

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

THURSDAY

December 13, 2001

WEATHER

1Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
25°-28° 55°-57°

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

Humane Society Animal Food Drive

- KBST
- Big Spring Herald

Canned goods bring free ads

Between now and Friday, Dec. 21, Herald readers can get discounts on their classified ads by donating canned goods. Place a classified ad to run at least three days, and for each canned good or non-perishable food item, get one extra day. The offer is good for up to three extra days.

All food donations will be presented to the Salvation Army for distribution.

For more information, contacted the Big Spring Herald classified department at 263-7331 or come by the Herald at 710 Scurry.

INSIDE TODAY...

- Classified 4-5B
- Comics 6B
- Features 5A
- Horoscope 5B
- Landers 5B
- Nation 5A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-3B
- Texas 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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

Drive through nativity opens tonight at First Church of the Nazarene

HERALD Staff Report

The First Church of the Nazarene's 15th annual live drive through nativity begins tonight and will run through Sunday.

The annual event follows Christ throughout his life with depictions of the prophecy of his birth, the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth of Christ,

their flight into Egypt following King Herod's proclamation of the murder of first-born sons, the crucifixion, his resurrection and ascension into heaven.

There are 17 scenes with around 150 actors who are members of the church and range from the elderly to young children.

The popular performance has grown considerably since it first premiered 15

years ago. Then, the event consisted of seven scenes and actors tended to pose in the set while now the actors act out events.

For tonight's performance, signers from the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf will be stationed at each of the scene to sign for the hearing impaired.

The route of the nativity will be the same as in previ-

ous years, but those who are new to the event will need to come in on Lancaster from Martin Luther King Boulevard.

There will be markers for people to follow and volunteers who will be handing out CDs and tapes in Spanish and English.

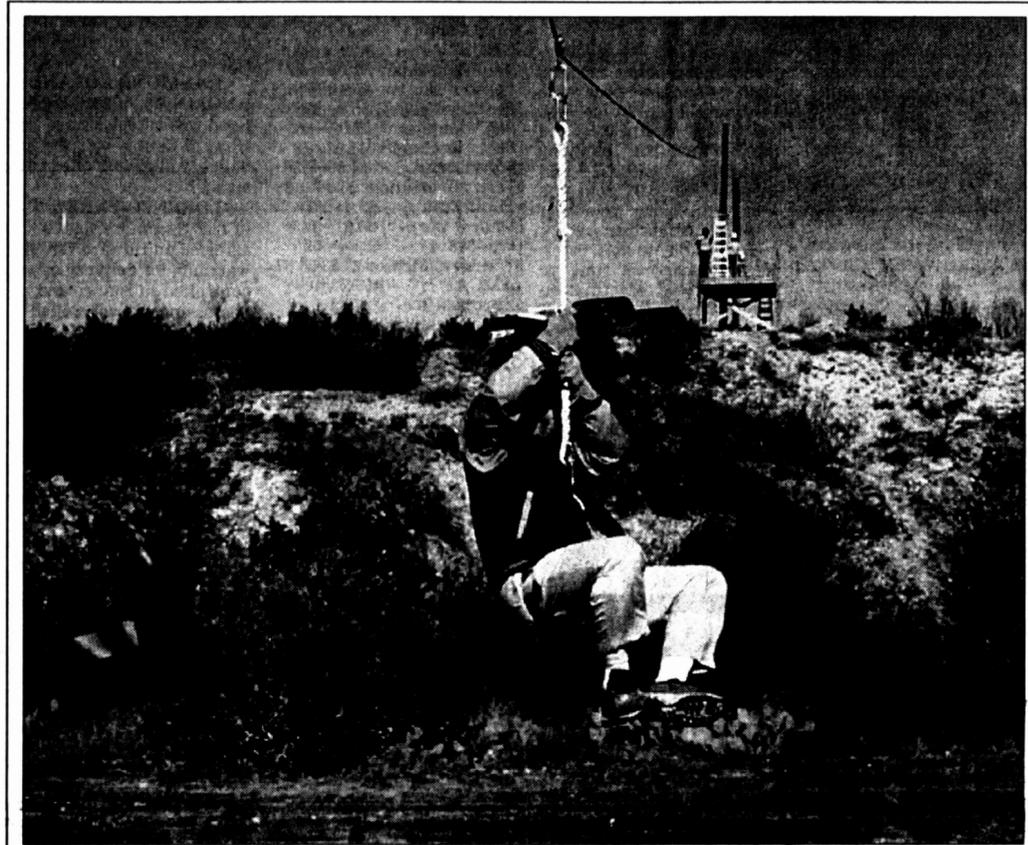
Over the years, the drive through nativity has drawn nationwide attention and has seen as many as 8,000

cars come through the church's parking lot where the scenes are displayed.

Admission is free and it will take about 15 to 20 minutes to drive through all the sets.

The event runs from 6:30 to 9:30 nightly. Donations will be accepted at the end of the tour.

For more information, contact the church office at 267-7015.



Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen breaks the ribbon as he slides down the zip line at the Camp Thomas COPE Course Wednesday. The event was hosted by the Big Spring Ambassadors and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

District court offices will be showcased to public

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

The 118th District Court will hold an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday to showcase its new home, the recently renovated building across Scurry



MOORE

Street from the Howard County Courthouse.

Officials and staff of the 118th District, including Judge Robert Moore III, District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson and District Clerk Glenda Brasel, will be on hand to welcome and meet the public.

"We're going to have a public open house so that the people can come and see our new building," Moore

said. "We think it's something the public will be real proud of."

The lobby of the building contains a historic 6-foot by 23-foot fresco mural of a pioneer farming family by Peter Heard. The mural was created under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration in 1937.

"We kind of designed that lobby to highlight that mural," Moore said. "That

was one of the reasons we wanted to use that building because of the historic aspects of it."

Renovation of the building, originally a post office and more recently the Howard County Library building, cost about \$1 million and was completed in October.

For more information call the district clerk's office at 264-2223.

Coahoma Post Office greets the holidays with special open house slated on Friday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Post Office wants to say thanks to all its customers for their patronage by holding a "Customer Appreciation Day" on Friday.

"We would like to thank all our customers and friends for their business and wish them all a happy holiday season," said Coahoma Postmaster Gloria M. Jimenez.

A reception is set from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the post office, located on 102 First St.

"We will serve refreshments and drinks," Jimenez said. "This is to show our customers our appreciation for their business and to do something for the community."

This also gives Jimenez an opportunity to let the community know the post office is ready for the holiday rush, she said.

"This is an opportunity to

let them know we are ready for Christmas," she said. "We will be open Saturday and Sunday and we are stocked up on Christmas stamps. They don't have to hunt down boxes or tape for those sending packages priority because we provide it for them at no cost."

In conjunction with the reception, customers will also have a chance to see the new postage stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service following the Sept. 11 attacks, the United We Stand stamp, Jimenez said.

"It is a tremendous honor for me to represent the 800,000 employees of the U.S. Postal Service as we dedicate the design of the new United We Stand stamp," said Jimenez. "It is a fitting tribute to the invigorated patriotic spirit of our nation and the U.S. flag is one of the most recognized symbols of freedom and democracy of the world."

"The United We Stand stamp also represents the "can do" spirit of the American people and the 800,000 postal employees that move the mail every day no matter the situation

See MAIL, Page 2A

Busted

Drug-related charges filed on 29 people

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Seventeen suspected drug dealers were arrested Wednesday in the culmination of a year-long narcotics sting operation.

"This investigation began in August 2000, when narcotics officers began purchasing quantities of cocaine and marijuana from suspected drug dealers," Walker told media at an 11 a.m. press conference Wednesday. "Investigators began targeting any suspected drug dealers or organizations that are responsible for the distribution of illegal narcotics to our local residents."

The investigation led to felony cases against 29 independent drug dealers and arrest warrants were issued. Seventeen of the dealers had been arrested, all without incident, before 11 a.m., Walker said.

"They will continue serving these throughout the day," he said. "Hopefully they'll wrap it up by tonight (Wednesday)."

As of this morning one more of the suspects had been arrested. Walker also said the sheriff's office has learned that one of the 29 suspects is in state prison and another is in another county's jail.

See BUSTED, Page 2A



These pre-K students from St. Mary's Episcopal School donated spare change to purchase this \$40 bicycle, wheels and 4- and 5-year-olds donated to the Salvation Army this morning for a needy child's Christmas present. Shown, standing from left, are Stevie Ward, Breana Madry, Mason Coor, Namen McCullough, Carly McMahan, Briana Mendoza, teacher Theda Brooks and Alden Tolleson. Seated from left, Nichole Raines, Autumn Moore, Kayla Sanders, Ryan Pearson and Jenni Steele.

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OBITUARIES

Martin L. Mogford

Memorial service for Martin L. Mogford, 68, of Midland, will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, at the Christian Life Center in Midland with pastor Billy Raies officiating.

Mr. Mogford died Tuesday, Dec. 11, in a Houston hospital.

He was born on March 13, 1933, in Kilgore. He moved with his family to Odessa and graduated from Odessa High School in 1951. He earned a bachelors degree in English from Eastern New Mexico University in 1956 and a masters degree in English and drama from New Mexico Highland University in 1971. Martin was a veteran of the United States Army, and a retired teacher, having taught many years in the Midland public schools. His career included teaching English and Drama at Midland High School, serving as the English Department chairman at Midland Alamo Junior High School and teaching English literature at Midland Junior College. He was active in many professional teachers' organizations, and held leadership positions in the Texas State Teachers' Association and the Midland Classroom Teachers' Association. He participated in many productions of Midland Community Theater and enjoyed taking part in Midland's Summer Mommers. His extensive travels included trips to Europe, Russia, Mexico and Scandinavia.

Survivors include one daughter, Margaret Jackson of Houston; one brother, James Mogford of Albuquerque, N.M.; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to KSBJ Christian Radio, P.O. Box 3487, Humble 77347, the American Cancer Society or a charity of choice.

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

Ophelia K. Rhodes

Funeral service for Ophelia "Fiji" K. Rhodes, of Kingsland, will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, at the First United Methodist Church in Stanton with

retired Methodist minister, the Rev. Tommie Beck of Kingsland, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Skip Hodges, minister of First United Methodist Church. Burial will be at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

Mrs. Rhodes died Monday, Dec. 10, in Burnet after a long illness.

She was born in Pontotoc on Oct. 15, 1910. She married Frank Brandt in Abilene on Jan. 18, 1929. They spent many years in West Texas living in oil camps where he was employed by Chevron Oil Company. He preceded her in death on Jan. 10, 1956. She moved to Stanton in 1956 from Grandfalls and resided there until 1997. She worked for Wes-Tex Telephone in Stanton for many years until her retirement. She married Finley O. Rhodes on Jan. 1, 1970, in Stanton. He preceded her in death on Aug. 19, 1997. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Stanton, the Friendship Sunday School Class and the Stanton Senior Citizen Center, where she was part of the original "Ole sore-head Band."

Survivors include one daughter, Susan Beck of Kingsland; two grandsons; and one granddaughter.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home.

Jettie Moore

Funeral service for Jettie Moore, 55, of Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Mrs. Moore died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2001, at her residence.

City Council reschedules work session

HERALD Staff Report
The Big Spring City Council has rescheduled its public work session to discuss revision of the city charter. The meeting, originally scheduled for Jan. 15, has been moved to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14.

The date of the meeting has been changed because of a scheduling conflict with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. The council is encouraging members of the public to attend the meeting and offer suggestions and input on revision of the charter.

For more information contact City Secretary Tom Ferguson's office at 264-2513.

BUSTED

Continued from Page 1A

Undercover investigators spent \$2,777 in "buy money," \$2,024 to purchase cocaine and \$753 to purchase marijuana, he said.

About 30 officers from the West Texas Narcotics Task Force, the Big Spring Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the 118th District Attorney's Office as well as the Howard County Sheriff's Office participated in serving the warrants.

Walker said the Christmas holiday season is an appropriate time to be rounding up drug dealers. "This roundup should slow down the drug activity

in this area, and as any law enforcement officer can tell you, drug activity is the root problem of all crime," he said, noting that Christmas time is a popular time for burglars, who steal presents and sell or trade them for drugs.

The 18 arrested so far include Lorenzo Yanez, Raymond Roland Anglin, Paul Claude White, Ellese Lakay Hickman, Kim Stambaugh, Elliott Murry Perryman, Harold Boyce Hale Jr., Able Maldonad Magana, Elvis Eugene Johnson, Isabel Gonzales Lomas, Juana Silva, Alfred Ray Miers, Joseph Alton Murley, Steven Magana, Jesse Martinez, Jeri Perryman, Joshua Clifton Beaty and Langford Wood.

MAIL

Continued from Page 1A

their face," she continued. For the holiday mailing rush, Jimenez said, the Coahoma Post Office will open on Saturday and Sunday and the following Saturday, Dec. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 23, from 7:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. to accept those Christmas packages.

The last day to mail priority packages in time to reach their destination before Christmas is Dec. 21 and the last day for express mail is Dec. 22.

In the holiday spirit, the post office will deliver a message from Santa to those children that send their Santa letters to the Coahoma Post Office, Jimenez said.

The post office regular business hours are 7:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BRIEFS

THE WIC PROGRAM THROUGH the Texas Department of Health has variable hours to accommodate those who work or go to school during the day. The Women, Infants and Children program offers food, nutrition and child health services.

WIC is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. One Saturday each month, the office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call the office at 263-9777, or go by 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 2B-8, for more information.

ELEVEN YEAR OLD ETHAN Strickland has had surgery for a devastating neurological condition with more to come. He is home now and is receiving speech and physical therapy.

His family continues to need help defraying the costs their insurance doesn't cover as well as future travel expenses that will occur.

An account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank to defray these costs and his family has asked for help and prayers for their son.

To make a donation call Wells Fargo at 267-5513.

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM, located at the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark, will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m. The museum will be closed on all city holidays.

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

AT&T	16.08 -42
Archer-Daniels	15.05 +18
Atmos Energy	20.04 +19
BP PLC ADR	43.95 -15
ChevronTexaco	85.52 -08
Citigroup	47.27 -88
Compaq	9.58 -21
Cornell	17.45 +1
Dell	28.67 -51
Du Pont	42.25 -75
Exxon Mobil	37.25 +44
Halliburton	13.49 +22
IFCO Systems	.97 nc
IBM	121.48 -1.72
Intel Corp	33.41 -67
NUV	9.23 +03
Patterson Ener	21.06 +22
Pepsico Inc	47.84 +75
Phillips Petro	55.9 -37
SBC Comms	37.98 -26
Sears Roebuck	45.82 -18
TXU Corp	44.99 +58
Texas Instrument	30.94 -1.26
Total Fina	65.4 -95
Unocal Corp	33.21 -14
Wal-Mart	53.74 -59
Wal-Mart/Mexico	24.53-25.67
AMCAP	16.22 nc
Europacific	27.45 +12
Prime Rate	5 %
Gold	272 -275.4
Silver	4.24 -4.32

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. today:

• **CODY WADE VICKERS**, 19, of 1603 Todd Road was arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license and possession of a controlled substance less than one gram in a drug-free zone.

• **JESSE AGUILAR**, 24, of 500 N. Runnels was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.

• **EVERETT HAM-MONTREE**, 43, of Roseburg, Ore., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **YCIDRO VILLAREAL**, 33, of 408 Abrams was arrested for local warrants.

• **PAUL CLYDE WHITE**, 52, of 510 S. Lancaster was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **HAROLD BOYCE HALE JR.**, 48, of 102 East 10th St. was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY**, 22, of 1105 Mulberry was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of marijuana.

• **JUANA SILVA**, 43, of 312 E. Davis Road was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **KIM STAMBAUGH**, 41, of 102 E. 10th St. was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **ISABEL GONZALES LOMAS**, 45, of 806 N. Goliad was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **JERI LYNN PERRYMAN**, 52, of 1210 Frazier was arrested on a Howard

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: x,x,x
LOTTO: 52, 7, 4, 15, 48, 49

County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **ELLIOT MURRY PERRYMAN**, 52, of 1210 Frazier was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **ALFRED RAY MIERS**, 40, of 807 ANNA was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of marijuana.

• **ELVIS EUGENE JOHNSON**, 44, of 1102 N. Main was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **RAYMOND ROLAND ANGLIN**, 18, of 2010 Loop Road was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **LORENZO YANEZ**, 27, of 1205 Sycamore was arrested on Howard County warrants for delivery of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

• **LANGFORD WOOD**, 63, of 1000 N.W. Second St. was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **ABEL MAGANA**, 44, of 803 Creighton was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **STEVE MAGANA**, 23, of 803 Creighton was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

• **JOSHUA CLIFTON BEATY**, 19, OF 1303 S. Johnson was arrested on a Howard County warrant for delivery of a marijuana.

• **MINOR ACCIDENTS** were reported in the 3600 block of South Highway 87, the 700 block of East 11th Place and the 200 block of South Gregg.

• **A MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1800 block of East Highway 350.

• **DISTURBANCE/FIGHT** was reported in the 600 block of South Gregg and the 2400 block of West 16th Street.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES** were reported in the 500 block of Westover Road and the 1100 block of East 12th Street.

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity in November:

- DETECTIVES:**
 - 4 investigators
 - 31 percent clearance
 - 103 previous cases
 - 72 new cases
 - 54 cleared
 - 22 inactivated
 - 99 carried over
- PROPERTY:**
 - \$70,879 stolen
 - \$46,563 recovered
- TRAINING:**

- 20 officers
- 90 class hours
- ADULT ARRESTS:**
 - 78 total
 - 22 drunk
 - 12 driving under the influence
 - 3 narcotics
 - 3 assaults
- JUVENILE ARRESTS:**
 - 37 total
 - 33 white, 4 black
 - 4 theft
 - 1 weapon
 - 3 criminal mischief
 - 4 liquor law violations
 - 9 curfew violations
 - 6 runaways
- CRIMES REPORTED:**
 - 38 assaults
 - 26 burglaries
 - 37 thefts
 - 3 unauthorized use of a vehicle
 - 29 family violence
- SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM:**
 - 12 officers
 - 105 hours overtime
 - 63 citations
 - 92 written warnings
 - 34 verbal warnings
 - 5 arrests
 - 1,020 miles driven
- PATROL:**
 - 26,393 miles driven
 - 2,289 gallons of gasoline used
 - 333 written reports
 - 79 accidents
 - 101 arrests
 - 15 driving under the influence
 - 281 citations
 - 194 written warnings
 - 287 verbal warnings
 - 48 field interviews
 - 50 alarm responses
 - 190 open door investigations
 - 702 building checks
 - 246 house watches

FIRE/EMS

The following is a summary of the Big Spring Fire Department and EMS:

- 10:25 a.m. — 2300 block of Gregg, medical call, one patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- 3:52 p.m. — 200 block of Gregg, traffic accident, service refused.
- 7:08 p.m. — 1800 block of E. Hwy 350, traffic accident, four patients transported to SMCC.
- 7:08 p.m. — 1800 block of E. Hwy 350, extrication.

RECORDS

Wednesday's high 57
Wednesday's low 37
Record high 82 in 1948
Record low 11 in 1919
Average high 55
Average low 30
Precip. Wednesday 0.02
Month to date 0.02
Year to date 14.06
Sunrise Friday 7:39 a.m.
Sunset Friday 5:42 p.m.

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MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Rozelle McKenney Dohoney, 93, died Tuesday. Graveside services are 2:00 PM Saturday at Westbrook Cemetery in Westbrook.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH
Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331
www.npwelch.com

Martin L. Mogford Jr., 68, died Tuesday. Memorial services will be 11:00 AM Friday at Christian Life Center, Midland.

Jettie Moore, 55, died Wednesday. Services are pending.

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

Thank You!
After 32 years in dentistry, I am now closing my office. I appreciate the loyal support of Big Spring and the surrounding areas.
Your records are available for pick up at the office of Dr. John Myers, 1702 W. FM 700, Big Spring, 267-4521.
Dr. Clarence Peters

How

WASHINGTON
Majority Leader announced his floor speech Wednesday, the conservative championed the bill.
"To my Republic we should be have done in our said Arme, "peace through ply-side economic Arme's retire tive at the com rent two-year t open secret. A whip, Rep. Tom was at work l ments to succe DeLay's deputy Missouri, was whip, the No.

FBI:

AUSTIN (A) agents have alle throughout Te vague threat received sugges ple may retail unknown Texas the U.S. be Afghanistan.
"Basically, as gave it, is as have it," Ho Special Agent said Wednesday coming to us fr government. W

Dewhurst treatment needs

AUSTIN (AP) reservoirs are in as far as prot possible terror but the state's security task f study the secur and water treat Land Commiss Dewhurst said.
"We need, i ment, to enhan rity at our da chlorine depos water treatment look at increas ing of our distr ities," said De chairman of the Task Force on Security.

Dewhurst ma ments Wednes Texas Water Symposium wh and state of industry rep discussed the Texas' water s the Sept. 11 terr on the East Coa Dewhurst and they are comm with the secu water supply cases, arme guards have be side water puri

Panel to

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House Majority Leader Armev announces retirement

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Majority Leader Dick Armev announced his retirement in a floor speech Wednesday, saying the conservative causes he has championed have changed the world for the better.

"To my Republican colleagues, we should be proud of what we have done in our young majority," said Armev, R-Texas, citing "peace through strength and supply-side economics."

Armev's retirement plans, effective at the conclusion of his current two-year term, had been an open secret. Already, the GOP whip, Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas, was at work lining up commitments to succeed Armev in 2003. DeLay's deputy, Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri, was seeking to become whip, the No. 3 leadership posi-

tion. Armev did not mention the jockeying to succeed him, focusing his remarks instead on the legislative victories achieved by the GOP majority over the past seven years.

Wearing his trademark cowboy boots, Armev became emotional when he addressed his wife, Susan, who sat in the gallery. Choking back tears, he thanked her for "all your years of sacrifice." Members responded with a standing ovation.

Armev said Republicans had twice lowered the tax burden on America's working families, reformed the welfare system, and "honored America's prosperity by our spending restraint."

He added, "We turned government deficits into hard-won sur-

pluses, which we must now hold. "We will hold those surpluses by restoring economic growth through supply-side tax cuts. That is why we cannot leave here without passing an economic stimulus package."

Republicans and Democrats are trying to work out a compromise on the package before they leave for the Christmas holiday.

Armev, 61, was elected majority leader following the Republican takeover of the House in the 1994. He played an instrumental role in crafting the "Contract With America," the GOP campaign manifesto, and in his leadership job was responsible for pushing its provisions to a vote in the first 100 days of the 1995 session.

Armev's unflinching conservative views and penchant for plain-

spokenness drew criticism and occasional derision from Democrats.

He referred only briefly to political combat in his remarks. Recalling that lawmakers had together sung "God Bless America" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he said, "It is that feeling of unity — not the heated exchanges — that I will remember fondly."

Armev started his House career in 1985, in the midst of the Reagan presidency. And his remarks echoed the themes of that era.

"Peace through strength and supply-side economics changed the world for the better," he said.

In nearly two decades in the House, Armev morphed from an unlikely winner of the congressional seat held by a Texas incum-

bent to a national symbol of the rise of Republican power.

He arrived in the House as a quirky novelty: an economics professor from a little-known Texas college who was so fiscally conservative that he slept in the House gym and, after he was tossed from there, on his office couch.

Despite some missteps, Armev evolved and emerged as the second most powerful House member in time to benefit from the Republican revolution.

"Dick Armev will be more than missed. His absence from the great national debate will be mourned by those of us who believe in less government and more freedom," said Sen. Phil Gramm, another powerful Texas Republican who is planning to retire.

FBI: Uncorroborated threat received against Texas schools

AUSTIN (AP) — FBI agents have alerted schools throughout Texas that a vague threat has been received suggesting two people may retaliate against unknown Texas schools for the U.S. bombing in Afghanistan.

"Basically, as vague as I gave it, is as vague as we have it," Houston FBI Special Agent Bob Doguim said Wednesday. "This is coming to us from a foreign government. We are work-

ing with them to try and determine the reliability of it."

Land Commissioner David Dewhurst, chairman of the state's Task Force on Homeland Security, said in Austin he was told by the FBI Tuesday night that schools in Texas and another state were threatened with attack if Osama bin Laden is captured by U.S. military forces.

His office later said Dewhurst misspoke and

that the threat had nothing to do with capturing bin Laden but with bombing in Afghanistan. He declined to name the other state.

An alert was issued to Texas law enforcement agencies at 8 p.m. Tuesday, said Dewhurst, who did not know specifics about the threat, what types of schools may have been threatened or their locations.

The alert means security will increase in and around schools. The alert will

remain in effect until the threat is cleared by law enforcement, who will either confirm the threat or consider it false, Dewhurst said.

"We have no confirmed threat here in Texas at this time," he said. "But one thing the governor insists on and I insist on is to do everything we can to ensure that Texans are safe in their homes and as they travel around the state."

He did not recommend

parents keep children home from school, saying, "We've got to get on with our lives."

The Texas Education Agency did not cancel classes. The agency was preparing an e-mail to be sent Wednesday to the state's 1,183 school districts alerting them of the threat that FBI officials told the agency was low-level, said spokeswoman Debbie Graves-Ratliffe.

"At this point, it may prove to be unfounded but it

provides us all with a good opportunity to review our security and emergency procedures," Graves-Ratliffe said.

In Houston, Doguim said agents aren't sure how accurate the information is, but said it is not related to a specific school. He said the FBI informed Texas' Homeland Security Task Force, which began informing public school districts, private schools, colleges and universities late Tuesday night.

Dewhurst: Dams, water treatment plant security needs additional study

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' reservoirs are in good shape as far as protection from possible terrorist attacks, but the state's homeland security task force should study the security of dams and water treatment plants, Land Commissioner David Dewhurst said.

"We need, in my judgment, to enhance our security at our dams, at our chlorine deposits, at our water treatment plants and look at increasing monitoring of our distribution facilities," said Dewhurst, the chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security.

Dewhurst made his comments Wednesday at the Texas Water Foundation Symposium where federal and state officials and industry representatives discussed the security of Texas' water supply after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the East Coast.

Dewhurst and others said they are comfortable now with the security of the water supply. In many cases, armed security guards have been added outside water purification and

water treatment plants.

"We are very confident of where the utilities are right now," said Mike Howe, executive director of the Texas section of the American Water Works Association, an organization of water supply professionals.

Dewhurst also suggested that the Texas Open Records Act may need to be tweaked to limit some detailed engineering designs from being released.

"The point is it doesn't make sense to show the detailed engineering in the design to someone who wants to (wreak) havoc with your system," Dewhurst said.

Howe said some utilities are, if asked, prepared to defy the Texas Open Records Act and let courts sort out the issue.

Even prior to Sept. 11, Howe said, utilities would be suspect of such a question.

Dewhurst said the security task force would finalize the water security recommendations and release them at the group's meeting this month or January.

Panel to vote on speed limit

HOUSTON (AP) — Drivers in Houston and surrounding counties may have to put on the brakes soon.

Maximum posted speeds throughout the area will return to 55 mph early next year if the Texas Transportation Commission votes Thursday in Austin to implement its part of a new air-quality plan for Harris County and seven adjoining counties.

When President Clinton lifted the 55-mph nationwide speed limit in 1995, the legal speed on some highways around Houston and other areas soared to 70 mph.

With commission approval, the reduced speed limits would become law on a given stretch of road as soon as the signs were changed to reflect them.

With commission approval, Gbur said, the highway department plans to start replacing signs in late January and complete the project by May 1 — a deadline in Texas' clean-air plan to address the Houston area's smog problem, one of the nation's most severe.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Ken Dulaney
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Hold off on urge to buy that Segway

Tamp down that urge to scream: I want one!! Before going wild about the newly unveiled motor scooter called Segway Human Transporter (known previously under the code names Ginger and IT), it's worthwhile to raise some thoughtful questions:

Are pedestrians going to risk being run down by yet another contraption with wheels?

Should children be allowed to drive them? If so, how will their allowances cover the \$3,000 price?

Does the world really need a machine that makes Americans walk less? It's been said the new device from visionary inventor Dean Kamen is a more important invention than panty hose. But will panty hose stretch enough to cover the expanding thighs of Segway users?

After it becomes widely available in about a year, it's easy to imagine the 65-pound Segway, which looks like a lawn mower with big wheels, transforming the urban landscape.

Suddenly, so many trips that required transport in a two-ton, gas-slurping, air-polluting, traffic-jamming vehicle would be handled by a minivehicle using a battery costing about 5 cents per day to run.

Trips to the post office, movie theater, snack shop, hairdresser — even smaller work commutes — would all be Segwayable. True, the new thingy goes only 12 mph, and you probably wouldn't take one out in a rainstorm or blizzard. But the benefits — no costly parking garages, no gridlock, no fender benders — outweigh a few limitations.

Urban planners better get their Segway thinking caps on fast.

Segways and pedestrians probably don't mix. Bike paths will do for now, but start thinking Segway trails. And also about Segway storage spaces. Helmet laws should probably apply.

The whole Segway thing could turn out to be a bust. But in the meantime, don't invest in any new parking lots.

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

How To CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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.
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- By e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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Ariel Sharon outsmarts Bush, Arafat

To understand what's going on in the Middle East, you have to understand Ariel Sharon, Israel's prime minister.

Sharon does not now and never has wanted a peace with the Palestinians. He is the father of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and he will never consent to dismantling even one of them. In fact, he is committed to expanding them. He said soon after taking office that he would never sign a permanent settlement with the Palestinians. He has refused to meet with the Palestinians. He himself started the intifada by invading Islam's third-holiest site and arrogantly calling it Jewish property.

But Sharon had two problems. One, he was being pressured by the United States to make peace with the Palestinians. Two, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority president, was winning sympathy in Europe for the

Palestinian cause, which is simply an end to Israeli occupation.

So Sharon's problem was thus: How do you wreck the peace process without being blamed for wrecking the peace process? The short-term solution was to set the absurd condition that seven days had to go by without a violent act before he would even consider talking.

There are 3 million Palestinians there, and Arafat's authority is limited basically to the boundaries of a few cities. It is literally impossible for him to prevent one individual from taking a potshot at an Israeli. Especially is it impossible when Sharon himself is ordering the Israelis to commit acts of violence and other provocations.

No country in the world could systematically assassinate more than 27 political opponents without being branded a terrorist state. Of course, Israel gets a free ride in the United States. At the same time this is going on, Sharon is discrediting Arafat by blaming him for any and every act of violence, even those directly provoked by Israel. When Israel assassinated the leader of a Palestinian group, the

man's followers promised vengeance. A few days later, they assassinated an Israeli cabinet member. They publicly took responsibility for it.

Sharon's response was to attack Palestinian Authority police stations and to blame Arafat. But Sharon's biggest stroke of luck was the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and President Bush's declaration of war on terrorism. Now he had Bush where he wanted him, so the Israelis began to put tremendous pressure on the administration to include Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah on its list of terrorist organizations. And they succeeded, as the Israeli lobby so often does in Washington.

Still, Sharon needed one spectacular terrorist attack to justify his coup de grace to the peace process. And he knew how to get it. He ordered the assassination of a prominent and popular Hamas leader. Sharon knew that Hamas would retaliate, and it did, with three suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa. Now he had what he wanted: an excuse to kill the peace process once and for all.

By branding the Palestinian Authority as an organization that harbors

and sponsors terrorism, and by declaring two PLO organizations as terrorist organizations, the Israeli government has announced its intention to destroy all three. Then there will be nobody to negotiate with.

Bush is snookered. Sharon can say: "Look, I'm only following your example. The Palestinian Authority is my Taliban, and the PLO organizations are terrorists. You yourself said, Mr. President, that terrorists and people who support them must be destroyed."

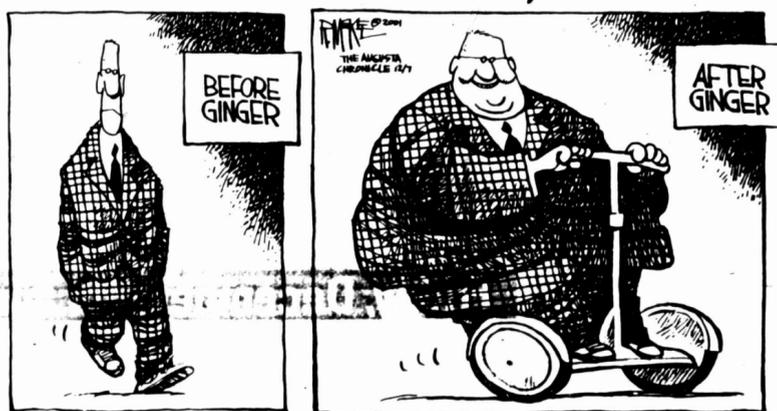
I'd like to be wrong once in a while about the Middle East, but, alas, I'm right. If you wish to look back, you will see that when Sharon became prime minister, I said the peace process is dead. Later, I said the United States' one-sided support of Israel would bring Middle East terrorism to the United States. That was in August.

Now I suggest we all hunker down. Because of Sharon's shrewdness and ruthlessness and our stupidity and naivete, the dogs of war have been let loose. Our newborn grandchildren will probably grow bared before the blood stops flowing.



CHARLEY REESE

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Service organizations, Ivy League

The concept of the scholar-athlete, epitomized by the Heisman Trophy, is alive and well, but not at America's larger institutions of higher learning. We need to look elsewhere — to those universities and colleges that cannot compete with the "professional" teams fielded by their larger competitors.

We must look at Harvard, Princeton, Yale and the other Ivy League schools. We also need to look at the Ivy League equivalents, such as the nation's military academies.

The recently-played annual Army-Navy Game received national television coverage and the roar of a sold-out stadium. It did so despite their appalling records. Navy lost every game this year, and Army fared little better. Yet, the men who played fit the image of the scholar-athlete. In years past, coaches

would come and go at the military academies, and they, like their civilian college counterparts, aggressively recruited players for their sports teams. But it was always a losing battle, and it still is. Picture a top high school athlete receiving an offer from West Point and comparing it to an offer from Notre Dame.

The West Point offer says he can receive a four-year scholarship plus a small monthly stipend — just like all the other cadets. While there, he must take and pass all of his courses — up to 22 credit-hours per semester. Additionally, he has mandatory drill and ceremony, mandatory athletics (fall, winter and spring) and tough regimentation. His summers are spent in extensive additional military training. Upon graduation, he must serve five years in the armed forces, where he will earn a second lieutenant's pay.

Notre Dame's offer also comes with a four-year ride, as well as extra benefits. While there, he can choose one of several not-so-hard majors and take as few as 12 credit-hours per semester. His free time is his. And upon graduation, he can look forward to a

shot at the pros and a seven-figure salary.

In short, a graduating high school athlete who is not motivated to embark on a military career is rarely likely to opt for West Point over Notre Dame.

The solution lies in the Ivy League. When did Harvard ever win the national championship in football? No one expects it to do so. Yet, its football games draw large crowds. Two of the nation's oldest schools, Harvard and Yale, play in a rivalry not so well-known as Army vs. Navy, but the stadium fills up. And so it goes throughout the Ivy League. School spirit is high; participation is enthusiastic.

But most important of all is the character-building aspect of Ivy League athletics, so memorialized by the Duke of Wellington, who said, "The Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." For these reasons, is it not time for our military academies to acknowledge that they cannot and never will field "pro" teams? Is it not time for the service academies to join the organization that so clearly beckons them: the Ivy League?



JACK ANDERSON

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Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY

To ensure prepare

Light the candles, set the music, pour the eggnog, lay out the tableware and most importantly use extreme care when preparing holiday holiday edibles.

"Entertaining holiday season is enough without worry about something sick," says Wenzel of the Re division at the T Department of H (TDH). "For most people, foodborne are just uncomfortable but for the very elderly or the weakened immunities, the consequence can be severe."

Each year, up to 10 million people suffer from foodborne illness occur when they eat a toxin produced by bacteria growing in the Holiday buffets trays left at room temperature for long periods often fall prey to bacteria.

Given sufficient bacteria in food and multiply depending on the type of food, temperature at which held, its moisture and its acidity level.

"You cannot tell the way food looks or tastes if it is contaminated," Wenzel said. "But take a few simple steps to help keep your food from being contaminated."

TDH offers the following tips to help prevent foodborne illness —

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**To ensure a happy holiday
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Light the candles, set the music, pour the eggnog, lay out the tableware and most importantly use extreme care when preparing holiday edibles.



ANDREIA
MEDLIN

"Entertaining during the holiday season is stressful enough without having to worry about someone getting sick," says Lone Wenzel of the Retail foods division at the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "For most healthy people, foodborne illnesses are just uncomfortable, but for the very young, the elderly or those with weakened immune systems, the consequences can be severe."

Each year, up to 76 million people suffer from foodborne illnesses that occur when they eat food that contains a bacteria or a toxin produced by bacteria growing in the food. Holiday buffets and party trays left at room temperature for long periods of time often fall prey to bacteria.

Given sufficient time, bacteria in food can grow and multiply depending on the type of food, the temperature at which it was held, its moisture content and its acidity level.

"You cannot tell from the way food looks, smells or tastes if it is safe," Wenzel said. "But you can take a few simple steps to keep your food from being contaminated."

TDH offers these suggestions to help prevent foodborne illness — Separate

raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods in your grocery shopping cart and in your refrigerator, always wash hands before any contact with foods, never defrost or marinate food on the kitchen counter (use refrigerator, cold running water or the microwave), use plastic or other non-porous cutting boards, use a clean food thermometer to make sure meat, poultry, casseroles and other foods are cooked all the way through, (cook roasts and steaks to at least 145 degrees Fahrenheit, whole poultry should be cooked to 180 degrees Fahrenheit, ground beef should be cooked to at least 160 degrees Fahrenheit).

If possible, use one cutting board for raw meat products and another for raw fruits and vegetables (if you have only one, wash it between uses).

Never put cooked food on an unwashed plate that previously held raw meat, poultry or seafood.

TDH food safety experts also advise consumers to refrigerate cooked foods quickly. "Get those leftovers to the refrigerator fast," Wenzel says.

Some more tips from TDH for keeping food safe and good to eat — refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food and leftovers within two hours, divide large amounts of leftovers into small, shallow containers for quick cooling in the refrigerator, with poultry and other stuffed meats, remove the stuffing and refrigerate it in a separate container, don't pack the refrigerator with too much food.

Cool air must circulate to keep food safe at 41 degrees Fahrenheit.

Last seven stolen Rockwells recovered from Brazil

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The last of seven Norman Rockwell paintings stolen from a Minneapolis art gallery 23 years ago have been recovered from Brazil and will be returned to their owner, the FBI said Wednesday.

The three works, worth more than \$700,000, were among those stolen from Elayne Galleries during an exhibition in 1978. All

three appeared to be in good condition, authorities said.

One of the paintings, "Spirit of '76," depicts an Edison, N.J., Boy Scout troop marching down a dirt road carrying drums and an American flag. The skyline of New York City, including the then newly opened World Trade Center, is visible in the painting's lower right corner.

A second work, "So Much Concern," shows Scouts tending to a sapling. The third, "A Hasty Retreat," depicts two shoeless men and a dog running past a "No swimming" sign. Rockwell died in 1978.

Two of the stolen paintings were recovered in 1999 after a Brazilian man tried to have them appraised and sold at a Philadelphia

gallery. Two more were returned to gallery owner Bonnie Lindberg after she found them at a gallery in Rio de Janeiro.

Investigators have known the location of the last three paintings for two years, but had been unable to pursue the case because of treaty problems between the United States and Brazil, U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan said.

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Bush scuttles landmark 1972 arms control treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a historic break with Russia, the Bush administration today withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, a move effective in six months, The Associated Press has learned.

The U.S. ambassador to Moscow delivered formal notice of President Bush's decision to Russian officials at 4:30 a.m. EST, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The brief legal document invokes Article 15 of the 29-year-old treaty to give Russia six months' notice of Bush's intentions. The official said Bush has, in effect, pulled out of the treaty with the notification, though the United States cannot conduct missile tests barred by the treaty for six months.

At 9 a.m. EST, formal notice was given to Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus, former Soviet states that

signed memoranda of understanding tying them to the pact under the Clinton administration. That action underscored Bush's position that the ABM is a Cold War relic, officials said.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said the decision was regrettable because it undermined global strategic balances — but he was not concerned about Russia's security.

"Russia can be unconcerned with its defense systems," said Kasyanov, who was in Brazil for a two-day visit. "Maybe other nations should be concerned if the United States chooses to abandon the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty."

Bush says the recent terror threats underscore the need for a missile defense.

"Almost every state that actively sponsors terror is known to be seeking weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to

"About eight months ago they were taking about weaponizing space. God help us when that moment comes."

—Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del.

deliver them at longer and longer ranges," Bush said this week at the Citadel, a military college in South Carolina.

Putin cautioned last winter that jettisoning the treaty could lead to the unraveling of three decades of arms control accords. China has warned a new arms race could ensue.

But according to Bush administration officials, Putin assured Bush during their October talks in Washington and Crawford, Texas, that U.S.-Russian relations would not suffer even if Bush pulled out of

the treaty.

Bush tried to strike a deal with Putin that would allow the United States to move to a new phase of testing in the U.S. missile defense program. Putin had sought authority to sign off on U.S. missile tests, but the request was rejected, administration officials said.

The next scheduled step is the beginning of construction next spring of silos and a testing command center near Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Bush administration intends to cooperate with Russia at least to the extent of informing Moscow of

steps being taken to advance the missile-shield program.

That's not likely to stop Russia from taking retaliatory steps. A senior Russian lawmaker predicted Russia will pull out of the Start I and Start II arms reduction treaties.

"We believe that offensive and defensive tools of nuclear deterrence must be linked," said Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma's international affairs committee, according to Interfax news agency.

Such a spiral of withdrawals would be dangerous — and predictable, said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Unilateral withdrawal will likely lead to an action-reaction cycle in offensive and defensive technologies, including countermeasures," he said.

"That kind of arms race would not make us more

secure."

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also said quitting the treaty could lead to a new arms race.

"About eight months ago they were taking about weaponizing space," Biden said Wednesday. "God help us when that moment comes."

Bush has condemned the treaty as an impediment to mounting a U.S. defense against missile attack now that the Cold War is over. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has been deferring tests that might violate the treaty.

The treaty, negotiated during Cold War tensions between the United States and the old Soviet Union, prohibits the development, testing and deployment of strategic missile defense systems and components that are based in the air, at sea or in space.

Air Force B-1B bomber down; all crew members are rescued

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Air Force B-1B bomber flying a long-range combat mission to Afghanistan crashed in the Indian Ocean Wednesday. A Navy ship pulled all four crew members to safety.

"We're all pretty bruised up and have some cuts, but overall we're doing very well," the bomber's pilot, Capt. William Steele, told reporters at the Pentagon in a satellite telephone call from the USS Russell, the guided missile destroyer that launched a small boat to rescue the crew in darkness.

Steele spoke about five hours after his B-1B Lancer crashed into the warm waters 60 miles north of Diego Garcia, a British-controlled island in the central Indian Ocean.

He said the crew spent two hours in the water before the Russell came to their rescue, aided by an Air Force KC-10 that first located the downed fliers, maintained radio contact and pinpointed their location for the Russell.

The B-1B was the first

U.S. airplane lost in the war in Afghanistan, which entered its 67th day Wednesday. Air Force B-1Bs and B-52s have made almost daily bombing runs over Afghanistan from the start; in recent weeks they have been pounding al-Qaida mountain hide-outs in the Tora Bora region.

Steele said his bomber suffered multiple malfunctions — which he declined to discuss in detail — which caused it to go "out of control." He ruled out hostile fire as a cause for the bomber's malfunctions.

He said he was not allowed to say whether he was heading toward or away from Afghanistan at that point, but Pentagon officials said the B-1B was about 100 miles north of Diego Garcia en route to Afghanistan when the crew declared an in-flight emergency.

The bomber headed back toward Diego Garcia in hope of landing there, but 15 minutes after declaring an emergency the crew decided they had to eject, Steele said.

Effort to translate bin Laden videotape delays release

WASHINGTON (AP) — The still-secret videotape that shows Osama bin Laden happily discussing the Sept. 11 attacks is a clunky production, with stretches of incongruous — and apparently unrelated — footage of children playing, according to U.S. officials who have seen it.

The video, apparently not meant for public viewing, records a meal and conversation between bin Laden and a Saudi Arabian sheik, a prominent cleric with a disability whom officials have declined to identify. At one point, the sheik kisses

bin Laden on the forehead — a sign of great respect in the Muslim world.

The tape is about an hour long, but its poor quality has hampered efforts to translate it and prepare a copy for public consumption, officials said.

In the tape, bin Laden describes preparing for news reports of the attacks, and demonstrates he had specific knowledge of the time, location and method, officials have said.

U.S. intelligence officers found the tape in a residence in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan. It bears a

date stamp that says it was made Nov. 9.

Bush administration officials say the Pentagon plans to release the tape today, barring an unforeseen hitch in the translation or objections from U.S. intelligence officials. Spokesman Ari Fleischer said officials would provide versions of what the tape says in Arabic and in English.

"Clearly the president hopes that information can be shared with the public," Fleischer said. "The only thing that would stand in the way is if there is anything from intelligence or

security that can be compromised. That is not looking like it is likely."

Translators were going over the videotape Wednesday to ensure accuracy "before anything is released to the world," Fleischer said.

Numerous U.S. officials have seen the tape and translations of what's on it. They say it proves bin Laden was behind the Sept. 11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 people when hijackers crashed jetliners into the World Trade Center, Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

Post office gears up for busiest mail day

WASHINGTON (AP) — Instead of a sleigh, they arrive in red-white-and-blue trucks, brown vans and vehicles splashed with purple and orange.

When it comes to delivering holiday cards and packages, Santa and his reindeer have nothing on the men and women from the Postal Service, UPS and FedEx.

President Bush told Americans to go on with their lives after the terrorist attacks and anthrax scares. Well, when it comes to the mail, millions seem to be doing so.

The U.S. Postal Service says Monday will be the year's busiest mailing day, when folks who spent the weekend preparing Christmas cards drop them in the mail. The busiest delivery day will follow close behind, on Wednesday.

Average daily mail volume is 680 million items, including about 100 million cards and letters. On the peak day, carriers could face as much as 200 million extra cards and letters.

Overall, the post office's blue-clad carriers will handle about 20 billion items between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The brown-uniformed delivery men and women of UPS expect their peak day to be Tuesday, when they plan to deliver 18 million packages to people and businesses around the world.

Kristen Petrella of UPS said that's slightly below last year's peak day. With Christmas on a Tuesday, officials believe the high-volume surge will spread more evenly across the week before than it was last year, when the holiday was

on a Monday, she explained. FedEx delivery people, who wear navy-blue, expect to handle about 6 million packages on Wednesday, on what they anticipate will be their busiest day of the year.

The Postal Service reported a sharp drop in mail volume in the period following the terrorist attacks and the anthrax-by-mail infections. The decline added millions of dollars in losses to the bottom line of an operation already in the red and seeking a rate increase next year.

A busy holiday season could help, and Postmaster General John E. Potter continues to encourage people to mail their greeting cards. Louis Mastria, director of public affairs for the Direct Marketing Association, says sales by mail are in line with expectations.

"What we've seen so far thankfully ... is that it's been a negligible impact," from the terrorism, said Mastria, who's group represents catalog companies and other direct marketers.

Some expectations had been tempered because of the recession, Mastria said, but "the bottom line is ... folks are buying our stuff." Even the delays caused by the anthrax infections were localized, he noted, with most of the country getting mail delivered in a timely fashion.

A study done for the association found that in the first week after Sept. 11, revenue for catalogue and direct-mail marketers was down 15 percent to 30 percent. But it began to rebound in the next week and was nearly normal after three weeks.

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<p>Friday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Kathryn 2 Piece Satin Pajamas Sale Priced \$19.99 reg. \$24</p> <p>Choose From 3 Colors</p>	<p>Friday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Men Windsuits Sale Priced \$19.99 reg. \$24</p> <p>100% Nylon Windsuits</p>	<p>Friday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Jon Jac® 2 Pc. Fleece Jog Sets Sale Priced \$19.99 reg. \$24</p> <p>Messes And Flies</p>	<p>Friday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Men's Twill Shirts Sale Priced \$9.99 reg. \$12</p> <p>Choose From Several Colors</p>
<p>Saturday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Charm Bracelets By Shalina® Sale Priced \$5.99 reg. to \$12</p> <p>Huge Assortment Of Bracelets Christmas Bracelets \$6.99</p>	<p>Saturday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Ladies Carlie's Court Oxford Blouses Sale Priced \$12.99 reg. \$32</p> <p>Colors: Blue - Pink White</p>	<p>Saturday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Christmas Light Churches Sale Priced \$8.99 reg. \$25</p> <p>Limited Quantity To Choose. Only 18 Left!</p>	<p>Saturday Night Blowout!</p> <p>Holiday Candles 2 Pc. Sets Sale Priced \$9.99 reg. \$25</p> <p>Limited Quantity!</p>

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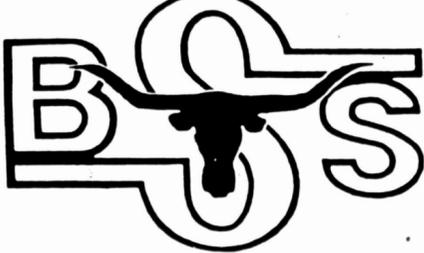
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Sunday, December 16, 2001 2:00 PM
Honored Speaker: Mr. Joe Pickle

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Sat., Dec. 15, 2001
High School Auditorium
7:00 pm

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IN B

Coahoma Y registration
The Coaha Basketball will begin reg the 2001-2002 8 to 9 toni Coahoma Jr School gymn Subsequent will be held to 8:30 p.m. a.m. to noon and from 6 p on Monday. The league be conduct Monday. Fees are \$2. For more call Don Ev 7942 or Moni 394-4712.

Football ba tickets on
The 2001 Steer Footb has been sc 6:30 p.m. Mc Big Spring School cafete Tickets a plate and are Vision Ma Gregg St. For more call Jim Cle 1069.

Youth bask registration
Sign-ups fo formed Big B Basketball being condu YMCA of through Satu The league of Big Spring ous youth ba grams. Regis per child. The leagu boys and g garten throu Try-outs i two age divi Saturday at Girls 10 and try out at 1 and under w p.m. Boys 1 will try out and boys 12 will be at 4:4 A coaches set for 6:30 p Dec. 17, at th For more call 267-8234.

Fastpitch umpires ne
Umpires i working high pitch softb meet at Umpires E Midland a Wednesday. Umpires v ing games throughout Texas area. For more call Mack G 520-5961.

ON TH

Radio
NBA 7 p.m. - Cavaliers at C Mavericks, KE

Televisio
BOXING 8 p.m. - Ju weights Ray C vs. Omar Wei ESPN.
NBA 7:30 p.m. - Cavaliers at C Mavericks, FX 8 p.m. - C at Golden Sta TMT.
GOLF 3 p.m. - V Challenge, fir
NHL 6:30 p.m. - Bruins at Wa Capitals, ESP 9:30 p.m. - Canucks at L Kings, ESPN2
RODEO 12:30 a.m. National Final round (delaye ESPN2.

IN BRIEF

Coahoma YBA sets registration sessions

The Coahoma Youth Basketball Association will begin registration for the 2001-2002 season from 8 to 9 tonight at the Coahoma Junior High School gymnasium.

Subsequent sessions will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday and from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday.

The league's draft will be conducted at 7 p.m. Monday.

Fees are \$25 per player. For more information, call Don Ewing at 263-7942 or Monica White at 394-4712.

Football banquet tickets on sale

The 2001 Big Spring Steer Football Banquet has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria.

Tickets are \$10 per plate and are available at Vision Makers, 1307 Gregg St.

For more information, call Jim Clements at 267-1069.

Youth basketball registration begins

Sign-ups for the newly-formed Big Spring Youth Basketball League are being conducted at the YMCA of Big Spring through Saturday.

The league is a merger of Big Spring's two previous youth basketball programs. Registration is \$20 per child.

The league is open to boys and girls kindergarten through age 14.

Try-outs in the upper two age divisions will be Saturday at the YMCA. Girls 10 and under will try out at 1 p.m., and 12 and under will be at 2:15 p.m. Boys 10 and under will try out at 3:30 p.m., and boys 12 and under will be at 4:45 p.m.

A coaches' meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, at the YMCA.

For more information, call 267-8234.

Fastpitch softball umpires needed

Umpires interested in working high school fastpitch softball plan to meet at the MUGS Umpires Building in Midland at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Umpires will be working games at schools throughout the West Texas area.

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

ON THE AIR

Radio

NBA
7 p.m. — Cleveland Cavaliers at Dallas Mavericks, KBST-AM 1490.

Television

BOXING
8 p.m. — Junior welterweights Ray Oliveira (42-8-1) vs. Omar Weis (33-3-1), ESPN.

NBA
7:30 p.m. — Cleveland Cavaliers at Dallas Mavericks, FXS.

8 p.m. — Orlando Magic at Golden State Warriors, TNT.

GOLF
3 p.m. — Williams World Challenge, first round, TNT.

NHL
6:30 p.m. — Boston Bruins at Washington Capitals, ESPN2.

9:30 p.m. — Vancouver Canucks at Los Angeles Kings, ESPN2.

RODEO
12:30 a.m. — PRCA National Finals, seventh round (delayed-day tape), ESPN2.

Mavs owner spending big to evaluate refs' performance

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has never been one to back down from criticizing NBA officials.

Now he's spending money — something else he's not shy about doing — to evaluate the referees' performance. Cuban has hired what he calls a "statistics expert" to track referees during every Mavericks game.

"I can't tell you how I do it," Cuban said. "I got someone I trust, and I pay him a lot of money."

Cuban believes the evaluation of every official in every Mavericks game will reveal tendencies that can be used to his team's advantage.

"That could impact how the game is played and officiated," he said. That same data could also provide

justification for some of Cuban's criticism.

Cuban was fined seven times for \$505,000 by the NBA last season. The biggest of the fines was \$250,000 for criticizing referees, after three other fines for similar incidents. He was also fined for making a derogatory gesture, running onto the court to break up a fight and for sitting on the baseline during another game.

Although Cuban insists that he uses the statistics solely to the advantage of the Mavs, the facts he has discovered have left the billionaire owner frustrated.

"The league is calling fewer fouls. The players and coaches know it, so they are more aggressive," he said. "My guess is that someone is going to get hurt as a result. If we just

enforced the rules as they are ... we would have a much better game."

Ed Rush, the NBA's director of officials, declined to comment on Cuban's actions or his stats.

Among the initial findings, according to Cuban, are that there has been almost a 9 percent drop in the number of fouls called even though teams are averaging more shots and more possessions per game. His statistics also show that younger officials are less likely to blow the whistle.

"If by chance the young ref is under your basket, you probably are going to get fewer fouls, and you think you have been taken advantage of," said Cuban, who bought the Mavericks in a \$280 million transaction in January 2000.

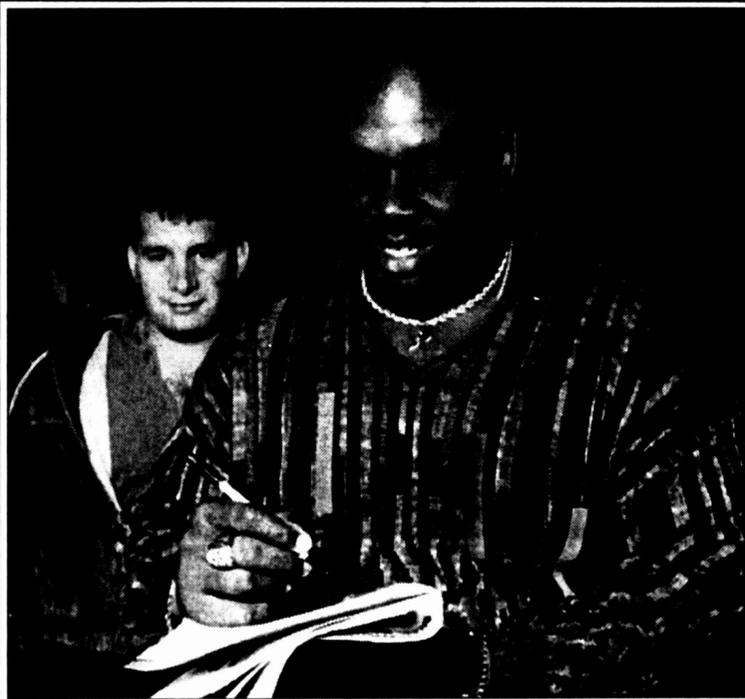
How would he rate how his evaluation process is working so far?

"Great. Facts don't lie. Anything that can help a little bit is a good thing," he said.

Cuban hasn't been fined for criticizing officials this season, but he was very upset after a Dec. 2 win at Sacramento.

With two-tenths of a second left in regulation, Dirk Nowitzki was called for a foul on a late whistle by referee Dee Kanter. Peja Stojakovic missed a chance to win the game for the Kings, making just one of two free throws. The Mavs won in OT.

"Refs miss calls," Cuban said. "It's not one call that was the issue. It's when there are inconsistencies throughout the game that creates problems."



Former Dallas Cowboys all-Pro offensive lineman Nate Newton, pictured here signing autographs prior to the Super Bowl in 1994, has been jailed on drug charges in Dallas after Drug Enforcement Administration officers and Ellis County deputies arrested him and two other men on a highway and found 175 pounds of marijuana in his vehicle.

Nate Newton in jail again, arrested on drug charges

DALLAS (AP) — Former Dallas Cowboys lineman Nate Newton was arrested Wednesday on charges of carrying at least 175 pounds of marijuana, his second such arrest in six weeks.

Newton was held without bail at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center on Thursday on a federal charge of possession with intent to deliver marijuana, Dallas County Sheriff's Department spokesman Don Peritz said.

On Nov. 4, Newton was arrested in Louisiana after police said they found 213 pounds of marijuana in a van he was driving. He was released on \$100,000 bond on charges of suspicion of possessing marijuana with intent to distribute.

Peritz said Drug Enforcement Administration agents

flagged down Dallas County officers on a highway Wednesday to seek help stopping two vehicles that were traveling together.

"Once it was determined that they were DEA agents ... (deputies) joined the pursuit," Peritz told The Dallas Morning News in Thursday's editions. "When they pulled them over, they were just into Ellis County."

Newton 39, of East Ellijay, Ga., and two other men were arrested. Police identified them as Bruce Freeman-Canaday, 30, of Jacksonville, Fla., and Charles Deandra Howard, 25, of Garland.

Phil Haney, the prosecutor in the Louisiana case, said Newton will likely be arraigned there in January, but that his latest arrest could affect the case.

"This certainly could impact his bail," Haney said. "Once we get all the facts, I'm sure the judge would be real interested in revisiting the issue."

Newton's lawyer in the Louisiana case, Howard Shapiro, said Wednesday night he hadn't been contacted by Newton and didn't know the circumstances surrounding the latest charges.

Newton is a six-time Pro Bowl offensive lineman who helped Dallas win three Super Bowls.

He spent 14 seasons in the NFL, 13 with Dallas. He retired last year after playing one season with Carolina.

Newton worked last year as a commentator on ESPN radio and more recently was an analyst for some BET television college football broadcasts.

Terps' Friedgen selected as AP's Coach of Year

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

After Maryland won its first six football games, athletic director Deborah Yow was so happy with her rookie coach that she boldly predicted the Terrapins would win a national championship before Ralph Friedgen retired.

The Fridge came pretty close in his first try.

Other than a 52-31 loss at Florida State, a game that was tied at 31 in the fourth quarter, the Terps won them all and captured their first Atlantic Coast Conference title since 1985.

On Thursday, the 54-year-old Friedgen was selected as The Associated Press College Coach of the Year.

Friedgen received 48 votes in balloting by the 72 members of the AP college football poll board, which includes member newspapers, TV and radio stations.

He won easily over another rookie coach, Miami's Larry Coker, who was second with 14 votes. BYU first-year coach Gary Crowton was third with four votes, and Colorado's Gary Barnett had three.

"I'm very proud for the school, our assistant coaches, our players and our administration," Friedgen said. "I really think they all are represented by this award."

Friedgen has been a busy man since the end of the season, accepting honors from nearly every group that picks a top coach and talking up the sixth-ranked Terps' chances against No. 5 Florida (9-2) in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 2.

On Tuesday, Friedgen signed a 10-year contract extension worth a reported \$12 million, and Wednesday he was at an Orange Bowl news conference.

The ACC title was great, but beating the Gators is the next hurdle.

"It's a game that we can make a statement," Friedgen said. "It's a mea-

suring stick to where we are as a program. If we were to win, we'd be up there very high in the rankings."

What Friedgen did at his alma mater has been hailed as a minor miracle. Using many of the same players from last year's 5-6 team under former coach Ron Vanderlinden, Friedgen turned losers into champions with his no-nonsense approach and ability to instill a winning attitude.

One of his best moves was hiring two former coaches as his coordinators. Charlie Taaffe (The Citadel) runs the offense and Gary Blackney (Bowling Green) handles the defense. He reasoned: "I can't wait around to be making rookie head coaching mistakes at 54."

Linebacker Aaron Thompson recalled the first time Friedgen spoke to the team, just after he resigned as Georgia Tech's offensive coordinator.

"I knew he was the one," Thompson said at midseason. "He had confidence written all over him. The way he talked, the way he looked you in the eye."

Friedgen worked wonders with the offense, which averaged 35.5 points — 13 more than last season. Quarterback Shaun Hill threw for 2,380 yards and 13 TDs and ran for seven more scores, and all-ACC running back Bruce Perry had 1,242 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Terps first moved into the AP Top 25 after their fourth straight win and soared from No. 25 to as high as No. 10. Their big win was a 20-17 overtime thriller at Georgia Tech, when Nick Novak's 26-yard field goal won it.

The loss to the Seminoles knocked them down, but the Terps closed out with wins over Clemson (37-20) and North Carolina State (23-19) that ended Florida State's nine-year ACC dominance. The Terps clinched the conference crown in dramatic fashion against NC State.

Red Sox unload troublesome Everett on Rangers

BOSTON (AP) — While the New York Yankees were set to add Jason Giambi to their loaded roster, their biggest rival got rid of its most difficult problem.

The Boston Red Sox traded troublesome outfielder Carl Everett to the Texas Rangers early Thursday for left-hander Darren Oliver.

Boston had been trying to dump Everett since last season. He clashed with two managers and hit .257 with 14 homers and 58 RBIs before his season ended Sept. 8 because of a knee injury.

"We're certainly not blind," Texas general manager John Hart said. "Obviously, it's well documented the problems Carl has had in Boston. At the same time, we recognize the opportunity a new fresh start in Texas will provide for Carl."

While Barry Bonds, Juan Gonzalez, Chan Ho Park, Gary Sheffield and Scott Rolen waited for their futures to be decided, there were no other trades Wednesday.

The New York Mets, who recently traded for Roberto Alomar and David Justice, made another move

Thursday by signing free agent outfielder Roger Cedeno to an \$18 million, four-year deal. Cedeno set a team record with 66 steals in 1999 and stole 55 bases last season with Detroit.

Reliever Norm Charlton re-signed with the Seattle Mariners, the left-handed reliever agreeing to a \$1.25 million, one-year contract. Arizona announced a \$500,000, one-year deal with Jose Guillen, a contract the outfielder agreed to weeks ago.

The Yankees, meanwhile, planned a Thursday news conference in New York to announce their seven-year agreement with Giambi, a deal worth about \$120 million.

New York also reached a preliminary agreement on a \$10 million, two-year contract with Rondell White and closed in on a two-year deal for about \$12 million with pitcher Sterling Hitchcock.

Boston was looking for pitching, and in Oliver the Red Sox get a 31-year-old left-hander who went 11-11 last season with a 6.02 ERA in 28 starts for the worst pitching staff in the major leagues. Oliver allowed 260 runners in 189 innings.

Everett is owed \$17.15 million for the next two seasons, a commitment that made it difficult for Boston — his fifth organization — to find takers.

"It was a trade that was necessary for the team to move forward, and I think it was necessary for Carl to play in another market," Red Sox general manager Dan Duquette said, adding the trade "wasn't made on the basis of his overall skills."

"I'm just disappointed it didn't work out. Disappointed for Carl and disappointed for the team. Now he gets a fresh start and we get a fresh start for our ballclub."

Oliver has one year remaining on a \$19 million, three-year contract. He has a \$5 million salary in 2002 and is owed \$4.5 million of his \$6 million signing bonus, with \$1.5 million payable in 2002 and the remainder the following year.

"It was not a huge economic cost for us," Hart said, adding that money changed hands in the trade. "We're here to play. We're not just here to be the good old Texas Rangers and get run over by clubs." Boston also gave free agent John

Burkett a tour of Fenway Park in a bid to bolster their rotation behind ace Pedro Martinez.

"I was really impressed watching him pitch," Red Sox manager Joe Kerrigan said. "He's really a lot smarter pitcher now. He understands that pitching is more than power. He understands that pitching is more brains than brawn."

Duquette also met with the agent for free-agent second baseman Bret Boone, who has a \$23.5 million, three-year offer to return to Seattle. It is not known if the Red Sox are interested.

There was no word on whether the Dodgers would trade Sheffield or re-sign Park, the top pitcher on the free-agent market.

Park is represented by Scott Boras, who has kept an unusually low profile during the first four days of the five-day session. Boras' other big free-agent client, has no known offers other than a proposal to return to the San Francisco Giants.

Philadelphia considered deals for Rolen, eligible for free agency after next season.

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SPORTS EXTRA

AP Top 25

The Top 25 college football poll, with first place votes in parentheses and records through Dec. 8.

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Team. Lists top 25 college football teams including Miami, Oregon, Colorado, Nebraska, Florida, Maryland, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Stanford, LSU, Washington St., South Carolina, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Syracuse, BYU, Fresno St., Washington, Ohio St., Louisville, Florida St., and Toledo.

SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFFS

CLASS 5A DIVISION I

Table with 2 columns: Region and Team. Lists schoolboy playoff participants for Class 5A Division I, including teams like McKinney, Keller Fossil Ridge, and others.

CLASS 4A DIVISION I

Table with 2 columns: Region and Team. Lists schoolboy playoff participants for Class 4A Division I, including teams like Houston Madison, Fort Bend Hightower, and others.

CLASS 3A DIVISION I

Table with 2 columns: Region and Team. Lists schoolboy playoff participants for Class 3A Division I, including teams like Houston Westlake, SA Madison, and others.

CLASS 2A DIVISION I

Table with 2 columns: Region and Team. Lists schoolboy playoff participants for Class 2A Division I, including teams like Houston Westlake, SA Madison, and others.

CLASS 1A DIVISION I

Table with 2 columns: Region and Team. Lists schoolboy playoff participants for Class 1A Division I, including teams like Houston Westlake, SA Madison, and others.

CLASS SIX MAN

Table with 2 columns: Region and Team. Lists schoolboy playoff participants for Class Six Man, including teams like Houston Westlake, SA Madison, and others.

NFL

Table with 2 columns: Conference and Team. Lists NFL teams and their records, including AFC and NFC teams like Pittsburgh, Oakland, Denver, etc.

TRANSACTIONS

Column listing various sports transactions, including player signings, trades, and team announcements across different leagues like MLB, NBA, and NFL.

NBA

Table with 2 columns: Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Lists NBA teams and their records for the Eastern and Western conferences.

NHL

Table with 2 columns: Eastern Conference and Western Conference. Lists NHL teams and their records for the Eastern and Western conferences.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Table with 2 columns: Women's Games and Men's Games. Lists NCAA basketball teams and their records for women's and men's games.

BOWL SCHEDULE

Table listing various bowl games, including the New Orleans Bowl, Sun Bowl, and others, with dates and locations.

FAR WEST

Column listing sports events and news from the Far West region, including basketball and football games.

MEN'S GAMES

Column listing men's sports games, including basketball and football, with scores and details.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

Column listing sports events for Wednesday, December 13, including various games and events.

THURSDAY, DEC. 14

Column listing sports events for Thursday, December 14, including various games and events.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

Column listing sports events for Friday, December 15, including various games and events.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Column listing sports events for Saturday, December 16, including various games and events.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

Column listing sports events for Sunday, December 17, including various games and events.

Kansas gives Princeton third straight loss to ranked team

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Princeton hasn't exactly had an easy early schedule — and the team's record shows it.

The Tigers played their third game against a Top Ten team Wednesday night and absorbed their third defeat against the nation's elite, losing to No. 4 Kansas 78-62.

By no means has Princeton (2-6) faced the toughest competition possible — No. 6 Arizona, for example, played five of six games against ranked teams — but the Tigers have had an uphill climb.

The Jayhawks (7-1) used upperclassmen such as Nick Collison, Drew Gooden and Kirk Hinrich, who gave coach Roy Williams 33 good minutes.

"I was very happy with the way we played except for the last six, seven minutes of the first half," Williams said. "We had a nice lead, and they made a great run, and that got the crowd into it, and we made

a mistake to let them get a big 3. That might have been the maddest I've ever been, but I was really pleased with the second half."

What got Williams so angry was the Jayhawks' letting a 19-point slip away as the Tigers closed the first half with a 12-2 run to close to 35-29.

In the only other game Wednesday night involving a Top 25 team, No. 15 Iowa routed Drake 101-59.

A buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Ed Persia brought Princeton within six at halftime and got the sellout crowd of 6,854 at Jadwin Gymnasium fired up.

Persia, a sophomore whose minutes were limited as the Tigers tried to settle on a guard rotation, was 2-for-14 from 3-point range for the season before hitting the halftime closer.

"Honestly, I didn't know how much time was left, I just let it go," said Persia, who finished with nine points — all on 3s — and five assists. Three other Tigers scored nine.

WOODS BOOTS advertisement featuring 'MERRY CHRISTMAS Full Quill Ostrich Ropers \$299.95' and 'Belly Ostrich Ropers \$149.95'. Includes an image of a boot and contact information for Woods Boots.

LEASED AUTO RETURNS SALE COMES TO BIG SPRING!

Rental car companies, banks, credit unions and captive finance institutions are all being flooded with auto lease returns. The opportunity to purchase these vehicles is now being made available at a local dealership near you.

Big Spring, TX - Fiesta Dodge in Big Spring, Texas is hosting a tremendous 4 day sale to help liquidate the flooding of used cars that are available because of lease returns. These returns include all makes and models; General Motors, Ford, Chevy, Toyota, Honda, Nissan and many, many more.

What's the story? It's simple. Because of all of the special deals that manufacturers have had on leasing in the last 3-4 years, leasing became very popular. Now we're seeing all of those leases expire and the auctions are being flooded with vehicles. Excess supply has driven the prices down and Fiesta Dodge has arranged to buy those vehicles and pass the savings on to their customers. Some vehicles are as low as \$189 a month.

According to General Manager Ward Grisham, "You won't believe the selection of lease return vehicles. And you won't believe the prices. Not only are these vehicles on sale, but every vehicle in the Fiesta Dodge inventory will be specially priced and tagged for this tremendous sales event."

"Any vehicle can be delivered with only \$88 down."

This huge event will last only 4 days. It begins Thursday, Dec. 13 and continues Friday, Saturday and Monday, Dec. 17th. General Manager Ward Grisham says it best "We know our customers expect

us to help them get the best vehicles at the best prices, and lease returns is the answer."

Fiesta Dodge's Used Car Super Center is the site for this sale and is located at 502 E. FM 700 in Big Spring, or you can call them at 915-264-6677. Long distance callers may call 1-800-708-7342. Sales hours are 9am till 7pm daily.

For More Information Check out leasedautoreturns.com

*99 Ford Taurus SE, Sale Price \$9888, \$189/mo. \$88 down + TT&L, 60 mos @ 9.9% w/ Approved Credit.

POWER POINTS FOOTBALL CONTEST WINNER WEEK NUMBER 14 Noble Wesley Troupe - 136 points. Includes a photo of Martin Leija and contact information for Noble Wesley Troupe.

FISHING R
Here is the weekly compiled for the and Wildlife Depart 12. (Report also av as www.fishing.or
CENTRAL
BROWNWOOD: V black bass are good on/red Carolina-rig tics and spinnerba feet. Striped bass ar and spoons in 15-2 bass are good on sp live minnows. Crappie are slow on minnows. 5-20 feet. Channel fish are good on ch crawlers and shrim fish are slow on li shad.
BUCHANAN: Wat degrees; 1014.72 are good on wa Scoundrel worms, Devil's Tongues al along rocky points Striped bass are j Fins, Spit Fire topw and trolling Curb's i creek points. Whit to good jigging Pir casting No. 3 Tern spinnerbaits and S schooling fish over p feet. Crappie are sl and white 1/16 oz. C jigs. Channel catf: Flathead and blue c on trotlines in the river.
PROCTOR: Wa 1157.50; black bas red shad worms. Str slow on shad and w Model As. Crappie a in 10 feet. Channel fish are fair on shad in 6 feet. Yellow cat on perch and shad.
SOUTH
AMISTAD: Wate 61-63 degrees; 48 l to 7 1/2 pounds ar jerkbaits. Striped b good on slabs up t Rio Grande Rivers. V very good on slabs Grand under birds. slow on live minno River around brush. blue catfish are sp cheseebait in 30+ feet fish are slow on trot baits.
WEST
ALAN HENRY: W degrees; black bass jigs and minnows i near points. Crapp minnows and jigs.
ARROWHEAD: Wate degrees; B low; bl slow. Crappie are exc nows around derrick are slow. Catfish are lines baited with w COLORADO CITY: 72 degrees; black t Crappie are good on jigs. White bass are Traps and minnows. fair on cut shad. Catf minnows.
FT. PHANTOM HILL 61 degrees; black b on minnows and jigs fair on jigs and mi bass are good o Catfish are good o minnows.
HUBBARD CREEK: 59 degrees; 18 low; fair on jigs and gr worms. Crappie a bass are slow. Stri slow. Catfish are slo baited with minnows. boat ramps are out o temporary ramp is o dam (turn at Wal-Me the paved/caliche ro side of the dam).
NASWORTHY: Wate degrees; black bas: slow rolled spinnerb are good on minno baathouses. Redfis chrome Rat-L-Traps. and striped bass are nows and chrome Catfish to 57 pounds on trotlines baited perch and goldfish. I dredged of 2-feet of project started summ OAK CREEK: Wate degrees; black bas Crappie are fair aro minnows. Catfish a lines baited with min shad. No boat ramps.
OH. IVIE: 19 low; bl slow. Crappie are bass are good on i slabs. Smallmouth b Catfish are good on ed with goldfish, pe nows.
POSSUM KINGD stained; 59 degree; black bass are slow. Crap are fair. Catfish are nows on the upper l SPENCE: Water degrees; 7 low; bla slow. Crappie are s nows and jigs. Whit bass are fair. Catfish trotlines baited with minnows.
STAMFORD: Wa stained; 65 degrees; bass are slow. Crap on minnows. Whit b on minnows and sls feet. Catfish are goo baited with shad and SWEETWATER: W stained; 59 degree; bass are slow o Crappie are fair o jigs. White bass are j inline spinners an Catfish are fair on cu
WHITE RIVER: Wat degrees; 22 low; bl slow. Crappie are fair and jigs. Walleye crankbaits and minn to 8 pounds are goo shrimp.

FISHING REPORT

Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Dec. 12. (Report also available on Web as www.txfishing.com.)

CENTRAL
BROWNWOOD: Water stained; black bass are good on watermelon/red Carolina-rigged soft plastics and spinnerbaits in 15-20 feet. Striped bass are fair on shad and spoons in 15-20 feet. White bass are good on spinnerbaits and live minnows. Crappie to 12 inches are slow on minnows and jigs in 5-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait, night-crawlers and shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow on live perch and shad.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 57 degrees; 1014.72'; black bass are good on watermelon/red Scoundrel worms, watermelon Devil's Tongues and crankbaits along rocky points in 5-12 feet. Striped bass are good on Red Fins, Spit Fire topwaters, live shad and trolling Curb's striper jigs on creek points. White bass are fair to good jigging Pink Minnows and casting No. 3 Terminator In-Line spinnerbaits and Spin Traps to schooling fish over points in 15-20 feet. Crappie are slow on minnows and white 1/16 oz. Curb's crappie jigs. Channel catfish are slow. Flathead and blue catfish are fair on trotlines in the mouth of the river.

PROCTOR: Water murky; 1157.50'; black bass are slow on red shad worms. Striped bass are slow on shad and white or chrome Model As. Crappie are slow on jigs in 10 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shad on the bottom in 6 feet. Yellow catfish are slow on perch and shad.

SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water fairly clear; 61-63 degrees; 48 low; black bass to 7 1/2 pounds are good on soft jerkbaits. Striped bass are very good on slabs up the Devils and Rio Grande Rivers. White bass are very good on slabs up the Rio Grande under birds. Crappie are slow on live minnows up Devils River around brush. Channel and blue catfish are spotty but fair on cheesebait in 30+ feet. Yellow catfish are slow on trotlines with live bait.

WEST
ALAN HENRY: Water clear; 55 degrees; black bass are slow on jigs and minnows around brush near points. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water stained; 57 degrees; 8 low; black bass are slow. Crappie are excellent on minnows around derricks. White bass are slow. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with worms.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 72 degrees; black bass are fair. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and minnows. Redfish are fair on cut shad. Catfish are fair on minnows.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 61 degrees; black bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on minnows. Catfish are good on goldfish and minnows.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water murky; 59 degrees; 18 low; black bass are fair on jigs and green soft plastic worms. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. Catfish are slow on trotlines baited with minnows. The concrete boat ramps are out of the water. A temporary ramp is open near the dam (turn at Wal-Mart and follow the paved/caliche road to the east side of the dam).

NASWORTHY: Water stained; 56 degrees; black bass are fair on slow rolled spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows around the boathouses. Redfish are fair on chrome Rat-L-Traps. White bass and striped bass are good on minnows and chrome Rat-L-Traps. Catfish to 57 pounds are excellent on trotlines baited with shad, perch and goldfish. Lake is being dredged of 2-feet of silt (3 year project started summer 2000).

OAK CREEK: Water stained; 60 degrees; black bass are slow. Crappie are fair around docks on minnows. Catfish are fair on trotlines baited with minnows and cut shad. No boat ramps open.

OH. IVIE: Water stained; 60 degrees; 19 low; black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are good on minnows and slabs. Smallmouth bass are slow. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with goldfish, perch and minnows.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 59 degrees; 5.75 low; black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair. Catfish are fair on minnows on the upper lake.

SPENCE: Water stained; 63 degrees; 7 low; black bass are slow. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs. White and striped bass are fair. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with outbait and minnows.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 10 low; black bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. White bass are good on minnows and slabs at 15-25 feet. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad and perch.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 19 low; black bass are slow on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on white inline spinners and minnows. Catfish are fair on cut shad.

WHITE RIVER: Water stained; 55 degrees; 22 low; black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Walleye are fair on crankbaits and minnows. Catfish to 8 pounds are good on shad and shrimp.



By BETTY DEBNAM

Red, White and Blue Patriotic Holiday Decorations

Paper star

- You'll need:**
- red, white and blue paper
 - glue
 - scissors
 - ruler
 - pencil

1. Cut red paper into five strips measuring 1/2 inch wide by 3 inches long.
2. Cut white paper into five strips measuring 1/2 inch wide by 3 1/2 inches long.
3. Cut blue paper into five strips measuring 1/2 inch wide by 4 inches wide.

4. Glue ends together of one red, one white and one blue strip, using a dot of glue between each. Let dry.
5. Repeat the step above with the remaining strips. This makes five sections.

6. Glue sections together, joining at tip to make a star. The blue will be on the inside, the white in the middle and the red on the outside.
7. Tie a string loop through the top.

This holiday season, many families will add red, white and blue decorations to their holiday celebrations. Americans everywhere will express their support of our troops and their loyalty to our country in their own special way.



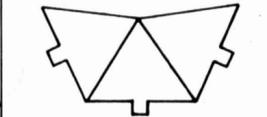
Patriotic decorations have been popular through the years. This Christmas tree re-creates the year 1876 when our country celebrated the 100th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. It is a part of a Christmas display at the Henry Ford Birthplace at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Mich.

The Mini Page thanks Anne Bruton, art teacher and artist, for help with this issue.

3-D tree

- You'll need:**
- white paper
 - markers
 - ruler
 - pencil
 - scissors
 - cereal box
 - tape

1. Cut your pattern out of one large side of a cereal box. Use a ruler to draw a triangle with a trunk.



2. Trace the tree in the center of the paper. Line up the sides and trace again as shown. You will have three connecting trees. Use markers to color the tree green and decorate with red, white and blue trim.

3. Cut out and fold at the lines. Tape outside edges together.

Go dot to dot and color



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Party Brownie Cake

- You can serve this at a holiday dinner.
- You'll need:**
- 1 (14.6-ounce) box brownie mix
 - 1 envelope instant vanilla pudding
 - 1/4 cup of your favorite yogurt
 - 1/4 cup almonds, slivered
- What to do:**
1. Make the brownie mix following directions on package.
 2. Pour mixture into a greased 8-by-8-inch pan.
 3. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes or until done.
 4. Remove from oven and let cool. Place on a serving plate.
 5. Prepare pudding following directions on package.
 6. Stir in yogurt. Mix well.
 7. Spread pudding mixture evenly on brownie cake.
 8. Sprinkle almond pieces evenly on top. Serves 6 to 8.

The Mini Page Presidents of the United States Poster

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

Gus Goodsport's report

Supersport: Jermaine Lewis

Height: 5-7 Birthdate: 10-16-74
Weight: 180 College: University of Maryland

Every football team wants to win the Super Bowl. Last year the Baltimore Ravens won with the help of wide receiver Jermaine Lewis. At the Super Bowl game against the New York Giants, he returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

Jermaine is in his sixth season with the Ravens. In 1997 and 1998 he scored six touchdowns each year. His longest touchdown return was for 73 yards in 1998. That same year he caught for a total of 784 yards, the best of his career. In 1997 he led the NFL with an average of 15.6 yards per punt return.

Jermaine was born in Lanham, Md., and studied family studies in college. He is involved with several youth-related charities.

Meet BR-549

One of the most popular groups to come out of Nashville in recent times is BR-549.

The members are Chuck Mead (guitar and vocals), Don Herron (guitar and fiddle), Shaw Wilson (drums), Gary Bennett (guitar and vocals) and Jay McDowell (bass).

The group was formed in Nashville by Chuck and Gary. Chuck was friends with Don and Shaw and asked them to join the group. Jay also joined.

They got their name from a phone number used in a skit on the old TV show "HeeHaw."

They began by performing at a well-known boot shop in Nashville.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

The following jokes all have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Jane: What sound does a brontosaurus make when it sleeps?
Anne: Dino-snores!

Sandra: Why did the little triceratops stay home from school?
Kelly: It had a dino-sore throat!

Barry: What do you get if a dinosaur steps on your foot?
Lori: Ankylosaurus!

Best Brown Howard's Holiday Decorations TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of holiday crafts are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: PAPER, GLUE, PASTE, SCISSORS, PENCIL, PEN, PAINT, BRUSH, STRING, SHAPES, BAG, FELT, CUT, BEADS, DRAW, DESIGN, COLOR, RIBBON, CARD, MAKE, CRAFT.

WHICH ORNAMENT WILL YOU MAKE?

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

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are making holiday crafts, gifts and decorations. See if you can find:

- heart
- word MINI
- bell
- letter D
- lima bean
- number 8
- caterpillar
- number 2
- man in the moon
- pencil
- flower
- ruler
- frog

Paper bell

You'll need:

- construction paper (red, white and blue)
- pencil
- scissors
- glue
- string

1. Make your pattern by drawing a bell shape on paper. Cut it out.
2. Trace the pattern on each color of paper and cut out each bell.
3. Place one bell on a flat surface.
4. Trim the edges of the second bell to make it a little smaller than the first one.
5. Trim the edges of the third bell to make it a little smaller than the second one.
6. Center the bells on top of each other from the largest to the smallest and glue them together.
7. Punch a hole in the top with a pencil and loop a string through.

Tin deer

You'll need:

- aluminum pie pan
- paper
- pencil
- tape
- ball-point pen
- newspapers
- paper hole punch
- string

1. Cover your work surface with a thick layer of newspaper.
2. Cut sides off the pie pan to make a flat sheet.
3. Draw a picture of a reindeer on paper. (It must be smaller than the pie pan.)
4. Tape paper to pie pan. Use a ball-point pen to trace over your picture and add an eye and fur. Press hard.
5. Remove paper from tray and cut out reindeer.
6. Use a hole punch to make a hole in the center top. Add string.

Printed cards

You'll need:

- plastic foam tray with sides trimmed off
- markers
- paper

1. Use markers to draw picture directly onto the piece of plastic foam.
2. Fold paper in half to make a card.
3. Place paper on top of the picture and rub the surface with your fingers. This transfers the picture onto the paper.

Hint: Words must be written backward to print correctly.

To do: Look through your newspaper for holiday art in the ads.

Next week, find out how the pioneers celebrated Christmas more than 180 years ago.

How to draw Christmas trees

Cone **Dashes** **Zigzags**

Circles **Triangles** **Dots**

Glitter ornament

You'll need:

- colored paper
- glue
- glitter
- scissors
- pencil
- string

1. Cut out holiday shape from colored paper and lay it flat on the table.
2. Squeeze thin lines of glue to decorate the surface.
3. Sprinkle glitter on glue, covering well.
4. When glue is dry, shake off extra glitter.
5. Use a pencil to punch a hole in the top and add a string.

The Mini Page is created and edited by Betty Debnam

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Staff Artist: Wendy Duley

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AUTO
 For sale, 1972 Super Beetle Volkswagen. \$2,000 OBO. Call 263-4410

AUTO
 1993 Nissan Maxima Loaded, excellent condition \$4900 OBO. Call 816-1081

SPECIAL NOTICES
 Disney vacation 7 days 6 nights at Ramada. Good for 1 year. Sacrifice \$199.00 915-620-1617.

HELP WANTED
 Mountain View Lodge is now hiring a charge nurse, 10/6 shift, part-time/full-time. Excellent Benefits. Apply in person at 2009 Virginia

HELP WANTED
***ATTENTION! WORK FROM HOME!**
 \$500/\$1500 MO Part-time. \$2500/\$5000 mo full-time. Great for moms! Free info 877-864-RICH. www.SmartWork4U.com

HELP WANTED
COME GROW WITH US
 Texaco Star Stops are now taking applications for full-time & part-time positions. Apply in person at the following locations: Manager position available. Star Stop #4 2501 S. Gregg Star Stop #8 800E. I-20 Star Stop #12 400 S. Gregg Star Stop #14 4806 W. Hwy 80 We are a Drug Free Work force. No phone calls please. Earn \$500 - \$5,000/mo PT/FT For FREE Information 1-800-301-9177

HELP WANTED
DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED! Want to be a truck driver? We can put you to work earning \$700 + weekly, plus benefits. No experience needed. CDL Training available with no money down. For a trucking career call CDL Source TODAY! Toll Free 866-280-5309

HELP WANTED
 First Presbyterian Church needs a nursery worker Sunday mornings 9:40 to 12:15. Pay is \$25.00. 263-4211. Howard County Senior Citizens is seeking a full time cook and meal delivery person. Dependable person required. Excellent benefits. Contact Bobbie Leonard 915-267-1628

LOANS
MIDWEST FINANCE Loans \$100-\$430. Open M-F 9-6pm. 612 Gregg. 263-1353. Phone app's welcome. Se Habla Espanol.
GRAIN, HAY OR FEED
 Fert. Coastal Hay rolls. Delivery available. 903-425-8031 or 903-681-4629

See The All-New 2002 Explorer Arriving Daily!
BOB BROCK FORD
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PICKUPS
 2000 GMC SLE, \$12,500. Below loan value. Loaded with extras. Call 394-4326 after 4pm.
 '94 F150 King Cab. White, V-8, auto, good tires. Runs good. \$2800. 263-7478

HELP WANTED
EXPERIENCED cashier needed. Must be willing to work Saturdays. Hours 9:30 to 6:30. Apply in person: Bargain Mart 403 Runnels

Need mature lady to work PT in laundromat. Work 7 days on 7 days off. Pick up application @ 208 W. 11th Place or 1208 Gregg.

Get in the Fast Lane. COVENANT TRANSPORTATION is Looking For Student Drivers. No Experience? NO PROBLEM! Training Available. Call for Details. 1-888-728-8588. CDL Holders call 1-800-958-2353

Mountain View Lodge is in need of ADON with good supervisory and people skills. Long term care experience with MDS's a plus. Great working environment, excellent benefits. Call or come by: Mountain View Lodge 2009 Virginia 263-1271

- 1999 Olds Intrigue \$6950.00
 - 1998 Ford F150 4X4 \$11,500.00
 - 1998 Maxima \$7500.00
 - 1998 Ranger \$5000.00
 - 1996 Maxima \$5000.00
 - 1996 Sephia \$2250.00
 - 1995 S10 Blazer \$5000.00
 - 1995 Dakota Ext Cab \$4500.00
 - 1992 Ford F-150 \$4250.00
- Westex Auto**
 Hwy 350 North
 263-5000



CLASSIFIED ADS FOR CANNED GOODS

Between now and Friday, Dec. 21, 2001, get one extra day up to 3 extra days. Place a Classified Ad to run at least 3 days and for each canned good or non perishable food item get one extra day up to 3 days. The food will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution. For more info call Big Spring Herald Classified at 263-7331.



\$250 SIGNING BONUS



HIRING SEMINAR DECEMBER 13

Sign up to work at the Wallace or Ware Prison Units in Colorado City or Work Camp in Big Spring, Sweetwater or San Angelo and receive a \$250 signing bonus. Restrictions apply.*

Join us December 13, 2001 • 7 p.m.
Civic Center
157 West 2nd Street Colorado City, Texas

*Bonus will be awarded once actually hired by the TDCJ. Must attend the Hiring Seminar to be eligible for the bonus. Bonus paid by the Mitchell County BOED and City of Colorado City.

Local Financial Institution has full-time Loan Secretary position open. 1-2 years secretarial experience necessary. Loan processing experience a plus. Must pass background check and credit check. Send resume to Big Spring Herald, P O Box 1431/2503, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431

LVN position available on PRN basis. Contact April Velasquez, RN, DON. Valley Fair Lodge 915-728-2634

Mitchell County Hospital District/Ward Medical Unit is looking for LVN correctional nurse for the 3pm to 11 pm shift. For more information contact Ms. Cogburn, R.N., D.O.N. At (915) 728-2162, ext 1236.

MOTHERS AND OTHERS
 \$500-\$5000 PT/FT WORK AT HOME! No Exp. Necessary 1-866-258-RICH

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 Supplement your income if you have a second job
Dominos Pizza
 2202 Gregg

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 Approximately 177 yards of carpet for sale \$250. Available after 12/26. call 263-7073

ACREAGE FOR SALE
MARTIN COUNTY 10.351 Acres North of West 5th on C 2330 E. 1st reduced to 8.5 / \$113/mc Owner Finance. Forest Amen Group. Buyer agent. 40-275-7376
 Track of land for sale 5 miles South of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles West of Coahoma. Own it will Finance. Call Tex's Veterans. Ca 263-3785.

BUILDINGS FOR RENT
 Warehouse with overhead doors on small office. 510 E. 1st \$300/mo. \$150/dep. Call 263-5000

HOUSES FOR SALE
1307 Virginia For Sale By Owner Extremely nice large brick home with covered parking, privacy fence, CH/A, new carpet, ceramic tile. A MUST SEE! \$37,000. 263-1792 or 264-6006
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 14:

Much will change in your life this year. Graciously let go of what no longer works, and you gain easily. You're unusually talented and gifted, though sometimes self-absorbed this year. You undergo an enormous transformation in your looks, self-concept and perceptions. Your day-to-day life becomes much more exciting as a result. If you are single, don't count any relationship as long-term until your next birthday. Just enjoy each other. Don't make plans. If you are attached, remember as you transform that your loved one has to change and flex. Be more indulgent and understanding. SAGITTARIUS understands.

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)**** You reverse gears when dealing with others at a distance. You sense a change in the wind, or perhaps a new possibility heading your way. New beginnings become possible, though you might need to clear out an albatross in your life — the sooner, the better. Tonight: Do something totally different.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**** Your opinion of a partner or a source of funds could radically change in the next six months. You might not be comfortable with all that you are hearing from an associate. A

personal decision sticks; however, be ready to adjust to new information. Tonight: Follow your favorite person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**** A solar eclipse in your chart could impact your relationships, but not necessarily at this very moment. Look for an event or change in one month, three months and six months. If attached, someone could be changing right in front of your eyes. Let a loved one talk as much as he or she needs to. Tonight: Make merry.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)**** You don't want to continue pushing so hard. Everyone has limits, you included. Whisper to a co-worker and ask him or her to pitch in. Let others fill in for you where you might not be absolutely necessary. Decide to make this a resolution. Tonight: Put up your feet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**** If single, good news will head your way in the next few months. If attached, your relationship will change, but not necessarily in a negative sense. Work with a child who might be growing in leaps and bounds. Cheer him or her on. Don't fight transformation. Tonight: Relish the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**** What you want to do on the home front becomes possible faster than you believed. Remain optimistic and positive with a transition at work that you might

not have anticipated. Say "yes" to new beginnings, even if it's your nature to walk away from them. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**** Your positive feedback and understanding mean much more to another than you can imagine. You grasp more of the essence of this person and see him or her differently as a result. You'll be making a decision soon about a computer or another mode of communication. Tonight: Celebrate Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**** You could dump your piggy bank out trying to meet everyone's expectations. Stop! Think about each person and special ways to please these people. Not everything has to be material. Consider giving gift certificates for a back rub, to wash the car or whatever you can conjure up. Tonight: Make a resolution and stick to it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**** A new moon and an eclipse in your sign signal a new beginning, which you will greet in one month, three months or six months. The whole tale won't be told for a while. Avoid snap judgments. Express your intensity to a loved one. Greet change positively. Tonight: It's your call.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Slow down and test your ideas on others. You could act far too quickly and make an error. Even financially, you could be

prone to making a mistake or using bad judgment. Decide to no longer be a workhorse. Take your time. Tonight: Do your thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**** Recognize your limits within a friendship. You can prod and push, but you cannot force this person to transform or make needed changes. Adopt a different attitude, standing back. New beginnings become possible with this accepting perspective. Tonight: Where the gang is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**** You push hard to accomplish what you want to work for you. However, you cannot push a parent or a boss. Accept the status quo and you might be greeted by a surprise. See everything differently. Open up to new possibilities through a laissez-faire attitude. Tonight: In the limelight.

BORN TODAY
French astrologer and physician Nostradamus (1503), actress Patty Duke (1946), actor Morey Amsterdam (1908)

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Vanity not the only issue with overweight women

Dear Ann Landers: I've been an avid reader of your column since my early teens and have agreed with your responses more often than not. However, I felt compelled to write regarding your advice to the man who complained that his overweight wife was "vain" because she wears tight clothes and struts around like she's hot stuff.



ANN LANDERS

You told the man to get his wife to see a nutritionist. Why shouldn't an overweight woman feel good about herself? Her husband should be happy that his wife has high self-esteem, a trait that is sadly lacking in most heavy women due to

the expectation of our society that all females must be a size 10 or less.

I say, if she wants to wear tight clothes and strut her stuff, more power to her. If she is as vain as he says, I seriously doubt that she is running around in hot pants and tube tops. As long as the woman is happy with herself, who are we to judge? It's time society accepted the fact that a woman can be beautiful, confident, talented and overweight. That husband should stop criticizing his wife's appearance. If he keeps it up, he will stomp her confidence into the ground, and then he will have some REAL problems on his hands. — Seen it Happen in Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Sac: Every overweight woman will love your letter — and more

women today are overweight than underweight, so consider yourself loved by the majority. This should be extremely comforting. Purrrrrrrrr.

But the next reader expresses a totally different point of view:

Dear Ann Landers: You totally missed the point about the man whose overweight wife was wearing too-tight clothes. He was not suggesting that she lose weight, but that she pay more attention to her outfit. The answer to every woman who has put on a few extra pounds is not always "see a nutritionist," as you suggested, Ann. A full-length mirror would make a lot more sense.

I would have suggested that the man videotape or photograph his wife at times when her outfit is not quite right and let her see the pictures or watch the tapes. Accepting an increase in weight is difficult for a woman if she has always been thin and accustomed to dressing a certain way. Larger women can look fabulous if they are taught how to accentuate the positives. That man's wife needs to learn how to dress for the size she is now, and not worry about losing weight to fit into the clothes she can no longer wear. Your advice was terrible. — Hamilton, N.J.

Dear Hamilton: Thanks for the clobber. I received several other brickbats, but the language wasn't appropriate for a family newspaper.

Dear Ann Landers: Our son, "Edgar," has informed us that his 9-year-old son will be playing hockey every Saturday for the next four months. His 4-year-old daughter is signed up for soccer beginning in the spring. This means they can no longer bring the grandchildren to visit us on the weekends.

We are very hurt by this. My husband and I are in our 60s, and we both still work. Traveling the 100-mile distance is tiring. We try not to miss important family occasions, but we are too exhausted to drive two hours every other weekend to see the grandchildren when they have some free time.

When did sporting activities replace family? If the grandchildren are too busy to visit us on the weekends, I don't see how we can

maintain the relationship. What do you say about this, Ann? — Staying Home in Kentucky

Dear Ky.: Don't be hurt by this. When the grandchildren get older, their interests will change. See them when you can, and make the visits upbeat and pleasant so they will look forward to them. Complaining serves no useful purpose and can be a real turnoff.

Is that Ann Landers column you clipped years ago yellow in age? For a copy of her most frequently requested poems and essays, send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Gems, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.25.)

That first kiss, that first embrace... Remember all those things that brought you and your loved one together? "How We Met," a collection of sentimental love stories, will make a terrific gift for that special someone. For a copy, please send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.50 (this includes postage and handling) to: How We Met, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562 (in Canada, \$6.50).

What can you give the person who has everything? Ann Landers' booklet, "Gems," is ideal for a nightstand or coffee table. "Gems" is a collection of Ann Landers' most requested poems and essays. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Gems, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.25.)

Do you have questions about sex, but no one to talk to? Ann Landers' booklet, "Sex and the Teenager," is frank and to the point. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Teens, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.) To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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THURSDAY

DEC. 13

Table with 24 columns (stations) and 12 rows (timeslots). Columns include station call letters and numbers, and rows include time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM. Content lists various news, entertainment, and sports programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I KNOW SOME SWELL HIDING PLACES FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS."

FAMILY CIRCUS



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HAGAR



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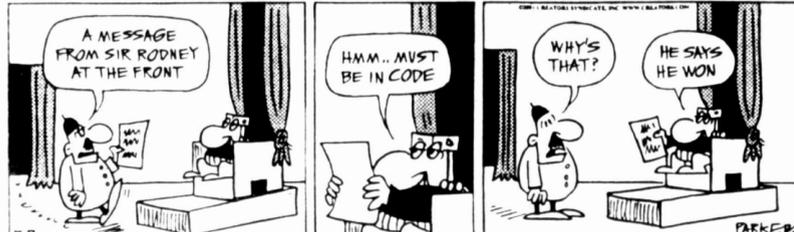
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2001. There are 18 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: One year ago, on Dec. 13, 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency five weeks after Election Day...

In 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat by the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 81. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 76. Actor Christopher Plummer is 72. Actor Robert Prosky is 71. Country singer Buck White is 71. Movie producer Richard Zanuck is 67. Singer John Davidson is 60. Singer Ted Nugent is 53. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 53. Country musician Ron Getman is 53. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 52. Actress Wendie Malick is 51.

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

Newsday Crossword

STRAIGHT TALK by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Stones for settings, 5 Open-mouthed stare, 9 Oslo's backdrop, 14 Burn remedy, 15 Do the bidding of, 16 Pass through, 17 Prevailing attitude, 18 Acorn, to an oak, 19 Mountain ridge, 20 Grand relative, 23 Exam subject, 24 "Hold on a ___", 25 Secret identity preserver, 29 Charged particles, 31 Grow molars, 33 ___ Alto, CA, 36 1984 Yankovic tune, 39 Sturgeon product, 40 Performer's thrill, 44 Cleopatra's snake, 45 Hypnotized, 46 Be a misanthrope, 47 "Show me the way!", 49 Driver's license datum, 52 Pencil puzzle, 53 See 42 Down, 56 Format order, 60 TV control, 63 Give gear to, 66 Each, 67 Pole-to-pole line, 68 ER extra, 69 Tenant's payment, 70 Tiny arachnid, 11 Cheer for toreros, 12 Deserter, 13 Pre-Easter purchase, 21 Political prefix, 22 Penultimate part of Hamlet, 26 Heart chambers, 27 Take pictures, 28 New Hampshire city, 30 Fax or e-mail, 32 Greek vowel, 33 Old Testament verse, 34 Perplexed, 35 Capital of Bolivia, 37 "Act your ___!", 38 Unable to choose, 41 Everly Brothers, e.g., 42 With, 53 Across, cochlea locale, 43 Wallace Beery's Oscar film, 48 Contrive, 50 Rolls with the punches, 51 Lethal Weapon name, 54 Video-game maker, 55 Attain maturity, 57 Roker of The Jeffersons, 58 Social stratum, 59 Henry Ford's son, 61 Olympics blade, 62 Hit on the head, 63 Result (in), 64 Status, 65 Caterer's coffeepot.