









# American forces hear bin Laden's voice on radio transmissions

WASHINGTON (AP) — American forces heard Osama bin Laden giving orders over short-range radio in the Tora Bora area of eastern Afghanistan during all-out assaults this past week on the rugged mountains and caves where he is believed hiding, a U.S. official said Saturday.

Afghan fighters aided by U.S. and British soldiers advanced Saturday against al-Qaida holdouts while U.S. airstrikes supported the ground troops, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a visit to several former Soviet republics.

Afghan commanders said they believed their troops had bin Laden trapped in one of the area's many caves — a claim American officials have not confirmed.

The voice on the radio was identified as bin Laden's through comparisons with his voice from several videotapes, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Americans have several ways to listen in on such radio transmissions, including gear-carried by special operations forces and instruments on aircraft and satellites.

U.S. Marines are building a prisoner of war camp at the airport in the southern city of Kandahar to hold as many as 300 detainees, and there were plans to interrogate about 50 al-Qaida fighters who had been captured but were not yet under U.S. control.

It was not immediately known if al-Qaida leaders were among the

prisoners.

Evidence found in caves and deserted al-Qaida sites — along with information developed elsewhere in the investigation into the Sept. 11 attacks — has led to several arrests in foreign countries of suspected al-Qaida operatives, Rumsfeld said. Officials offered no details.

American officials say bin Laden could have escaped from the Tora Bora area after making the intercepted radio transmissions — whose existence was first reported Saturday by the Washington Times — though evading detection would be difficult.

The al-Qaida forces are concentrated in two valleys that cross the border into Pakistan to the south.

The Afghan forces are moving in from the north, and Pakistani troops are guarding their border. That puts the al-Qaida between "a hammer and an anvil," as the war's commander, Army Gen. Tommy Franks, put it.

Escaping would mean traveling through a dense forest and over high mountain ridges, probably either on foot or on a horse or donkey. That would expose bin Laden to U.S. or Pakistani surveillance, which is scrutinizing the area around the clock. The surveillance includes instruments that detect body heat — which is much easier to spot when the ground is cold and snowy.

Bodyguards and aides who might accompany bin Laden would make his party easier to

spot. Concealing a vehicle would be even harder, while air travel is hazardous over the mountains.

U.S. officials say there is a chance that tunnels in the Tora Bora area could provide an escape route. U.S. forces do not know how many tunnels there are or where their entrances and exits are, defense officials said.

Rumsfeld, during a visit to Azerbaijan, said Saturday it was too early to say whether the operations around Tora Bora area would end soon.

He also said once information gathered from the interrogation of prisoners is "accumulated and correlated, judgments are made as to its accuracy or a lack of accuracy, and then we shall proceed to next steps."

# Feds busts smugglers accused of using babies to bring drugs into country

CHICAGO (AP) — Federal officials broke up a sophisticated drug-smuggling ring in which the suspects allegedly used baby formula cans and sometimes even rented babies to sneak cocaine and heroin into the country.

Thirty-five people were charged, including four Chicago parents accused of renting their children for money or drugs. Smugglers allegedly used one infant on six trips — the first at 3 weeks old.

"This operation preyed on the great respect that we as human beings all afford mothers and babies — and betrayed that respect brazenly," U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald announced Friday. "Renting babies for the purpose of allowing drug dealers to smuggle cocaine and heroin is truly a new low in drug smuggling."

*"Renting babies for the purpose of allowing drug dealers to smuggle cocaine and heroin is truly a new low in drug smuggling."*

—U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald announced indictments alleging Chicago-based conspiracies in which cocaine and heroin were smuggled into the United States from Panama and Jamaica for distribution in Chicago, New York and England between 1996 and 1999.

Those charged included the four parents, organizers, couriers and alleged suppliers in Panama and Jamaica. Women couriers using 20

infants made at least 34 smuggling trips, Fitzgerald said. The women used either their own children or babies provided to them for the trip.

In Panama, some of the women would be given baby formula cans containing liquid cocaine. Others would insert heroin into their body cavities. Still others traveled with cocaine in rum bottles or concealed in suitcase handles. All of them would return to Chicago or New York with the drugs.

Most of the couriers and parents were recruited from Chicago's impoverished Englewood neighborhood, said Michael A. DeMarte, agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Authorities said the smugglers punched holes in the baby formula cans with a hammer and nail, drained

the formula, then used syringes to fill them back up with liquid cocaine. The holes were then soldered shut.

The indictments were returned late Thursday by a federal grand jury and unsealed Friday.

The charges stemmed from an investigation that began in 1999, when a customs inspector in Newark, N.J., discovered that a woman traveling to London was carrying six formula cans filled with liquid cocaine.

Nineteen people were charged and 18 convicted in earlier phases of the investigation, bringing to 54 the total number of people charged. The investigation is continuing into whether more people rented their infants to smugglers.

# Police say small-town theater director killed four family members and then himself

LOWELL, Ind. (AP) — A small-town theater director fatally shot his wife and infant daughter as she was bathing the child, then drove to his parents' home and killed them before taking his own life.

Jeffrey Wein's sister and brother-in-law discovered the bodies in the older couple's home Friday morning when they stopped by with plans to go holiday shopping.

Police later found the bodies of Wein's wife and daughter at the family's home about three miles away in Lowell, a rural northwestern Indiana town of about 7,500.

"We have no motive at this time. This is just a tragedy for the entire community," said Lowell Police Chief David Wilson.

Police believe Wein, 30, committed the four slayings Thursday morning, then shot himself. Officers found the makings of a pancake breakfast in the kitchen near the body of John Wein, 66. Marie Wein, 65, had been shot to death at the top of the basement stairs.

Jeffery Wein's sister told

police she had called her parents Thursday night but no one answered the phone. When she opened the door Friday morning, she found blood on the floor. Her husband went inside and found the bodies.

Jeffrey Wein was found dead in his parent's dining area next to a 12-gauge shotgun he had bought the day before.

Police were still trying to determine a motive.

He and Kristin Wein, 31, had been married for about a year and a half, a second marriage for both. She taught fifth-grade in nearby Hobart, but was on maternity leave to care for the couple's 20-week-old daughter, Emma Marie.

"She was an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who just loved her students," said a shaken Shannon O'Brien, the principal at Liberty Elementary School where Kristin Wein taught.

Jeffery Wein had worked at Forward Telecom of West Chicago, Ill., and had directed local musicals, including a performance last month at his alma mater, Lowell High School.

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SPORTS EXTRA

AP Top 25

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Team. Lists top 25 college football teams.

BOWL SCHEDULE

Table listing various college football bowl games, including dates, times, and participating teams.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League... NATIONAL LEAGUE... Lists player movements and trades.

WOODS BOOTS advertisement featuring 'MERRY CHRISTMAS Value Line' and 'Calf & Bull Hide Cowboy Boots Starting At \$99.95'.

manager, of their Las Vegas team in the PCL. Named Ken Howell and Roger McDowell as minor league pitching coaches.

NEW YORK METS—Traded Of David Justice to Oakland for LHP Mark Guthrie and RHP Tyler Yates.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jason Schmidt.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL NBA—Suspended Houston F. Maurice Taylor for five games without pay for violating the league's anti-drug program.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE CLEVELAND BROWNS—Placed S Percy Ellsworth on injured reserve.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Signed general manager David Pole to a contract extension.

FLORIDA STATE—Announced RB Eric Shelton has decided to transfer.

NOTRE DAME—Announced the resignation of George O'Leary, football coach.

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists standings for various leagues.

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Saturday at Rose Stadium, Tyler, Austin Westlake 48, Houston Madison 42.

CLASS 4A Division I Championship Lufkin or Eules Trinity vs. Austin Westlake (14:1), TB.

CLASS 3A Division I Championship Verman 25, Sinton 14.

CLASS 2A Division I Championship Van Alstyne (12:2) vs. Blanco (14:0), late Saturday.

SIX-MAN Championship Whittall 27, Richland Springs 20.

NCAA SCORES EAST American International 65, Pace 50.

WESTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division N.Y. Islanders 16, 8 5 2 39 88 77.

SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFFS CLASS 5A Division I Championship Mesquite 14, SA Taft 13.

Charleston Southern 64, North Greenville 55.

CLASS 4A Division I Championship Lufkin or Eules Trinity vs. Austin Westlake (14:1), TB.

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SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFFS CLASS 5A Division I Championship Mesquite 14, SA Taft 13.

Mississippi St. 109, Jacksonville St. 62.

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Raven

The ASSOCIATE

If the Baltimore on tonight, their They just hav Bowl the hard w The Steelers ( two games ahea they clinch the Ravens (8-4) in t That's not a di as a 2000 wild-c who think Neb has a right to p football champi But that's ano This is the NFL spokesman is lo cally.

'We're going t see what happ Shannon Sharp ing extremely v the team to be Looking at thei them, I don't kn True enough: Detroit, Cincin bined record 10 can happen the Baltimore wor that can hardl dent. Pittsburgh lost only becau field goals.

The usually r week, missing a goal attempts. B 18-7 against the Jerome Bettis. That might b good these Stee back in form, H mrier receiver ; linebacker Ke defensive rooki Still, the Steel "We know," s "that we're no knock them off. In other game Denver at Kan New York Jet: Minnesota at Buffalo; Jacks at San Fran Philadelphia at Tennessee. St. Louis is ; night.

Carolina is of Miami (9-3) at Both teams at tion. The 49ers in the NFC We Rams. So their first wild card which would g first round. The Dolphins the loss coul use a first-rou it — they're ti end seed in th tiebreaker, a w The Dolphins 6 Monday nigh motivation.

"If we were p have to bring i attention," s Wanststed, wh players' locke about taking ; playing a 9-3 e Both teams c only with var results.

Philadelphia (8 The Eagles East with a w down their off tory three we one of those w Continued from much as we The Seah coming off a performance I left them cling off thread. T postseason, th have to win al ing games. Holmgren week to start an running Watters, who week followi week absence shoulder ir means Alexan chise's fourth to rush for 1.0 go to the benic Watters, in of his contra leave as a fr normally doc

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# Ravens facing a must-win situation hosting Pittsburgh

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

If the Baltimore Ravens lose to Pittsburgh on tonight, their season isn't over. They just have to try to win the Super Bowl the hard way. Again.

The Steelers (10-2) come into Baltimore two games ahead of the Ravens. If they win, they clinch the AFC Central and leave the Ravens (8-4) in the wild-card pool.

That's not a disaster. Baltimore won it all as a 2000 wild-card entry, fodder for those who think Nebraska, third in the Big 12, has a right to play Miami for the college football championship.

But that's another topic for another day. This is the NFL, where the Ravens' chief spokesman is looking at things pragmatically.

"We're going to try to run the table, then see what happens after that," tight end Shannon Sharpe says. "Pittsburgh is playing extremely well right now, and they're the team to beat in the AFC right now. Looking at their schedule, if we can't beat them, I don't know who else can."

True enough: The Steelers close with Detroit, Cincinnati and Cleveland, combined record 10-26, although wacky things can happen these days.

Baltimore won the first meeting 13-10, but that can hardly make the Ravens overconfident. Pittsburgh outgained them 348-183 and lost only because Kris Brown missed four field goals.

The usually reliable Brown was at it last week, missing an extra point and two field-goal attempts. But the Steelers won anyway, 18-7 against the contending Jets — without Jerome Bettis.

That might be an indicator of just how good these Steelers are. Kordell Stewart is back in form, Hines Ward has become a premier receiver and all-around player, and linebacker Kendall Bell is odds-on for defensive rookie of the year.

Still, the Steelers remain wary. "We know," says safety Brent Alexander, "that we're not in the driver's seat until we knock them off."

In other games, Atlanta is at Indianapolis; Denver at Kansas City; Cincinnati at the New York Jets; Tampa Bay at Chicago; Minnesota at Detroit; New England at Buffalo; Jacksonville at Cleveland; Miami at San Francisco; Dallas at Seattle; Philadelphia at Washington; and Green Bay at Tennessee.

St. Louis is at New Orleans on Monday night. Carolina is off.

**Miami (9-3) at San Francisco (9-3)**  
Both teams are jockeying for playoff position. The 49ers are a game behind St. Louis in the NFC West and have lost twice to the Rams. So their primary goal probably is the first wild card (fourth seed) in the AFC, which would give them a home game in the first round.

The Dolphins lead New England by two in the loss column in the AFC East and could use a first-round bye. Right now, they'd get it — they're tied with Oakland for the second seed in the conference and hold the tiebreaker, a win over the Raiders.

The Dolphins, who routed Indianapolis 41-6 Monday night, don't seem to need much motivation.

"If we were playing a 3-9 team, you might have to bring in the mouse traps to get their attention," says Miami coach Dave Wannstedt, who placed mouse traps in his players' lockers last year to warn them about taking a team lightly. "But you're playing a 9-3 team...."

Both teams can clinch playoff berths, but only with various combinations of other results.

**Philadelphia (8-4) at Washington (6-6)**  
The Eagles can all but clinch the NFC East with a win against a team that shut down their offense in a 13-3 Washington victory three weeks ago. But the Eagles are one of those wacky teams: 5-0 on the road, 3-

## NFL This Week

4 at home. So maybe they have the advantage.

One factor in the Redskins' resurgence after an 0-5 start is LaVar Arrington, who is becoming one of the NFL's dominant defensive players in his second season. He still has a few things to learn — like cutting down on 15-yard transgressions — but he might be close to Lawrence Taylor after all.

**St. Louis (10-2) at New Orleans (7-5)**

The Rams are on track to get home-field advantage in the NFC, but this is a gnaf they'd like to swat away for good. New Orleans has won three of the last four meetings, including a playoff game last season and the first meeting in St. Louis in the worst game the Rams have played this year.

The Rams can clinch a playoff berth (foregone conclusion) with a win. That would also serve the dual purpose of hurting the Saints' playoff chances — and St. Louis doesn't want to see New Orleans in the post-season.

**Tampa Bay (7-5) at Chicago (9-3)**

This is a more important game for the Bucs, who need it to enhance their playoff hopes. But it's big psychologically for the Bears, who lost for the second time this season to Green Bay last week and need some self-confidence.

One sign of distress: indications that some of the defensive players questioned offensive coordinator John Shoop's play calling against the Packers last week. "We're not fighting each other, we're not divided and we're not against the offense," defensive end Phillip Daniels says. "There is none of that going on."

Which means there probably is.

**Minnesota (5-7) at Detroit (0-12)**

Winless against winless — the Vikings are 0-5 on the road, although the dome might make them feel at home. Daunte Culpepper will probably be at quarterback despite Todd Bouman's brilliance in six quarters replacing him.

Marty Mornhinweg finally second-guessed himself after calling a pass play that ended with a sack, putting Detroit out of range for a field goal that could have given it an eight-point fourth-quarter lead in Tampa. "That game was the first game where I'd really like to have that call back," he said.

**Green Bay (9-3) at Tennessee (4-8)**

A snapshot of this season: The Packers were expected to be decent, the Titans were one of the AFC favorites.

"Now Green Bay is on the verge of clinching a playoff spot, has the upper hand in the NFC Central and could have home-field advantage for the playoffs. And no one wants to play at Lambeau Field in January. The Titans can start looking toward next year."

**New England (8-5) at Buffalo (2-10)**

The Patriots are 8-3 with Tom Brady at quarterback and have the Bills, Carolina (1-10) and Miami left, in addition to a bye week. That should mean playoffs, although who knows in this wacky season.

The Bills are just happy to have beaten Carolina last week. "I think you relish a win more when they don't come as often," said defensive end Phil Hansen, who joined the Bills a decade ago, when all they did was win (except in the Super Bowl).

**Denver (7-6) at Kansas City (3-9)**

The Chiefs and Broncos always put on a spirited game, even when their records aren't close. The subplot this week is Eddie Kennison, who effectively told Denver he didn't want to play any more, was cut and signed by Kansas City.

"It'll be interesting — if he takes the field," Broncos linebacker John Mobley

said. "I don't think he'll suit up against us, because I know him. He won't want to get out there and play against us, not our defense."

**Cincinnati (4-8) at New York Jets (7-5)**

The Bengals have lost five straight and seem headed for their fourth consecutive season of double-digit losses and eighth in the last 11. Akili Smith may be at quarterback because Jon Kitna's hand hurts, but Smith seems to think his future is somewhere else.

Much is being made of the Jets' annual December swoon, but they've lost twice to good teams. They blew a 13-0 halftime lead at home to New England, but there's no dishonor in losing at Pittsburgh. Other than a final game at Oakland, the rest of the schedule isn't daunting.

**Dallas (4-8) at Seattle (6-6)**

The Cowboys are starting to think they can finish at .500, but all their wins are in the NFC (L)East, another indication of how far that division has dropped.

The issue in Seattle is whether Mike Holmgren will give the majority of the time

at running back to Shaun Alexander or Ricky Watters. It will be Watters because he catches and blocks better. Probably doesn't matter — the Seahawks seem destined to finish 8-8.

**Atlanta (6-6) at Indianapolis (4-8)**

Don't blame Peyton Manning, who has been playing with a broken jaw, without important offensive helpers and wants to win so much that he forces the ball when he shouldn't. The Indy defense is guilty.

The Falcons look like another team that will finish 8-8, but Dan Reeves is likely to be back. He says he was encouraged in a talk with Arthur Blank, the Home Depot man who is buying the team.

**Jacksonville (4-8) at Cleveland (6-6)**

The Browns have done as well as a third-year expansion team can do, but the injuries are piling up.

They piled up earlier for Jacksonville, but give credit to Tom Coughlin — he has the Jags playing hard every week and will continue to do so next season after failing to get the Notre Dame job.

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### COWBOYS

Continued from page 9A

much as we need to."

The Seahawks (6-6) are coming off a disappointing performance in Denver that left them clinging to a playoff thread. To reach the postseason, they'll probably have to win all four remaining games.

Holmgren decided this week to start 11-year veteran running back Ricky Watters, who returned last week following an eight-week absence because of a shoulder injury. That means Alexander, the franchise's fourth running back to rush for 1,000 yards, will go to the bench.

Watters, in the final year of his contract, likely will leave as a free agent. The normally docile Alexander

bristled at Holmgren's decision and pointed out the Seahawks were 5-4 with him as Watters' replacement.

"We've won six games and I've been a part of five of them," he said. "I guess coach Holmgren has a different idea of what it takes to win and we just go by it."

The Cowboys, coming to Seattle for the first time since 1983, have a two-game winning streak. They won at Washington two weeks ago before beating the New York Giants at home last week.

Emmitt Smith will be making his first trip to Seattle. He has a cousin who has lived in Seattle since the early 1980s who will finally get a chance to see him play.

"We feel like we are making progress," Smith said. "We've grown over the last two weeks. But we have a long way to go. It's different than playing Philly or Washington. You play those guys twice a year. We don't know much about Seattle."

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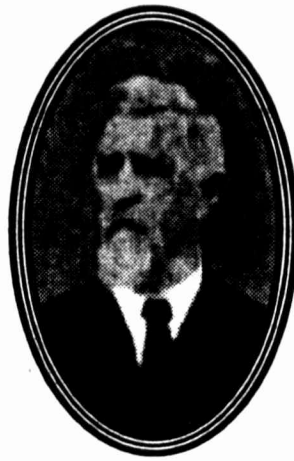
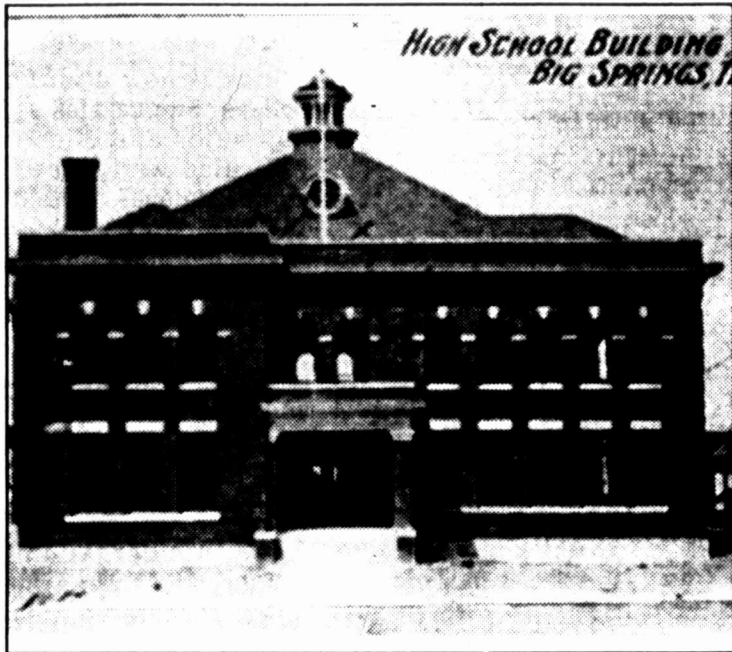
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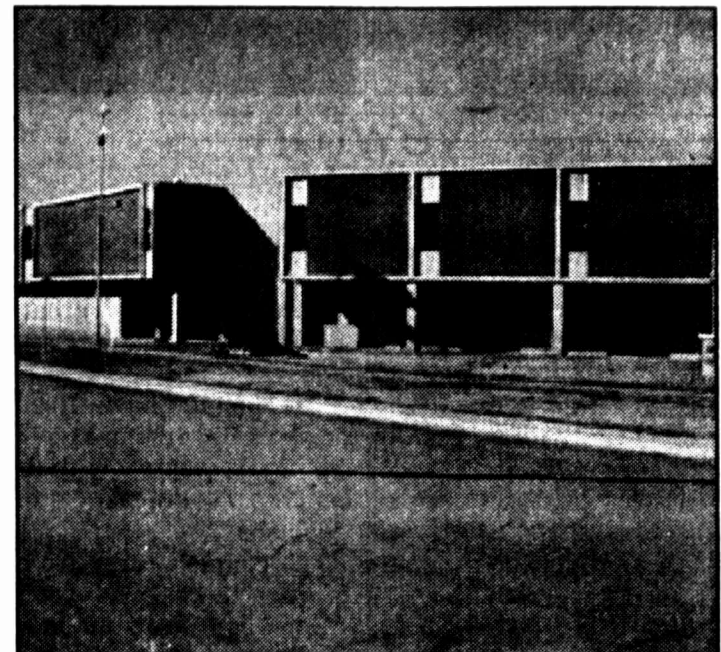
# Big Spring Independent School District marks a century of higher education



S.E. Thompson  
First  
superintendent  
of Big Spring  
Independent  
School District



Murray Murphy  
Current  
superintendent  
of Big Spring  
Independent School  
District



The children walked to school carrying their books gathered by a leather strap and with their lunches wrapped in linen napkins and nestled inside steel buckets.

The school was little more than four poles and a buffalo skin for a roof and was probably some where near the Big Spring. It stood amidst Buffalo hunters' merchant tents.

The year was 1880 and the girls were probably garbed in long dresses and petticoats and wore ribbons in their hair.

The boys probably wore dress shirts tucked into trousers, a tie and maybe a hat to hold their above the ear haircuts. (No tails were visible back then.)

Even to the earliest settlers education was of paramount importance and in December 1901 Big Spring Independent School district was created.

A two story frame building was provided by the county and was also used for court proceedings until a courthouse could be built.

This was one of the first actions of the then newly formed Howard County.

BSISD is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and there have been many notable accom-

plishments made throughout the century.

The first approved curriculum was adopted first in 1904 by the University of Texas; then in 1919 the Texas Education Department and finally in 1960 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

It has been recognized as one of the oldest school districts in Texas. It was one of the first districts to offer home economic courses in 1917 and commercial courses in 1923.

Since 1935, BSISD has continuously operated a vocational coop program.

A Bible class has been maintained for over 60 years.

Sixty-five exes are war veterans with one being a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

It has had athletes who have gained national recognition as pro-football players and one as a Olympic silver medalist.

There have been several athletic teams that have participated in state level competition.

In 1955, BSISD was the first school to desegregate by court order in Texas.

It has had an award winning handicapped program since 1960.

In 1964, BSISD set a record of having five national Merit Scholars. Its High school student council served as president of the Texas Association of Student council and once as parliamentarian.

There have been many participants in UIL Literary and Fine Arts competition and in state and national vocation and career technology competitions.

Its graduates have served as congressmen, legislators, CEOs, high rating military officers, college presidents and other distinguished professionals.

It has maintained an Ex-Student Association, High School Museum and Hall of Fame for 28 years.

Today at 2 p.m., BSISD will receive a historical marker for its contribution during its 100 year existence.

The ceremony will take place at the marker's permanent place in front of the administration building on 708 E. 11th.

The administration encourages all Big Spring residents to join in this very important day for the district.

Information from this article can be found in "A Centennial Celebration of the Big Spring Independent School District."

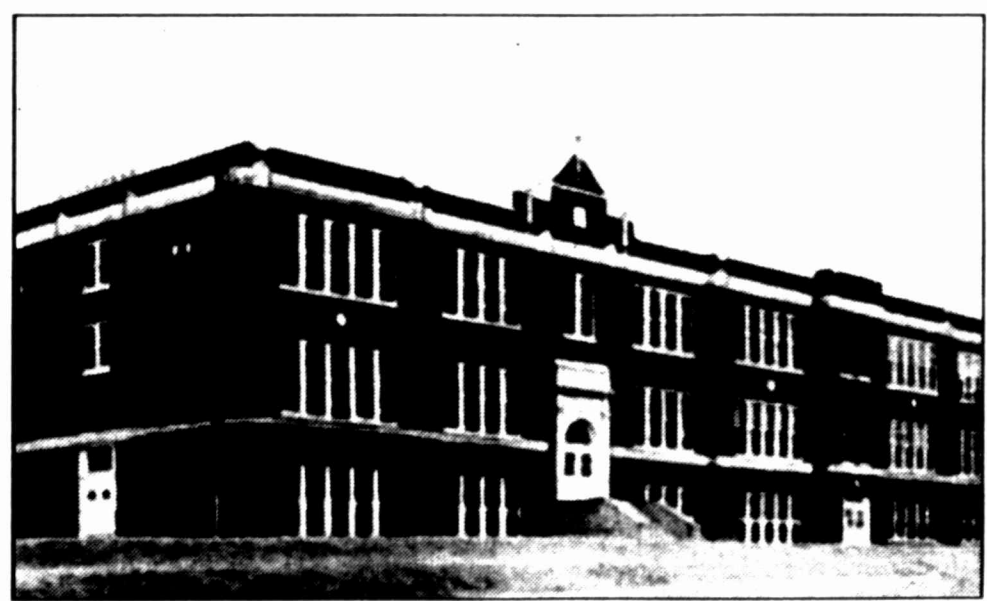
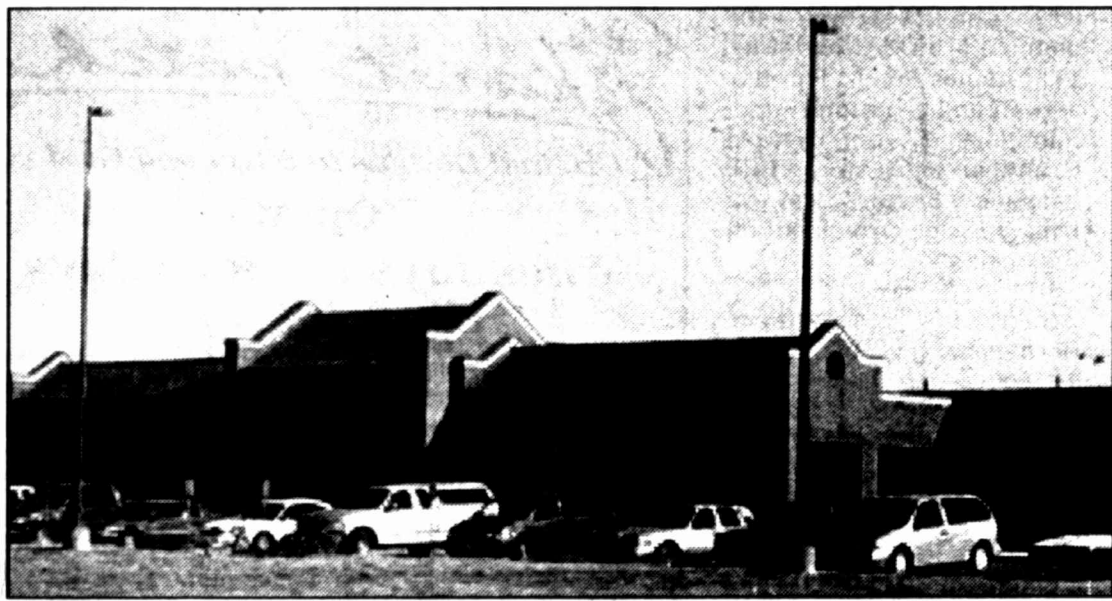
*Clockwise from left — The first Big Spring High School was built in 1902 and was known as Central Ward. It was located between Third and Fourth Streets on Scurry.*

*Big Spring High School was the first new high school built in 35 years and the third in the districts history. It is located at 707 E. 11th Place. It was dedicated on March 23, 1952.*

*Runnels Junior High was built in 1916 and was the new high school at the time. It was later was used to house eighth grade only. It now stands empty on the corner of Fourth and Scurry.*

*Big Spring Junior High School cost 10 million dollars to build and although it has been fraught with problems it boasts state of the art equipment. 150,000 square feet and a television in every classroom. It is was dedicated on July 18, 1999, and is located at 624 E. Sixth St.*

Story and photos by Andrea Medlin. Historic photos from the book *A Centennial Celebration*



## Now we don our bathrobes, Christmas pageants aren't for wimps

Let the Christmas pageants begin!

It's that time of year when our kids, clad in bathrobes or maybe last year's choir robes, recite those oh-so familiar Bible verses as they act out the nativity.

They might have to learn a sentence or two by heart (Hark, a star shining in the east!), and there are the inevitable gaffs (the star falls a little too far and hits Joseph on the head).

But somehow, there's nothing that sparks the holiday spirit



DEBBIE  
JENSEN

like the annual church pageant.

My daughter was 2 years old last Christmas, probably a little young to take part.

But you know how churches are — they want to include everyone, and a willing participant is always welcomed.

So we dressed her snugly in the white sweatsuit covered in cotton batting for her role as one of the shepherd's sheep.

Rehearsal went fine, and Hannah, holding the hand of her sister Carissa, the shepherd, found her place on one of the hay bales in front of the painted backdrop.

With big sis helping, she kept her ears on and managed to sit still under the lights while the rest of the cast took their places.

Carissa said her lines perfect-

ly. We were sure that evening's show was going to be the best ever.

Then it was time to put on the pageant for real, and as the small chapel filled with parents and those faithful members who never want to miss a bunch of cute kids, I clutched my borrowed camera and held my breath.

Mary and Joseph knocked at the door of the inn, and the innkeeper, albeit a few seconds late, declared the place full for the night.

The couple settled instead in the "stable" down in front, the baby Jesus appearing miraculously in the wooden manger.

Then the shepherd and her flock began filing in.

Like a mad insomniac I counted them, one fuzzy sheep,

two fuzzy sheep (wow, that kid's suit was really shedding), three fuzzy sheep and ... the shepherd suddenly had a funny look on her face.

Hannah, seeing the bright lights and so many faces in the crowd she assumed were staring at her, turned her back to the audience and sat motionless.

A few in the crowd tittered. My husband, the narrator, didn't skip a beat though his eyes sought mine, which were brimming with sentimental tears.

Carissa, always the trooper, gave a repeat of her flawless performance at rehearsal and made a mild attempt to turn the wayward lamb around.

Not going to happen. "I wore the suit, and I kept these itchy ears on," she seemed to be say-

ing, "what more do you want?"

I let the tears flow, so moved was I by the scene.

Several in the audience glanced my way, holding their hands over their mouths to contain laughter that threatened to burst forth as we began the strains of "Joy to the World."

I quickly took a few pictures of the shepherd and the fluffy back of that wayward lamb to send to the grandparents.

Then I joined in the celebratory song.

Afterward, we all declared her stage debut a success. After all, it was

Christmas — what better time of year to just be yourself?

Debbie L. Jensen is a Big Spring Herald freelance writer.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public School Land Lease  
Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners Court of Kent County will receive sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on Monday, December 31, 2001 for grazing and/or hunting leases on Public School Land owned by Jayton-Giard I.S.D. located in Dawson and Martin Counties.  
The Commissioners Court will consider bids on price per acre and/or improvements on land in lieu of cash for a length of term of five years beginning on January 1, 2002.  
Details regarding location of the 5000 plus acres of land, minimum bid and other considerations may be obtained from the office of the Kent County Judge. The Kent County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or accept bids most advantageous to the Jayton-Giard I.S.D.  
Witness my hand this 26th day of November, 2001.  
Tommy Starland  
Kent County Judge  
P.O. Box 6  
Jayton, Texas 79528  
(806) 237-3373  
#3387 December 2, 9, 16, 2001

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Forsan ISD is requesting proposals for a 2003 activity bus. You may request the bus specifications by e-mail at bhayes@esc.18.net, by phone at (915) 457-2223, or by mailing your request to Forsan ISD, Attn: Britt Hayes, PO Drawer A, Forsan TX 79733. Proposals will be accepted until 1:30pm on Thursday, January 10th at 2002. #3392 December 13 & 16, 2001



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