

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50 acres in Brown County on Jim Ned (five water) complete with 120 acre best irrigation rights.

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10,361 Acres near West Stanton on Cr 2300 E. 8.64% interest. \$117/MO. Owner Finance Forest America Group. 800-275-7376

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1-800-406-5126

BUILDINGS FOR RENT

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

Small building w/lot on 4th st

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People oriented person is a must.
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Edwin Vela
Advertising Manager
P.O. Box 1431
Big Spring, Tx. 79721
No phone calls please

BIG SPRING HERALD

HELP WANTED
The Big Spring Herald is looking for a customer service clerk in the circulation department. 25-30 hours a week, Monday-Friday and Sunday. Position available immediately. This person must be customer driven and have a desire to provide quality service. Good computer knowledge and telephone etiquette is a must. All interested parties should bring resume by or pick up job application at our office located at 710 Scurry. No phone calls. The Herald is an equal opportunity employer and provides a drug-free workplace.

BIG SPRING HERALD

HELP WANTED
Must be able to pass a drug test and lift up to 50 lbs. Will be doing inspection, assembly, and other casual labor duties. pay starts at \$6.50-\$6.85/hr plus full benefits package. Full-time with overtime. Training provided. Advancement opportunity!!! To apply, call Marjorie at 915-682-2119

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AAA Tubing needs tubing tester operator. Will train, but must have oilfield exp. Good wages, must be drug free & have good driving record. Call Jesse 631-3128 anytime.

Part-time Social Worker
needed. Long term care experience preferred. Apply in person at Big Spring care Center, 901 Galled.

Tax preparer
need for 2000 tax season. 3-5 yrs. tax exp. necessary. CPA preferred. Send resume and ref. to PO Box 718/1431 Big Spring, Tx. 79721.

MIDWEST FINANCE
Part time help needed. Apply in person at 612 Gregg St.

Taxi driver
FT/PT. No smoking while on duty. Clean driving record. Apply at 700 W. 4th.

Mowing, tree trimming, hauling, interior-exterior painting.
Call 267-5460 iv. message.

MIDWEST FINANCE
Loans \$100-\$430. Open M-F 9-5pm. 612 Gregg. 263-1353. Phone app's welcome. Se Habla Espanol.

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Big Spring Herald

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CHIMNEY CLEANING Safety inspections Chimney caps Masonry repairs Animal removal Fireplace accessories CLINE BUILDING MAINT, INC. (915) 263-0999 (800) 649-6374	FENCES B&M FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Free Estimates! Phone DAY: 263-1613 NIGHT: 264-7000	HOME IMPROVEMENT GIBBS REMODELING Kitchens & bath remodels, ceramic tile, painting, sheet rock repairs & all textures floor & ceiling fans. Free Estimator Call 263-8285	LAWN CARE B & R LAWN SERVICE Weedcutting, edging, hedge trimming, trees & stump removal. Free Estimates. All work guaranteed. 264-8284	PAINTING For Your Best House Painting & Repairs Interior & Exterior * Free Estimates * Call JOE GOMEZ 267-7587 or 267-7831	RENTALS VENTURA COMPANY 267-2655 Houses 1, 2, 3 bedrooms. For rent & For sale.	SIDING Four Seasons Insulation and Siding Inc Locally owned. Big Spring's oldest full time siding company. Custom vinyl and steel siding Overhang and trim siding. Atk and well installation. Thermo replacement windows. Storm windows and doors. 100% m. p.p. financing available. Our siding on labor and materials. 915-264-8610 or 263-7331	WALL INSULATION Four Seasons Insulation and Siding Inc Wall Insulation. All types of walls done from the outside with no structural damage. 915-264-8610	CELLULAR SERVICE LONE STAR PAWN Prepaid Cellular & home phone service. No contracts, credit check, deposit. Good Rates. 1601 E. FM 700 263-4834	QUALITY FENCE Terms available Free Estimates Cedar, Redwood Spruce, Chainlink. Day: (915) 267-3349 Nights: (915) 267-1173	SEPTIC SYSTEMS Installation and Site Evaluation ROSE PLUMBING 106 N. 15th 904-672-3962 Lufkin, TX 75931 Lic# 726

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin, or intention to make a such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper is not a party to any such discrimination and is not liable for any such discrimination. If you are a member of a protected class and believe you have been discriminated against in the sale or rental of a dwelling, you should contact the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, 451 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20548.

CHURCH AND CLUB NEWS DEADLINE
Church a club new items at due at the Herald office by noon Wednesday from Friday publicizing items should be dropped to the office at 710 Scurry mailed P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring 79721-14 or faxed 264-720
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2 BR mobile home on large lot. Rent to Own. Lots of Trees & fenced yard/Midway area. Call 263-2929

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1 bdr. apt. electric and water fut. pay gas. \$300/mn. \$100/dep. HUD ok. Call 267-1352.

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

Delightful, spacious 1 BR, CH/A, washer/dryer connections, covered parking. Non smokers, no pets, no utilities paid. Credit references required. \$250/mo. See at 611 Runnels. 263-7616. McDonald Realty.

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Heather Apartments
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3 BR 1 bath, 2202 Runnels. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

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RENTED
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2 Bdrm, bath & a half. 304 E. 5th. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

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 264-0793.

College Park 3/1/1, appliances, NO Pets. \$495. Call 267-2070.

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

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3304 Duke
3 bdr, 2 bth, 2 living areas, fireplace, near school. Sale @ \$56,900 will pay closing-lease \$600/mn. \$500/dep. Daytime 263-0844, nighttime 263-0667.

House for lease, Kentwood, 2513 Carol. 3BR 2 bath, \$650/mo. \$400/dep. 263-3436

In Coahoma, 3BR 1 bath. Deposit & references required. Call 267-5952

Midway area. 2BR 1 bath mobile home. Deposit and references required. Call 267-5952

Unique 2BR 1 bath, lovely yard. No pets. Call 263-1054 or 267-2005 for appt.

Abandoned homes: In Big Spring
Take up remaining payments. 5 bdr, 2 bth. \$220/mn. 3 bdr. \$200/mn. 264-0510.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Saturday, Jan. 6, 2001:
You have unusual energy and get-up-and-go. Once you focus on a goal, it is as good as done! Others find your sense of direction remarkable. You also have an unusually creative way of making money. Your sixth sense plays into your decisions. If you are single, you could meet someone through your work this spring. It will be fall before you are in a full-blown relationship. If you are attached, you work well with your sweetie, making quite the team. Plan on doing something you both want to do this fall. Your relationship increases in vigor. GEMINI adores 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)
**** Make calls. You go way overboard with others, but that makes you happy. Don't minimize another's importance in the whole scheme of things. Reach out for another. Indulge someone who might be very special to you. Discussion establishes common ground. Tonight: Movie and dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** You tend to go overboard without meaning to. You like the good life, and no one can spend quite like you. You enjoy yourself wherever you are. Loosen up about potential. Just enjoy. Not everything needs to be goal-directed. Discussions are animated. Tonight: Someone wants to talk turkey.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** Your personality melts others' natural resistance. You might not always have the right answer. Reach out for someone at a distance. Discuss with a dear partner what has been on your mind. Another clearly wants to indulge you. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your step.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
** Take a deep breath and think before you do any-

thing spontaneous. It is one thing to indulge and go way overboard. A partner reaches out for you. Caring warms both of you. Aim for what you want! Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Do not lose your focus, even if another knows how to distract you. Enjoy what this person offers. Someone weaves magic around you. Enjoy, but define what reality is. Make a must appearance. A conversation proves to be highly informative. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Others look to you for answers. Check out what is going on with someone who is close to you. One-on-one relating allows positive feelings to flow. Your nurturing and extremely caring nature makes all the difference. Take an image suggestion to heart. Tonight: All eyes turn to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Work on understanding another. Not everything is as you think it is. Loosen up a little and become more experimental. Your perspective changes because of a willingness to talk through a problem. Your libido feeds your imagination. Tonight: Anything is possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** One-on-one relating takes you in a new direction. Be more willing to discuss what is on your mind. Dote on an older relative or family member. Doors open up as you make the impossible possible. Congratulate yourself for breaking past a barrier. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Others run with the ball. You might feel a bit indulgent or lazy. Let it all happen. You are in a position to pick and choose what it is that you want. Popularity soars. You have a dream in mind, or a special mission. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** You might have a project on the back burner. Make this day special for

you by doing something you really love. You also might have an idea about making more money through a natural talent or interest. Know that anything is possible once you decide to make it so. Tonight: Do your own thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** You have many ideas, but you also have the creativity to manifest them. Realize that anything can happen when you feel this good about yourself. New possibilities knock on your door. Think about what works for you in a special relationship. Tonight: Let the kid in you out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Make time for family and loved ones. Feelings of adoring and indulging flow

from you, making anything possible. Your sense of what you need to do is key. You seem to have a strong inner clock or sense of direction. Take advantage of your gifts. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

BORN TODAY
Author Kahlil Gibran (1883), golfer Nancy Lopez (1957), actor Rowan Atkinson (1955)

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.

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KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
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263-5000

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Forsan Independent School District will accept bids for one 2001 84-passenger rear engine activity bus. Specifications may be obtained from the Administration Office. Sealed bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on January 26, 2001, at which time they will be opened in the Superintendent's Office and examined. Bid envelopes shall be clearly marked "bus bid". The bids will then be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the board meeting on January 29, 2001. Questions should be directed to Jim Yancey, Forsan ISD, PO Drawer A, Forsan, Texas 79733. The Forsan ISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
#3037 January 5, 2001

Wife betrayed by husband's online liaisons
DEAR ABBY: I am a 53-year-old woman who never thought she would be writing to you. I have been married 33 years. The past several years have not been the happiest.

I found out at the beginning of this year that, for the past several years, my husband has been talking online to gay men. He would be on the computer in our home office, supposedly working, while actually "instant messaging" someone. When I'd walk into the room, he would delete the instant message. This went on for several weeks.

I thought in the beginning that he was having an affair with a woman, so when he was gone one afternoon, I decided to log onto his laptop and investigate. That's when I found his "gay name" for himself, and lots of names on his buddy list. I wrote down all the names so I could look them up later.

For the next few months I followed him online. One time I even made up a gay name for myself, and he and I instant-messaged each other. I made copies of everything and finally confronted him.

He swore he never did anything but talk; he never met any of the men on his buddy list, or the ones he talked to online. However, when he and I messaged each other, he gave me the name of his hotel and the room number where he was staying. I asked him why. He said he was very unhappy in our marriage, because he didn't think I loved him anymore. He promised he would stop, and deleted everything from his computer. He even closed his private Internet access account and began using the one from our computer at home.

Today, while checking our e-mail, I found a message from a man on the buddy list saying he was sorry he missed my hus-

band's call. I was going to delete it, but left it there to see what my husband would do. When I went back online, it had been deleted.

Abby, I don't know what to do. We should go to counseling, but he is rarely in town — BETRAYED WIFE IN TAMPA

DEAR BETRAYED: Make an appointment with your physician to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases. Although your husband is trying to blame his straying on you (the best defense is a good offense), do not accept it. While unhappily married men sometimes seek relationships outside of marriage, most of them do not do so with other men. Your husband is bisexual, and how long he has been cheating is anybody's guess.


You should definitely get professional counseling. If your husband cannot or will not get it with you, I urge you to go alone. It will help you to decide whether your marriage is worth continuing, knowing what you now know about your spouse.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and grandmother have been living with me and my two young daughters for the past couple of years. I think it's time they moved out, but whenever I bring it up, they just blow me off.

Abby, I need my life back. What can I do? If I throw them out, I'll be the family pariah — even though nobody else is willing to take them in. I believe Mom and Grandma could live together on their own, but they refuse. Help! — SMOTHERED IN MARYLAND

DEAR SMOTHERED: Set a deadline for them to relocate. Then find an affordable apartment for them and help them move. After that, change your locks and batten down the hatches, because you will receive criticism for having asserted yourself. Stand firm, and you'll be free at last.

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
This newspaper will not accept advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX
Swimming Pool
Carports
Most Utilities Paid
Senior Citizen Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms &
Unfurnished
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Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

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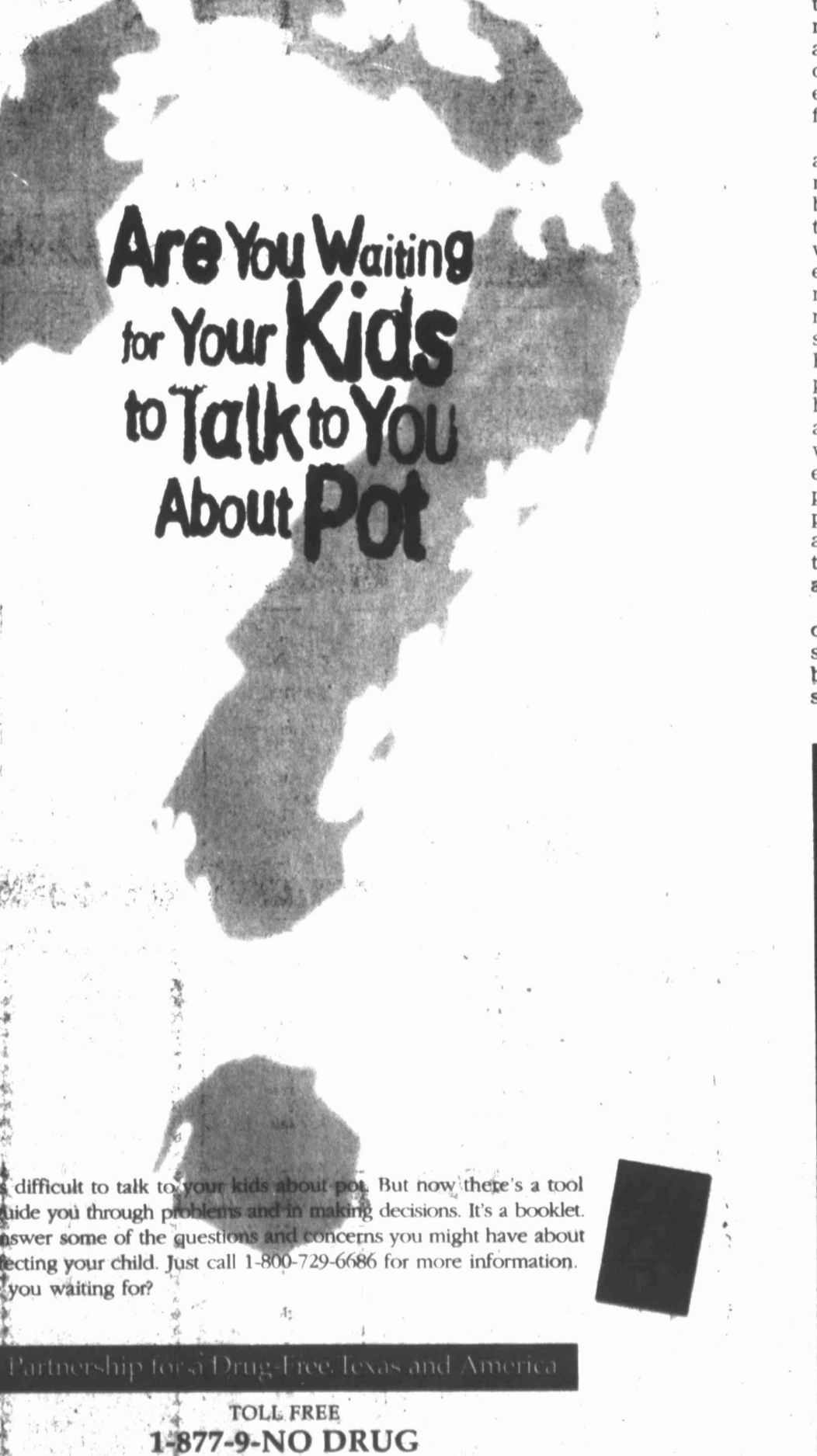
State Employment
Kitchenware Jewelry Baby Items
Electronics Autos
State Employment

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

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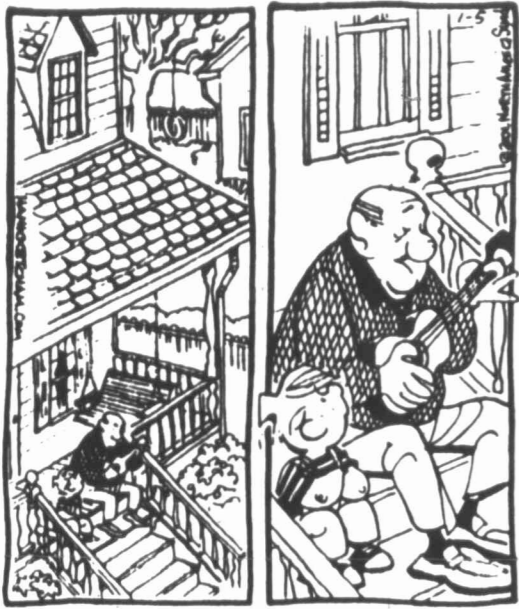
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FRIDAY

JAN. 5

	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	TLC (41)
	Midland	Odessa	Dallas	Dallas	Odessa	Dallas	Midland	Atlanta	Spanish	Premium	Nashville	Premium	Premium	Premium	Odessa	New York	Discovery	Atlanta	Learning Ca.
6 PM	News (CC)	Cosby (CC)	Wishbone	Early Edition	News	News (CC)	News	Fresh Prince	Locura de	In a Heartbeat	Marital Law	(CC) Movie:	Inside the NFL	News	News	Law & Order	Wild	Prentender	48 Hours
7 PM	Be a Millionaire	Police Videos	Wash. Week	Movie: Time	Fugitive (CC)	Be a Millionaire	Providence	(05) Movie:	Mujeres	Zenon: Girl of	Championship	Diggstown	Movie: Tombstone	Movie: Saving	Light of the	Biography	On the Inside	Movie: Good	Police, Cam-
8 PM	Two Guys-Girl	Freakylinks	CEO Ex-	...	CSI: Crime	Two Guys-Girl	Dateline (CC)	Fortune	...	Century (CC)	Rollerjam	Movie: Stepmom	(CC) ...	(CC)	Competition	On the Inside	Vietnam	Mummies: Fzn
9 PM	20/20 (CC)	Arrest & Trial	Antiques	Early Edition	Nash Bridges	20/20 (CC)	Law & Order	(20) Movie:	Estamos Unid.	Rip Girls	Monster Jam	(CC) ...	Stargate SG-1	...	Hour of	Poirt (CC)	Casino Diaries	Movie: The	Understanding
10 PM	News (CC)	Jerry Springer	(CC) News-Lahrer	700 Club (CC)	News	News (CC)	News	Corrina,	P. Impacto	In a Heartbeat	Marital Law	(10) Movie:	SG-1 (CC)	Taxicab	News	Law & Order	Justice Files	Siege of	Police, Cam-
11 PM	Politically Inc.	Blind Date	May-Dec	Who's Boss?	Show (CC)	Ent. Tonight	Show (CC)	...	En las Me-	Championship	Mother's Son	(CC) ...	Movie: The	Promise	Biography	On the Inside	Gloria	Mummies: Fzn	
12 AM	Paid Program	Judge-Brown	Manor Born	Guthy Renker	Show (CC)	Night (CC)	Movie: Poison	Marimar	For the Love	Rollerjam	Red Shoe	Weeks (CC)	Faith Pleases	Competition	On the Inside	Hamburger	Understanding	Pyramids	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE ALL YOUR LIFE?" "NOT YET."

FAMILY CIRCUS

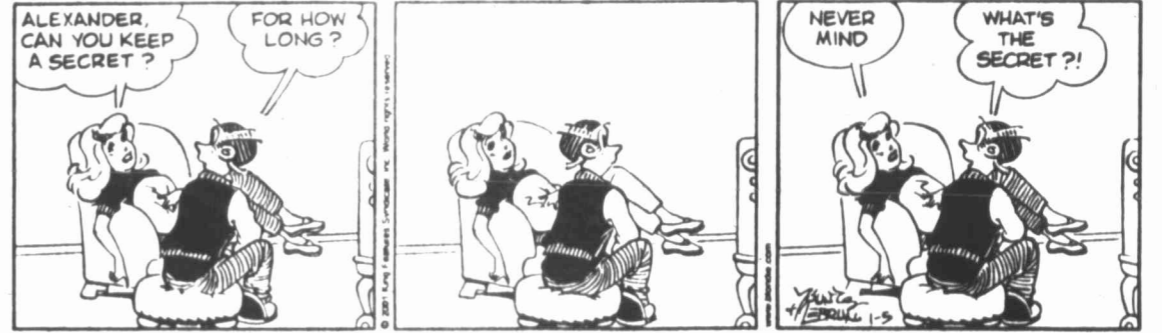


"My friend Sister Patricia says she's now teaching first grade at Our Lady of Perpetual Motion."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2001. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1896, Austrian newspaper Wiener Presse reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays.

On this date: In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age 69.

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. He was ultimately vindicated.

In 1925, Nellie T. Ross succeeded her late husband as governor of Wyoming, becoming the first female governor in U.S. history.

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry Truman labeled his administration the "Fair Deal."

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their

Clarksville, Pa., home.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon ordered development of the space shuttle.

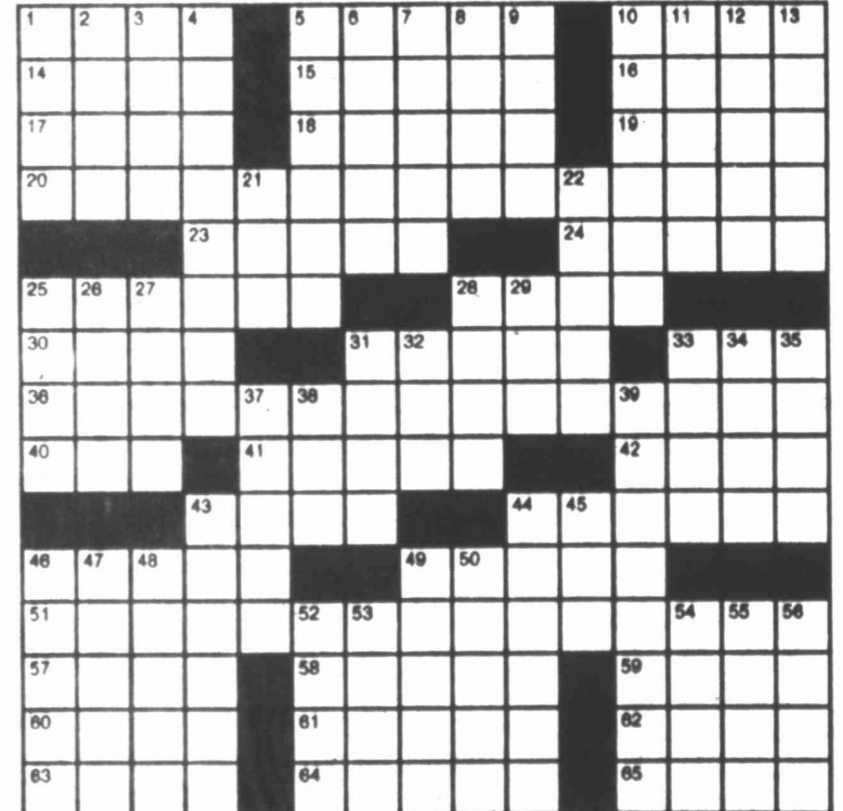
In 1981, police in England arrested Peter Sutcliffe, a truck driver later convicted of the "Yorkshire Ripper" murders of 13 women.

Ten years ago: President Bush met at Camp David, Md., with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the Persian Gulf crisis. The same day, a radio address by Bush was broadcast in which the president warned Iraq that "time is running out."

Today's Birthdays: Sun Records founder Sam Phillips is 78. Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 73. Actor Robert Duvall is 70. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 69. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 63.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- Jose's home
 - Oodles
 - Smoky-fog
 - Saharan
 - Backyard courtyard
 - Greater omentum
 - Writer O'Flaherty
 - More competent
 - Memory method
 - Noted sonless nobles?
 - Designates
 - Potpourris
 - Odd-toed ungulates
 - Rotary-phone feature
 - How sad!
 - Tempest
 - Old card game
 - Sell the fleet?
 - Broadway smash
 - Watercraft
 - Eisenhower and Turner
 - Invitation letters
 - Tejana superstar
 - Excessive
 - Sappho's last letter
 - Cleanup team?
 - Elle's singing style
 - L'chalm or proit
 - Graven Image
 - Sandusky's lake
 - Boring tool
 - Swiss marksman
 - Cultivate
 - Inclined not to
 - New Haven Ivy?



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- DOWN
- Young cow
 - Operatic highlight
 - Thailand, once
 - Caution

- Major mirth
- Like a well-used dirt road
- Lookout
- Henhouse product
- Overtumed
- Mother-of-pearl
- Pool outlet
- Type of orange
- Cheapskate
- Others: Lat.
- Libertine
- Inspiration
- Defoe's Flanders
- Model Macpherson