

MONDAY

December 10, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 45°-50° TOMORROW 58°-62°

HELPING OTHERS

Each day through the holiday season, the Herald will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate, including the Salvation Army Trees and Salvation Army Kettles. If your organization has an established program to help others and would like to be included in this list, call Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.

Angel Trees:

- Big Spring Herald-Senior Tree
- Big Spring Mall
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center
- Wal-Mart
- Rip Griffin's Truck/Travel Center

Kettles

- Big Spring Mall
- Wal-Mart
- Big Spring Post Office
- Rip Griffin's Truck/Travel Center

Giving Tree

- Wells Fargo

American Cancer Society Memorial Tree

- Merle Norman

Toys for Tots

- On Cue

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

- Big Spring Commandery No. 31, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 221 1/2 Main. 6:30 p.m. dinner.
- Big Spring Assembly No. 211, Social Order of Beauceant, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 221 1/2 Main. 6:30 p.m. dinner.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line Dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Evening Lions Club meets Tuesday at noon at Senior Citizens Center.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics meets at the SMMC cafe.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on

'Carol of Lights' planned to brighten the holidays at Big Spring State Hospital

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring State Hospital will host its annual "Carol of Lights" program at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the atrium of the state hospital's Activities Therapies Department building. The public is invited. Thousands of twinkling lights will adorn the building when workers flip on the power switch during the lighting ceremony.

Volunteers and employees will sing holiday carols to the patients during the festive celebration. The public is encouraged to attend. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served to participants. On display during the Carol of Lights ceremony will be seven or eight Christmas trees decorated by various classes participating in the Activities Therapies Department. Music therapy, therapeutic

arts and crafts and the living sober classes all will decorate their chosen trees. Big Spring State Hospital is a 187-bed psychiatric hospital for people with mental illness. The hospital serves 78 counties in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle. The Volunteer Services Council is an organization of more than 200 volunteers who provide extras for hospital patients. For more information, call 268-7536.

Routine business in store for city council on Tuesday

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will hold its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St. During its last scheduled meeting of 2001, the council plans to:

- Hear the final reading of a resolution authorizing

Public Works Director Todd Darden to execute change order no. 1 for the Capehart Addition sewer project. The change order will add \$27,872.34 to the cost of the project if approved.

- Hear the final reading of a resolution authorizing Darden to execute an agreement with Parkhill.

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Rotarians building new park

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Special to the Herald

There's a new park in town — downtown, that is.

Both local Rotary Clubs joined together to create Rotary Park, which is located in the 200 block of Main Street situated between Dahmer's Antiques and Emporia and the former Hemphill Wells building.

"We wanted to join all the efforts others are investing in the downtown area. Back in May, we started funding for the park, and we expect to have the entire project completed within the year," said Jan Foresyth, president of Big Spring Rotary.

Joining in the endeavor is the Wal-Mart Supercenter, which donated \$1,000 toward its construction.

Daryl Holley, Wal-Mart general manager, recently delivered a check to Foresyth and Greater Big Spring Rotary Club President Pam Welch.

"When I heard about Rotary Park, I knew this was a good project that will benefit many people. We try to get the most benefit for the funds we can donate," said Holley, who is a member of the Big Spring Rotary Club.

And other groups have



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Wal-Mart Supercenter Manager Daryl Holley presents a \$1,000 check to Jan Foresyth, left, president of Big Spring Rotary, and Pam Welch, president of Greater Big Spring Rotary, for Rotary Park, located in the 200 block of Main Street. The park has a covered pavillion and limestone walkways, and trees donated by individuals and businesses. Rotary Park should be complete within the next year.

also been instrumental in bringing the downtown park to life, Foresyth said. Earthco donated all the top soil and leveled the site. Big Spring Main Street Inc. provided an urn that once sat atop the now demolished Howard House, Welch said.

"We are trying to preserve as much of the history of downtown Big Spring as we can by making use of materials left over from various construction and demolition," Foresyth said.

The Rotary clubs acquired the site from the city of Big Spring. Wilderness Camp inmates have worked to place limestone-paved sidewalks and walkways within the park. A pavillion has also been constructed through the labor of inmates.

Landscaping for the park includes eight trees planted so far, which were donated as memorial or honorary additions. An underground sprinkler system has also

been installed to preserve the landscaping.

The Friday club has received tree donations in the name of Lt. Fred Newman of the Big Spring Fire Department, Capt. Pam Jordan of the Big Spring Police Department, Det. Ron Allen and Sgt Brad Ingram of the Howard County Sheriff's Department and a memorial tree honoring Walter

See PARK, Page 2

Politics

Jumper takes charge of Democratic Party locally

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

W.A. "Woody" Jumper will lead the Democratic Party of Howard County in the next election after his appointment as Democratic chair Thursday by the committee.

Jumper fills the seat left vacant by Robert Hutte, who resigned the post because of health problems.

"Firstly, I would like to thank Robert Hutte for graciously taking over the Democratic chair position when we needed him. We pray for a speedy recovery for him," Jumper said. "I was asked to fill the position and I fell like I needed to do that."

Jumper wants to bring back the interest of politics to the county, not only at election time but in every day discussion.

"I am looking towards the spirit of politics and the

See JUMPER, Page 2

Next Generation Day to bring employers, youth together

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Local professionals are hoping to educate area eighth-grade students about career choices and making the right educational decisions Friday at Howard College's Next Generation Day.

"The main purpose of Next Generation Day is to work with the school districts in the surrounding areas to provide career information and explorations," said Javier Flores, dean of students for Howard College.

More than 600 students from Big Spring, Stanton, Garden City, Coahoma, Forsan and Ackerly middle schools are expected to attend the one-day event held at the Howard College campus.

The presentation is targeted toward eighth-graders, Flores said, as an attempt to inspire the youth to begin thinking about the future and be more prepared to choose courses that will prepare them for their chosen field.

The classes a student decides to take while in high school may impact the amount of financial aid and colleges choices following graduation, Flores said.

Local professionals in education, agriculture, law enforcement, industry and the medical field will speak to the students about careers, the required educational background and a realistic salary range of that career.

Speakers will also take into account practical considerations such as work hours, market demand, personal likes and dislikes

of the job as well as comparing income with the cost of living.

Students will start off the day by hearing from guest speaker John Lloyd, who will present the "Making High School Count" program.

The program is designed to help students understand the importance of high school and the tools they will need in which to accomplish or maximize their opportunities upon graduation. This program also addresses time management and

See YOUTH, Page 2

Villarreal named TEP SAN of year

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

A local principal was recognized by a group of his peers for his continuing dedication and leadership to improving education and student performance.

Rey Villarreal, Big Spring Junior High School principal, was named TEP SAN of the year for Region 18 by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. In Region 18, TEP SAN has more than 200 members.

Every year, the organization gives the award to one member who exemplifies outstanding quality of leadership, said Mary Smith, president of TEP SAN. One member is recognized from each educational region. About 20 TEP SANs are recognized throughout the state.

"Rey exemplifies the characteristics of a good principal," Smith said. "He is concerned about the student's academic progress and he is concerned about the student's social progress. He strives to meet the needs of the student in the 21st Century and that's what we look for in a TEP SAN."

A 24-year veteran in the education field, Villarreal has been with the Big

"All my life I have enjoyed going to school. It's a natural fit for me. I wanted to coach and teach kids."

—Rey Villarreal

Spring Independent School District for the past 14 years.

He served as a Big Spring High School counselor for two years then spent 11 years as principal of Marcy Elementary. He took over as principal at the junior high school this past semester.

A career in education was just a natural fit for Villarreal.

"All my life I have enjoyed going to school. It's a natural fit for me," he said. "I wanted to coach and teach kids."

Upon graduation from high school in Monahans, Villarreal earned his bachelor's degree at Angelo State University. He holds two master's degrees from Sul Ross University in Alpine, one in counseling and one in mid-management.

See TEP SAN, Page 2



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Rey Villarreal, Big Spring Junior High School principal, visits with 13-year-old Alyssa Rains, a seventh-grade student, after school. Villarreal was named TEP SAN of the year for Region 18 by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association.

D E C 1 0 2 0 0 1

White House weighs whether to make bin Laden tape public

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is weighing whether to make public a videotape in which Osama bin Laden says he was pleasantly surprised by the extent of damage from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

On the tape, bin Laden recalls tuning in to news shows hours before the attacks, waiting to hear reports about the destruction, a U.S. official said. Bin Laden also says that after the first plane struck, he told those with him that more devastation was coming.

Vice President Dick Cheney said the tape shows clearly that bin Laden was behind the attacks.

A key consideration for the administration is

whether releasing the tape would help win over Muslims who doubt the veracity of U.S. claims that bin Laden was behind the attacks.

Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Monday the tape should be made public. "I believe if you have a choice between treating the American people at arm's length and as adults, you treat them as adults, and they should have the opportunity to see this tape," he said on CBS' The Early Show.

"It is ... equally important that the world see this tape because there are still some places where there is suspicion about whether there is evidence to link bin Laden

to the events of Sept. 11," Graham said.

The same stance was taken by Sens. Joseph Biden D-Del., who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb. "The world needs to see this," Hagel said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

On the other hand, Gehad Auda, a professor of political science at Cairo's Helwan University, said broadcast of the tape would create a "propaganda splash" but "not cause any turnover in public opinion."

"It won't make a difference to those who are hostile to America whether the tape is made public or not," Auda said. "This is a matter of belief, not a matter of clarifying information."

Cheney said it is not his decision whether to release the tape but indicated there was reluctance to do so. "We've not been eager to give the guy any extra television time," he said.

Cheney confirmed the tape's existence, disclosed by The Washington Post in Sunday editions, and other officials described the contents on condition of anonymity.

The tape provides clear proof the leader of the al-Qaida network was behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that killed about 3,300 people, the vice president said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"He does, in fact, display significant knowledge of what happened and there's

no doubt about his responsibility for the attack on September 11," Cheney said.

The tape shows bin Laden being interviewed or meeting with a cleric. He speaks in Arabic and discusses the terrorist attacks, according to Cheney, who said he had seen parts of the tape.

The al-Qaida leader expresses surprise and pleasure at the amount of damage done to the World Trade Center, the official said. Another official said bin Laden indicates on the tape he had expected the twin towers to collapse only down to the level of where the planes struck.

Bin Laden's comments show he had specific advance knowledge of the time, method and location of the attacks, the officials

said.

A third official said the tape suggests the ringleaders of the attacks did not tell all the hijackers that their mission would end in death.

U.S. officials declined to say how the United States obtained the tape, which one described as amateurish and apparently made with a handheld video camera. The Post said it was discovered during the search of a private home in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Bin Laden has not publicly taken responsibility for the attacks, though he has praised them. U.S. officials have said they intercepted communications tying bin Laden or associates to the attacks, but have refused to release any materials, citing intelligence concerns.

Michigan's registry of youthful sex offenders coming under scrutiny

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The boy was only 10 when a slightly older neighbor in his northeastern Michigan town asked him to play.

The two climbed into a tree house with the neighbor's 9-year-old sister. There, he said, the neighbor told the boy to have sex with the girl.

"I didn't know what I was doing," said the boy, now 18, who asked that his name not be used because of fear of harassment. "It was kind of like me and a girl playing doctor."

After a similar incident later that summer, the boy was convicted as a juvenile of criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to a year of probation and fined \$80.

But for him and hundreds of other youthful sex offenders, their sentence continues. Under Michigan law, the teen's name will be on Michigan's registry of sex offenders for 25 years. That means his name appears when potential employers, landlords or neighbors search the state's registry.

He and other young offenders say the state is sending confusing signals to juveniles, who are generally considered easier to rehabilitate than adults and can have their convictions erased once they turn 21.

Every state has a sex offender registry. Michigan is one of 28 states that requires juvenile sex offenders to register once they have completed their sentences, according to the Washington-based Center for Sex Offender

Management.

Of the 28, only about one-third have limits on releasing those names to the public, according to the center.

Michigan publicly releases the names of juvenile sex offenders who have been tried as adults. The names of offenders who were tried as juveniles and convicted of the most serious sex crimes — including rape of a child — are posted once they turn 18.

In Texas and South Carolina, juveniles' names are posted publicly. In Mississippi, only juveniles who are twice convicted must register. Indiana requires those older than 14 to register. In South Dakota, the cutoff is 15.

Many supporters of sex offender registries say there's nothing wrong with including teen-agers on the lists.

Many of the laws are inspired by Megan's Law, a 1996 federal law that required states to register sex offenders. It was named for a 7-year-old girl who was raped and murdered by a twice-convicted sex offender.

Laura Ahearn, the executive director of Parents for Megan's Law, a New York-based group that supports registries, backs registering juveniles as long as they're being treated.

"A broad law that gives you release from the registry is a mistake," she said.

But others say the laws are unfair because they don't take into account whether the teens are a danger to society.

Supreme Court will not reconsider case allowing student-led prayer at graduations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Student-led graduation messages, which opponents call official school prayer in thin disguise, may continue in Jacksonville, Fla., high schools. The Supreme Court said today it will not review a lower court's ruling that found the policy constitutionally sound.

A group of students and parents sued to block the policy in Duval County, which allowed the senior class to choose "chaplains" to give inspirational addresses at graduation. The school district calls the addresses "messages," and notes that they may be entirely secular.

"The clear purpose of the

challenged policy is to preserve a tradition of prayer at graduation," opponents led by the consumer and public interest group Public Citizen claimed in asking the high court to step in.

Invocations and benedictions were allowed at Duval County's 15 public school graduations before a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that prohibited clergy-led prayers at public school graduations.

In 1993, school officials adopted a new policy letting high school seniors decide whether to choose a fellow student to give a "brief opening and/or closing message" at graduation. The student would decide the

message's content with no review by school officials.

A group of students and their parents sued in 1998, saying the policy amounted to a government establishment of religion, barred by the Constitution's First Amendment.

Under the policy, students at some schools have elected a class chaplain to lead invocations and benedictions, or to give messages designated as "reflections" or "inspiration."

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has twice upheld the policy.

The high court told the Atlanta-based appeals court to rethink the case in light of the Supreme Court's deci-

sion in 2000 to bar student-led prayers at public high school football games. The justices said such prayers violated the constitutional principle that government will not impose religion.

The appeals court majority responded by reiterating its view that the Florida policy is constitutional because students make the choice about what to hear at graduation, and prayer is not the only choice they can make.

"Student prayer from the graduation podium ... is more coercive, and more imbued with state endorsement, than prayer at football games," opponents argued to the Supreme Court.

N.J. teachers return to classroom without contract

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. (AP) — Teachers returned to their classrooms without a contract today, three days after 228 of them were freed from jail when they agreed to return to work.

The teachers were released from jail Friday under an agreement with Superior Court Judge Clarkson S. Fisher Jr. that calls for them and school officials to work with a court-appointed mediator to reach a contract. The main sticking point in the negotiations is whether teachers should pay a greater share of health insurance costs.

Teachers in the well-to-do community walked out Nov. 29 and were served with a back-to-work order by Fisher the same day.

When they defied the order, he began sending them to jail last week.

Quail and Whitetail Hunting - Good Bucks - not hunted before \$100/tine point - no doe, no spikes. Mature 8 point or better bucks only - \$800.00 minimum/deer (daily minimums below are applied to fee based on points up to amt. due)

Glasscock County - 18 miles south of Big Spring west of Hwy. 33. Stands and Feeders and feed furnished - 30,000 acres. \$600 minimum - (6 days maximum per hunter for deer - 3 for quail) or \$300/person/day or part of a day (applied up to amt. due on points). R.V. camping, lodging, and conference center available \$25-\$500/day and up (meals maybe available).

Borden County - 35 miles north of Big Spring on Colorado River above Lake JB Thomas 16,000 acres, no feed, feeders or stands furnished. \$500 minimum (7 days maximum/hunter) for deer - 3 for quail or \$200/person/day or part of a day (applied up to amt. due on points). Daily fee deposits are required to hold reservations and full payment made prior to departure from ranch.

Quahadi Wildlife Refuge Inc. Located on LS McDowell Ranches, a family ranch since 1883 (915) 398-5461, leave message or fax 915-398-5466 or e-mail L3@quahadi-mcdowell.com.
Bob White & Blue Quail and Sandhill Crane or Duck Hunting for the same daily fees as above. Guides with the dogs and vehicles are available.

TV pioneer Mary Kennedy dies at 90

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Journalist, author and television pioneer Mary Kennedy, died Saturday. She was 90.

Kennedy and her husband Vann Kennedy first established K-SIX Radio in Corpus Christi in 1947 followed by KZTV Channel 10 in 1956 and KTV in Laredo in 1973.

Kennedy had helped her husband manage KZTV since 1956. She had also worked as a freelance writer for state and national newspapers, an assistant editor of the State Observer and a reporter in the Austin Bureau of The Associated Press.

"I can't count the number of people she helped," said Walter Furley, news director for KZTV-News. "She gave so many young reporters their first break. Most of the people that have come through here were hired by her personally."

She is survived by her husband, and daughter, Kathleen Kennedy.

Dr. Thomas C. Miller, D.O.

General Medical Practice
(Adults & Adolescents)

915-756-3211

109 E. First Street
Stanton, Texas

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm



To help, bring your donations to either KBST or the Big Spring Herald by Friday, December 21st. Donations are being accepted with either Dry or Canned Food. Help make a difference in the lives of the animals.

THINK ABOUT WHERE YOUR MONEY IS NOW

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(form PPDA 98-1-1)

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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.

Ken Dulaney
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Think about entering the political ring

The time has arrived for anyone who might be thinking about running for office in the March party primaries.

That, it itself, is no reason to run, of course, unless you are a die-hard Republican or Democrat who believes in a straight ticket and that each office up for election should have a party representative on the ballot.

However, in Howard County, people are inclined to vote for whomever they believe will get the job done, Democrat or Republican. Most of us want qualified, hard-working, friendly individuals to represent our interests. And just as importantly, if we are, say, Republican, we want our candidates to have those qualities. We want to know the individual, at least to some degree. It's the same for Democrats.

We want to feel confident in that person before we will cast our vote for him or her.

All of which is to say, most of us don't want someone in office who is "just looking for a job" or running because he or she has a battle to wage or a single cause to support.

But if you are truly interested in representing the people of our district, our county — if that is your reason for thinking about seeking office — be advised that the filing period is under way. The last day to file with either party chairman is Jan. 2.

Positions up for election locally are county judge, district judge, district clerk, county clerk, county treasurer, county surveyor, Precinct 2 county commissioner, Precinct 4 county commissioner, justices of the peace for both Precinct 1, Place 2 and Precinct 2, Place 1.

To file for office, contact your party chairman. Democratic Party Chairman W.A. "Woody" Jumper can be reached at 263-0782 after 5 p.m. Republican Party Chairman Dwain Fox can be reached at 263-2199. If you want to file as an independent or Libertarian, contact the county clerk at 264-2213.

Good luck.

OTHER VIEWS

President Bush claims to want Osama bin Laden "dead or alive," but it's plain what he'd prefer. He shares the hankering of Vice President Dick Cheney, who says he'd happily take the man's head on a platter. Summary execution might bring a tidy end to this horrible tale, but tidiness isn't everything. There's also the matter of justice. And what is justice? It's the thing that separates the civilized from the savage. It's a story whose ending can't be known before it's written — and whose plot must follow a few old-fashioned rules. Tiresome as they may seem to modern audiences, the rules are crucial to a satisfying denouement. Without them, the story of justice is indistinguishable from the story of vulgar revenge. There's a difference, and it matters. Justice is the culmination of civilized society's narrative. Revenge is a conclusion reached by lynch mobs. Though the two endings

sometimes look the same, the paths traveled to reach them have little in common. The first is paved with insight, the second with blind fury. The White House lately seems to be opting for the blind road, and the adventure could cost the United States dearly. Most troubling is the president's order creating military tribunals to try foreign terror suspects, which is raising hackles among America's allies and chortles among its enemies. ... The horrors of Sept. 11 were too great to be adjudicated behind closed doors. If ever Osama bin Laden sets foot in a courtroom — and chances are slim that he will — his steps should be watched by the world. The story of his deeds should be recounted for history. Proof of his guilt should be made plain to all eyes. News of his punishment should resound in every grieving heart.

STAR TRIBUNE,
MINNEAPOLIS

More police equals less terrorism

Since the mid-1980s, we have called for more police on the beat. During the Clinton presidency, federal funds were allocated to put 50,000 more police officers into our communities. Now, with a recession running full blast, local governments are tending to cut all budgets, including those for law enforcement. But in light of the terrorist threat facing America, the opposite course is called for. The arguments against this proposal have always



JACK ANDERSON

centered on two issues: money and the specter of a police state.

Money is always a problem, but not when we recognize that the first duty of government is to provide for the public safety.

The police-state argument is more difficult to address because it is in the eye of the beholder. For decades, police and/or soldiers armed with automatic weapons patrolled airports in Europe, a fact that made people more secure without instilling a police-state fear. The fact is that police are like referees on a sports field. Without them, there is anarchy and chaos — rule of the strongest. With them, there is order. The idea is to mimic the sports field on the streets of America. A police officer on every

other corner would create order, not fear. And with the advent of the terrorist threat, that sense of order is more important than ever.

It should be noted that police have several advantages that the typical citizen does not have:

1. Police are trained to look for criminal activity.
2. It is their full-time job; they are not distracted so easily as civilians by shopping and conversation.
3. They are armed.
4. They are trained to disarm and arrest suspected criminals.
5. They possess the latest photos of suspected criminals, including terrorists.
6. They are connected by radio to bring in backup.
7. They are equipped to call in emergency vehicles.

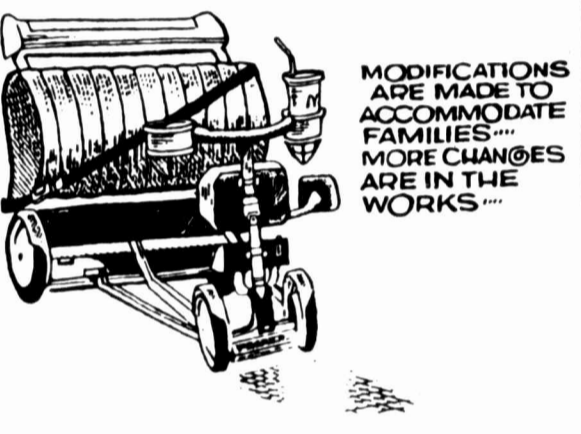
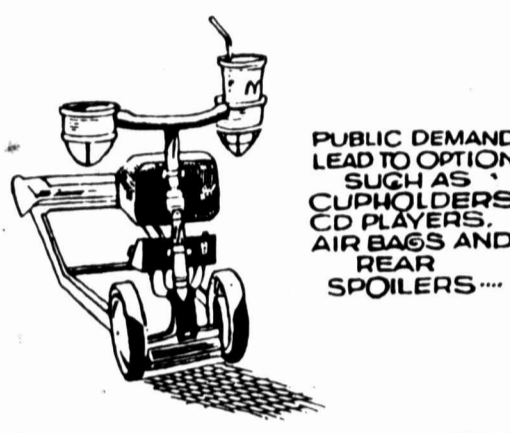
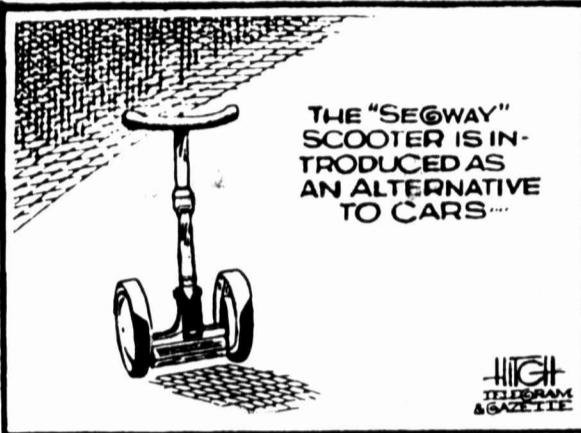
8. Uniformed and armed, they represent a visible deterrence against crime, including terrorism.

In short, police officers are human enforcement centers, and, as such, they are essential to the well being of our society. These facts should be obvious to citizens and legislators alike, but they have not been. Police cannot stop all crime, but they can play a significant role in reducing it, especially becoming the most important element in deterring terrorism.

So America wants an economic stimulus package? How about allocating funds to add 200,000 police on the street? That would very quickly bring a simultaneous infusion of cash and safety into our communities.

ADDRESSES

- **GEORGE W. BUSH**
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Important lessons about Hispanic vote

By WILL LESTER

Guest Columnist

Democrats and Republicans got a reminder this year in mayors' races in New York, Houston and Los Angeles that Hispanic voters are a fast-growing and crucial swing vote tied more closely to ethnic than party loyalty.

That dynamic of ethnic loyalty, which played out in very different ways in the three cities' mayoral races, could be important in many races next year.

"Elections for mayor in several of America's biggest cities have confirmed the fact that the Hispanic electorate has become a crucial swing vote," said pollster Sergio Bendixen of Miami. "If they're offended or mishandled, they'll cross party lines."

Former California Gov. Pete Wilson took a strong anti-immigrant stance in the mid-1990s that seriously damaged Republicans' image with Hispanics for years. Hispanics have voted more often against Republicans than for Democrats, political analysts say.

Led by President Bush, the GOP is aggressively courting Hispanics, the fastest-growing segment of the population. Democrats are feeling the growing pains of the Hispanic population boom.

These are this year's elec-

tions that highlighted the increasingly tricky landscape:

—In New York, a nasty feud within the Democratic Party took on racial overtones, and Republican Michael Bloomberg scored an upset win last month. He was aided by a split of the Hispanic vote in the heavily Democratic city.

—In Houston, black Democratic incumbent Lee Brown held onto his job last Saturday but had to run a tough campaign questioning the competence and judgment of conservative Republican Orlando Sanchez. Sanchez came very close to winning and won over a majority of Hispanics.

—In Los Angeles, Democrat James Hahn angered many Hispanic supporters of Democratic opponent Antonio Villaraigosa by running an ad with images of a crack pipe and a razor blade cutting cocaine. Hahn, who won the June election, was attacking Villaraigosa for writing a letter on behalf of a drug dealer whose sentence was later commuted. No Republican was competing in the runoff, so it was impossible to judge if the campaign split Democrats.

Republicans seized on the win in New York as the bright spot in a generally dismal 2001 election season that saw them lose two governors' races. They cautioned the faithful the party

must work hard to prevent more losses like the one in Houston.

"Republicans are neophytes about inner-city campaigning," said Al Cardenas, chairman of the Florida Republican Party, who advises the national party's efforts to bring Hispanic voters into the fold. "We're great at suburban campaigning, but we need more on-the-ground training when it comes to inner-city campaigning."

Democrats still claim an advantage of 2-to-1 or more over Republicans among Hispanics in many parts of the country, but they face a challenge in holding that edge.

"I think the Democratic Party is struggling right now in being able to say they're the party that best represents Latino interests," said Arturo Vargas, executive director at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. "They're struggling with how to bring Latinos into leadership roles, on redistricting to give Latinos a fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice."

"There's no question that we have to fight for the Hispanic vote," said Michael Meehan, senior counselor for the Democratic National Committee. "They're not an automatic part of the base vote. They're more a swing vote."

Nevertheless, Meehan said of the 5,000 Hispanic elected officials, about nine in 10 are Democrats. "We have a good bench to continue to build off of," Meehan said.

Democrats acknowledge serious problems arose during the campaign for their New York mayoral primary. Some backers of white Democratic candidate Mark Green, tried to paint his Hispanic opponent, Fernando Ferrer, as a puppet of the outspoken black minister Al Sharpton. Green denied responsibility, but angry Hispanics stayed home or voted for Republican Bloomberg in the general election.

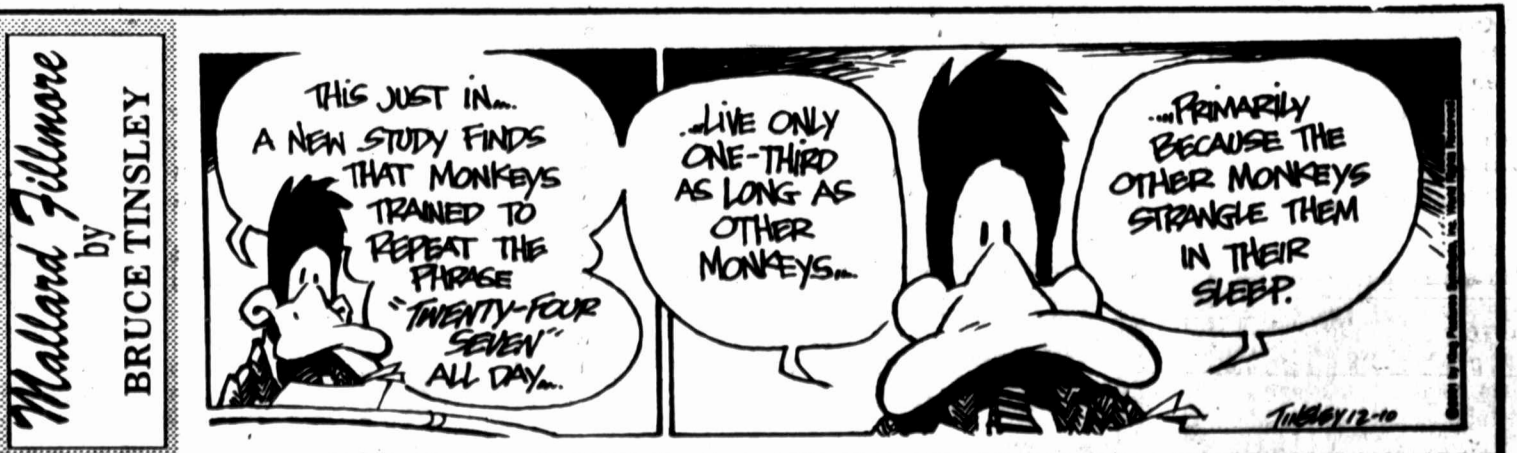
The Democratic attacks on Sanchez also may carry a price in Houston, said Republican Cardenas.

"I think Democrats are entering a very risky environment as we recruit more minority candidates," Cardenas said.

Democratic spokeswoman Maria Cardona said the "racist tactic" used in New York will be extremely unwelcome in future party primaries.

"We don't need it, and we can't afford it," she said. "The Democratic Party comes from a tradition of coalition building and diversity."

Will Lester covers politics and polling for The Associated Press.



IN BUFFS at Bo Fors impro 8-4 Satur over I in the the Invitat Tourne The a char ment loss to semifi behind points Johnst third p Wes Buffs' down n Footb ticket The Steer has be 6:30 p. 17, in Junior teria. Tick plate a Vision Gregg For call Jir 1069. Baseli meeti Mem Spring Baseba will mo the Traini ing roo All p of high players For call Jir 1069. Youth regist Sign- formed Basket being YMCA through The l of Big 5 ous you grams. per chi The boys a garten Childre in one depend of Aug. Kinde will p league, the thr will p boys' ar Try-o two age Saturda Girls 10 try out and un p.m. Be will try and bo will be A coa set for Dec. 17. Game through more i 267-8234 ON Radio NBA 7:30 p Maverick KBST-AM Televis COLLEGE Mon 6 p.m. Minnesot 7 p.m. State at NFL 8 p.m. Cofts at ABC. RODEO 11 p.m. Finals, fo day tape)

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MONDAY

DEC. 10

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMGD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, TLC) and rows for time slots from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM, listing various programs and movies.

DENNIS THE MENACE



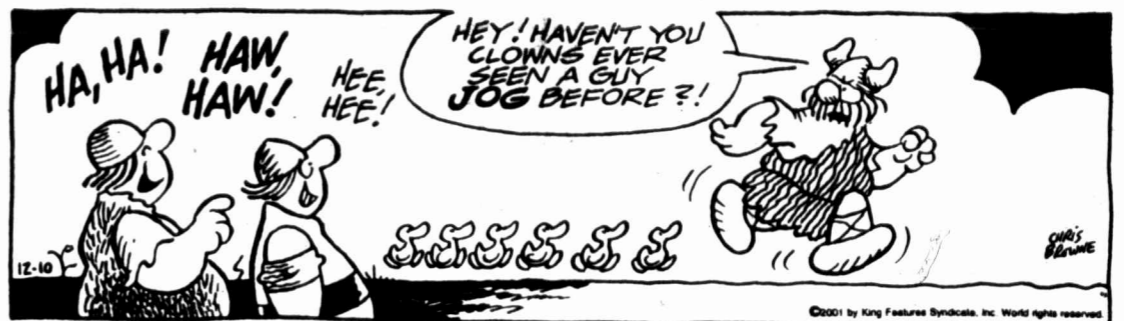
"OL' RUFF IS NOT SPOILED... HE JUST SMELLS THAT WAY."

FAMILY CIRCUS

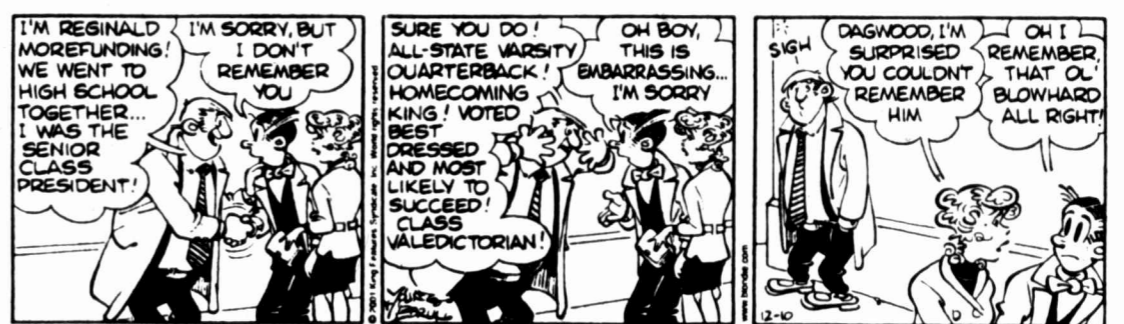


"How many 'behave days' 'til Christmas?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 2001. There are 21 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 10, 1931, Jane Addams became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the first American woman so honored. In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant, or face excommunication. In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state. In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory. In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American War. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping to mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

Supreme Court. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak submitted his resignation, starting the countdown toward a special election. Today's Birthdays: Actor Harold Gould is 78. Former Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yetter is 71. Actor Mako is 68. Actor Tommy Kirk is 60. Actress Fionnula Flannagan is 60. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 58. Actress-singer Gloria Loring is 55. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tavares is 53.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

ON THE GO by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS 1 Bit of information 5 Roof support 9 Trades 14 Fragrance 15 Farm unit 16 Leg bone 17 Frequent song subject 18 Actress Pertman 19 Tin Pan 20 Cutie pie 22 Consecrate 23 "Return to (Elvis tune) 24 Shaker contents 26 "See ya!" 29 Loner 33 Bluegrass band instrument 37 Charley horse 39 Deputy 40 Woodwind instrument 41 Tribal symbol 42 Misfortunes 43 Annoying child 44 Computer owner 45 Leg joints 46 Biblical strongman 48 Three for Hans 50 Very Fr. 52 English biscuits 57 Seacoast 60 Where some vegetables are grown 63 Committee 64 New York college 65 Grow weary 66 Book of maps 67 Overtum 68 Sermon subject 69 Limerick, e.g. 70 Big party 71 Falcon's home DOWN 1 Pleats 2 Put on a pedestal 3 Group of witches 4 Tire part 5 Ms. Streisand 6 Repeat verbatim 7 Domain 8 Butcher's wares 9 Horse house 10 Want-ad phrase 11 Competent 12 Dessert choices 13 Utters 21 "Take your leader" 25 "I beg your pardon!" 27 New Mexico town 28 Played a part 30 Marathon unit 31 Run in neutral 32 Mrs. Dick Tracy and Barker 34 Incantation start 35 Linguist Chomsky 36 Wind system 38 German mister 41 Adjust a guitar 45 Try for a field goal 47 Ultimatum words 49 Get away 51 Unyielding 53 All the time 54 Gullible 55 "To human" 56 Refine metal 57 Mast 58 "What God wrought?" 59 Nothing but 61 Auditor's goal 62 Ounce or inch

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 71 indicating starting points for the clues.